

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

AUGUST 2026

Seacliff

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Warrington

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Evansdale

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Waitati

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Doctors Point

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Pūrākaunui



Matariki Celebration – A Huge Thank You, Blueskin Bay!

On Friday 3 July, our wonderful Blueskin Bay community gathered in Waitati for the inaugural Matariki Celebration. Thank you to everyone who ventured out, joined the lantern parade, and celebrated with us.

A special thank you to Filipa and the Blueskin Library team for organising the lantern workshops and parade, and to the Waitati Militia for leading the community through the streets.

We were so grateful to have Stars of Ahi perform – thank you to Xanthe and her fabulous team for a wonderful show.

Thank you to the stallholders, businesses, the Fire Brigade, Waitati School, Blueskin Playcentre, and the food trucks for supporting the event. It wouldn't have been possible without you.

It was wonderful to have that street party atmosphere back in our community. Let's hope this becomes an annual event! See you all next year – and we'd love some more helping hands to keep this event going, please get in touch if you are keen to be involved.

With thanks,

Sally, Isabel & Amee

WAITATI HALL – PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999!



Thanks to
Isla & Vita
(age 10)
for organising this
extravaganza
They raised \$150 for
the Library
playground



Long time residents Boris and Frances Baeumer finally became Citizens of Aotearoa. They were sworn in on the 1 July, which happens to be Boris' birthday.

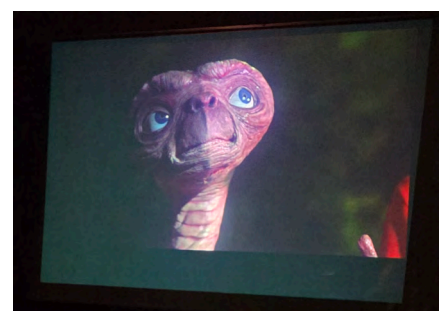
Thanks for choosing Waitati, NZ

A Big Shout Out

The Waitati Hall was recently robbed of our data Projector. Thankfully the wonderful team at **Com2Tech** sorted us with another one. They were very generous and also gave us a laptop, cords and an HDMI

We celebrated with a Friday night film for the end of the school holidays.

If you need some cheap recycled technology pop in and see them. **Com2Tech** operate at 105 Harrow Street and are open 2 – 5 pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



Editor's Note



Well, you all know what this means!, let's just hope I don't get stuck abroad again. At least I have the right passports this time. Please keep your fingers crossed that Mr Trump doesn't get in my path.

Keep safe, warm and well Bernie

Blueskin News

You can find copies of the Blueskin News at the following locations, also on local facebook pages and at www.blueskinnews.org

Port Chalmers Library	Arc Brewery
Orokonui Ecosanctuary	Warrington mailboxes
On the Spot, Waitati	Gallery on Blueskin
Blueskin Nursery	Karitane Store
Waitati Merchant	Waikouaiti Library
Blueskin Library	Heritage Centre, Waikouaiti
Purakanui	Beanos, Waikouaiti

Blueskin Amenities Society AGM

formerly
Blueskin Youth and Community Amenities Association

**6 Aug 730pm,
Waitati Fire Station**

**Contact:
Alice Macklow, Secretary 028 402 3759**

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 Watch Inc. Speaker and AGM

**7.30pm Wednesday 5th August
Warrington Hall. All Welcome.**

We work to protect
the environmental and ecological integrity
of our beautiful Blueskin Bay area.

We have a great speaker.
**Brendan Flack, Chairman of the
East Otago Taiāpure Committee**
How best to manage
our local marine environment.
Brendan has deep knowledge of customary
fisheries and the local marine environment.

What I Like About You

What I like about you is your total lack of style. I look at you sitting there in the heat, your too-hairy legs, propped on a pouffe, protrude from dirty white underwear, probably worn a week, the one's I bought for your birthday. I catch a wiff of your armpits and am overwhelmed by a familiarity that transcends contempt, your crudeness having long ago transformed my security.

I almost ask, 'how was your day'.

I also like your face. I imagine it in isolation. Pouting lips I love to kiss shadow your sagging chin. Your widening nose with hairs of age, glaciates between eyes that have never seen through rose-tinted glasses, their cave-like sockets resembling emeralds being set in stone. Overhanging them, a thick monobrow belies age and advises intelligence, while crows-feet laugh lines and a furrowed brow reflect upon your character. Sometimes light, bright and shallow. Often deep, dark and shadowed.

I lightly tread your unpredictability.

When we walk together, I sense wonder from passersby. They wonder, why are you with me and I with you, but their summing gaze is not reflected by supermarket windows. We began with you trying to turn me into something. You didn't realise I had what I want, and knew what I wanted. You were my bridge over troubled waters, a temporary web on which you were the spider and I was the fly.

I don't doubt us.

I like that I can walk into your home and never feel embarrassed. It doesn't matter that rotted vegetables float in your fridge, that your toothbrush has tired old bristles, or that your soap sports black pubic hair and your toilet has never been cleaned. Or that ashtrays flow onto home-work and newspapers cloak the floor, that your laundry-pile won't contain sheets, they remain on your bed despite sex and menstruation.

I like in you what I abhor in myself, and that is a spurious betrayal, as only when you visit does my place feel untidy.

You move to scratch your ear and I wonder, have you noticed me. I move to the table and quietly, having used my forearm to create room, sit and lean on my elbow. I view the back of your head. Visible scalp through thinning hair, skin darkened by too much sun, the sweat on your shoulders solicits your shirt like rivers do an ocean.

Bringing life to a Mexican desert, you are my Mexican, and I your Mexico.

I remember once when you visited, we argued, and you slammed doors, stamped impertinent feet and voiced coarse thunder. I'd said, 'there's only room for one to stomp and yell in this house.' 30 minutes later you rang and said nothing. You stomped around your house, slamming every door, and yelled at the top of your voice. You then replaced the receiver.

I like what's in your head, though you keep the best for yourself.

Your op-shop clothes are colour washed, a fading disguise through which I see our parity. My own vanity offers dress sense that dresses me down while with you, an invisible gesture on my part that performs the actor's costume, layered to armour my skin. But from whom do I need defending, and what armies must I resist? If this is war, fifteen years is too long to take it or leave it to stalemate.

I make my move, back through the door, and walk the short mile home.

30 minutes later I ring and hear your voice. It say's, 'I thought you were coming round?' The line between us stretches to a tight-rope. I lie in reply. 'I was but something came up. Why don't you walk round here.' 'Sure,' you say, 'see you in 15 minutes.' The line goes dead and the rope goes limp as it snakes out through my door.

I like the thought of you walking that mile as I quickly tidy my house.

Doug Nuttall



Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

Pictured, resplendent in his uniform of the Otago Hussars, is Henry (Harry) Edward Scott Orbell. He was born in Waikouaiti in 1871. His father was also Henry Orbell, son of John and Catherine who arrived in New Zealand from Suffolk, England in 1849. They became a prominent farming family in the district. Henry became a veteran of the Boer War (1899-1902) and served with the 5th Regiment of the Otago Mounted Rifles during WW1, rising to the rank of Major. He married Jan Gilchrist in 1916. After the war he farmed in Oamaru. Henry died in 1963 aged 92 and his wife Jan lived to 100.

CORRECTION: In the May edition of Blueskin News, page 9, is an image of the painting The Attack of the Otago Mounted Rifles at Messines, 7 June, 1917 by official New Zealand Artist Captain Matt Gaudie. My apologies for the incorrect spelling of the artist's name in the May edition.

Come and join us for our AGM!! It promises to be a fun couple of hours. After official business has concluded, we have an excellent guest speaker in entertainer and clever raconteur Steve Larkins, followed by afternoon tea. The date to put in your diary is Saturday, 29 August at 2.30 pm. You can find us on Kildare Street in Waikouaiti, behind the old BNZ, and across the road from the Golden Fleece Hotel.

Bev Medlin

THE RANT

Ian Melvin



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

WHAT MAKES ME MAD.. SAD.... GLAD

Shopping – not my favourite pastime – a visit to Woolworths/Countdown. Arriving at the checkout, not a Tuesday when I would get my gold card discount, so I present my 'One Card' discount card. The young friendly helpful smiling woman of asian heritage explains to me that card is now redundant and I need to exchange it for the new version, an 'Everyday Rewards Discount Card' – OK so how do I do that? – Oh you just go online to the Everyday Rewards Site and follow the instructions. Later I try doing this, predictably without success, going round in circles ending up where I started. Luckily my helpful checkout assistant gave me a help 0800 number to call, I try that. After an unusually short spell of Muzac interrupted every 10 seconds by a voice telling me how important my call is to them and if I live long enough someone will eventually get to me – and lo and behold they do. I am talking to another young asian woman sounding friendly and helpful. After explaining I have a hearing problem and her accent is unfamiliar to me she speaks slowly and clearly. She then instructs me to go on their website and take this option, luckily I have played this game before so I have my tablet ready to go, so follow her phone instructions. Faced with multiple options I get confused, smart lady sends me a screenshot of the one I need. Hah, yes, there it is, so she talks me through the process patiently and kindly step by step like a Mum teaching a toddler to walk. We get there and I thank her for her patience and help, "that's fine Nevil is there anything else we can help you with today?" Nevil is my second name I never use but who cares she saved me!

Same day at New World same thing happens, but the very nice helpful young woman not of asian but polynesian heritage checkout operator sends me to a young Pakeha man at a counter, who after slowing down a tad to a speed I could keep up with, helps me negotiate a process on a tablet he has ready to go.. 5 minutes later I walk out with my new working card.

Ok, what have we learned? I am an IT dunce, and I am not alone, behind me at New World was a line of grey haired people just like me in the same boat, that negotiating/ interacting with a real person is a hundred times better and more satisfying than with an electronic machine because I am human with the the full set of foibles and idiosyncrasies that go with that. Later Countdown sent me a survey asking me go rate my A/ online experience and B/ their helpline service. Very shortened version – A/ -9 out of 10, B/ 12+ out of 10, how much did I enjoy telling them that! Do they care, well yes, ummm no, sigh. Still I live to fight another day ... human success apparently is largely because of our adaptability, guess I am an exception to that rule. Personally spoken as a grumpy Pakeha old fart, I love all these different to me helpful friendly smart young people of various racial backgrounds we have around us.

BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB



What a cold frosty week we are having here in the bay.

I am envious of friends who are on holiday in Australia and Cambodia and are enjoying temperatures in the mid twenties. Never mind Spring is coming!

It is also a good time to get the garden covered in compost and mulch. I have been applying wood chips to my flower gardens hoping to minimise the flush of growth and weeds that come when the temperatures increase.

I was thrilled to see the first double pink flowers of my winter rose flowering. It's wonderful to see in a very cold month.

Garden Club has taken a recess for July, but things will be up and running in August in readiness for the Spring flower show in September .

So keep warm and start thinking about what you will plant when the warmer weather arrives.

Bev Lyon (027 533 2238).

Madness vs Sanity The Goo-rod are back Proff and Dante Z



I have become a spinner

Some would say I have always been a spinner- and they would not be talking about my mental health, although I am a bit mad.

My mother got obsessed with spinning wool in the 1970's, she was also a super good knitter, so if I ever wanted a jersey it had to be home spun, the only snag was, I had to do the spinning. Mum would knit and my dad would do the wool carding, that way I could keep up with Mum (she was that fast). Any colours were either natural fleece colours from our own flock of sheep, or dyed with natural materials like gum leaves, walnut skins, lichen etc, I was very proud of our wonderful, totally home grown creations.

I have not done any spinning since I was a teenager, so when my friend Ailsa gave me her tiny little upright spinning wheel I got straight back into it. I started carding by hand with a dog comb, and a fleece from Scott and Jenna's sheep "Fatso", but could see I would get RSI pretty quickly if I kept that up. I therefore put the word out on Face book and was gifted some beautiful carded wool fibre by some kind locals.

I am not much of a knitter, but I managed to make a scarf, then I spun some balls of white yarn to give to a friend, so she could knit herself a scarf – she can't actually knit, but we are working on that.

Now I have made a breakthrough in the colour department. It is possible to dye wool and silk with food colouring. I have tested and the colours are really strong and bright, and the mordant (fixative) is as simple as using some white vinegar in the mix. I would like to think that food colouring is not too toxic, though that may be a naïve assumption, I am going with it.



I had a beautiful white Fairisle wool jersey from an op shop, with patterned knitting in a yolk round the shoulders, but unfortunately it had had dirty marks all over it. I decided to try dyeing it with food colouring to cover the marks. I bought a bottle each of green, yellow and blue food colouring and mixed up a colour I thought I could live with. At only \$2 a bottle, it is pretty cheap. The jersey was soaked for a couple of hours in water and white vinegar so the fibres were evenly saturated, Then added it to the pot of dye which also had white vinegar added to it. I simmered

the jersey, keeping it moving until the water was clear and all the colour was in the jersey, and then let it cool completely before I rinsed it. You have to be very careful with temperature gradients as wool shrinks easily, but I am sure everyone has destroyed some beautiful piece of knit wear at least once this way.

My bright green Fairisle jersey is a show stopper; people stop me on the street to tell me how awesome it is.

So now I really am going to have to learn to knit a bit better so I can use my new found knowledge.

New Zealand's wool industry needs support. Lifestyle sheep farmers have been using their wool fleeces as garden mulch. It is possible to get a fleece carded at a couple of places in Otago, and spinning is super easy. I found my second spinning wheel in an op shop yesterday, an Ashford, a very good quality machine made in Ashburton. This machine is the same as the one my mother had so I feel very at home with it.

Spinning is such a calm relaxing occupation, and can be done while watching Netflix or listening to a talking book, so my sanity is assured. Spinning, but not spinning out.

Hilary Rowley



East Otago Plunket Round Up

The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti runs weekly on Wednesdays between 10.00 and 12.00 at the Plunket Rooms in the East Otago Events Centre. It's a great opportunity to get out of the house, connect with others over a nice hot cuppa and to expose your baby to a different and stimulating environment and give older children the chance to socialise, to play and build connections with other children.

If you would be interested in attending or volunteering to help run a group for parents in Warrington, please contact annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz

Did you know about the practical support that Plunket's Community Karitāne can offer? Community Karitāne are skilled trained Community Health Workers (Certificate in Health and Wellbeing) who can provide a variety of services that cater to the many needs of whānau, including one-on-one support with parenting practice, breast feeding and safe sleep and settling. Support can be offered regarding a number of practical topics including starting solids, food progression, toilet training, starting pre-school, returning to work and more. The Community Karitāne team also facilitate various courses and groups that promote healthy development, positive parenting styles and the understanding of behaviour in pēpi and tamariki, with the goal of empowering whānau to reach their full parenting potential. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from this additional support, or would like to know more about what courses or groups may be on offer in your area, you can find out more information or book an appointment by calling 0800 184 803.

Annabel Kuzma

WAITATI BOOK CLUB Ian Melvin

Another Friday night gathering in the studio in our backgarden, heaters on, comestibles organised, and folk arrive pretty much together. Jürgen my guest again is introduced to those that he has previously not met, and we commence our usual programme and conventions. Scott is otherwise engaged in Wellington and Marc is presently in Trier. Discussion on the book gets under way and takes a good amount of our attention during the evening in its various facets and aspects.



THE BOOK

The Tale Of Gengi: Lady Murasaki Shikibu.

"The oldest novel in the world written in the 11th century, a 'Romance' ". "Prince Gengi manifests what was to become an image of the ideal Heian Era Courtier", "the four line poems (translated) called 'Waka' which dance throughout this work have earned it a place as a classic text in the study of poetry", all from the cover burb.



Jürgen: "It pre-dates Europe's arguably first novel, 'Tom Jones' by Henry Fielding by some 700 years. Tracing the lives and emotional maturation of their heroes, both novels have a fornicating rake as their hero. Gengi's Tale gives a rare insight into how Heian culture evolves under the contradictory influences of Shintoism, Chinese Buddhism, and Confucianism. Gengi's love affairs and politics play out in front of these influences and foreshadowed some of the distinct ways of how Japanese Culture manages and portrays emotions even today."

Ian: Did not do a lot for me, and quit after 130 odd pages, but totally enjoyed a spirited discussion that covered a lot of ground and brought up some wide ranging and interesting points and views.

OTHER BOOKS

Māori Boy: Witi Ihimaera. "Tells of the family and community into which Ihimaera was born, of his early life in rural New Zealand, of family secrets, of facing anguish and challenges, and of laughter and love." Cover blurb. Love this book, another part of a personal journey I have been on for several years to try and understand the 'Māori' view of things both historically and presently. In this regard and generally can't recommend it enough, one of our greatest story tellers.



BEER

Innis & Gunn Irish Whiskey Cask matured Scottish Oatmeal Stout –

Alc. 6.1% vol. Gifted by our friend Rita, in return for pruning her apple tree. An exceptionally good Stout perfect for cold winter evenings in front of the fire will definitely be keeping a lookout for more of this.



MUSIC

Songs: John Fullbright. Very laid back songs, mostly ballads sung in a country/roots style. Pared back backing with piano or fingerpicking acoustic guitar featured, and lovely vocals. Recommended. Try 'Until you were gone' on YouTube



OTHER STUFF

TV series: Tip Toe. True story retold in dramatic fashion, an insight into homophobic, anti-immigrant, extreme right-wing thinking in the UK aka Tommy Robinson. Brilliantly told, wonderful cast of actors playing a range of characters, keeps you on the edge of your seat. Well worth a look, but not for the fainted hearted. Available on demand TVNZ



Bread and circuses as in **The World Cup.** Much has been said of the games and the background machinations in our bookclub conversations, but all I can say is "go the underdogs!"

WORD OF THE MONTH

Kaumātua: "I have to say that I have never wanted tribal leadership. Today I have realised that I have had to grow into this role of a kaumātua. I have tried to do my best according to Hine Te Ariki's and Pa's teachings. It was they who taught me to care, to look after people, to be unselfish, to give more than you take, to look after the kumara, the royal children who will take Māori into the future, and to try to stop them from being bruised." [Māori Boy: Witi Ihimaera]

MEANING OF LIFE

"E mokopuna, you will need all of the intellect, the spirit, the heart and the memory to guide you on your journey. You will need to be at one with your world, for this is a world made by gods and man, and there are forces of both which may aid you. Learn about them, and understand them, so that when your sails unfurl you will ride with the winds and be supported by the electric currents of the universe. Let no baleful forces prevent you from reaching the unending xestination which awaits us all." [Māori Boy: Witi Ihimaera]

2026 Spring Flower Show

Blueskin Bay Garden Club

Saturday 26th &
Sunday 27th September,
Waitati Hall

- Entries to be accepted at the Hall – Saturday 10am to 1pm.
- No Charge.
- Entrants must supply their own containers and are responsible for reclaiming their own containers.
- No arranging of exhibits in the Hall.
- Please bring your entries grouped into entry sections
- Open to the public Sunday from 10am, entry free.
- Prize Giving at 3pm Sunday.
- Entries not to be removed until after the prize-giving.
- Plant Stall & Raffles on Sunday.

TROPHIES FOR

Blueskin Garden Club trophy for Champion Bloom
Blueskin Women's Guild Trophy – Family with Most Points in the Show
Agnes Beatty Trophy – Most Points in Floral Design
Phil Crossan Trophy – Most Points in Junior Section
Blueskin Nurseries & Women's Guild Trophy – Most Points in Flowering Shrub Section
Ruth Spears Memorial Trophy – Most Points in Cut Flower Section
Blueskin Garden Club Trophy – Most Individual Points in Show
Blueskin Garden Club Trophy – Champion Exhibit – Children
Blueskin Garden Club Trophy – Champion Exhibit – Adult
David Sumpter Memorial Trophy for Champion Rhododendron

CHILDREN'S SECTION

Entries in the Children's section **MUST be the work of the child named.** While Children may enter Adult Sections, points gained there will not be included for the Junior Trophy. The trophy is for points gained in the Children's Section **ONLY.**

Preschool – under 5 years of age
Children aged 5 and 6 years
Children aged 7 and 8 years
Children aged 9 and 10 years
Children aged 11 to 14 years

1. Decorated Pine cone
2. Sand Saucer, must be on a saucer, use wet sand
3. Decorated Bookmark

ADULT'S SECTION

CLASS A – Daffodils

Daffodil – Trumpet

1. One stem – petals white – trumpet any colour
2. One stem – petals white – trumpet white
3. One stem – petals yellow – trumpet yellow
4. One stem – petals yellow – trumpet any colour

Daffodil – Large Cup (cup more than one third length of petals)

5. One stem – petals & cup yellow
6. One stem – petals yellow – cup any colour
7. One stem – petals and cup white
8. One stem – petals white – cup any colour

Daffodil – Small Cup

9. One stem – petals yellow – cup any colour
10. One stem – petals white – cup any colour

Daffodil – Other Varieties

11. One double daffodil – one colour
12. One double daffodil – bicolor
13. One multi headed daffodil
14. One double headed daffodil
15. Miniature – any colour – one bloom
16. Miniature, multihead
17. One – any other variety
18. One split corona – white petals, coloured corona
19. One split corona – any other colours
20. Three stems of different daffodils

CLASS B – Bulbs

1. Hyacinth – 1
2. Muscari (match heads) – 6
3. Tulip – any variety – 1
4. Freesias – any colour – 1
5. Iris – Dutch – any colour – 1
5. Fritillaria – small variety – 1
7. Trillium
8. Any other Bulb/Corm flower – 1

CLASS C – Cut Flowers

1. Polyanthus – any colour – 1 truss
2. Polyanthus – 3 colours – 1 truss of each
3. Primroses – single one colour – 6 stems
4. Primroses – single mixed – 6 stems
5. Primroses – double – one colour – 6 stems
6. Primroses – double mixed – 6 stems
7. Primula denticulata – 1 stem
8. Pansies/violas – 3 on a saucer – any colour
9. Violets – not more than 6 stems
10. Lavender – any variety – 3 heads
11. Hellebore – single, any colour – 1 stem
12. Hellebore – double, any colour – 1 stem
13. Hellebore Feotidus – 1 stem
14. Mixed varieties of any 6 flowers in one vase
15. Any cut flower not mentioned – 1

CLASS D – Flowering Shrubs and Tree

1. Rhododendron – 1 head – large flower
2. Rhododendron – 1 head – small flower
3. Rhododendron – 1 head – miniature flower
4. Camellia – Single 1 flower
5. Camellia – Double 1 flower
6. Camellia – Miniature 1 sprig
7. One Branch of any Shrub – small flower
8. One Branch of any Shrub – large flower
9. One Branch of any Proteacea – e.g. Banksia
10. Any Flowering Climber
11. One branch of any flowering tree

CLASS E – Floral Design

1. Adult Sand Saucer, must be on saucer
2. All things Bright & Beautiful
3. Miniature Arrangement – no larger than 10cm square, includes container.

CLASS F – For Mainly Men

1. Found in the Shed

Garden Club contacts:

Glenys – 027 273 8749
Lyne – 021 145 5023

RIP Karen Mary Keast 11 February 1964 – 5 July 2026



Much loved partner, mum, nana and friend.

The youngest of three, Karen grew up at Harwood on the Peninsula. Surrounded by musical instruments at home Karen was a natural musician. She could play the violin, viola, mandolin, and the keyboards.

She took operatic and singing lessons, she loved to sing at the top of her lungs. Especially on road trips.

At age 16 she moved out got a flat on High Street, and worked at the Post Office. Age 21, she became mum to Kara and moved home to Harwood for a little while. Eventually getting a housing NZ place in Halfway Bush.

Karen was working as a teacher aide when she met Craig, she pursued him with love notes and he eventually agreed to going out for a drink. It was the beginning of a 30 year partnership.

They briefly lived in Waikouaiti until they could find a place in Waitati., eventually moving into the Old Police Station on Harvey Street, where they lived for seven years. During this time Sam, Craig's daughter relocated to live with them and attend high school.

The girls remember many happy holidays every year at Kurow with the cousins, swimming, fishing, listening to music. Karen's favourites were Bonnie Tyler, ABBA and Queen.

Attending Gibbston valley concerts was an annual trip with close friends Gayle and Graeme Still.

Gayle and Karen took ceramic classes and even exhibited their works.

Karen worked at Tolcarne - St Hilda's boarding house, then other University hostels. She began work at Cadbury, first on the production line, and then made her way through the ranks to become the facility co-ordinator. She also worked in admin at Aotea Security and MacAlpine Hussman as office manager.

Karen wanted to build her career, she took management papers at SIT and HR training for DCC while she worked in the property department, taking care of community housing. Most recently she worked for Te Whata Ora.

Her workmates commented on how she would always take her work to the next level, striving for perfection. She advocated for those without a voice, fought for change and supported people around her.

When she received her redundancy from the Cadbury, Karen and Craig bought a house on Doctors Point Road in 2010. She was a part of the community emergency response group and offered her admin skills when needed.

Karen loved living here. She loved driving home to Waitati seeing the bay from on the top of the motorway. Walking on the beach with her wee dog Mars and relaxing with Craig in their garden. She will be missed.

The vibrancy of a well-lived life never fades.



Pūrākaunui School

Term 2 was full of learning—kites, lantern making, felt making, Matariki, kapa haka, Kids Sing, reading, writing, and maths, with plenty of football played on the field too!

We've been using our fish tank to explore and integrate maths and ecosystems — we'll be monitoring the pH, nitrates, and ammonia over the year, and hopefully get the chance to do some more stream monitoring in our local area as well. A highlight was our trip to Orokonui Ecosanctuary, which brought this learning to life.

Over the break, I joined principals and teachers from St Leonards and Broad Bay to unpack the new literacy curriculum — a great chance to celebrate the strengths of small schools, where multi-level teaching is our specialty.



Our strong tuakana-teina relationships mean tamariki of all ages learn together, as do the adults! We've now explored all four of our school values — Manaakitaka (care and respect), Manawanui (courage, perseverance, and a growth mindset), Ako (to learn and to teach — we are all both learners and teachers), and Kaitiakitaka (the concept of guardianship of our kura, the land, each other) — with children designing circular logos we hope to use as badges one day, part of our positive behaviour for learning mahi.



Ka nui te mihi ki a Sarah Williamson for six years of dedication to our kura — we wish her all the best in her new job as a water engineer! We're delighted the road is open again after considerable travel times last term, and we're looking forward to Term 3, longer days, and spring on its way. It was wonderful to celebrate Puaka-Matariki together — a time to remember, reflect, and look forward to the year ahead.

Doctors Point and Heritage Roses of the Northern Cemetery.

The 25th celebration of the Northern Cemetery Project was marked in July with a lunch at Glenfalloch.

In 2000 Fran Rawling of Wylde Willow Gardens received a call from the DCC. A couple in Doctors Point, Waitati had recently purchased a large garden of heritage roses. They wanted to plant native trees on the property and wondered if anybody would remove the roses. Fran and her team leapt at the chance. The group of highly motivated Rose enthusiasts organised a working day to collect them. They pruned the roses wrapped them in hessian sacks or old sheets protecting the root balls with as much of the soil as they could. These were transported and potted up at Wylde Willow Gardens.

We always knew they were going to the cemetery. At that point it was uncertain what would happen to them all. DCC contacted us through Mick Reece at the end of 2001. They remained potted up till July 2002 when they were planted at the Northern Cemetery – the beginning of a vast significant project.

Ōtepoti Dunedin is an iconic garden destination, with an extraordinary range of public and private gardens - including three Gardens of International Significance. These spaces are central to our city's identity and enrich both residents and visitors.

Heritage Roses Otago has played an important role in this legacy, preserving not only beautiful plants but also the history and stories they carry.

The Northern Cemetery project remains a very special achievement. Opened in 1872, the Northern Cemetery is a Victorian garden cemetery, where family members planted roses



The first rose in New Zealand is widely considered to be Slater's Crimson China (*Rosa chinensis semperflorens*). It was reportedly brought into the country between 1812 and 1814 and is still popular today.

alongside English or Irish evergreen trees beside the headstones of their loved ones.

Heritage Rose Otago's gift helps reconnect us with the people who came before us, bringing new beauty to a place of remembrance and reflection.

This achievement has only been possible because of the dedication of volunteers. To the committee members, gardeners, propagators, organisers, and everyone who has spent countless hours planting, pruning, weeding and caring for these roses in all seasons over the past 25 years.

The Council greatly values the contribution that community groups such as Heritage Roses Otago make to protecting and enhancing our shared heritage.

Mandy Mayhem

CYCLE TRAIL PLANTING DAY

Sunday 16 August | 10am

We'll be planting at the top of the Coastal Connections Cycle Trail this time.

From the end of Chelivode Street it takes just over an hour to walk to the top of the new trail, or 20 minutes to cycle. Or you can drive along Mopanui Road (first left turn after the Ecosanctuary).

BYO lunch, spade (if you have one) and gardening gloves.

For enquiries, or if you need a lift or can offer one, please contact Chris on chrisbaillie77@gmail.com.



Ever thought about being a Surf Lifeguard? Don't let the winter chills put you off, there is no better time than now – qualify in time for the summer!

Commencing in August, we are welcoming those who wish to join the Warrington team with a programme designed to support you through the surf lifeguarding qualification. You will get to undertake first aid training, learn about beach safety and the principals of patrolling. You will understand about different tide and wave formations, rips, currents and other hazards of the moana. You will learn about the equipment we use and the skills and knowledge required to respond to rescue and emergency situations should they arise. More importantly, you will get to join a team of dedicated people helping to keep our beaches safe up and down the motu.

You must be 14yrs of age and be able to swim 400m in under 9 minutes. There will be an exam at the end of the programme usually just before or around the start of the summer season. Much of the practical rescue and swim aspects of the course will be started in the swimming pool, and theoretical training split between the club and home-based learning. Surf Lifeguarding is a fun and very rewarding activity. We are a friendly club sitting on a beautiful beach, so come be part our red and gold whānau. Email us at warringtonslscnz@gmail.com for more information.

Interested but not yet 14? Dont despair! We have a Rookie Programme for those aged 12-14 that will run through the summer and give you a head start for next year! So keep your eyes out for more information nearer the start of the surf lifesaving season in October.

Ngā mihi nui

Jonny Hogben Mobile: 027 235 8790

Want to be a surf lifeguard?

Join us at Warrington for the 2026/27 season!

Must be 14+ and
able to swim
400m.

**Training starts in
August.**

Contact:
warringtonslscnz@gmail.com



Waikouaiti Coast Community Board

Pipes and Potholes; Speed on the bend; Bus fare zones

I travel along Doctors Point Road most days, and I have become increasingly disappointed at the poor state of maintenance as the pipeline job has progressed. So, last week – 17 July - I took the DCC Project Manager and one of the main Contractors for a drive, looking at every pothole and patch of loose gravel. The DCC chap was not best pleased at the condition of the road, and he gave the contractor a hoozleup and told him to get it all fixed quick smart. There had been heavy rain during his previous two visits and he was not aware of these ‘horribles’. I expect a vast improvement by the time this publication goes to print. It seems that 2,000 metres of pipe are now installed underground – waiting for pressure testing shortly.

There are two areas that are causing some delays : a) the parts under the railway line at Michies Crossing are having to be extended to meet KiwiRail requirements. b) The part up from Black's Bridge has to go through solid rock and a different technique is required. More details will follow in the next edition of Blueskin News, or give me a call if you would like more clarity.

By now you will be aware that NZTA has a proposal to reduce the speed of vehicles around the Waitati Curve on State Highway 1 (at the Waitati intersection and across from Blueskin General Store). We have been pressuring NZTA (formerly Transit NZ) for many years to have a speed limit here and is pleasing to see that this may now occur. I would encourage you all to make a submission when the proposal becomes public.

You will no doubt have heard that Otago Regional Council is proposing to introduce 'zoning' for bus fares in our north coast – i.e. fare increases.

If you are going to be affected by this, I would urge you to make a submission on this proposal. I have asked ORC for a longer time period for submissions than the two weeks they have advertised. At the time of writing I have not yet had a response.

Our next formal meeting will be held on the ground floor of the DCC Civic Centre on Wednesday 12 August, starting at 5.30pm. We are welcoming grant applications. If you, or someone you know, has a community project that could do with some funding assistance, then you can complete a funding application form which can be found on the DCC website, or give any board member a call if you need some clarity.

**Alasdair Morrison, Chairman,
Waikouaiti Coast Community
Board : info@calmarine.co.nz**

Sorting It Out

The Waikouaiti Coast Community Board hopes to resolve a postal delivery situation that many in our community are increasingly finding frustrating. A survey was recently done by the Blueskin News team to address the issue, with 29 locals responding.

These messages were collated and sent to the NZ Post Service Delivery Manager for our area, Mohit Chhabra. Here is a quick summary of the main points raised:

- Locals were asked if they preferred the current CMB or PO Box system or would prefer to switch to mailbox delivery "to the gate". The majority, 76% of responders, said they'd prefer the latter solution (though one individual did like the conviviality of the status quo).
- They cited problems of reliability (100%) including long delays or redeliveries, cost (25%, particularly with CMB), and security (17%) including damaged goods and serious safety concerns, for instance with missed mail from the hospital or fear of medicines being stolen.
- Many are frustrated that the system used to work fine for many years and now doesn't. They're unsure why but believe it's EITHER a new staff education issue at the local level OR a systemic issue that NZ Post needs to properly communicate on with "all of NZ including NZ post offices and all organisations i.e. banks, insurance companies, hospitals, businesses etc" to resolve.
- Many expressed that some online forms do not accept certain details of CMB or PO Box and so there EITHER needs to be a database at NZ Post that "lines up" physical addresses and CMB/PO Boxes OR delivery to the gate simply needs to be accepted by NZ Post.
- One recurring comment was that Warrington should have its own identity, its own postcode, and no longer be considered part of Waikouaiti (since the confusion is often between the town and the wider area, with one responder citing the example of there being View Streets in both locations, compounding the issue).

Members of the WCCB and Bernie Cornford then met with two representatives from NZ Post to work out a plan. It was a heartening meeting, with strong agreement that action is needed. Based on the survey feedback, we reviewed the possibilities and impossibilities!

NZ Post agreed that part of the issue is training of new employees (Bernie had brought a great example of a letter received, after three others were returned to sender, to our meeting, pictured, where the RD number was clearly the same as the CMB number – we unanimously found this unreasonable/a training issue.)



But they also said we need to communicate clear guidelines back to our communities about how to correctly address letters – they want to try this approach as an initial step. As in Bernie's example, this problem is complexified by the number of different websites that do not have "manual entry" fields to freely enter our more complex rural addresses.

Mohit has since tested the main websites locals have been finding problematic (NZTA, Health NZ, IRD and DCC) and has made some short "how-to" videos with each specific case, which we will post on all the local community websites once a few bells and whistles (i.e. sound!) have been added.

They unfortunately categorically ruled out to-gate delivery, saying there is "no appetite" for that in their organisation at present. Unsurprising, given all the service cuts. Meanwhile rural areas are expanding all over Aotearoa, as Michelle Finigan, the Dunedin Area Manager, pointed out. They have stopped extending rural runs, as they are currently at capacity, with posties travelling approx. 220 km/day (or roughly 1,100 km/week).

We learned that NZ Post subsidises the fuel cost of their workers but does not cover it entirely, so that is one dissuasive factor for delivery to gate. The other is time: Mohit told us that employees are currently spending 4 hours a day on "research" identifying and sorting mail.

Two further solutions were proposed to simplify things: Danny Hailes said he has had success including the physical address of the Waitati On the Spot Store, when websites and courier delivery won't accept PO Boxes or CMB, along with his name and box number (for Warrington and Waitati: On the Spot Blueskin, 1551 Waikouaiti-Waitati Road, Waitati 9085; for Waikouaiti: Waikouaiti Food Centre, 186 Main Road, Waikouaiti 9510).

Mohit also suggested that we advise Warrington residents to use only the postcode 9471. However, Waitati PO Box holders and store delivery customers don't need to make any changes (the postcode 9069 is not featured on the map below as it's used by a different delivery partner, but you should still use it).

We requested a map clearly showing the borders between postcodes (see pictured). They've said they will get back to us with the specific changeover points. You can also zoom in and out on www.nzpost.co.nz/tools/address-postcode-finder

A huge thank you and mihi to everyone who participated in the survey! Keep an eye on your community noticeboards for a meeting to discuss issues and "nail the triage".

Anna Knight (deputy chair of WCCB)



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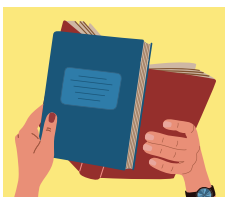
Mondays, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Tuesdays, 2.30 – 4.30pm

**Contact Christine
021 133 9340**

All ages and experience levels are welcome.

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE



**Thursday 27 August,
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 12 August.



SEED LIBRARY

The Seed Cabinet needs your seeds. Come and grab a packet and get your spring garden underway or drop off your surplus from last year.

CRAFT MORNING

Looking for something to do? Come along and join us for our Adult CRAFT morning sessions. Each month there will be a new project and it is free!

Join our next Craft morning on Wednesday 5 August, 11am – 12.30pm and we will be willow making with Sue Stephenson. Numbers will be limited so please register your interest at the library.

MEET THE NEIGHBOUR

Thursday 6 August, 6 – 7pm

Habitate is run by Jason Ross, who lives with his family in coastal Otago on a quarter-acre garden packed with food plants. He is passionate about making food growing enjoyable for all.



With a Fine Arts degree and decades of hands-on horticulture experience, he blends creativity with a deep love of nature to create thriving, resilient food gardens and educational publications. Inspired by wilderness, in his spare time, you will find him in the surf, snow, or hiking with his family.

DCC SERVICE CENTRE

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

Around the Bay – August Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
Wednesday 5	Craft Morning: 11- 12.30pm Looking for something to do? Come along and join us for our Adult CRAFT morning sessions. Each month there will be a new project and it is free! Our next craft morning we will be willow making All materials provided.
Wednesday 10	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.
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
SATURDAYS	Focus on Drawing Class, 2:30p,m-430pm
SUNDAYS	Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily Sterk Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info

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

ST BARNABAS CHURCH	
SUNDAYS	Service at 10 am

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: 10am – 12pm Contact Collin Blake cblake@siacu.nz
SATURDAYS	NIA Dance Class: 4 – 5pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
Wednesday 5	Quiz 7.30 – 9.30pm no cover charge
Wednesday 26	Paper Moon Pop Up Hot Club 7pm

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
Monday 3	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 10	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 17	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 24	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 31	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste

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

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WAIPUTAI HUB

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

Answer to July Sudoku

YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

We welcome and thank you for your contributions and invite you to send your short articles of local interest, calendar events, milestones, history, historic images, poems, recipes, photos of local events, advertising; and anything else you wish to share with your community. Where possible, please try to limit articles to 250-300 words max, about half a page. Any opinions or views published in the Blueskin News are those of each contributor solely and not necessarily those of the Editor or Blueskin News Committee.

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To submit your classified ads, calendar entries & article submissions for publication please send your text and any photos to: blueskin.input@gmail.com by the 15th of each month

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We need people with different skills and backgrounds right across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Whether you want to work for several weeks or just on election day, there are roles for everybody, from students to experienced leaders.

For more information about the roles available, and to register your interest in working at this important event, visit work.elections.nz today.

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Owned since 1992, tenanted last 20 years. Sadly, our tenant recently moved on, so time to sell.

Original cottage (circa 1881) with Waitati-style extensions: 2 mezzanine towers; bathroom with composting toilet; spacious bedroom with walk-in wardrobe; large deck and storage shed.

For more info or to arrange a viewing contact Marion 027 482 1279 marionmewburn@gmail.com

Warrington School Explorers Club

Kia eke te ngaru – Ride the Wave

Sessions start 9.00am – 11.00am. Please bring a drink and a snack. Play, learn new friends!

2026 TERM 3 DATES:

- Friday 7th August
- Friday 28th August
- Friday 18th September

Office email: office@warrington.school.nz

School website: www.warrington.school.nz

Polpoia te kākano kia puāwai, – Nurture the seed, and it will blossom

Blueskin Playcentre

Kia ora Blueskin Bay! Rustle rustle, pfft, scooop, splot, schoop, schoop, roll...

You may have wondered what was making these sounds out of the Waitati School kitchen and whether it was safe to come near. Was there a dragon aerobics course going on in the swamp? A prickle of hedgehogs on an adventure course? A new form of music that was highly repetitive and slightly odd...?

Rest assured, I can explain! That was the sound of Blueskin Playcentre making two thousand seven hundred and ninety six cheese rolls! Or, to put it another way, a whopping 233 dozen!

We were all under Christine Hardesty's spell with her impressive motivation and stamina, signing up families for cheese rolls left, right and center. We realised we'd become a little over-enthusiastic when Kimberleigh almost couldn't fit all the bread in her car... It was a daunting feat, but thankfully with a few members willing to put in a long shift, namely Cara, Lachy, Elspeth, Jen, Freya, Marcus, and Christine, the momentous task was completed and we raised \$1,358. Thank you to everybody who supported Blueskin Playcentre through buying cheese rolls, and also to all the members who keep Blueskin Playcentre going.

New members are always welcome, so if you feel like visiting us, please pop by to Blueskin Playcentre at the end of the shared drive with Waitati School on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings anytime between 9-12:30. You won't be asked to roll cheese rolls, we're now into eating them instead.

Click, hummmm, sizzle, pff, pff, crunch, shlp, shlp, swallow, yum...

Heather



Mandy Mayhem and Hugh Brown at the Matariki PACT Ball



Cancer Society Daffodil Day

Daffodil Day will be held on Friday 28 August. Locally grown daffodils, baking, raffles and other goods will be on sale at stalls at Blueskin General Store and Waitati Merchant. Blueskin Nursery will have Daffodils for sale on the 28th and over the weekend.

Any donations of baking or preserves to sell would be appreciated.

Thanks to Blueskin Garden Club who pick & bunch the daffodils and look after the stalls. Thanks also to the local businesses for their support.

Any enquiries to Glenys Clements, Daffodil Day Coordinator, 027 273 8749 or p.g.clements@xtra.co.nz