

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

JULY 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

ARC FEST



Rob Sheriff RIP

Rob was born in Tuatapere, on 21 February 1953, the youngest of three children born to Robert and Marjorie Sherriff. He often described himself as an "autumn leaf", arriving long after his sisters Bev and Dot, who were already teenagers.

Family was at the heart of his life from the very beginning. He absolutely idolised his sisters. He often credited them with shaping his sense of humour. Because of the age gap, Rob was closer in age to many of his nieces and nephews than to his sisters themselves. He was a proud uncle who adored them all and carried those relationships with him throughout his life. Rob was also a devoted son. He inherited so much of his kindness, patience and generosity from Nana Sherriff. When his father died suddenly when he was just eight years old, it affected him profoundly. It was a loss he carried with him for the rest of his life and one that helped shape the gentle and compassionate person he became.

Music became one of the great loves of Rob's life, and nowhere was that more obvious than when he talked about discovering The Beatles as a teenager. He embraced Beatlemania wholeheartedly.

Unfortunately for him, being a long-haired teenager in 1960s Tuatapere was, in his words, "a hard row to hoe". The local school had what Rob affectionately referred to as the 'hair policeman', a fearsome deputy principal known as 'Old Bulldog', whose mission in life appeared to be ensuring no teenage boy's hair ever reached his ears. Offenders were sent to the local barber, who he described as having "the disposition of a Doberman on a cold day". The barber only offered two styles: 'short back and sides', which was essentially everything off apart from the eyebrows, and a 'square cut', which left slightly more on. Despite repeated requests for a light trim, Rob lamented that "many George Harrison verandahs came down around my ears."

Rob attended the University of Otago to study chemistry. His first job was as an industrial chemist at Cadbury in Dunedin, where he worked on making cough lollies. He said it was run "a bit like the British Army", but also said that if you made a mistake "like dispensing two days production of cough lozenges with the



wrong medication", "they were very good about it". Later, he moved into medical research at the Wellcome Medical Research Institute.

Rob met Louise through church in 1978. Their love story blossomed through a strategic arrangement involving guitar lessons in exchange for roast dinners. They became engaged after only six weeks of dating. Her roast dinners were phenomenal. Not long afterwards, Liz arrived, followed by Rebekah, Katie and finally the best surprise yet, Josie.

Rob was ahead of his time and spent much of the girls' childhood as a stay-at-home dad. He was a familiar face on school trips, at PTA meetings and volunteering for anything that involved children, music or a chance to cause mild chaos.

There was the time teachers at Katie's school camp gave the children a stern lecture about someone using the flying fox after lights out. The culprit, unsurprisingly, was Rob. A huge part of who Rob was, was his absurd sense of humour. He was shaped by Spike Milligan, Monty Python and Rowan Atkinson.

He was also a gifted musician. He could hear any tune once and then play it on the guitar. He loved playing in church bands and leading Sunday School, which generally involved him playing rock music while the delighted kids would hold an impromptu dance party.

Rob will be remembered for his loyalty. His loyalty to Louise and his girls never wavered.

He was also a collector of treasures. He loved op shops, trade me, and finding a bargain. He became such a regular at the



tip shop that he was eventually invited to the staff Christmas party.

In recent years, Waitati became a very special part of Rob's life. He loved the community, loved the library, loved Rita and Lou's cats, and became a familiar and much-loved fixture around the village.

In 2014, he gained one of his favourite titles: Grandad. He adored his grandchildren – Archie, Henry, Francie, and Wynne and loved them with all of his heart.

When he learned he was terminally unwell, he faced it with extraordinary grace. His deep and unwavering faith gave him a peace that never once left him. He made friends everywhere he went and quickly appointed himself class clown of the hospital ward. When he moved to a care home in Wellington, (to be closer to his girls) he quickly became a favourite of the staff there too.

Those final months were incredibly precious. Every day he was surrounded by daughters, grandchildren, sons-in-law, family and friends. They are all so grateful for this time together.

Rob's life wasn't defined by achievements, qualifications or possessions. It was defined by people.

His kindness.

His loyalty.

His faith.

His music.

His generosity.

And his extraordinary ability to make people laugh.

Editor's Note

Do you have a favourite supermarket, whether it's due to distance, produce or price?

I generally use two, one for distance and one for produce, but the other week due to some unusual circumstances I found myself in unknown territory. A completely different layout and a wealth of unknown products and very few of my favourites. I only had 30 minutes, so set off with the intention of just buying alternatives to my usual purchases. This was not a formula that worked. Partly because I kept finding things that piqued my interest, partly because there were no alternatives and partly because the pricing was so very different. I didn't class this as a great experience.

But it did make me think about all the supermarkets I have used globally and why I am happy and confident in some and not so much in others. I love English supermarkets, they are familiar to me and have much the same produce as our New Zealand ones, even some of the brands are recognisable. The range of items is phenomenal. The one thing that really makes happy to shop in them is the total bill at the checkout (except Marks and Spencer!). Everyday essentials are so much cheaper in the UK.

The UK incomers Aldi and Lidl (both German) are both very cheap but feel uncomfortable, not easy to find your way around and missing whole ranges of items which I are indispensable in my kitchen. While having whole aisles based on bargains that you really don't need.

The best supermarkets I have shopped at are in France and Switzerland, they are more like markets with the emphasis on fresh foods, with market-like counters for deli, cheese, fish, bakery and meat. They are sources of inspiration for any cook who cannot decide what to cook for the family.

In the end I think our supermarkets are pretty good – just as well!

Keep safe, warm and well Bernie

UPDATE Blueskin News and Distribution

The Blueskin News is a wonderful publication enjoyed by both locals and visitors to Blueskin Bay. But, as everyone is aware, costs are rising.

Unfortunately, although we have wonderful advertisers whose support we cannot do without, our funds are dwindling and the Committee is keen to encourage readers to check out the "News" online at www.blueskinnews.org. Here you can read each issue in full colour, back issues are also available. Local community Facebook pages also have copies to download.

From this month we have reduced our print run from 700 to 500 and we have had to cease Rural delivery to individuals. The "News" is available to collect from Blueskin, Port Chalmers and Waikouaiti libraries, Warrington Mailboxes, Waitati On the Spot, The Gallery and Waitati Merchants. A small number are also available from Beano's and the Heritage Centre in Waikouaiti, the shop in Karitane, Arc Brewery, Orokonui Ecosanctuary and Pūrākaunui.

So please check out our digital editions and send any feedback to blueskin.input@gmail.com

Clare Brown, Treasurer

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.

Kōreoreo te reo Māori

Join with other local Taurira

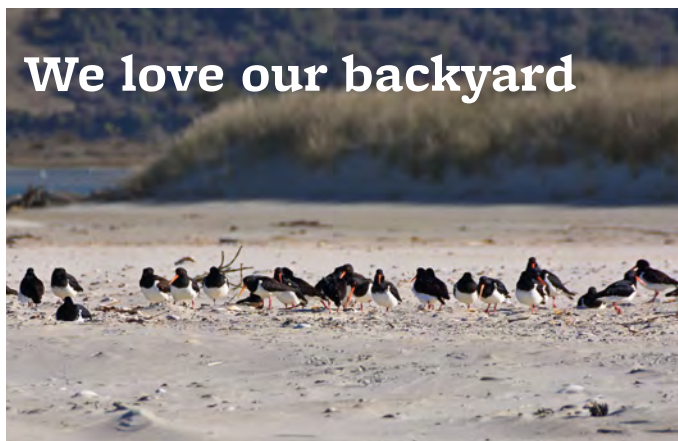
Have you been learning
te reo Māori?

Join us for an hour of
immersion practice with
other local learners at
Waiputai Hub

Wednesday evenings 7 – 8pm
Every Wednesday
5 August – 23 Sept 2026

\$5 one off registration Koha,
to register
email waiputai@gmail.com





We love our backyard

Have you noticed the thriving native plantings across our beautiful Warrington Peninsula? To ensure these young trees and our local wildlife have the best chance to flourish, a small, dedicated group of local volunteers has been quietly working behind the scenes. Operating under the umbrella of the Halo Project—which generously funds traps and bait—the team is on a mission to restore our backyard.

The dual focus is to protect new native plantings from devastating possum damage and to safeguard the vulnerable nesting and roosting birds at the dog-free area — the dedicated bird sanctuary beyond “the gap” — at the end of the Warrington Spit. Ultimately, we hope to establish a safe, vegetated corridor allowing native birds from Orokonui Ecosanctuary to securely access flowering plants in Warrington and the northern areas beyond.

To work smarter, we have recently introduced motion-activated trail cameras at our trap sites. This initiative lets us monitor animal behaviour without human presence. By studying how target predators approach the traps, we can identify trap avoidance and adjust our bait or placement, while also keeping an eye on other curious species that visit.

As we enter the second winter of the DCC bylaw requiring dogs to be kept on a lead in the sandhills, we would like to thank all our local pet owners who help us in this collective effort. Keeping dogs controlled in sensitive coastal areas works hand-in-hand with the trapping programme, giving our precious shorebirds the peace, safety, and protection they need to survive.

DCC support in protecting the Tōrea/Oyster Catchers that roost and breed September–March on our beach extends to a vehicle ban. The marked decrease in vehicle use on the beach reflects the importance that residents place in this iconic local bird, symbol of our local school – and indeed of our community.

If you would like to join the friendly team or help check a line, we would love to hear from you. Let’s keep working together to ensure Warrington remains a wild and thriving sanctuary for everyone.



BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET

Sunday 5 July



It's time to put down a brew! At the June Sunday market Chris McLay handed me the Gary Pearson cup, which we tied for last year. This cup is for any style of beer, so you can enter the competition whatever beer style is your thing.

However, the style of beer for the Jan Breward Cup is chosen by the previous year's winner, and for 2026 Harriet Love has nominated beers that include an addition of some sort of fruit, veggie, herb or spice! She has written a poem to define the rules:

*Brewers of Waitati, near and far
Some even travel from Rangiora
The rules are upon us
Abide by them please
If you'd like your beer taken seriously
Try make it nice with fruit, veggie or spice
A herb or two won't go amiss
Don't forget yeast or we won't have a feast*

Entry in the competition is, as always, a crate of beer.

Chris Linsell



Fence them in

I frequently see facebook posts on our local pages about lost dogs. These dogs seem to wander around at will visiting whoever they please, even kilometres away from their homes.

Our older female Irish terrier had a thing about visiting the neighbour's handsome Chesapeake Bay retriever, she likes a boy with balls. It was not too much of a problem until we got another dog, and then the two of them were taking any opportunity to go and visit their dog friends in our neighbourhood. Dogs are, after all, pack animals and they like to spend time with their own kind.



So we decided to bite down on the bank cards and get a fence built. It was expensive (10K because we didn't build it ourselves and our section is difficult) but when finished it gave us to send the dogs outside safe in the knowledge that they were not going anywhere.

Many people have their dogs shut up inside the house or in a crate during the day while they are at work. Our dogs can never be left in the house on their own, as they destroy things- the cushions, the arm of a beautiful mid-century chair, a set of aluminium Venetian blinds, some expensive library books. We used to chain them up outside, but that is tricky too, especially in summer, when finding a place which doesn't get too hot for them, or too wet if it rains is not easy.

Since the fence we just leave them outside to do their thing, which apparently involves a wee bit of howling and barking, according to the neighbours – but no one has been too pissed off (You'd tell us wouldn't you neighbours?).

A wandering dog is at risk of being impounded (dog control come out here once a week to look for wandering dogs), getting hit by a car, chasing stock, and whatever else wandering dogs get up to ... random sex? Fights? Biting people? So despite the cost a fence is a huge bonus. I see adverts for houses which add "fully fenced section" as a bonus so it must add value to your home. It would be worth asking a landlord to fence a section too, you never know, they might do it.

We got our fence made rabbit proof too which is a big help for gardening in this rabbit-infested corner of town.

If you have a fence you can foster a dog, or get a rescue dog, which the organisations won't let you do otherwise. Our fence is not pretty, its just posts, and rabbit netting with some wires along the top, but I'm going to grow grapes and roses on it soften its lines.

We just keep saying it was the best investment for peace of mind, so it seemed a worthy thing to tell you all about.

Hilary Rowley



**Pūrākaunui
School**

Pūrākaunui School warmly invites the communities of Blueskin Bay to our annual Matariki celebration on Friday 24 July 2026, 5:00pm-7:30pm, at Pūrākaunui School, 8 Mihiwaka Station Road. This is a free community event, sponsored by the Dunedin City Council Puaka Matariki Festival, and everyone is welcome.

Matariki is a special time in Aotearoa to reflect on the past year, remember those who have passed, and look ahead to new beginnings. At Pūrākaunui School, we will mark the occasion with an evening focused on culture, connection, and whanaungatanga.

The evening will include a shared hāngī, kapa haka performances by our students, a student-led play, and storytelling from local kaumātua. We will finish around the bonfire, offering a relaxed space to gather, connect, and reflect together.

This event is a chance for all ages to experience and celebrate Māori traditions in a welcoming, inclusive environment. Whether you are reconnecting with familiar traditions or learning something new, or whether you are part of our school community or visiting for the first time, we hope you will join us for an evening that honours the values of Matariki: remembrance, renewal, and unity.

We look forward to seeing some new faces there for a special night with our community.

Madness vs Sanity

Mike Joy
Environment Scientist
"If we fixate on replacing fossil fuels with renewables and don't reduce consumption and waste, we'll simply swap one race to destruction for another."

News... Media... Spin...
- We are focused on getting the economy back on track...
- Business, economy, jobs, tourism, growth, GDP, productivity, share prices...
- cut costs, get the latest, the best, new model, buy now pay later, interest free credit, on sale now, one chance only, want want, want, buy buy buy, more more more, blah blah blah...
... it's madness, we bullsh*t!

Sproget's...
high tide mark 2050 2035
climate change real poles melting
oceans rising
food shortages
drought & fires
extinct species
climate disasters increase
Time running out!

BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB



Well, winter arrived this morning with a vengeance. Frost covering everything and black ice was on the roads. Top temperature today was 10°C and 4°C forecast for overnight! Roll on Summer!

Last Saturday 13 June, clubbies met at the Warrington Hall for a 'Craft day get together' and shared lunch. Most brought their knitting, but I did notice one keen person mending socks.

Coincidentally it was the 'Worldwide Knit in Public Day', which is an annual global event, so we timed it well!

The biggest event that garden club organises each year is the Spring Flower Show – a real community occasion. However it does require an awful lot of thought and planning. So if there are any keen gardeners out there that have some spare time, we would welcome some help.

In the garden, there's still time to plant broad beans, peas, brassicas and garlic, and it's good to tidy up the garden now in preparation for winter and later on, spring planting.

For any information contact me on 027 533 2238.

Bev Lyon

East Otago Plunket Round Up



plunket
whānau āwhina

The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti runs weekly on Wednesdays between 10am and 12 noon 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. You don't need to be a Plunket client to come along – mums, dads, grandparents, aunts, caregivers, home-based educators and extended family are all welcome! It's free to join – just come along on the day.

Did you know that Plunket offers a "Safe and Seen" service? When your child is getting old enough to be interested in riding a scooter or balance bike, book a 15 minute appointment to be shown how to correctly fit a bike helmet using the 2-4-1 technique and receive a free helmet and hi-vis vest for your child.

This service is provided by arrangement with Tina, Plunket's Injury Prevention Co-ordinator based in Dunedin at the Plunket Hub at 97 King Edward Street, she can be contacted by phone on 027 242 3729 or email at tina.mangos@plunket.org.nz

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

Kā mihi nui

Annabel

ArcFest (Kings Birthday weekend)

ArcFest was so much fun! Thanks to Jono, owner of Arc Brewery for trusting us with his fabulous venue and for his incredible enthusiasm and support. Selling out was pretty cool too! Waitati Festival crew members spent the day prior decorating the venue and courtyard with our colourful bunting, fairy lights and signature Graffiti Boards that we have collected over 10 years of running festivals.

On Saturday afternoon from 3 pm bands and DJ alternated and performed a thirty min set of diverse musical genre, each act transporting the listener into a different musical world. The quality of the music was epic. If you shut your eyes, you could have imagined yourself at a massive rave or music festival – as it was we were in beautiful Blueskin Bay, by the fireside with lots of friendly locals. We are so lucky we don't need to travel too far to have these amazing experiences. People danced from the start to the end, the beer was tasty as, everyone was well behaved & the feedback was superb!

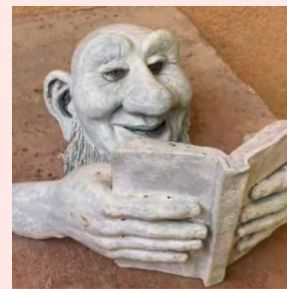
What we have learnt is that bigger is not always better. Producing smaller events might be key to increasing festival longevity. All over the world festivals are falling with financial stress and crew burn out. We are not immune but we are determined humans and have voted to try a new model for our beloved Waitati music fest, based on our magical formula of the mini-fests, one stage, thirty min sets alternating Band's/DJ's. Our next gig will be in the summer, on Bland Park. Listening to music, dancing and socialising enhances our physical, mental and spiritual wellbeing. Diary Dancing!!

Katie Peppercorn

All photos front cover – **Martyn Buyck**



WAITATI BOOK CLUB Ian Melvin



With Marc, Martin, and Scott away, and Ross calling in sick, Jurgen, my invited guest for the evening, picks me up, and we head into town and pick up Peter, before proceeding out to Company Bay (well named) where Paul and Ruth are domiciled. There, we find them in the garden, involved in habitual Kiwi nocturnal activities – in this case, trying to repair a Japanese lantern garden light. Removing ourselves indoors, we settle around the table overlooking the lights of the Otago harbour and proceed to disseminate world and local events, sifting through the assorted detritus to try and make sense of it. Failing in this, we proceed to our book discussion.

THE BOOK

Hard Times: Charles Dickens

Marc – Having read other books by Dickens, I was waiting for the happy ending. I was, of course, disappointed.

Martin – The Bounderbys of this world still reign, the need for strong worker representation remains, the Louises of this world still owe their lives. It was a hard read for me, given the amount of slang and old-style English, but you have to admire it. Not a happy read, but I'm glad to have read it, and to be reminded how far we have come and how little we have progressed on this planet.

An interesting group discussion and general agreement that the themes in this book are still particularly germane to our present situation.

OTHER BOOKS

Barkskins: Annie Proulx (lent by Marc)

A doorstop of a book, over 700 pages, but Annie Proulx never lets me down. Starting with colonists arriving from France in the 1700s to the northeastern parts of America and Canada, later incorporating families of the indigenous Indians, we begin the history and stories of how the great primal forests of the US and Canada were plundered and destroyed by commercial interests. We see this through the eyes and the doings of the various participants, eventually arriving at where we are today with all the consequences: climate change and possible ecological collapse. A rollicking, entertaining, sobering, informative, and enlightening delve into history and the human condition.

I can't recommend this book enough.

MUSIC

Exile: Gilad Atzmon & The Orient House Ensemble featuring Reem Kelani & Dhafer Youssef (lent by Marc)

"This album is a call for attention to Palestinian suffering. It is a call for prayer for the world to acknowledge the Palestinian right of return" – cover blurb.

A mix of jazz and traditional Israeli music meeting Arab traditional and contemporary music. I really wanted to like this, but on my initial listening I struggled to take it in and enthuse, but after a time it started to grow on me.

Standout tracks: Dal'Ouna On The Return; La Côte Méditerranée; Epilogue – all on YouTube.



OTHER STUFF – FILM

Le Musiciens 'The Musicians': French film festival

"Astrid brings together four Stradivarius instruments for a unique concert, but during rehearsals the musicians have difficulties to play together in harmony. So she calls in the composer of the score to guide." – online burb.

A heart-warming, humorous, and entertaining story, very well filmed and acted, and the music is superb. The theme, the music is the thing.

Try The Musicians 2025 trailer with english subtitles.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Buffoon: as in Shane Jones – or in this case – Mr Bounderby.

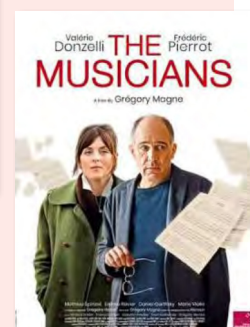
"A man who could never sufficiently vaunt himself, a self-made man, a man who was always proclaiming through that brassy speaking voice of his".

"He had not much hair. One might have fancied he had talked it off, and that what was left, all standing up in disorder, was in that condition from being constantly blown about by his windy boastfulness." (**Hard Times** by Charles Dickens)

MEANING OF LIFE

Marc – from **The Spirit Level** Richard Wilkinson and Kate Pickett, the last three sentences.

"Most people know how much we sacrifice to consumerism and know there are few things nicer than relaxing with family, friends and equals. They also know that it is family, friends and community that matter to happiness and know that our present way of life is ruining the planet. The culture of the last few decades has reduced us to closet egalitarians: it is time we came out of the woodwork and set a course for sanity."





David Crowther RIP

October 1956 to May 2026

David (Dave) was a long term resident of Blueskin Bay. He lived in Waitati area over the past 35 years. He passed away recently at Dunedin hospital.

David was born in Invercargill and spent his childhood in Hamilton with his parents and 3 siblings.

He attended Otago Boys High School and then Otago University.

He was a very private man but well known for his hitching to and from Dunedin.

David had a love of reading, music, film, bike riding and exploring the local area.

David started volunteering at the Dunedin Community Law Centre in 1986 and then went on to become a valuable team member for nearly 40 years.

He really valued fairness and social justice. He was passionate about helping people and he supported many young students through his work at the Community Law Centre.

David was a kind, humble and generous man who will be missed by many.

Gemma Crawford

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 MADE ME GLAD AND MAKES ME SAD...

David Crowther ... Dave

Like so many in our community, so sad to hear of Dave's passing. Doesn't seem that long ago we were chatting away driving into town as per usual, it was always a pleasure to share Dave's company. Music was one of our shared passions and I always think of Dave when playing SeaSick Steve, just one of his recommendations I came to love. He lived in various abodes in Waitati over the years, very happy in Rosie's little cottage in Orokonui Road when he lived there – and tried to buy it, but unfortunately didn't have the funds. For many years he lived in Marion and Kyle's quirky little house off Doctors Point Road and could often be seen walking home from the motorway along the railway line. Most of us knew him from picking him up hitching into or back from town. He always wanted to know what was in the CD player, but I usually turned it off as I enjoyed our conversations so much. I got some good legal advice from him over the years as well, he could always point me in the right direction to solve a problem. A lovely, quirky, smart, humorous, eccentric man, I will miss him a lot – on the road hitching, or on his bike in the weekends, or bumping into him in town. Waitati has abounded in these sort of characters over the years, every one of them special and precious in their own way, and deeply missed when they go. One of the main reasons I like living here so much. Rest easy Dave and know your spirit lives on in our shared memories.

I recommend reading Mandy's post and the subsequent comments on the Waitete Communitaport facebook site..

Alex: "... a good cool man we will miss having around."

Therese: "Yes very sad indeed, I too knew Dave for many many years. A quiet gentle soul who was very knowledgeable about all manner of things. Highly intelligent and very articulate. Always a gentleman."

Gemma: "He started at the Law Centre as a volunteer (then paid) and he worked for them for over 40 years. He's my Mum's best mate and me and my sisters call him Uncle Dave."

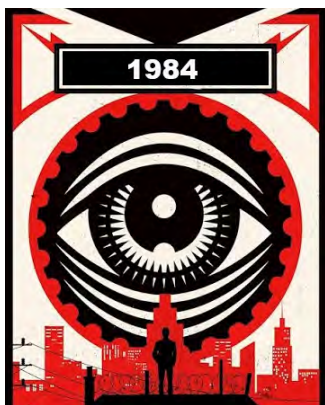
Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre **Bev Medlin**

Attention child artists! Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre is putting out a clarion call for your art. An art exhibition, or show, is like a big celebration of everyone's creativity.

We would love to have your artwork be a part of it. Children can visit with their family during the school holiday period. It will exhibit on the walls in our modern, professional gallery space with lighting that will compliment your masterpiece. This is your chance to express yourself and let members of the public appreciate your efforts and talent. View poster for all details.

Note, for entry after 3 July please contact Denise Hutchison at hutchisons@xtra.co.nz

Over June, the Heritage Centre has hosted local adult artist's work in the gallery. Over the month these artists gave illuminating talks, workshops and demonstrations. The adult exhibition and the children's July exhibition are part of the Heritage Centre's celebration of 5 year's operating. So far feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with good numbers coming to have a look. Entry is free. If you haven't already been, our opening hours are Wednesday, Thursday 1 – 4pm, Friday, Saturday, Sunday 10am – 4pm.



1984

We had an election in 1984. Out went Muldoonism, and in came Roger-nomics; the 4th Labour Government's capitulation to The Market. Not everyone agreed, and Labours lurch away from the Left caused consternation among

members and supporters. High ranking Labour MP Jim Anderton quit the party in protest and formed New Labour, thereby offering an alternative party of the Left. Then things got interesting.

The Values Party (the worlds first national-level environmentalist party), had contested most electorates since 1972. Their own schism in 1989 heralded The Greens. Mana Motuhake were also active. In 1991, New Labour, The Greens, Mana Motuhake, plus remnants of The Values and other environmentalists, combined to create The Alliance Party. Anchored by Anderton's electorate seat, this combination of Social Democrats, Greens and

environmentalist's (some radical), alongside de-colonialist Maori, decentralised a decade later. In 2002, Anderton formed The Progressive Party. He remained an MP until 2012, having served as Agriculture Minister, and was Helen Clark's choice for Deputy Prime Minister. Anderton died in 2018.

But his beliefs didn't: Fairness for workers. Free health and education. Affordable power and housing. A fair tax system. Public ownership of key infrastructure... Unfortunately, what we have is; low wages, individual employment contracts, increasingly privatised health care, a student-loan emergency, market driven electricity prices, a housing crisis, and a tax system which creates inequality.

So, with much to be done, The Alliance has re-formed. Past Warrington resident, BSN contributor, Maritime Union of NZ big gun, and now Alliance Party leader Victor Billot (he'll contest the Dunedin seat, Anna Knight of Warrington, in Taieri), has set the ball rolling. With election 2026 bearing down, he called for new members, ensuring registration before for the up-coming election. At the recent Waitati Community Market, 20 people signed-up at the Alliance table. Victor reckons that makes Blueskin Bay (not for the first time), the per-capita stronghold of an emerging Democratically Socialist movement. Jolly good I reckon.

Doug Nuttall

Tiki Taane to light up the stage at Dunedin Matariki drone show

Ōtepoti Dunedin – Get ready to celebrate the Māori New Year with a spectacular line-up of events during next month's Puaka Matariki Festival – including the return of the much-anticipated Matariki mā Puaka drone light show, with iconic Aotearoa musician Tiki Taane confirmed as this year's headline act.

With Matariki falling on Friday 10 July this year, a range of events and festivities will take place throughout the month, grounded in the themes of remembrance, reflection, celebration, and connection.

At the heart of the celebrations is the free Matariki mā Puaka community festival at Logan Park, featuring cultural performances, workshops, kai, live music, and two large-scale drone shows inspired by the stars of Puaka and Matariki.

Tiki Taane will headline the event with a live performance blending his contemporary sound with kaupapa Māori. The community festival will take place from 3pm until 9pm on Friday 10 July at Logan Park.

The festival will also showcase a strong line-up of local performers, including Ōtepoti favourites Dubious Groove, Tough Guy, Ngahau Tene, and Te Kapa o Rukutia, fresh from qualifying for Te Matatini 2027.

Ms Pene says celebrating local talent is an important part of the kaupapa. "We're incredibly proud to have such a strong local line-up alongside Tiki Taane. These artists and performers help make Matariki mā Puaka feel uniquely ours as a southern celebration."



Grounded in the values of remembrance, gathering together, and hope for the future, Matariki mā Puaka invites the wider community to come together beneath the winter stars and celebrate a uniquely southern expression of the Māori New Year. Alongside the keystone Matariki mā Puaka event, there will be a raft of Puaka Matariki festivities throughout July. These include dawn ceremonies, community celebrations, storytelling, waiata sessions, workshops, and stargazing experiences.

Dunedin's Puaka Matariki Festival was first established in 2009 with the kaupapa of creating opportunities for communities across Ōtepoti to celebrate and engage with te ao Māori during the Māori New Year.

Matariki mā Puaka event details

Where: Logan Park, Dunedin

When: Friday 10 July 2026

Festival hours: 3pm – 9pm

Drone shows: 6pm and 8.45pm

Admission: Free

Matariki mā Puaka Drone Light Show programme:
www.dunedinnz.com/visit/dunedin-events/matariki

Puaka Matariki Festival information:
matarikidunedin.co.nz/

From Te Maraenui to Karitāne School: A Timeline of Education and Tame Parata's Involvement

The story of schooling at Puketeraki and Karitāne is closely connected to the leadership of Tame Haereroa Parata. In the 1870s, education for Māori children in the district began in modest circumstances, including classes held in Parata's own home at Tipi-Tipi, Puketeraki. From these early beginnings, the school grew into an important community institution and later became known as Karitāne School.

Timeline of the School

1872: Before the official opening of the Waikouaiti Native School (present day Karitāne), a small native school was operating in Tame Parata's house at Tipi-Tipi, Puketeraki. The class had about 13 pupils and was taught by Miss Robinson. Government support was recorded as £3 per pupil, along with books. This shows that local Māori families were already seeking organised schooling for their children before the school became formally established.

1875: After long negotiations with local authorities, a school opened at Puketeraki with 24 pupils. Tame Parata's leadership was central to this achievement. His persistence helped turn the community's desire for education into a school that could serve local tamariki and whānau.

1879: The Department of Education assumed control over the Native School Department. This change placed native schools more directly within the national education system and affected how schools such as the one at Puketeraki were administered.

1892: The native school moved sites to Grimness Street. Around this period, the school's name changed to Karitāne School and it came under the control of the Education Board. This marked a new stage in the school's history, connecting its early Māori community foundations with the broader public education system.

Parata's Role in Education

Tame Haereroa Parata was a Ngāi Tahu leader, farmer, pilot and later politician whose influence was deeply felt at Puketeraki. Born on Ruapuke Island in the 1830s, he spent much of his life in the Waikouaiti and Puketeraki area. Although Sir George Grey once offered him the chance to go to Auckland for formal education, Parata declined because he did not want to leave his people. This decision reflected a lifelong commitment to his community.



Parata understood the value of education and worked to secure schooling for the wider community. The fact that a class was operating in his house in 1872 shows that he was willing to use his own resources and home to support education before a formal school was opened.

For Puketeraki and Karitāne, the school's timeline is a record of whānau aspiration, Māori leadership and the determination to provide education for future generations. Through his home, his negotiations and his public leadership, Tame Parata helped shape the educational pathway that later became Karitāne School.

Update on Blueskin Library Playground

Come to the Hall on 11 July for another fundraiser organised by Isla and Vita (age 10). PARTY LIKE ITS 1999! 5 til 10pm. All ages welcome.

At the Waitati Market we will be selling limited edition teatowels and tote bags with the Waitati Militia logo printed on them!

Please help reach our goal. For the last 18 months, we have been fundraising. The Dead Rockers Ball raised the funds for the Rocking Cool Cat. Thanks to the Lee whanau and McCallum whanau for their generous donations. \$2000 was granted from the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board and the Waitati Drag Bingo evening raised another \$800! That means we have enough for the Ladybird rocker.

A grant of \$6000 from Otago community Trust gets the Sunflower Swing as well! We have almost covered freight costs and need quite a bit more to cover installation.

You could donate directly into Waitati Hall Society Inc. Bank account --03-0903-0451603-00 reference PLAY

Thank you everyone for your support, we hope to install this equipment by springtime. Everyone will be invited to the opening party!

Ka mihi Nui, Mandy and Laura

(Library toddler playground fundraising committee of two)



Share your views on the future of Otago's coast

Whether you live in coastal Otago or just love to be beside the seaside, you'll soon get a chance to have your say on the future of Otago's coast — and gain a better understanding of coastal water quality and risks such as natural hazards.

Starting in July, Otago Regional Council is holding public drop-in sessions so people can share their views. Feedback will be sought on a range of topics, including natural hazards and climate change, biodiversity, water quality, recreational opportunities, public access, port activities and aquaculture.

This is your opportunity to share your thoughts on current, emerging and future challenges or opportunities for managing

the coastal environment as well as any issues with the existing Coastal Plan.

Sharing feedback, local knowledge and experience will support understanding of things like water quality, beach access and biodiversity. What is happening in the coastal areas you care about? Is there too much of one activity happening? What issues or opportunities are there? Is there a future for aquaculture? Our wildlife is a huge attraction — what should the future look like?

This feedback supports councillors' priority action to progress work to understand coastal environmental issues, opportunities and risks, in partnership with communities. This will provide useful information ahead of any future regulations.

Drop-in session details:

Dunedin: Thursday, 23 July, 3-6pm — Otago Regional Council, Aonui foyer, 180 High St

Dunedin: Saturday, 25 July, 10am-1pm — Dunedin South Coast Board Riders Association, 1 The Esplanade, St Clair

Karitāne: Tuesday, 28 July, 3-6pm — Puketeraki Marae, 520 Apes Rd

Ōamaru: Wednesday, 5 August, 4-7pm — Forrester Gallery Education Room, 9 Thames St

Online: Details to come

If you can't make it to an event, you can still give your feedback from 13 July to 10 August at orc.govt.nz/otagocoast

Dunedin City Council researching unmarked graves



The Dunedin City Council has received a significant Government grant to research unmarked graves of people who died while in institutional care in the Dunedin area.

The Department of Internal Affairs, as part of its Survivor Support and Recognition Fund, has allocated \$188,707 to the DCC to help honour those who died in care institutions.

Due to the unknown number of sites and unmarked graves within the Dunedin region, the DCC sought the funding in order to begin research and engagement processes. This involves asking members of the public and interested parties for relevant information, including via an online information form.

The Dunedin region has a long history of largescale institutional care, including psychiatric hospitals and psychopaedic facilities such as Seacliff Lunatic Asylum, the Dunedin Lunatic Asylum, Cherry Farm and Mt View Asylum, as well as welfare homes and church-run institutions. Many of these operated during periods when people who died in care were buried in local cemeteries, often in "pauper's plots" or unmarked graves.

Next steps include constructing a verified list of deaths and burial locations as well as physically identifying potential burial locations of former patients at Seacliff and Cherry Farm, among other institutions.

The DCC will also engage with mana whenua and whānau on how to best acknowledge those who have passed on. This will determine what is appropriate in regards memorialising and acknowledging those buried in unmarked graves.

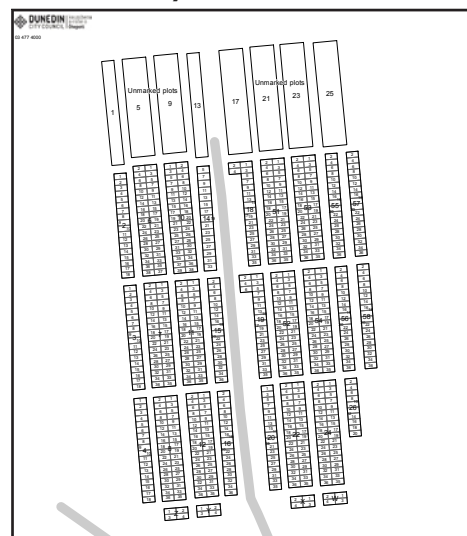
The DCC was among seven local authorities to receive funding as part of the Government's continuing response to the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry.

The Royal Commission found there are at least 4000 unmarked graves associated with psychiatric and psychopaedic sites in Auckland, Waikato, Nelson, Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Porirua, Otago, Westland and Canterbury.

More information: www.dunedin.govt.nz/unmarked-graves-project



Waitati Cemetery Unmarked Graves



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Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm

**Contact Christine
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All ages and experience levels are welcome.

STORYTIME WITH STEPHANEY

Fridays, 11am (except school holidays)

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

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE



Thursday 25 June, 3.30 - 4.30pm

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

TECH HELP 1-2-1



Second Wednesday of the month, 2 - 3pm

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

SENSORY TOYS



The library has purchased some sensory toys to play with. Unfortunately about half of them have gone walk about so sadly if you would like to play with them please ask at the desk.

COMMUNITY CABINETS



Our latest display is WunderKammer by Sandra Muller. A collection of handmade objects shaped by curiosity and experimentation. Sandra embraces imperfection and process, creating for the simple joy of making, with contributions and found elements woven throughout.

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 1 July, 11 - 12.30pm and we will be making lanterns.

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

We have bought a new Lego set 'Medieval Horse Knight Castle' which we will pop out on a table in the meeting room for you to work on during the holidays.

We have other activities including star making planned for the holidays, but they are not quite firmed yet. Watch this space as they will be advertised very soon both with posters and on Facebook.

DCC SERVICE CENTRE

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

Around the Bay – July Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
Wednesday 1	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 making Lanterns All materials provided.
Wednesday 8	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
Saturday 18	Poetry Reading 7pm hosted by Richard Reeves, koha appreciated
SATURDAYS	Focus on Drawing Class, Starts 25 july 2.30 – 4.30pm
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 1	Quiz 7.30 – 9pm no cover charge
Friday 3	Braziers, Beer and Blankets 5pm – 8pm KTB in the Courtyard - Local Community Celebration (weather permitting)
Wednesday 29	LIVE MUSIC 7.30 – 9pm

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

Sudoku Challenge: Mike 8

Andrew M. Bott

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

Waiputai Hub Upcoming Events

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8 Week Course

Waiputai Hub, 10 Stephenson St, Warrington

July 25 - Sept 12, 2:30pm - 4:30pm open to all levels

This course is partially supported by the Waiputai Trust

The suggested registration Koha is \$50. Email: waiputai@gmail.com to register

LEARNING CLINIC FOR COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL DEVICES - EVERYONE WELCOME

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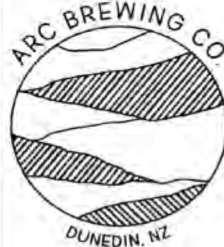


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WAIKOUAITI COAST HERITAGE CENTRE

For \$5 per adult you can tour our Category 1 listed 1869 BNZ bank building set up as a residence and bank. 200 Main Road Waikouaiti. Open 1 - 4pm Wednesday & Thursday and 10am - 4pm Friday - Sunday.

WAIPUTAI HUB

Having a Birthday Party or a Gathering. Why not rent the cozy and friendly Hub at \$15 hour. Call Nancy on 021 171 0226 for further info, or email waiputai@gmail.com

EAST OTAGO PLAYGROUP

Coffee group for parents and children. 10am - 12pm every Wednesday during School Term at Waikouaiti Plunket Rooms, East Otago Events Centre. Ph. Annabel 027 2291 608 for more info or just drop in.

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28 Brown St, Waitati, Coast Rd and Watson St, Warrington

WAIKOUAITI PALMERSTON TOY LIBRARY

Borrow toys for children aged 6 months to 8 years. Open Sundays 10 - 11:30am at Waikouaiti Racecourse, Clackmannan Street.

Email wptoylibrary@yahoo.co.nz

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With Angelika and Hagino on Doctors Point Road, Waitati every Sunday at 9.30am. Bring your own cushion to sit on. Suggested donation \$2.

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Angelika: a.i.treschl@actrix.co.nz, 022 099 1125, or 03 822 538



150th Jubilee Celebration

SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026



ITINERARY

Karitane School | 183 Coast Road, Karitane | 10am till 1pm
 Mihi Whakatau 10am, morning tea, commemorative tree planting, time capsule display, memorabilia and merch stall, Class photos and history display, add your photos and memories to the archive, Matanaka Meats sausage sizzle and bacon bunnies - gold coin donation, official Jubilee group photo at 12pm.

Karitane Māori Tours | Boat Ramp | 1pm- 4pm
 Complimentary waka tours. Come down and join the rolling tours every 20mins.

Gala Dinner | Karitane Community Hall | 5.30pm- 11pm | \$80pp
 Complimentary drink and canapés on arrival, two course meal, guest speakers, live music, cash bar.

Hui te Rangiora Church Service | Sunday 27th September | 10am
Poroporoaki (Formal Farwell) | Karitane School | 11am

RSVP via Karitane School website
 Kā mihi nui, Jubilee Committee
Karitaneschooljubilee@puketeraki.nz

With support from


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

Answer to June 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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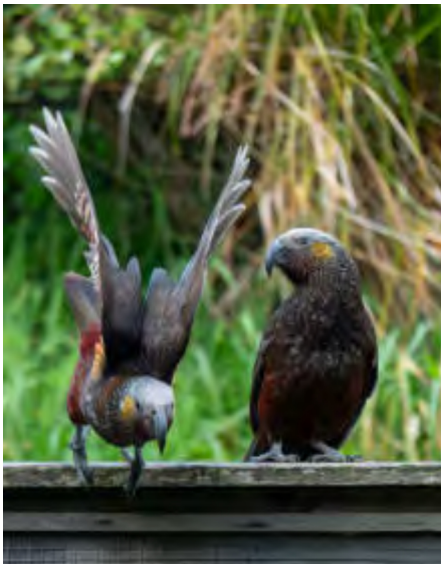
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More kākā are being reported in the area surrounding Orokonui Ecosanctuary, with the kākā population going from strength to strength.

These noisy forest parrots were first reintroduced to Orokonui Ecosanctuary in 2008, after being locally extinct for around 150 years. In recent years

Have you seen a kākā in your garden?

has seen a steady increase in the kākā population in and around the sanctuary.

This breeding season 22 wild born kākā were banded at the sanctuary. While these numbers are still modest they represent a big increase over the years. It took Orokonui 16 years from 2008 to 2024 to band 100 wild born kākā and then in the two seasons since they have banded nearly 40.

With many more young kākā around year on year there is also a marked increase in kākā sightings in the sanctuary. Staff and volunteers have recorded 65 individuals sighted in recent surveys. This only records kākā seen in the sanctuary so the total number in the population is likely much higher. Especially as birds spend more time outside the fence.

Here are some simple ways to support kākā as they move into our local areas:



- Avoid feeding kākā at home. Feeding kākā in backyards can lead to bad behaviours, disease spread, and malnutrition. Human foods like nuts and bread can even cause death in kākā through metabolic bone disease. Help create a predator free future by doing some backyard trapping or supporting our local predator free groups.
- Planting and protecting native trees is a great way to provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for kākā in our communities.
- Help keep wildlife and our pets safe by restricting wandering of cats and dogs in forest areas. Especially during kākā nesting season over the warmer months.

Taylor Davies-Colley

Waitati Militia Drum Corps

It was an incredible privilege to play with the Topp Twins. A memory to treasure. RIP Jools, we love you.

Leonie



Where is this famous Warrington landmark?

If anyone else has similar mystery pictures please send in to blueskin.input@gmail.com

Blueskin Playcentre

Kia ora Blueskin Bay. Our korowai blessing went very well. It started with some beautiful singing from Waitati Kura, followed by Antony Deaker sharing some of the local history of Blueskin Bay and explaining the significance of the korowai for Blueskin Playcentre.

Many children at Waitati School shared stories of their favourite moments from Blueskin Playcentre alongside the preschooler children who currently attend. It was clear that Blueskin Playcentre has helped develop the children's sense of community and belonging, as well as laid

the foundations for lifelong friendships for parents and children alike.

All the children enjoyed partaking in touching the korowai, weaving their stories and feelings into the feathers, ready for Blueskin Playcentre's next tamariki to wear the korowai and signify their right of passage to school. After this, some kai was shared amongst all of the attendees before marking the ending of the blessing.

It was a wonderful event and we all felt very privileged and lucky to be a part of it. We would also love to welcome more parents and whānau of Blueskin Bay to Blueskin Playcentre. You can visit with your

tamariki three times as a visitor before having to complete a very simple enrollment form. I recommend coming for all three visits as sometimes it can be hard to get a true impression of Blueskin Playcentre from one brief visit and different people attend on different days. Currently, our busiest day is on Mondays, and our quietest on Wednesdays. We are open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term time from just before 9 to just after 12.

Looking forward to seeing you there!
Me noho mahana, keep warm,

Heather



FOR SALE: 73 Doctors Point Rd Cosy, eclectic and private cottage



50m² house with 12m² studio on 678m²
QV is \$325k. Accepting offers for quick sale.
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

—WAIKOUAITI COAST HERITAGE CENTRE— CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION

We want your art! We welcome young artists in East Otago to submit their artwork for exhibition in our beautiful gallery space.

- Ages 5-18 years.
- All subjects and media welcome.
- 2D + 3D art welcome

KEY DATES:

- July 3rd - artworks due
- July 6th - exhibition opens
- July 31st - last day of exhibition

DROP OFF YOUR ARTWORK BY FRIDAY 3 JULY:

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre
200 Main Road, Waikouaiti 9510
Wed & Thurs 1pm - 4pm
Fri, Sat & Sun 10am - 4pm

ENQUIRIES TO:

03 465 7869 | admin@wchc.org.nz

