

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

MARCH 2026

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

*A Waitati
Wedding
Congratulations
Cory and Laura Furness*



Photos by Martyn Buick



Coastal Connection Stage One is open

In 2020 we had a vision to give the communities north of the city a way to connect to each other by walking or cycling - not getting in a car. On Friday 13th February at 1pm over 100 people came together in the wind and rain to see our vision becoming reality. Walkers and cyclists were asked to make their way up the track, which starts in Chelivode St, Waitati, and gains 300m in elevation over 4.3km to reach the end of Mopanui Rd. After speeches, in which I attempted to acknowledge all the people involved in the project, Mayor Sophie Barker cut the ribbon and we enjoyed homemade kai, before the walkers and cyclists returned back down the hill.

The Coastal Connection is a walking and cycling trail that will run from Dunedin City's northernmost town of Waikouaiti, all the way to Port Chalmers, connecting to the harbour cycleway and linking the coastal communities in-between. One day you'll be able to travel off-road all the way to Oamaru. This first section shows what is possible when the community wants it.

The track allows pedestrian access to Orokonui Ecosanctuary from Waitati. It also links to the Ridgeline Track and McKessar Track. Please park on Doctor's Point Rd and enter the start of the trail there. There is no parking on Chelivode St. Orokonui Ecosanctuary also want to remind cyclists that it's important they use the formed road (Mopanui Rd) to get between the Ecosanctuary and the top of the new track at Waitati, rather than using their access track beside the predator-proof fence.

This track has happened because of a lot of hard mahi by a lot of people. Most of it for free, too. Please check my full speech on the Facebook group 'Coastal Communities Cycle Connection' for the huge list of people and businesses to thank. There are too many to put in this newsletter. In general though, I want to acknowledge all the people who believed in the grand idea, because that wave of support just carries the project forward and gathers momentum.

The most important thank you is to Graeme and Marie Bennett. They have given over 4 hectares of farmland to the public for this trail. This is an extraordinary act of generosity and selflessness.

This gift will leave a lasting legacy. On behalf of the community, we just can't thank them enough. But I know their reward will be seeing all the people out on the track, enjoying it.

Now, the construction. If you know Graeme, you know he's a man with ideas and a man who likes to get things done. And if you're in his orbit, you'll feel the pull to get things done too. This happened to his friend Andy Parsons, but I think he's pretty happy about it. Graeme and Andy have built this track. Thousands of hours have been put in. They've had input from track designer Hamish Seaton and help from Cargill Contractors for the big stuff, and a merry band of helpers polishing it all up nearer the end. Thank you all. But really, this is Graeme and Andy's track. We applaud you.

And to the landowners gifting their land for the next stages of the Coastal Connection, we salute you. This shared path will benefit our communities in a multitude of ways, for generations to come.

If you want to support this project, go to www.dunedintracksandtrails.nz to donate. You can also help the team of volunteers at Blueskin Nurseries who are propagating all the native plants for planting the areas either side of the track over the next two years.

Stage One down, only a few more to go!

Emily Cooper, coordinator of the Coastal Connection project

OneCoast brings you a sustainable and affordable wardrobe refresh!

Join us at the OneCoast Hub on 21 & 22 March, from 12-3 pm both days, for our infamous Clothing Sale – now running for two days and at a new location! We'll have a curated mix of All Seasons pieces for the entire family, a fabulous vintage rack full of character, and a selection of well-loved labels – all ready for their next chapter.

Shopping pre-loved is a simple (and stylish) way to support sustainability, reduce waste, and keep great fashion in circulation. Plus, it's treasure-hunt shopping at its best! Fill a bag for just \$5 or browse our affordable individually priced finds. Bring a friend, enjoy the rummage, and discover a piece you'll love wearing again and again.

Ngā mihi, **Lisa Lawson**, OneCoast Coordinator

ONECOAST

Chairperson's Report

2025-26 Mandy Mayhem

It has been a busy and successful year for the News. Our little publication has proven time and time again to be popular and valuable for sharing information and ideas around the community. We pride ourselves on the mixed content, inclusive nature and professional look of the newsletter.

We made the shift to colour cover and added extra colour pages for the December/Jan edition thanks to our advertisers who keep our bank balance healthy and pay our print bills. Since we took the leap to colour cover and back pages, we can never go back!

Huge thanks are due to Bernie Cornford for the sterling job she has performed on monthly editing and layout. Thanks also for the prompt and professional printing work that Ann and the team at Digiart and Design Ltd in Port do for us.

Thank you to everyone who has had a go for collection and distribution and to the Rural Delivery people for the delivery service. Also, many thanks to Clare for all the work she puts into billing and balancing books, we hope she will continue in this role. Special thanks to Craig Marshall for his long-standing commitment to the news and especially for his swift secretarial skills!

All our volunteer team are amazing and make the news what it is. Craig in all ways and especially proofreading, Doug's intelligent and political musings make for great reading each month. Gisele's inputs from mana whenua, Ian's Book reviews and The Rant. Plus, our regular contributors, the local Playcentre and schools. The Library, DCC, Hillary's Garden and household tips, the Halo Project and Orokonui updates, Surf Club, Garden Club and the Heritage Centre articles make the news a varied and interesting monthly read.

It reflects well on the wider community what a wonderful place Blueskin Bay is. Cheers to you all our amazing team.

Editor – The Committee give huge thanks to Mandy for her enthusiasm, support and hard work (in a very busy life!) as Chairperson of the BSN Committee. Luckily she is happy to continue that role for 2026! The committee will continue as it did for 2025 with the addition of Laura Furness, welcome Laura. Thanks everyone for your support – Bernie

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

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.

Waitati Community Hui

Getting ready for emergencies – together



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

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

Everyone is welcome.

Date: Tuesday, 14 April 2026

Time: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Location:

Waitati Hall
26 Harvey Street
Waitati



Brought to you by:

Waikouaiti Coast
Community Board

With support from:



Emergency
Management Otago
Te Rākau Whakamāramaru Ōtago

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

It has been a relatively quiet start to the year for the Heritage Centre, which I have to say is a bit of a concern as generally summer months are our busiest. However, as you and I know we have not had much of a summer, although as I write this in the middle of February we have had several pleasant days. Our very successful Plunket Display is in the process of being dismantled to free up space for our next display, which will have a military theme and will be available for three months only, March until the end of May. During June we will celebrate 5 years since our opening, and we will hold a major art exhibition showcasing our very talented local artists.

I'm sure, as residents of Blueskin Bay, you know that the annual Blueskin A & P show is to be held on Sunday 29 March and the Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre will be there to provide an illustration of your area's history. John Scott (our curator) has gathered together a huge number of photos, articles and heritage items which will be of great interest. We encourage you to stop by our venue on the day.

In the gift shop at the Heritage Centre, we have a range of children's books and games, along with kitchen related items, homemade chutneys and jams, jewellery made using old stamps as well as jade jewellery and much much more. Many items feature local names and places, ie road sign fridge magnets, cushion covers, tote bags and our unique tea towel illustrating all the old spellings for "Waikouaiti". If you are looking for a gift which represents our area, come and look us over.

The bank restoration project is proceeding slowly, we are awaiting the outcome of two funding applications at present, before work can proceed to the next phase of preparing for major exterior work to be undertaken, which will include the removal of the front verandah. Don't forget our free open day on Easter Saturday, you will be most welcome.

We are open Wednesday/Thursday 1pm - 4pm and Friday - Sunday 10am - 4pm.

Shirley McKewen, Treasurer, WCHC



WAITATI DRAG BINGO

WITH HOSTESS: **KEIRA SCENE**

SAT APR 4TH, 7PM
WAITATI HALL, 26 HARVEY ST

\$20 TICKETS
CASH DOOR SALES

FUNDRAISING FOR
THE NEW LIBRARY
PLAYGROUND

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

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

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

Be into win fabulous prizes!

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

This is a camp night out not to be missed!



Waitati School House Available for Immediate Rent!

A well-presented three-bedroom home in a beautiful & private setting

Features include:

- Three bedrooms
- Open-plan kitchen & living area
- Separate lounge
- Wood burner
- New oven
- Beautiful native setting
- Garage
- Off-street parking

Suitable for tenants who enjoy gardening. No pets please.
\$450 per week




All enquiries to:
schoolhouse@waitati.school.nz



Waitati Open Orchards Apple Press – Juicing Your Apples

By Paul Cardno

Turn your own apples into delicious juice! Or you can support us by buying yourself incredible sweet fresh pressed juice at the stall, by cup or bottle full (BYO bottle).

2026 Dates

- Sunday 29 March at the Waitati on Show
- Sunday 3 May at Waitati Market

What to bring

1. Bring your prepared apples. You can prepare them on site but this will take you a bit more time. All apples will need to be washed and the bad bits removed. Washed, so the communal juice press is kept clean and removing the bad bits so the juice tastes nicer and keeping things clean.
2. Bring your own containers (bottles or flagons).

What it costs

There is a JST (juice service tax) - leave us some juice so we can sell this for the upkeep of the press or you can leave WOO a bit of cash.

What you need to do

1. Come over to us with your apples, first comes first served.
2. Wash your hands to keep the whole system clean for the community (and making DCC happy). We will have hand wash available.
3. It would be lovely if you would offer to give a hand pressing other peoples juice while waiting your turn. Then you might get a hand with yours!

Things to do with juice

Juice is great to drink but here are a couple of other super easy fun things you can do with juice.

1. Make apple ver - This is slightly fermented apple juice. Leave the apple juice in a container at room temperature for a couple of days and it will start to bubble. Give it a day or two of bubbling and release the pressure a couple of times a day. Then cool and drink. Cooling slows the process down. But leave it to long and you have apple cider
2. Apple cider - There is an art to this, check it out on the internet.
3. Apple syrup - Reduce down the apple juice and you have a very nice syrup. Like the stuff you get in the shops except from your own back yard. Great to use as a topping or as a sweetener :)



Open Orchards (WOO) - a short history

By Jason Ross

Waitati Open Orchards plants trees in public areas around Waitati for all to harvest and enjoy. “It won’t work”, people told us in the beginning “people will steal the fruit”!

I believe that it was in 2009 that Jackie Fanning, a keen member of the Waitati Edible Gardeners group (WEGgies) had this brilliant idea, myself and others joined her to form a side branch of the WEGgies to raise money for the project.

I installed an insinkerator into an old hospital cabinet to mash apples, and Chuck Landis lent us his press, folk in the village donated apples, and we made and sold fresh juice at Waitati Markets.

This system carried us forward for a couple of years but had a few pain points. So Paul built a bigger better apple press, we purchased a purpose built apple mulcher, and this became the wonderful community apple juicing service that Paul now runs for all to use.

The Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust also helped us out with sourcing funding for initial planning and startup costs, Blueskin Nursery and other local businesses chipped in, and many people put in time and resources.

In winter 2010 we planted the bulk of the fruit trees that you see around Waitati: Orokonui Road, Brown and Pitt Streets. We also helped out Waitati School with their orchard and planted fruits at the Waitati Skate park. Subsequent plantings have sprouted in McLachlan Street and other spots.

I love to see people picking fruit in the streets of Waitati. Most of the trees are on the verge outside homes and the nearby householders take care of the trees. It is good scrumping etiquette to just pick enough for your family for the week and come back when you need more, leaving plenty on the tree for others. There are plans at the moment to add to the orchard on Orokonui Road. Get in touch if you would like to join us for good times clearing and tree planting.

Blueskin on Show

The new produce schedule: Blueskin on Show Day, Sunday 29 March, 10am to 2.30pm

Entry requirements:

All sections are open to all age groups and school groups except the special school/playgroup sections. Children entering open sections should include the name of the school or play centre they attend.

Entries for produce should be submitted between 10am and 11.30am on the day

All vegetables, fruit and flowers must be from your own garden. Please include the variety of fruit, vegetable and flower entries when you sign up for entry on the day.

Please bring your own containers and water for displaying flowers.

Entries must be collected between 3pm and 3.30pm or they will be donated to the Waitati Anti-Scurvy Pantry.

Produce section

VEGETABLES

1. Kumi kumi 1
2. Onion 3
3. Carrots 3
4. Potatoes 3
5. Garlic , normal 1
6. Garlic, elephant 1
7. Beetroot 3
8. Marrow, largest 1
9. Cucumber, largest
10. Rhubarb 3 stalks (leaves removed)
11. Any other vegetable

FRUIT

1. Eating apples (judged on taste) 3
2. Cooking apples 3
3. Pears (judged on taste) 3
4. Tomatoes (judged on taste) 3
5. Cherry tomatoes (judged on taste) 3
6. Any other fruit

NOVELTY

1. Mr Luxon Potato Head (Potato which looks the most like the Prime Minister, can be decorated)
2. Character carrot
3. Longest bean
4. Rudest vegetable
5. Basket or bowl of foraged edibles

PRESERVES (All preserves will be tasted)

1. Jar of pickles, relish or chutney
2. Bottle of savoury sauce
3. Jar of jelly
4. Jar of jam
5. Jar of preserved beetroot
6. Any other preserve

FLOWERS

1. Posy using flowers, weeds, and herbs
2. Rose, one stem single bloom
3. Rose on a stem, multi bloom
4. Dahlia, one stem, any colour
5. Hydrangea, one head
6. Any other flower
7. Tallest sunflower. Enter 2 photos, including tape measure, measured from ground to the tip of the tallest petal, 2nd photo a close up of the measurement.

OTHER:

1. Basket of mixed fruit and vegetables
2. A cake
3. Pikelets, 3 on a saucer

Schools and Playcentres only:

Includes individual children at those schools. Must include name of school or play centre attended with entry.

1. Vegetable sculptures.
2. 3 x decorated cupcakes
3. Sand saucers
4. Basket of mixed fruit and vegetables from the school garden

There is a silver trophy for the school or playcentre with the most points from any section. 3 point 1st, 2 points 2nd, 1 point 3rd.

There is also a silver cup for the most points overall for non school entries.

There will be a selection of native tree seedlings , donated by Blueskin Nurseries for prize winning entries.

Each prize winner receives a certificate designed by local artist Jenna Packer.

Warrington Indoor Bowls Club



The New Zealand Masters Games for Indoor Bowlers was held at The Bowling Stadium in Victoria Road, Dunedin on 3 , 4 and 5 February.

Cliff Porteous, Denis O'Connell, Garry Dodd, and Robyn and Graeme Thorburn representing Warrington Club entered the triples, pairs and singles competitions. What great fun we had, playing against and getting to know players from as far away as Auckland. Garry Dodds was very successful in gaining a Silver Medal in the Singles 35 years plus age group. Our club is so proud of Garry and his achievement.

Our winter season open night is Tuesday 7 April 7.30pm. The first month of the season will be for coaching of the game and fun.

Robyn Thorburn

INDOOR BOWLS OPEN EVENING

FOR THE BLUESKIN BAY COMMUNITY

TUESDAY 10 MARCH, 7.30pm

Warrington Community Hall,
11 Stephenson Street,
Warrington.

ALL WELCOME

Come and give it a go to see if you like the game

Contact Lyn Hastie
(Club President)
03 482 2896

WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin



Well it's been a busy start to the Bookclub year, starting in January with a potluck get-together at Marc and Inge's with spouses. A big thank you to our hosts for an enjoyable event, and to Inge for the garden tour, a personal highlight. This was followed by our monthly meeting at Ross's abode, minus Martin, who was yet to return from Perth. Scott was not only in attendance, but was the driver, both of us commenting on the outstanding views driving down that road overlooking Long Beach and Pūrākaunui. Drinks were poured, toasts were made ... news and recent events here and abroad were dissected and examined at length. Eventually arriving at a lengthy discussion of the book ... and our views on that. That night, Scott and Jenna celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary ... congratulations from all of us on reaching that milestone, (spell check tried to insert millstone!).

THE BOOK

Priestdaddy: Patricia Lockwood, a memoir of her family life dominated by her father, an unconventional Catholic priest who loves red meat, guns, and playing heavy rock guitar in his underpants.

Martin; abridged. "... It was my evening read over a fortnight in a wee pup tent under a headlamp. It had a bizarre, somewhat dystopian feel to the author's story, but with very funny racy turns of phrase ... 6/10 for me."

Me; others found humour which mostly escaped me ... more of a parody or a farce than biting reality ... which started to grate after some time.

Mixed opinions around the table but no one firmly in favour ... though Peter did explain pertinent positive points in the book overlooked by the rest of us.

OTHER BOOKS

The Wild Green Yonder: Philippa Jamieson, (a signed copy from our own former North Dunedin Green candidate Philippa Jamieson, including an ODT pullout article about her white witch activities around the autumnal equinox). A two and a half year journey volunteering on forty WWOOF (world wide opportunities on organic farms) around the country ... farms, orchards, market gardens, communes, and self sustainable small holdings. Totally entertaining and informative especially for those interested in organics and growing food and, living in a sustainable way. Highly recommended.

BEER

Garage Project: Fugazi Session Ale 2.2%. Eye catching street art design of course, "... malts with Simcoe hops to give a 'light satisfying beer'" to which I'd agree totally. Tasted cold there was plenty of flavour. Not cheap at \$4.00 a can, but you get the feel-good factor of supporting an accredited living wage provider and a net zero carbon organisation.

OTHER STUFF

Riot Women: TV ONE, from the director of 'Happy Valley'. Brilliant series, with a great cast, about a group of ordinary women, who form a Punk Rock Band for a charity talent competition. Women kicking back at the world ... "*and you thought The Clash were angry ...*". One of those shows that is so good you don't want it to end. The series is available on-line or on TV One On Demand.

MUSIC

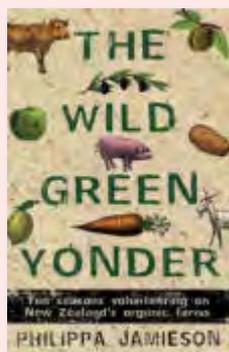
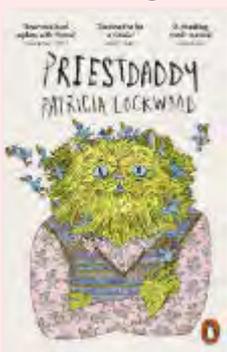
Ben Harper: By My Side. My favourite Ben Harper Albums are always pared back, quieter ones. This one is outlying acoustic with some accompaniment by piano and strings, and his wonderful slide guitar playing is featured as well. Love this ... try 'Beloved One' (By My Side) on YouTube ... also 'Childhood Home' a collaboration with his mother Ellen. Great songs lovely harmonies ... try 'House Is A Home' YouTube.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Voice: "I thought a voice had to be about fluency, your dexterity, your virtuosity. But in fact your voice could be about your failings, your faltering, your physical limits. The voices that ring hardest in our heads are not the perfect voices. They are the voices with an additional dimension, which is pain." **Priestdaddy: Patricia Lockwood.**

MEANING OF LIFE

"When we grow our own food using natural methods, we are part of nature, part of the cycle, nourishing the plants that will in turn nourish us. How much more satisfying this is than trundling down supermarket aisles, tossing plastic packaged, processed food into our trolleys: food that exudes only a ghostly shimmer of its former vitality." **The Wild Green Yonder: Philippa Jamieson.**



BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY



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

Temporary Monday Closure

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Blueskin Bay Library will be closed on Mondays throughout March. The Blueskin Bay Meeting Room will still be available for bookings on Mondays. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your understanding while we work through this temporary change.

The library remains open during our usual hours from Tuesday to Friday, 11am–1pm and 2pm–5.30pm, and on Saturday from 10am–1pm.

Don't forget—you can access our digital library anytime, 24/7, at: www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/digital-library



Sycamore ... one of, if not the single most threatening pest plant in the Ōtepoti landscape. From the Town Belt to Sullivans Dam, this pest plant is systematically smothering our existing native biodiversity.

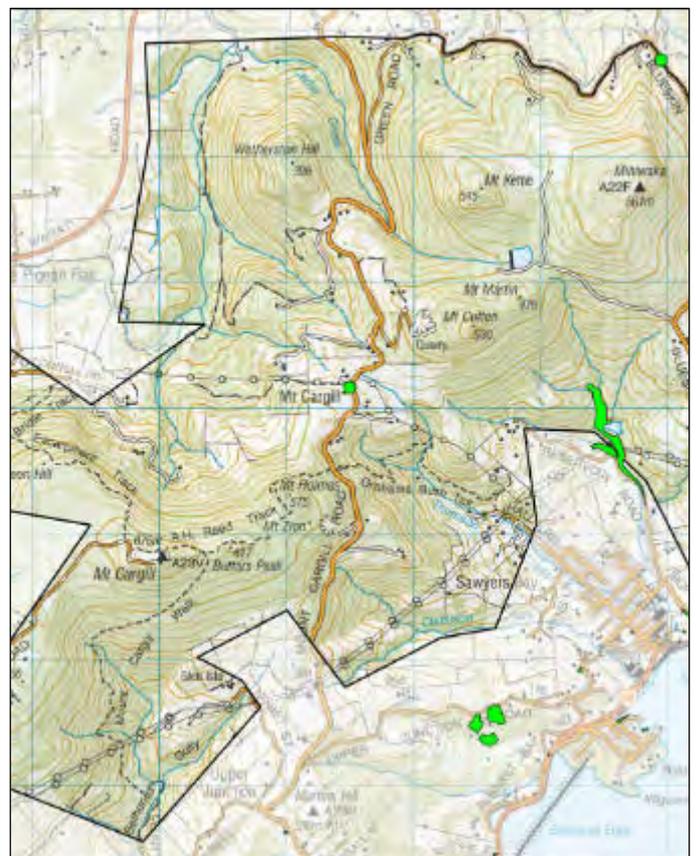
Presenting an exponential threat to our taaka species, it is vital we to eliminate it. At the risk of sounding alarmist, the time is now.

Sycamore seed spreads by wind or water, and as such the potential exists for us to remove seed sources completely. Currently the threat posed by this species is significant but manageable, however these trees can produce tens of thousands of seeds each year. As seedlings thrive in all environments this is a problem we need to manage with urgency.

Sycamore is a garden escapee, once planted in Otago by well-meaning locals. More recently groups such as the West Harbour Beautification Trust, the West Harbour Community Board, concerned community members and councillors like Steve Walker and Marian Poole have been spreading the word about this plant.

Longtime anti-sycamore advocate Matt from Monowai Ecological states "sycamore provide little to no benefit for native birds, no co-evolved nectar producing flowers for our bellbird, tui and wax eye. No fruit for our kererū. They actively out-compete native vegetation to the point where it is shaded out and killed. Mature stands of sycamore completely smother everything underneath with a heavy leaf fall each autumn."

The Halo Project map shows the density of sycamore in areas adjacent to remnant forest habitats at Sullivans Dam and Sawyers Bay Reservoir. Much of the problem exists on public land and we are collectively responsible for managing this issue.



The Halo Project, supported by the Otago Regional Council will be controlling sycamore at Sullivan's Dam in the coming weeks as we move to push this species out of this precious area. As we shift our focus to sycamore, we are appealing to our community to stay abreast of this issue, be aware of sycamore in your landscapes and control them where you can! Reach out to us if you need support, we are keen to work together. Just by reporting sycamore locations in your area using, www.iNaturalist.org.nz you can contribute to the collective control efforts.

Let's stop sycamore before it smothers our native species!

BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB

March is a time for harvesting and enjoying your produce from your garden. My tomatoes are particularly good this year, with the Early Girl tomatoes being especially large - great for sauce and tomato relish.

My lilies have enjoyed the mild temperatures and the number of showers we have had in February.

This is a good time to plant broccoli, cauliflower and cabbage plants. They are ready to harvest, just when vegetables are expensive in the Spring, so are very valuable to have in your garden.

Garden club members enjoyed a lovely afternoon in February at Fiona and Dave's garden in Double Hill Road. A beautiful garden and a wonderful outlook over the Bay! On Thursday 19 at the Waitati Hall, Liz Greenwood joined our members and talked to us about growing and using herbs.

March is a busy month for us gardeners. On Saturday 14 March, we are traveling to Kaitangata to visit the Mine Creek Gardens. Bring your lunch and drink bottle. This will be a fun day for us all.

The annual Blueskin On Show day is to be held on March 29. Garden Club will be running a plant stall with lots of exciting plants to purchase, and the A&P will be running a produce competition with many interesting classes, so sort out your best entries and bring them along.

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



plunket
whānau āwhina

East Otago Plunket Round Up

The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti continues to run weekly on Wednesdays between 10.00 and 12.00 at the Plunket Rooms in the East Otago Events Centre, providing the opportunity to connect with other parents and caregivers and to give your child a chance to socialise, play and build connections with other children. A number of families regularly travel over from Blueskin Bay to join this friendly and welcoming group.

Plunket in Dunedin offers a free, volunteer-based service that is open to whānau with tamariki under five who would benefit from some extra support. The service provides practical support in your home with things like vacuuming, dishes, laundry, general cleaning and tidying over a six-week period. You can self-refer, or be referred by your Plunket nurse or community services co-ordinator, WellChild provider, or another support organisation. The home help service helps lighten the load for parents navigating difficult times. If you think your family could benefit from receiving home help, please get in touch by emailing josie.garner@plunket.org.nz or calling 027 208 6774. This service is currently available in the greater Dunedin City area, which includes from Blueskin Bay to Waikouaiti.

We're looking forward to coming along to the Blueskin Show at the end of March. Plunket will have a gazebo providing a chillout area for families with a few toys for children to play with, baby change and breastfeeding facilities as well as plenty of information on our local community services. Please come and make use of our facilities and say hello!

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

Kā mihi nui Annabel



**Light the mind, Fire the heart
& Engage the Whānau**

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2026

Enrolments



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Turangawaewae - Belonging
Kotahitanga - Unity
Rangatiratanga - Leadership
Manaakitanga - Care & Respect

 (03) 4822888
 office@waitati.school.nz
 1121 Mount Cargill Rd, Waitati

South Island Competitions bring medals and glory!

Surf Lifesaving Sport has been prominent with both the Junior and Senior Southern Region Championships. On Waitangi Weekend, New Brighton in Christchurch was the venue for the Junior Championships.

A small group of six competitors Molly Gilbert, Amber Sargent, Jonathan Duncan, Paul Schwefel, Jonty Hogben and Nicholas Duncan made the journey; competing against teams from all over the South Island.

All six secured points for the team, taking Warrington to 12th in the Team Table. But there were some notable results including four Medals for Paul in the Under 10's (Gold - Surf Race, Gold - Run Swim Run, Gold - Diamond and a Silver Medal for the Overall Age group), two Medals for Nicholas (Silver - Beach Sprint, Silver - Beach Relay) and a Silver Medal for Jonty (Beach Flags).

South Brighton took out the overall club championship.

On 14 - 15 February, the Seniors had their turn at glory here at Warrington. Again, competitors from all over the South Island brought masses of bright colour to the beach participating in a variety of events from swimming, to boards, ski, canoe and rescue events.

Warrington Teams took medal placings in many of the canoe events including 1st place in the Open Mixed Canoe Short course, Female Open Masters Long Course, and Female Open Masters Short Course. There were good results from a number of our individual competitors also with medal placings in different events for Mark Hastie, Emily Sterk and Carol Forbes.

On Saturday 28 February, Warrington will host the Otago Junior Championships. Warrington hope to field a number of competitors in different events hopefully with lots of support for the red, white and blue of Warrington and showing what Surf Lifesaving Sort has to offer. Competition is likely to start between 8.30 and 9.00am.

For those of you just enjoying the beach, remember to swim between the flags!

Jonny Hogben



The Warrington Contingent checking out early morning conditions with Team Manager Mark Hastie.



Paul Schwefel, Nicholas Duncan and Jonty Hogben who brought medals back from the Junior Surf Lifesaving Championships in Christchurch.

WAITATI HALL COMMITTEE AGM | 7.30PM AT THE HALL
TUESDAY 10 MARCH | ALL WELCOME



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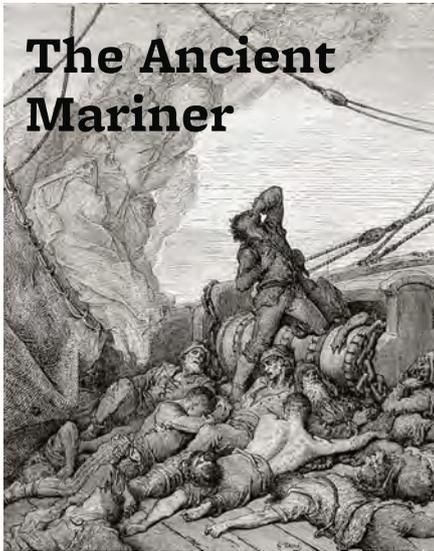



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The Ancient Mariner

I spent my birthday aboard a boat, off Moeraki's coast, fishing for Blue Cod. Eight of us, celebrating the up-coming wedding of the youngster among us. A 'stag-do'. What could go wrong? As we set forth, my mind raced to 'The Rime Of The Ancient Mariner': Samuel Coleridge's 1798 epic about guilt, redemption, burden and regret, and the dangers of being at sea. And as old Sam said;

*We were a ghastley crew.
And so the adventure began.
The ship was cheered, The harbour cleared
Merrily did we drop
Below the kirk, below the hill
Below the lighthouse top.*

He had a way with words did Coleridge. As we plowed ahead, he described the wind and waves.

*It raised my hair, it found my cheek,
Like a meadow-gale of spring,
It mingled strangely with my fears,
Yet it felt like a welcoming.*

Cos hey, it's Cory's 'stag-do' right, and my birthday. Let's make this fun.

*With throats unslacked, with black lips baked,
Agape they heard me call,
Gramercy! they for joy did grin,
And all at once their breath drew in
As they were drinking all.*

Ahh...nothing like a couple of beers in a 2m swell

*But in a minute she 'gan stir
With a short uneasy motion
Backwards and forwards half her length
With a short uneasy motion*

Backwards and forwards ... up and down ... side to side. In a short uneasy motion. I clung to a door frame and concentrated on the horizon.

*Alone, alone, all, all alone,
Alone on a wide wide sea,
And never a saint took pity on
My soul in agony.*

As the 'ghastley' crew fished, hungry Albatross appeared. Rather than bad luck and dead around a mariners neck, I thought them Toroa; a symbol of peace and prestige. With 40 Blueys in the bucket, we returned to blessed land.

*He went like one that hath been stunned,
And is of sense forlorn,
A sadder and a wiser man,
He rose the morrow morn.*

Ahh...the morrow morn. What a beautiful thing you were.

Doug Nuttall



Blueskin Playcentre

Kia ora Blueskin Bay

We are excited to be open and running full steam ahead! Kimberleigh, our lovely Early Childhood Educator, has been setting up a range of different exploratory learning stations for the children to investigate which have so far included: painting with different shapes, a beach and sea messy play scene, playdough, and "ice eggs" with frozen flowers and little toys in them, which has been particularly popular, especially as you can lick your own ice egg to melt it! As always, the sandpit has been a favourite past time - this week with volcanoes erupting in their midst - and our very eclectic group of bikes have been zooming around outside at a range of erratic speeds - a joy to see, albeit a slight hazard to be around.

I'd really like to say a very warm welcome to all our new families which have joined recently; it's been lovely getting to know you and your whānau, so thank you for coming!

As always, a wee reminder that we are open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during term time from 8:45 til just after midday (12:15 to be exact) and we're at the end of the shared driveway with Waitati Kura on the right, where the black safety gate is. Please check out Blueskin Playcentre on Facebook, send us a message via the Playcentre website, or pop on by and say kia ora in person! We're a very welcoming bunch of people and we'd love to see you.

Have a great start to Autumn and see you at Blueskin Playcentre!



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THE RANT

Jay Glubb



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

Reflections on Social Media

I noticed when I got off social media the other day, that I wasn't feeling very good. I reflected on this and I realised that I was comparing myself to others. For example, if I saw a friend that was also a performer and was doing well, or a friend who had a better garden, I would make an almost instant comparison and judgement before scrolling onto the next post. I think this plays out for all of us in daily life, comparing is a way to make sense of the world, in a sense, it is natural. However, social media has magnified it in a way that means for many of us it is no longer healthy.

A couple of other things I noticed, once I went more deeply: 1) I tell myself I am not competitive, or jealous, but actually this is not true. Acknowledging and admitting this is actually an act of beginning to take off the mask that we all wear. 2) Underneath the comparing, I also noticed a lack of self worth and that I need to build up my own value and confidence in myself. Ahhhh, now we are getting somewhere!

Comparing ourselves to others can be extremely tiring!!! Our ancestors compared themselves to the people around them to improve their chances of survival, we have carried this behavior on into the current day but the truth is it may no longer be serving us. They may have compared themselves to their neighbors, today we can be potentially comparing ourselves to hundreds or thousands of people - weirdly as a form of 'relaxation'!

I think it's worth reflecting on how we might compare ourselves to others but in a more constructive way, for example being impressed and inspired by their talents and

hard work. And also, whether comparing unnecessarily actually makes any sense at all - every person's situation and life is completely different, superficial comparisons don't really make that much sense at all! Viewing the world from this new perspective, I feel I can value and appreciate others more and value myself and recognize my own gifts and talents and good fortune also, without the need to make unnecessary comparisons. A simple example, our garden is 300m above sea level with limited water supply, so how we garden and what we grow can be different to people down on the flat, but actually it is an incredible piece of land once you start to understand it.

How we relate to social media is definitely an interesting challenge. It can actually teach us a lot about ourselves, as these reactions will play out in other areas of our lives as well. It is one of the many big challenges of the modern era, that is: how to live a healthy and meaningful life in the world that we live in.



There is a special kind of magic in the air this week. The quiet hallways have been replaced by

the rhythmic sound of school shoes on wood, the chatter of reunited friends, and the general hum of a school coming back to life. It is wonderful to have everyone back in their year group classrooms, settling into routines and filling the spaces with fresh energy and curiosity.

While the students bring the life, our Board of Trustees and dedicated volunteers provide the backbone. A massive thank you goes out to everyone who spent their "off-duty" hours ensuring the grounds are tidy and the classrooms are ready for action. It truly takes a village to run a school, and we are fortunate to have a community that rolls up its sleeves without being asked.

Next time you're passing the office, take a peek at our brand-new notice board. It's your one-stop shop for everything happening at school, including:

Upcoming Hui: Join us as we connect and plan for the term ahead.

Sports Fixtures: Key dates for our budding athletes.

The Waitati Way Award: Check in weekly to see which student is being celebrated for living our core values!

A Home with a View

Our volunteers haven't just been focusing on the classrooms; they have been working tirelessly over the summer to get the School-house ship-shape for new tenants. It's looking fantastic and is officially ready for a fresh start. Interested in renting? You can find the full advertisement and contact details in this edition of the BSN.

We are looking forward to a brilliant year of learning, playing, and growing together. Welcome home, everyone!

Madness vs Sanity

Lunkhead & Proff

- The sproglots came back from Waitangi... they went along with Rangū and his hapū...!
- Oh... how did that go Proff...?
- Well... they have come back pretty fired up about many things...
I expect we will see some action on that front fairly soon...!

Winston Peters calls for a referendum on Māori Seats... supported by ACT...!
He stood in one in 1975 and in the 1990's NZ First won all of them...
Because he no longer represents Māori interests he campaigns against them...
Now he caters to the disaffected older middle class conservative Pakeha voters who tend to hold a disappearing cynical self focused world view... and are generally anti Māori...!

Rivalry in the Show Tent

Can Miss Mary Kinney be beaten in her reign as the Queen of scones this year? Will Auntie Betty's pikelets be good enough, or will the judges pick on that tiny imperfection on one of them? It was edge of the seat stuff at the Omakau A&P show when I was a kid. My Dad took away the prize for the biggest marrow, and I thought that marrow was so special; I couldn't be parted from it. I snuggled into bed each night with that celebrity marrow, what a vegetable obsessed little weirdo I was, nothing much changes

There was a point to all this competition. The sharing of best recipes, the knowledge of which varieties of fruits and vegetables grow best in our climate, the houses people were most likely to visit for an excellent morning tea...

I'd love to see those fun competitions re invigorated. In England, the vegetable competitions are so strongly contested that people do weird things like grow carrots and parsnips in upright pieces of drain pipe, filled with rich, light soil, to encourage the roots to grow extra long. I don't think anyone in Blueskin Bay is that competitive, but we do have a radish section this year, so if you can get some radishes in ASAP, they can be ready in three to six

weeks. Here is a hint, grow a variety called German giant, they get big fast and are still nice to eat, and don't go woody.

We have added a pikelet section too, you need three, the same size and shape, with an even golden brown colour on both sides - you know the drill - perfect, symmetrical, matching AND delicious. It will be quick to whip up a batch on the morning of the show. I loved it when Mum was trying to make perfect pikelets as my sister and I got to eat all the failures.

We have a trophy for the local school and playgroup whose members get the most points. Kids can enter their own stuff, and as long as they note down the school they attend with their entry, any places won will go toward their school winning the trophy. It is a bit like the Ranfurly Shield or the Melbourne Cup for pikelets and sand saucers. There are also native tree seedlings to be won.

Go to it everyone; check out the schedule in this edition. If you know the name of your fruit or vegetable varieties put that in with your entry so we can all learn something, and if you have a prize winning chutney, share the recipe.

A&P shows are a wonderful part of the culture of Aotearoa and their part in teaching and encouraging should not be lost.

Hilary Rowley

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My name is Laura, I live in Pūrakaunui and I am a student member of the Pacific Association of Craniosacral Therapists.



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Book a low-cost session with Laura, a student member of the Pacific Association of Craniosacral Therapists.

Community Board Update

On 29 March we will be in attendance at the Blueskin Show on Bland Park, Waitati. We will be joined by the Otago Regional Council and Otago Civil Defence & Emergency Management. Feel free to pop along to our marquee for a chat about any issues of concern relating to DCC, ORC or CDEM. We will shortly be formulating our submission to the DCC Annual Plan process and we look forward to any input you might like to provide.

I recently had a drive-around with DCC Transportation staff and contractors looking at various roading issues relating to overgrown vegetation, blocked drains and the poor condition of some footpaths. We should see an improvement in the coming weeks.

It seems that the delays relating to the construction of the half-basketball court at Warrington Domain have been resolved and we expect to see construction underway shortly.

We have been discussing the speed of vehicles around the Waitati Curve and the Blueskin Store with NZTA. It seems that this is not a simple issue to resolve, but we will keep plugging away.

Our next formal meeting will be held in Karitane Hall on Wednesday 8 April, starting at 5.30 pm. We are welcoming grant applications. If you, or someone you know, has a community project that could do with some funding assistance then you can complete a funding application form which can be found on the DCC website, or give any board member a call if you need some clarity.

Alasdair Morrison,

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

Around the Bay – March Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
MARCH MONDAYS	The Blueskin Bay Library will be closed on Mondays throughout March.
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 Steponey: 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: 7 – 8.30pm. All ages, levels and drop ins. Contact: Helena 022 6474 738 Piano Lessons: 4 – 6.30pm. All ages and levels, Roseanna O’Neill, 027 9585 838
WEDNESDAYS	Kōrero te reo Māori: 7 – 8pm Starts 4 March \$5 registration koha Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info
SUNDAYS	Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily Sterk Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info

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

ST BARNABAS CHURCH	
SUNDAYS	Service: 10.00am Contact Jeremy 027 436 1481

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

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
Wednesday 4	Quiz 7 – 9pm no cover charge
Wednesday 25	Live Music

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

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
Monday 2	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 9	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 16	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 23	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste



Blueskin General Store
(Waitati On The Spot)
Store Hours:
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8	2	7	6	3	4	5	1	9
1	4	5	8	7	9	6	3	2
4	3	8	9	1	7	2	6	5
9	7	1	2	6	5	8	4	3
5	6	2	4	8	3	7	9	1
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Answer to February Sudoku

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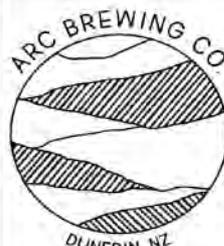
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- 7 Steps to Meditation

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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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Kia ora Blueskin Bay whānau,

2026 has kicked off with a big splash at our kura, with our new pool open and ready for our first day back! The tamariki have loved getting back into daily swims, and our older students are revelling in the extra depth of the pool. The extra challenge this poses to our younger students is all part of our belief that resilience is learnt through action. Learning water safety is so important for all of us living on the coast in Aotearoa! We would like to extend our gratitude to our board members who worked so hard to replace our pool and our whanau and community who made it happen.

Our kura is excited to be visiting the Dunedin Public Art Gallery on Monday 16 February. Under the theme of People and Place the awesome DPAG staff will be guiding us through the gallery showing us how this theme can be explored and shared with others through art. Activities and a hands-on workshop will give us the opportunity to share our ideas and what People and Place means to our tamariki. Our junior classes will also explore the history and culture of Ōtepoti at Toitu Museum, while our senior class will take a tour of the incredible international street art we have in the city centre.

The juniors had a blast visiting Mrs. Bev's house to learn about the life cycle of the monarch butterfly! Witnessing the fascinating stages from caterpillar to chrysalis and then to the beautiful butterflies, was an unforgettable experience. This kind of local learning not only enriches their understanding of nature but also fosters a sense of community connection.

Additionally, the bike safety sessions with Constable Ross are a great complement to their learning. It's important for our students to appreciate the wonders of nature while prioritising their safety on the road. Combining these experiences ensures they are well-rounded in both knowledge and practical skills.

As we begin this new year, we are grateful that at our rural school we continually see the benefits of small class sizes in supporting all students with literacy and numeracy. We know our tamariki so well that their education is always aligned with where they are on their learning journey, allowing tamariki to reach their full potential. As a community who lives so close to the sea and forest, we aim to bring these treasures into our learning as much as possible. For this reason, this year, Warrington School has chosen to look to a Kāi Tahu whakatauki:

"Toitū te marae o Tāne, toitū te marae o Takaroa, toitū te iwi When land and water are sustained, the people will prosper".

This whakatauki deepens our focus on our relationship with this beautiful area. Through the Enviroschools' guiding principles of Empowered Students, Learning for Sustainability and Te ao Māori, we will be asking big questions: How are we looking after our environment? Could we be doing better? Tamariki will be investigating themes of waste, biodiversity, energy and ecological building throughout the year and will be supported to take the action they believe will sustain our environment and, in turn, our people.

If you would like to look further into this whakatauki, please visit the following website and keep an eye on our Facebook page and Blueskin Bay News for how our Warrington Kura journey is progressing.

ngaitahu.iwi.nz/connect-2/connect/news-and-stories/for-us-and-our-children/

Ka kite ano, Warrington School



Celebrating our wildlife & community

BLUESKIN SHOW DAY

Sunday 29th March 2026

10:00am - 2:30pm at Bland Park, Waitati

A fun day out for the whole family!

- ✓ Pony Rides
- ✓ Noddy Train
- ✓ Bouncy Castle
- ✓ LIVE MUSIC - Tiny Pieces of 8
- ✓ 1pm JAY THE JUGGLER & BALLOONS
- ✓ Fire & EMERGENCY
- ✓ Vegetable & Produce Competition
- ✓ Best Mullet Competition - 1.30pm
- ✓ Local Businesses & Groups on Display

✓ Local schools cooking BBQ, baking & sweet treats in Possum Cafe, Donuts & Candyfloss

✓ CARBOOT SALE

✓ Apple Press

✓ NO DOGS

\$10 Family Entry

Children 12 & under
FREE (Cash Only)

Adults \$5

For more details please contact

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