

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

MARCH 2021

Seacliff • Warrington • Evansdale • Waitati • Doctors Point • Purakaunui

THE MILITIA AND THE TRAIN

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plus lots more ...



Editor's Note

Hi everyone, at last the summer seems to be here and long may it last! With the good weather has come the ripening of fruit, this year seems to have been especially bountiful. I have had more greengages and plums than for many seasons and have been experimenting with using different combinations of fruit in jam. The main innovation to this year's preserving efforts has been making it in my breadmaker. Shock horror, I see on all the traditionalist's faces, but I have not spent any time stirring or checking whether it has reached setting point or remembering to put cold plates in the fridge. No, I just put everything in the bread pan and turn it on. The jam has worked out perfectly every time, it takes an hour and 10 minutes per batch and I made five batches in one day!! So I think I'll carry on with my modern ways - I wonder if the judges at Blueskin on Show will notice the difference? Maybe I won't tell them. The other recipe I have been making this year is flavoured gins - I'm told that Greengage Gin is particularly nice and I have set a reasonable amount to steep. It needs to sit for at least a month though so I will let you know the results in a future issue.

An exciting piece of news I heard yesterday is that our 'trains not planes' initiative has been recognised by a UK film unit and both the Inlander and the Seaside will appear in a series of 'The World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys'. I'll keep you posted as to dates etc.

Enjoy this month's read, keep safe and well – Bernie

Cover image: Martyn Buick



2021
18-28 March

FRINGE

Dunedin Fringe Festival

EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

DUNEDIN FESTIVAL OF WOMEN'S ART & MUSIC
12.45pm & 6.54pm Saturday March 20, Arc Brewing Co.
\$20.00 - \$35.00

THE CARNIVAL AIN'T OVER - A CIRCUS ROCK OPERA
7pm Saturday March 27, Waitati Valley Equestrian Centre,
FREE

On-line events, in-person listings, and tickets at dunedinfringe.nz

Blueskin Bay Community Spaces

Warrington Hall

Available for birthdays, family gatherings, exercise classes, dances and do's etc at reasonable rates. Hire includes a fully equipped kitchen and tables and chairs.

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 Bay Library 482 2444 | blucirc1@dcc.govt.nz

Waiputai Hub

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

Hire charge is usually applicable, details can be obtained on request



Dunedin Community Accounting is a free, volunteer service for non-profits.

Whether it's about setting a budget, doing your annual accounts, reporting to a board or just keeping good records, DCA can help you find the answers you need.

kiaora@dca.org.nz | 0800 113 160 | dca.org.nz

ANZAC DAY REMEMBRANCE

Help required for organising the event on 25 April

Phone Paul & Glenys on 4822 640 or Alasdair on 0274 354 384





I was having a chat with my mate Murray Johnston the other day. He built a house at Doctors Point in 1972, not unlike the cinder block house my mum built on Blueskin Road. We moved here when I was 5 thanks to a housing corp loan. Murray moved to the Bay when he was 5 too. He lived on the Coast Road in Warrington. That was 1944 and his dad was a driver for the Seacliff Hospital.

When he was old enough Murray became a farm cadet working for the Health department. There were large grounds attached to all 3 hospitals in the area Seacliff, Cherry Farm and Orokonui.

In 1961 Murray married June and they moved to Waitati where they lived in the tiny cottage on Quayle Street right on the edge of Bland Park and the river.

Murray worked on all of the different farms and eventually became the farm manager. Over the years they changed to Lands and Survey, and finally Landcorp farm.

In Waitati, the Orokonui valley where the sanctuary is, was once part of the hospital farm. When it was divided Landcorp took over the agricultural part of the area and the major part was managed by DOC (previously known as the Orokonui conservation area).

In Seacliff, there were sheep and dairy cows. At Cherry Farm hospital they had dairy cows but also crops, they grew barley and potatoes. There was a long history of food production there dating back to Johnny Jones's days.

When Murray started at the Waitati Farm in 1964 there were sheep and cows. He sold off all the cows and was a local pioneer of Wapiti deer (a red deer cross with a distinct white bit at the tail)

I remember them around the estuary track heading up to the tallest tree track when I was at school. And right up until I came back here in 2003, you could still hear the stags roaring on the hill. By then Landcorp had sold all the farms, starting with Cherry Farm, the Orokonui part and lastly Seacliff.

By 2006 the Ecosanctuary was established in the valley, And Murray was well and truly retired from farming. He is almost 82 years old and still lives in the Bay after 77 years!

Mandy Mayhem-Bullock

LOCAL BOOK REVIEW

The Sets

by Victor Billot

Reviewed by Duncan Eddy.

Victor Billot's latest book, *The Sets*, is a powerful collection of poems from an edgy and authentic local voice. Gutsy and grunty, with nary a word wasted, Billot is on top of his game here.



Billot, who Steve Braunias has dubbed "New Zealand's Unofficial Poet Laureate", grew up in Warrington, and is a regular contributor to the Blueskin News poetry section and the Poet Pallet at the Waitati Music Festival. His controversial political satires are published weekly on newsroom.co.nz, and you can find more of his work at victorbillot.com.

The Sets is Billot's fourth published poetry collection, and the critics are fizzing. Nicholas Reid at the New Zealand Listener calls it: "...a tough and challenging collection with a firm grasp of style. A must."

And in a review for Kete, Auckland poet Michael Steven writes: "...The poems of *The Sets* are hard won. They are the testament of a man navigating the light and dark of his epoch. Victor Billot has much to say. His is a voice worth listening to." Check it out.

The Sets, by Victor Billot is published by Otago University Press. RRP \$27.50

Waikouaiti Library change of hours

Customers of the Waikouaiti Library are about to enjoy the benefits of consistent weekday opening hours after consultation showed overwhelming support for the proposal.

From 8 March, the library will be open from 11am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 1pm on Saturday. The Service Centre will also be open 11am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

The consistent opening hours will make it easier for people to know when the library is open. It also results in a small increase in total opening hours by 30 minutes.

With the change of hours, programmes such as Friday's Wriggle & Rhyme sessions, can be held before the library is open to the public, allowing babies and toddlers and their caregivers to spread out and make noise without disturbing other customers.

Easter Services at St Barnabas Church

Maundy Thursday Service 7pm
 Good Friday Service 10am
 Easter Sunday Service 9.30am
 Everyone welcome.



Blueskin Garden Club's February activity was a visit to Rory Harding's Food Forest garden. About 20 members split into 2 groups and visited his amazing home garden in George Street, Dunedin.

If you haven't been then have a look on-line for the details. Rory met us at the gate where we were surrounded by fruit and herbs. The thornless blackberry was huge and even though south facing was heavily laden with delicious blackberries.

He gave us a brief history of how he started out by just planting a fruit tree or two and like topsy it grew and grew!! I counted 26 different varieties of fruit and berries and may well have missed a few. Here are some of what we saw: figs, feijoas, apples, grapes, yellow and black raspberries, loganberry, currants, moorpark apricots, aronia, cranberries, persimmon, mulberry, lemons, kiwifruit, kiwiberry, strawberry, chilean guavas, pears, japanese ginger, plums, prune plums, peaches, north american pawpaw, passionfruit and tamarillos.

Rory grows a lot of herbs around the bases of his fruit trees and he regularly chops them and leaves them to fertilise and feed the trees. He has great looking compost which as he explained if clean and weed free you just plant your veges straight into it and away they go. The vege garden wasn't very big but with careful planting and only using the space required he had a large variety of very healthy vegetables. Well worth a visit.

On 11 March members are off for a day's visit to Quarantine Island. If you would like to join our club then please contact our President Lyne Carlyle 4822822 or Secretary Carol Fletcher 4821443.

Lyn Hastie, Publicity.

BLUESKIN ON SHOW

Produce Schedule

Organised by the Blueskin Garden Club

Blueskin A&P Society 'Blueskin on Show Day,' 11 April 2021

Entry Requirements

- All sections are open to all age groups (except for entries for decorated wheelbarrows and hats)
- Entries for produce etc is between 10am and 11.30am on the day.
- All vegetables, fruit and flowers must have been grown in your own garden.
- Please bring your own containers for display and water for flowers
- Entries must be collected between 3pm and 3.30pm

Please note any unclaimed produce will be donated to the Waitati Anti Scurvy pantry at the Library

Produce Section

Vegetables

1. carrots 3
2. onions 3
3. potatoes 3
4. garlic 3
5. beetroot 3
6. pumpkin 1
7. silverbeet 1 bunch
8. any other vegetable

Fruit

1. eating apples 3
2. cooking apples 3
3. pears 3
4. tomatoes 3
5. cherry tomatoes 3
6. small bowl of berry fruit
7. any other fruit

Novelty

1. biggest root vegetable
2. character carrot
3. longest bean
4. fattest rhubarb

Three age groups for wheelbarrows and hats.
Under 8 yrs, under 14 years, over 14 years

Sand Saucers to be made on site, all requirements will be provided

A Display Box of Garden Produce grown at local schools and play centres

Visit the Blueskin Garden Club marquee to purchase Plants

Preserves

1. jar of pickles
2. jar of relish or chutney
3. bottle of savoury sauce
4. jar of jelly
5. jar of jam
6. jar of preserved fruit
7. jar of preserved beetroot
8. any other preserve

Flowers

1. Tussie Mussie using flowers and herbs
2. Rose – one stem, single bloom
3. Rose – one stem, multi bloom
4. Dahlia – one stem, any colour
5. Hydrangea – one head
6. any other flower

Other.

1. Best Decorated Wheelbarrow
2. Basket of mixed fruit and vegetables
3. Decorated Hat

THE WIDER BLUESKIN BAY AREA IS ON SHOW

★ *Blueskin Country Fair* ★

★ *Blueskin Agricultural & Pastoral Society Inc.* ★

★ **COUNTRY FAIR** ★

★ **SUNDAY APRIL 11TH** ★

★ **10AM - 4PM** AT BLAND PARK ★

★ **WAITATI** ★

★ **RIDES, RACES & FAMILY FUN** ★

★ LOCAL SCHOOLS & GROUPS ON SHOW ★

★ **FOOD** APPLE PRESS
& DRINKS
trade displays

★ **BEST DRESSED DOG** ★

★ **CAR BOOT SALE** ★
★ LOCAL BUSINESS DISPLAYS ★

★ HALO PROJECT & ECO SANCTUARY ★

Toughest
Chick in Town
Competition



★ Best Decorated
★ **WHEELBARROW** ★

★ **GARDEN PRODUCE** ★

★ **competitions** ★

★ **\$3 entry** (includes free raffle ticket) ★

★ Children 12 & under FREE ★

★ **CARBOOT SALE \$10** includes 1 gate entry ★

★ **PAYMENT ON ARRIVAL CASH ONLY** ★

★ **STALL HOLDERS** ★

★ For more details please email

★ **Mark Brown blueskin@xtra.co.nz** ★

CONTACTS Alasdair Morrison 4822505 Mark Brown 4822833 Colin Thom
Setting up from 7.30am ON SHOW DAY



Rabbit Island and more...

I have been doing a little research but mainly come up empty-handed ... there must be a Māori name for the island in Blueskin Bay. Does anybody know? Please contact the editor with any answers.

I turned to the local bible of historical fact – ‘Blueskin Days’ (a resource for all things Blueskin Bay and available in the reference section of the library) to find out more, but no name reference for the Island was available.

I did learn, however, at the time of first European contact that the name for Warrington was Okahau. It was also recorded as Okaihau and Aka hau (the name of a famous greenstone weapon). Careys Creek at Evansdale is named Waikiripaka which translates as ‘the echo from the thunder cliff’. Orokonui was also a creek name it can be translated as ‘a healthy place’ and Opeke is the small stream running down from Mopanui.

I recently taught myself to say Kaupuketau Mahaka thinking it was the name for Mt. Cargill, it seems to have a double meaning ‘to snare pigeons with a string’ or ‘puke’ meaning hill and ‘mahaka’ meaning twins – it appears on some maps as the name for Double Hill!

Growing up at the foot of Mt Kettle I have wondered too what her real name might be. I found a story, from Huata Holmes passed on from his great grandmother, naming the summits of Mt Cargill and Mt Kettle – Buka, and Hola.

Named after a brother and sister who had travelled inland with their parents to Lakes Wanaka and Hawea. They were sent back to Papatōwai in the Catlins to tell relatives their parents were heading over Haast Pass to the west coast.

Buka and Hola were cut off by fire and had to travel up Kaikorai valley and crossed Komako (the Leith saddle, named for the bellbird - korimako).

The children lay on their backs to rest before receiving assistance from the local iwi, thus the two summits were named “sleeping giants”.

Mandy Mayhem-Bullock

Image: View from Leith saddle (Komako), painting 1887 by George O'Brien (Hocken Collection)

Home Sweet Home

How lucky if you have the fortune to have your own home in our community. I know too many women - mothers, professionals, and elders – who do not have the dignity of a stable home. One woman lives in a small cottage where one entire wall is chronically wet and mouldy. Couch surfing mothers move seven times in three years while putting on their best face, since emotions are weakness in our culture.

Yet I remember when my neighbours told me that they hated the new housing built in the area, because it ruined their view more than two kilometres from the bay. It made me wonder. Why do we turn in our neighbours surviving in caravans, but we do not question the empty homes on our road, pondering the waste and inequality? In the last census, more than 14,000 homes sat empty in Otago alone.

While I may stand shoulder to shoulder with you, shuddering to imagine a 500 home development in Warrington or Doctor's Point with 500 personal, polluting vehicles, utilizing 500 leaking septic systems into our estuary, worth \$550,000 – \$1,000,000 each, I can happily imagine 100 tiny to mid-sized homes with affordable, efficient public transportation, composting toilets, rainwater harvest systems, renewable energy, and passive heating on leased land, worth \$75,000 – \$250,000 with shared labour costs.

Our neighbours could make some space for the rest of our community, including whanau from the Pacific Islands affected by climate change.

Our neighbours could question why so many homes in our community sit empty, while children live with the stress and burden of unstable, unaffordable living.

We could stop the amoral lunacy which is that 50% of home purchases in New Zealand are made by investors, driving up a demand which pushes families out.

We could champion a new design of low emissions, high efficiency, social housing in our community, away from the flood zone and into the reality of a community who shares a cuppa, not only as a slogan or a mascot, but by design.

How? Have uncomfortable conversations. Kia kaha! Talk to people who are not having an easy time of it. Reach out to media. Reach out to political representatives. Join an activist organization. Think of “WE” as much as “ME”. He waka eke noa.

Jenn Shulzitski

on the spot

**Blueskin General Store
(Waitati On The Spot)**

Store Hours

Mon – Sat 7.30am – 7pm

Sunday 9am – 7pm

Ph 482 2741

BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

28 Harvey Street, Waitati, 9085 · Ph 03 474-3690

www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz

WHAT'S ON

Children's Book Club



Monday 8 March, 3.30 - 4.30pm

For our first club of the year we caught up on everyone's summer reading and did some of the challenges from the Children's Summer Reading Programme. We especially enjoyed reading wearing hats! This month we will be celebrating Sea Week.

Please note this Club is for Year 3 and up.

Games Galore

Every Thursday, 2 - 5pm



Love Gaming? Why not try the old-fashioned way. Come along and join in the fun of board games – new and old for all ages.

Lego Club

Thursday 18 March - Saturday 20 March

We supply the Lego you bring your imagination. Suitable for ages 5+.

Bookshare

Thursday 25 March, 3.30 - 4.30pm

Join us for a chat over afternoon tea about what you read over the summer months.

Blueskin Bay Knitwits

Mondays, 6.30 - 8.30pm

Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm

All ages and experience levels are welcome.

DCC Kerbside App

The **DCC Kerbside**

Collections App is now available to download for information on recycling

bin collections, when and what can and can't go in the bins and more. Recycling calendars won't be delivered to homes in 2021 but you can collect a copy at the library.



Whitiwhiti Ora

The **Whitiwhiti Ora App** is Dunedin City Council's Māori Cultural Competency App. Interactive features include pronunciation of Māori words, maps with Māori names and iwi groups, values (Ngā Mātāpono), and principles, mihimihi/pepeha (introductions), ngā mihi (greetings), poroporoaki (farewells), whakatauki (proverbs), and waiata (songs).

New Polytech Computers

The Otago Polytechnic computers have been updated and are now connected to their own printer. It's easy to log in and you do not need a Google account to use them. They have Microsoft equivalent programmes and access to other browsers such as Firefox, Safari and Explorer.

Wunderkammer

Treasures from the old market garden

Gee Ming Gardens, a block of 50 acres in Waitati, were

established in the late

1930s. The main crops

grown were early potatoes, cabbages,

cauliflowers, lettuces, carrots, beetroot, parsnips and

spring onions. These items were found by Ainslie

Heather on site when the Ming family left the

property.



Please note, COVID-19 Alert Level changes impact the Library hours if in doubt please check the website. Library hours are normally:

Monday & Tuesday: 2-6pm

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:

10am-12pm & 2-6pm

Saturday: 10am-1pm



dunedin public libraries

Kā Kete Wānaka o Ōtepoti

WAIKOUAITI COAST COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Draft 10 Year Plan 2021 – 2031

Every three years Dunedin City Council updates its 10 Year Plan, and that will happen this year. The consultation will take place during March and April and it will be well advertised. As your Community Board we will be making a detailed submission on many topics and we are keen to hear what you think.

City Councillors and Otago Regional Councillors will be in attendance at the Blueskin Show, on Sunday 11 April at Bland Park in Waitaiti. Council Staff from various departments will also be in attendance.

Topics in our submission will include water services; solid and liquid waste services; maintenance of city assets; local road and state highway safety; bus services; population growth; climate change issues; cycleways and pedestrian safety; support for local businesses; tourism opportunities; and more.

It is pleasing to see that some work is underway at last with road and footpath vegetation maintenance. There is still much to be done and we are in touch with the Transportation Department on a regular basis concerning this.

We still have some money left in our Discretionary Fund to give away. The DCC financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June each year and our Discretionary Fund gets topped up by \$10,000 at the start of each year. To apply for a grant to support a community project, contact a board member or download the application form from the DCC website.

Our next formal meeting will be held at the East Otago Events Centre in Waikouaiti on Wednesday 24 March starting at 5.30 pm. If you wish to speak at the public forum, please contact Rebecca Murray on 477 4000.

Alasdair Morrison, Chairman Waikouaiti Coast Community Board – info@calmarine.co.nz 027 4354 384



Pūrākaunui School

Hi everyone. We have had a very enjoyable start to school in 2021. It is always great to catch up with everyone after the summer break and to hear about the various adventures people enjoy.

It was exciting to see the school looking much brighter and very crisp thanks to a new paint job, and the change in colour is refreshing. It was a thrill to dig up another very impressive crop of garlic from the garden on our first day back, and we now have plenty to see us through the year.

We have two interesting Enviro-school projects coming up in the near future which we are looking forward to. The first one is a sand dune restoration project involving the pikao plant which will see us gather seed, propagate and finally plant pikao in local sand dunes. The other project is to do with the resident population of kākā at Orokonui eco-sanctuary, and will look at where they are when they are outside the sanctuary and how safe they are. It will be great to learn all about this wonderful bird and to share our learning with the wider community.

Our first term topic is Communication and the kids have begun the year by writing and posting some good old fashioned letters, which will be gratefully received by the various recipients no doubt, and we look forward to some replies!

Any queries about Pūrākaunui School please call the office on 482 1026.

Tim Cook, Principal



Sandra Clark
Real Estate Specialist

Contact:
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e sandra@odunedin.nz
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MP for Dunedin

☎ 03 474 1973
📍 32 Albany Street, Dunedin
✉ dunedin@parliament.govt.nz
📘 [facebook.com/DavidClarkMP](https://www.facebook.com/DavidClarkMP)



Labour
Authorised by Hon Dr David Clark, 32 Albany Street, Dunedin



Predator Control in West Harbour

Predator control is being established throughout West Harbour, and we are now working in Maia and Ravensbourne. Residents have received pest detection kits, and people are reporting high possum numbers in some areas.

If you think you have possums, rats or stoats lurking, please get in touch with us!

Traps are out around West Harbour reserves, and we need the help of local residents to check and maintain them.

Volunteers have helped catch 64 stoats between November and February in the area around Orokonui – with 42 caught in December alone!

If you'd like to get involved, please email info@haloproject.org.nz or phone us on 022 026 2115.

Source to Sea Underway



Fencer Nick Terry and Source to Sea Project Manager Jennifer Lawn mark out the first fence. Credit: Sue Chapman.

The Source to Sea project is officially underway, with the first fence installed on a farm in Pūrākaunui. We've also ordered 140,000 native plants for this planting season.

We've had a high level of interest from landowners seeking assistance with fencing and planting, but we are keen to hear from more. You can find out more about our forest, waterway and wetland restoration programme and register your interest online at www.haloproject.org.nz.

Do you know anyone that likes working outdoors?

We'll soon be recruiting six field team members to help with planting, weed control and plant maintenance. If you're interested or know someone who could be, keep an eye on our website www.haloproject.org.nz/news or Facebook page [@halobeyondorokonui](https://www.facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui).

The Halo Team

Cilantro

by Hilary Rowley

"What is that flavour? Yum", this was my first impression of cilantro, after being handed a bowl of Thai Tom Yum soup for the first time, and tasting this awesome flavour. It is hard to imagine now how I got through so much of my life without it. I knew about coriander, which is the dried seeds of the same plant, but Cilantro is something else altogether taste wise.



Some people absolutely detest Cilantro because they think it tastes like soap. These people have a genetic variation which enables them to taste the soapy flavoured aldehydes in the Cilantro leaves. Poor things, I can't imagine how they can get any joy from Thai food without it.

Cilantro is easy to grow, but notorious for bolting to seed, that is OK though as the seed is coriander, which is also delicious and used all through Asia to the Mediterranean in their cuisines. Plant seeds directly in the garden. Soaking overnight in a glass of water before planting will increase your rate of germination.

In the world of good intentions (somewhere I seldom actually go, but consider going a lot), I would plant coriander seeds and radish seeds every 2 weeks to have a constant supply of both.

Cilantro grows quite well in cooler temperatures, so definitely get some started now, as it will stay green and leafy a lot longer in autumn and early winter. In summer I grow mine behind the house where it is in partial shade and is less likely to bolt. Cilantro does not really keep well, though it is possible to freeze leaves in ice cubes of water, fresh is always best. It can be stored for a few days in a plastic bag in the fridge, but there is a good reason it is usually sold as live plants in those overpriced, little non recyclable, plastic packages.

To use, roughly chop a handful and throw onto an Asian style soup like Tom Yum, at the last possible moment to get the most of it's amazing (or soapy if you are that way inclined) flavour.



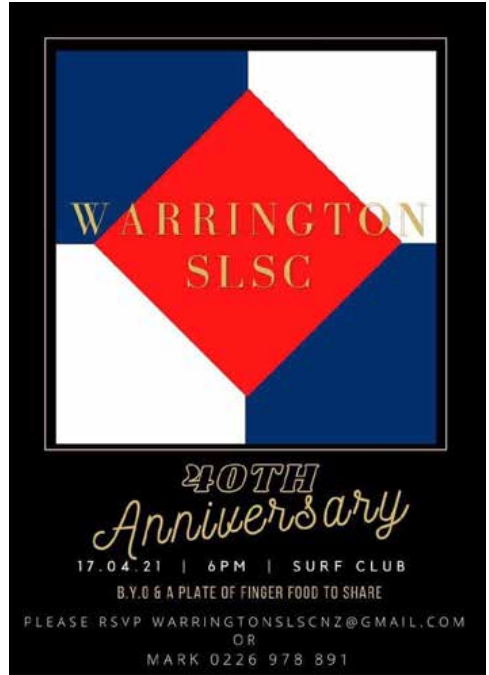
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WARRINGTON SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Warrington Beach is a busy place these days. The weekend of 13 - 14 of February was one out of the box, a Dunner Stunner and what a way to warmly welcome young surf life savers from all over the South Island at the Southern Junior Champs. Our visiting Surf Life Saving Clubs will depart well impressed with our beautiful beach.

If you note the double hulled canoes out on the waves - you may notice the wording is South Brighton - well WOOPSY!, our Warrington boat took a tumble in the waves and is under repair - Christchurch friends have stepped in to help out, loaning boats that our wonderful lifeguards can train on as they prepare for big trips away. We have youngsters heading to Mt Maunganui, older lifeguards heading to Ōhope Beach and our Rescue crews head to Ruakākā and the National Rescue Boat Championships.

Fund raising is a big part of helping our youngsters travel, buy gear and learn new things - thank you to all those who support our food stalls, firewood sales and pub quizzes - we have more lined up over the coming months. If you or anyone you know is keen to join our club, please just email Tricia at warringtonslsnz@gmail.com



Dunedin Festival of Women's Art & Music

The first annual Dunedin Festival of Women's Art and Music (DfestWAM) will be held at the ARC Brewery in Warrington on Saturday 20 March. As part of this year's Fringe Festival, the event celebrates women's creativity with workshops, music and visual art.

The festival welcomes participants of all gender and sexual expression and identity. Doors open at midday and the festival goes through until midnight. A DfestWAM bus is available to transport festival goers to the ARC Brewery and back to Dunedin. Half day or full day tickets are available through the Fringe website:

Festival Artistic Director Deirdre Newall (Tiny Pieces of Eight, D:MR, Delgirl) saw the need to celebrate the artistic voices of women of diverse ages, backgrounds

and stages of career. "Music and art aren't for just the special few. We want to encourage and nurture creativity because we know how important it is for our wellbeing, and make more spaces for all kinds of women's voices to be showcased."

The programme includes art installations by five visual artists, ten musical acts and two workshops. MC Heather LaDell (Pearl Street) says, "the Festival opens with a workshop on the link between creativity and wellbeing, and then we get straight into the music with five intimate acoustic performances. After dinner and a workshop on the business of music, the volume will turn up and we will dance into the night with five high energy bands."

Festival organiser Fiona Stuart (The Flukes) says "we have been fortunate to attract DCC funding for this event and see our micro festival as an annual part of Dunedin's festival calendar. The ARC brewery is a beautiful setting with wonderful food and drink options for festival goers, and plenty of space for people be right in the thick of it or find quieter nooks."

Volunteers are sought for help on the day. Anyone interested can contact the organisers at dfestwam@gmail.com.

Further information: contact Fiona Stuart on dfestwam@gmail.com, facebook *DFest-WAM Collective*

WARRINGTON WANDERINGS with foot'in Fitz

Whale burials, sea lions, waders and high tides.

This is a low/mid tide walk. 30-40-mins (reads down and then across)



Start walk from outside the toilet block on Warrington Domain and head towards the beach.



Opposite the Warrington Surf Club turn right and head to the pines. Step into the shade of the trees and you can see the evidence of the burial of dozens of pilot whales that stranded on Warrington Beach during the late 1950s.



Head south along path for 300m and at the DCC pond turn left towards the beach, another 300m and you arrive out of the dunes and hopefully have not disturbed a basking sealion or seal.



Turn right and head towards the mouth of the bay. You might catch sight of a dolphin among the breakers or a train rumbling up along the cliffs at Doctors Point. Keep an eye out for wading birds hiding in the sand. Oyster catchers, plovers and sometimes godwits.



Stroll along the beach 400mtrs and turn right into the cutting where the high tide breaks into the bay. This wide expanse of flat sand puts you into Blueskin Bay opposite Rabbit Island.



Head down the bay towards Warrington township. Apart from the many gulls the odd stilt can be seen foraging for snails and shell fish. As well as the birds local groups can usually be seen cockling on the waters edge.



Its quite noticeable how numerous high tides have intruded and damaged the bays shoreline. Bare peat ledges and dead pines litter the bay edges. About 200m before you leave the shoreline try and spot the old house site, only broken bricks remain.



At the car park head north along the metal road through the "pines without a future" until you reach the Warrington Camping Ground. Cut through the camp carpark and you are back at the start.

If it's a summer weekend, sit and have a flat white or latte at Geordies Kiosk on the Domain. He does a really good brew and you deserve it.



Image Nick Beckwith

What is a Leopard Seal?

Well it is a type of seal that needs a wide berth – particularly if you are a dog owner!

These seals primarily inhabit the Antarctic pack ice and prey on penguins and other seal species. They'll take a bite of any mammal if it is to hand. Those massive jaws are made for chomping!

They are naturally uncommon, but some animals have been known to spend a year or more continuously in New Zealand waters. Warrington has its fair share of such visitors. Giverney Forbes is a Masters of Science student at the Otago University and studies sea leopards. You may see her on guard, photographing and documenting our visitors. She would love to hear from you if you spot one www.leopardseals.org/report-a-leopard-seal/

There is a phone hotline too –
0800L EOPARD 0800 536 7273

Remember – for you own and your dog's sake – keep at least 20m away



Whatever comes

by Victor Billot

It's a million dollar view, we tell ourselves,
and one of the prizes of being far away
from anywhere is that you can
still afford a view. The horizon
bends under the weight of ocean.

The newspaper is cold with dew.
You can read other lines in clouds
rolling from the imaginary south.

In a world stumbling and shouting,
our journey into future days grinds
and crackles to a halt, half-light
obscuring shapes on the boundaries
of vision. Plague-year, seasons jumbled
and lockdowns explaining what's ahead,
in an obscure corner of the map

we learn of fires, ranting demagogues.
While not exactly what we anticipated,
it has begun, what was to come.



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Blueskin Playcentre

Kia ora koutou! Blueskin Playcentre is excited to extend a very warm welcome some new families who have joined our Playcentre whanau. We are very glad to meet you and look forward to getting to know you and your tamariki!

If you are wondering if Playcentre might be a good fit for your whanau, we'd just like to let you know that you are very welcome to join us for up to three "getting to know you" sessions - so please feel free to come and give it a try with no strings attached! We would all love to meet you.

This term we have some fun outings in the pipeline (Covid-19 levels allowing of course!) These include a visit to the Warrington School garden with Nathan Parker (pre swim optional), visiting the Blueskin Bay Library (the tamariki always enjoy their storytime!), a visit to a local alpaca farm, Opeke, and a Playcentre Playdate hosted by St Leonards Playcentre. The best way to stay informed of what is happening is to like and follow Blueskin Playcentre on Facebook; that way you can be sure not to miss the fun!

We have sessions Mon, Tue and Wed, 9am - 12pm in our lovely wee centre, which is located in the grounds of Waitati School. Please find us on Facebook, at www.playcentre.org.nz/centre/blueskin/, at blueskinplaycentre88@gmail.com, or on (03) 470 1228. We hope to see you soon!

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THE RANT

by Peter Gregory



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

Glad

My cat loves to take me for a walk around our garden first thing in the morning. He is delighted when I spend those special few minutes with him, and sometimes plans little surprises for me... Like the time he climbed a tree and deliberately removed the hat from my head as I passed under one of its low branches! Unusually for a cat, he does play with water, and if there is enough rain to put some water into our storm water drain, he will happily chase small sticks that I drop in for him, and fish them out with his paws. The morning walk with the cat has been a great source of joy.

Sad

I am terrible at remembering names, I have always had some trouble with this, but it has grown worse of late. Titles of books I have read, names of plants, anything – or anyone – with a name. Being often quite incapable of greeting someone by name really makes me sad.

Mad

We live out of town and really do need to be able to find a park for our little van that is handy to the shops, and is affordable. I would be happy with a well managed "Park and Ride" system, but the DCC's cavalier action of removing dozens

of car parks and inflating the prices of those that remain without providing an alternative, means that visits to the city are a stressful and infuriating chore rather than a pleasure. I find myself avoiding trips to town if I can, and doing more shopping online.

Also, the concrete slabs used to edge the cycle lanes (and rob motorists of parking) are ugly, grey and dispiriting. The horrid things are completely out of harmony with Dunedin architecture, and do nothing to improve the aesthetic values of the city. They may well protect the occasional cyclist that uses them, but I bet they break a few ankles!

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WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

BBQ get together with partners at Martin and Robin's place in Mosgiel to start the year. A splendid setting in their carefully manicured garden wonderfully colourful back garden, no effort spared in laying out everything possibly needed including a lovely Mosgiel afternoon. After drinks and a garden inspection we dined in style on the terrace. Thanks heaps to our hosts for their amazing efforts. Oh and mention should be made of Marc's fine and prolonged efforts in preparing his tasty Peri Peri Chicken for our enjoyment.

THE BOOK

Starts next month....

Other Books

Scott – Drive Your Plow Over The Bones Of The Dead by *Olga Tokarczuk*. A quirky, entertaining, quiet, funny story involving murdered hunters, astrology, and William Blake through the eyes of a 60 year old schoolteacher. "I do like reading books in translation."

TV/ MOVIE

Scott – really enjoying Lupin on Netflix, great fun.

Ian – perfect way to spend Waitangi Day evening, watching the movie/documentary Herbs. Probably the most important NZ band ever, as their music accompanied nuclear protests, land marches, Bastion Point occupation, and of course the unofficial NZ anthem 'Slice of heaven' with Dave Dobbyn from the immortal Footrot Flats movie. Daaa Daaa da, Daaa Daaa da...

BEER/WHISKY

Ian – value for money, the Krombacher range of Dark, Weizen (wheat), and Pils (pilsner). The first two come in 500ml bottles and the Pils comes in 660ml bottles. Really good value, at First Choice and Countdown.

Why can't we buy NZ beers of this quality at these prices?

Scott – back to the old favourite Laphroaig PX Cask, triple distilled. A present from my father-in-law, not much left so small drams required to make it last. (Spoken like a true Scott, Scott)

WORD OF THE MONTH

Cinematheque: as in the movies or in my childhood, the pictures. Riding my bike 3 miles to Balclutha to watch the Saturday Matinee, not standing for God Save the Queen, rolling Jaffas down from the back seats rrrrrr dap rrrrrr dap. Watching serialised versions of Rin Tin Tin, Zorro, Batman or The Lone Ranger – "WHAP! Take that!", "Hi ho Silver away...!", "who was that masked man?"

MEANING OF LIFE

"...everyone loses everything in the end, but that certain things of their nature cannot be taken away while life lasts. Some things can never be lost utterly, that were loved in a certain way." Quote from Damascus Gate by *Robert Stone*



Why I Love Waitangi Day

When I was a kid, 6 February was called New Zealand Day. Tellingly, it wasn't a public holiday. It was as if New Zealand Day and its link to Ti Tiriti O Waitangi, tried to sneak past without being noticed.

But I always noticed 6 February, and that's because it's my birthday. And to prove how cruel life can be, at least once during my childhood, that birthday corresponded with the first day of school. Ohhh....the injustice! But of course, birthdays are remarkably unremarkable events. After all, one in every 365 people share the same birthday, and so, in our team of 5million, about 13,000 Kiwis celebrate their birthday with mine on 6 February.

Anyway, in 1974, "Big Norm" Kirk's Labour Government legislated Ti Tiriti O Waitangi into the wider Kiwi consciousness by declaring that New Zealand Day would henceforth be known as Waitangi Day. And to ensure we always remember it, he further declared it a public holiday. It has since been Mondayized. (Is that really a word?) Thanks Big Norm. Most of us Ngāti Pakehā were happy with that, despite a lingering problem with pronunciation. It seemed the "Wai" part was easy enough, but many still struggled with the "tangi" part. Ah well, we're making ground on that. Wai....tangi. Rhymes with hangi. Of course, it's no surprise that the contemporary view held by many Kiwi's is that 6 February; Waitangi Day, the anniversary of Ti Tiriti O Waitangi, my and 13,000 other Kiwis birthdays, is a proven example of the inherently dishonorable foundation on which colonialism and colonisation, is built.


But, back to birthdays and the reason I love Waitangi Day. Now, I've done the math, and it says that globally, some 20 million people have birthdays on 6 February. And that's just the living. If we include the dead, I suspect that number reaches infinity. And amid that infinity is the incomparable Bob Marley. When Bob graced us with a visit in 1979, reports suggest he was very much taken by our indigenous Māori culture and old footage shows him outwardly blown away by the powhiri accorded his arrival. His one performance at Western Springs Stadium, and the days he and his crew spent up north have earned legendary status. It was a tragedy when in 1981, only 2 years after his visit here, Bob Marley died at the tender age of 36. Oh....the injustice. So, I'm proud to share my birthday with Aotearoa's burgeoning recognition of Ti Tiriti O Waitangi, and I love having Bob Marley as one of the infinite who can claim the same. I imagine Bob would be chuffed to know that here in Waitati (Wai...ta...ti), we celebrate and acknowledge Ti Tiriti O Waitangi by honouring his (and my) birthday with a Waitangi Day Reggae Party at which we are encouraged to "lively up yourself, by dressing-up and singing - Let's Get Together And Feel Alright."

Now there's an idea. Oh...did I mention it's my birthday?

Doug Nuttall


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SCHOOL UPDATE

It is lovely to have everyone back. What a wonderful start to the new year. Beautiful weather. Here I was thinking it only rained in Waitati, but no, we come back to school and the sun shines!

We started the year with a mihi to welcome Autumn Scarf-Matthews, a new teacher in Huatea, and Belinda Topping, our new part time teacher and five new students. Nau mai, haere mai Noah, Luca, Dot, Isabel and Emilia! Our roll is now 95!



We run an exciting leadership programme for our Year 7 and 8's. Last week they spent a day surfing. Be ready to head out. Instruction, then hit the waves. Waitati school value of Rangatiratanga, supports the development of confidence and resiliency. Providing our learners with new experiences allows this to grow.

Our Enviroschools teacher, Sally supports our learners to grow a garden and learn to cook food from it. This week they made vege fritters and coleslaw. This learning relates to Turangawaiwai, being environmentally wise.



To start the year off, we are learning about keeping ourselves safe. We welcome Constable Emily to support us in doing this. Here the ākongā are playing a game to support new learning around being confident in making decisions.

The Teina (Year 1 to 4) have been learning about statistics.

We have new mud kitchen. Thanks to one of our lovely granddads Ray, for making this for us. The students are loving the opportunity to work together, create stories, measure in different ways, mix and create.

Principal Tara O'Neill

How not to Racist

An unfortunately more than occasional series

Twenty seven years ago, my brown skinned Dad had the Police called on him by two Pākehā women while he was out walking with his dog, Sam, and my one-year old blond, blue-eyed daughter, Piupiu. These women demanded to know where he had got that child because she was obviously not related to him. Dad was pissed off, we all were. But it was 1993, we couldn't do anything and consoled ourselves with the fact that eventually these old racists would die off.

Imagine my (groaning lack of) surprise then, when some old Pākehā woman at the February Blueskin market confronted my 1 year old blond blue eyed mokopuna and her brown skinned uncle exclaiming "Oh, that's definitely not your baby is it, that's not your baby".

Seriously, is there some kind of Racism for Dummies manual with a Schedule of Age Appropriate Remarks "Every Māori child should see a loved one denigrated before they reach 18 months old."?

But of course, it's not about the baby. It's about the boy.

These are classic attacks on brown skinned men, accusing them of crimes and reminding them they are at large only at the largesse of vigilant white people. That is racism pure and simple and its time to call bullshit on it. Our men are loving fathers, our men are supportive husbands, our men are gentle brothers, uncles and koros.

I don't know who this woman was, I assume she was from out of the village. So I can't talk to her about her racist assumptions or her appalling manners. I can't help her unpick and understand her racist background or find her someone to do so. I can only provide some helpful advice in this How not to Racist column. So I am reminded of a wise Pākehā proverb from a great sage who was channeling a revered Pākehā spirit animal called Thumper, "If you can't say something nice, don't say nothing at all".

Metiria Turei



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