

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

MAY 2026

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

TĪRAMARAMA OROKONUI





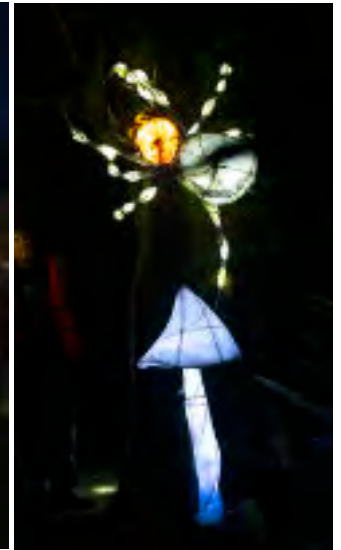
Tiramarama Orokonui

To open the 2026 Wild Dunedin festival at the sanctuary, visitors were treated to Orokonui's protected forest lit up with larger than life lanterns of a range of different native wildlife. First run last year, Tiramarama Orokonui sees lanterns and performers from the Dunedin Midwinter Carnival set up in the sanctuary, with guides taking group through the dark to experience the magic.

This year's story was about our kārara, those things we often think of as creepy crawlies. There were giant helpful spiders, dancing moths, lizards, and frogs, and praying mantis twice the height of any people taking it in. Over the two nights around 240 people got to experience the sanctuary in a very new light. With every ticket supporting Orokonui and our conservation work, as well as the incredible Midwinter Carnival and their community festivities.

For those who want to see many of these lanterns and more, they will be part of the Midwinter Carnival in June. This year's theme is "A Rustle in The Night" continuing the story of those things that lurk in the dark. The main carnival is 12-13 June with tickets available online. www.midwintercarnival.co.nz/

Photos: Hayden Parsons and Amanda Konijn



BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB

Autumn is well and truly here in the bay. Every morning we seem to have another dump of yellow leaves on our path - great for the compost heap though!

This month 30 of our garden club members and friends had an interesting afternoon visiting Dylan Norfield's garden, recently recognised as a 'NZ Garden of National Significance'. We were impressed with the great variety of unusual trees and shrubs and how established they were.

After Dylan's garden, we wandered next door to Geoff Markby's garden, another large interesting garden. Geoff has an area in his garden where classes of school children visit, explore, and complete projects, whilst enjoying the outdoor environment. After wandering around the garden, our keen gardeners were pleased to be able to purchase plants from Geoff.

To finish off an interesting afternoon we enjoyed afternoon tea at Hartley and Marg's place. On the 14th May as part of our AGM, we are having a mid-Winter lunch at the little church which is part of the Blueskin Nursery. The theme of the day is 'winter woolies'.

Bev Lyon (027 533 2238)



Editor's Note

The pleasure of social interactions

I live by myself, I enjoy my own company and I need my own space, but that doesn't mean I don't like talking to people.

Take yesterday – I made coffee for the gardener and my friend Nick who comes most mornings, we discussed the weather and the news, and the problems and joys of owning dogs.

I was just about to head for town when another friend dropped in, that resulted in a delay while we had a cup of tea and brought her up-to-date on local news as she'd been away for the weekend.

In the car-park at the Gardens, the small boy in the car next to mine demanded to know my name and introduced himself as Lincoln and he was three, and his grandma had lost the top of her finger separating two dogs who were fighting. Grandma confirmed that this was true.

In the supermarket I met Tracey an old work colleague who I hadn't seen in a couple of years and which resulted in a lunch date with her and other old friends next week.

The lady on the checkout was from Glasgow and has been here for 16 years, she recognised my Sainsbury shopping bag – “very big and strong, but prone to overfilling which makes them heavy”.

Later my son WhatsApped, a daily call so I can talk to my grandson Ruben. Ruben will be two next week and all he would say was “Go away Grandma”, not the best of conversations.

I spoke to my daughter Phyllie while she was on a train travelling home from work in Brisbane, admiring her new haircut and highlights and hearing about her dog's first birthday party.

And finally the Blueskin News Committee meeting, always lively and with wide ranging topics, most not to do with the News at all. People's birthplaces, the upcoming election, the wonders of Gore etc etc.

What a great day, these are the conversations that I love. Snippets of other peoples lives, histories and opinions. All quite ordinary but real and memorable and certainly worth having!

Keep safe, warm and well Bernie

VOTE 1

Ange McErlane
for Dunedin City Council

- 20+ years' experience working at Dunedin City Council in Infrastructure and Tourism.
- 20yrs experience of Local Government Governance on the Chalmers & West Harbour Community Boards, last term as Chair.
- Justice of the Peace.
- Dunedin born & educated.
- Life Member of New Zealand Waste Management Institute (WasteMANZ).
- Experience, common sense, transparency, honesty and no grandstanding!

Approved by Peter McErlane
17 Awarua Avenue, Dunedin

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 music festival presents ...

ArcFest
Arc brewery
3-11pm

RaFari
SEEK HELP!
Ruinz
Te Kahui
TNUC
MoTA
Shoba
Shotgun wedding
Lili Eve
The Wild Chitokakas
KTB
Italiks
Bent Coppa

Sat 30th May
humanitix.com/nz

Blueskin Road Closure

Part of Blueskin Road will be closed from 28 April to 19 June for slip repairs, which include the construction of a retaining wall.

The road will be fully closed at all hours, with the closure site starting at Blueskin Road/Cedar Creek Road intersection for a length of about 200 meters. The closure will be signposted at Cedar Creek Road and at the intersection of Blueskin Road and Mopanui Road.

The detour route for light vehicles is via Upper Junction Road; however this route is not suitable for heavy vehicles, which will need to travel via State Highway 88 and along North Road - Mount Cargill Road. We apologise for the inconvenience.

Orokonui Ecosanctuary will be accessible from the Port Chalmers end.

The full closure will allow the slip repair work to take place in the most efficient manner, minimising the total duration of the work and reducing overall disruption for motorists, nearby businesses and residents living in the area, as well as minimising costs for all ratepayers.

Thanks in advance to the community for your patience while we complete these important safety works.

Jeanine Benson.

DCC Group Manager Transport



Dire Straits

Just to be clear, I hate Dire Straits. In fact, if I have to hear that 'MTV' song again (you know the one: 'money for nothing and chicks for free'), I'm gonna unleash hell. To para-phrase Dopey-Donald: 'don't play that f***g Strait's song again you crazy b*****s, or you'll be living in hell. Praise be to Allah'.**

Now, I may not have my finger on the trigger-of-hell quite like Dip-S*** Donny does, no doubt some radio-jock is searching the sky for in-coming missiles, but you get my drift. Coincidentally, in the late 80's, I rolled cables for a Dire Straits show in Melbourne, and what I remember most (apart from their vomit-inducingness), is that Knob-Knoffler had a different guitar for every song. Two hour set. Lots of guitars. Busy guitar tech.

But anyway, thanks to Donald-The-Demented, a new Strait has everyone's attention. The Strait of Hormuz. In cahoots with Nauseating-Netanyahu, Dunghill-Donald has plunged the world's economies into dire straits. Forget trade tariffs. They were just the warm-up act. This is The-Destruction-Don's biggest show yet. Let's hope he doesn't play an encore. Dooms-Day-Donald would be a huge hit.

So, Irrational-Iran has Drongo-Donalds' dander up. And while there's no doubt Irritating-Iran's illogical regime deserved reining in, raining missiles and bombs upon their population in an illegal war littered with war crimes is self-defeating. Because, despite Dumbo-Donny standing on 'a no-forever-wars' platform, this conflict could go on and on. Forever. A bit like listening to Dire Straits.

Doug Nuttall



Our Bowling Season opened on 7 April with a new start time of 7pm.

The season opened with Shirley Zweis putting up the first kitty and Cliff Porteous played the first bowl.

A good start to the season was the team of Cliff Porteous, Denis O'Connell, Graeme and Robyn Thorburn winning the Festival Fours played at Kaikorai College.

The reason to play at Kaikorai College was to test the floor out for the South Island Championships being held at Kings Birthday Weekend which this team is going to enter.

The Club welcomes any new player. We have some great bowlers who are prepared to coach and part with their knowledge. So come give it a try.

Contacts -

Lyn Hastie (President)
03 482 2896,
Graeme Thorburn
(Secretary) 03 473 8503



Cliff, Robyn, Denis and Graeme

Lyle Edward Champness

16 October 1974 – 14 April 2026



Lyle grew up living in Punakaiki and attended Barrytown Primary School.

His father was a National Park Ranger, developing a management plan for the area. Their childhood was spent exploring the wilderness on their doorstep. From learning to surf, fishing, hunting or climbing through the bush they always had something to keep them amused.

Lyle and a friend had a venture skinning possums for pocket money. Trapping, skinning and drying 50 skins before they could sell them at auction and split the money.

He was in his happy place whenever he returned to the coast. Lyle loved to walk the rugged beaches looking for Pounamu.

Gentle giant and friend to many, famous for wearing his huge jandals all year round, or his white gumboots.

Lyle really loved to share kai with friends – bread, brews, bounty of homegrown veges, fruit and flowers, homekill or freshly squished apple juice, he enjoyed sharing the abundance. Every year he hosted an annual birthday pizza party using his home-built oven in the backyard.

Lyle worked fishing on the Ōtākou, a Dunedin-based trawler. His co-workers remember him as an awesome guy, patient, kind, level-headed and measured. He got on well with all the crew, but no-one was surprised that he gave the sea up to go teaching. It seemed like a good fit. He attended Teachers College and trained in early childhood.

Lyle served on the EC-MENz committee and worked at Early Childhood on Stafford for 10 years.

Known for his down-to-earth and outdoor approach, the children experienced so many wonderful things under his care, from '4 year old sleepovers', albatross live-cam, field trips to Macraes Mine, to dissecting possums.

This is where he met the love of his life Kylie, who was a student teacher. A friendship blossomed and she realised she was falling for him when she saw him wielding a chainsaw in a manly fashion.

They purchased a house on Doctors Point Road in 2013. And were married 12 years ago when they discovered they were expecting Murphy. Fondly referred to as a "spud in the oven".

Lyle was a hands-on dad, devoting endless hours to his daughters, teaching them everything he could about the world. Always taking Murphy to rugby games and on other great adventures. It is fitting Jess, his oldest has pursued a career as an early childhood teacher.

Lyle and Kylie worked hard renovating their Waitati house and establishing their incredible garden together. Laden with food, fruit and flowers it is a testimony to their shared values and green thumbs.

The call of the sea was strong for him and 6 years ago he took a job on the New Era, one of the dredgers that works the Otago harbour.

Lyle is remembered as a kind and gentle soul; someone who was a good story teller and a hard worker. A hunter, a gatherer and a great gardener.

Sadly, He passed away unexpectedly aged 51 years. Loved and adored husband of Kylie, cherished dad of Jess and Murphy-Rose, treasured son of Janet and the late Grahame Champness, beloved brother and brother-in-law of Pierre and Petra (Canada), Charles (Switzerland) and Naomi and Stephan.

He will be missed.

Kua hinga te tōtara i wāionui o Tāne – A Totoro in the mighty forest of Tāne has fallen.

From Kylie Champness

"The love and support that has enveloped us over the last few weeks has been incredible. There will never be enough thank-yous or words to describe how deeply grateful I am."

Love letters?

There's a real thrill in checking your mailbox and finding mail. It's even more exciting when it's not a rates bill but a hand written message!

When did you last write a letter? Today it is so much easier to flick a text or an email, but what about the personal touch of putting pen to paper?

For me, I love receiving hand written letters, and even more so, hand made cards. I keep

them in a box or stick them in my junk journal and will come across them again and again over the years. My personal favourite will always be masterpieces made by children.

While the cost of postage is creeping up, it is still free for you to pen a thank you note and pop it in your neighbours mailbox or go on a love letter drop around your neighbourhood.

You don't even need an excuse to stick a note in someone's mailbox! It could be as simple as "I love what you have done with your garden" or "tell your cat I say hi". Encourage your kids to become pen pals with their neighbourhood buddies. A wee bit of thoughtfulness can really brighten someone's day!

Laura



Pūrākaunui School

Sophie, her children, and the school community also helped reorganise the school library during the holidays. It's been wonderful to see this space refreshed and ready for new readers and learning adventures.

At the start of Term 1, we had a big school clean-up. John Davidson and his helpers took loads of rubbish to the tip. This kind of community support makes a real difference and is very much appreciated.

One of the highlights of the term was our overnight stay at Puketeraki Marae. The experience was rich, memorable, and full of learning. The tamariki loved being part of marae life, including preparing and cooking their own meals, and making the most of the experience together as a group.

A special highlight was going out on the waka, an exciting and meaningful experience for our students. We thank the Waka Ama group for supporting us and sharing their knowledge.

Kiri, from Puketeraki Marae, who has stepped into the educator role, guided and connected with the children, making the experience even more special.

We also won the vegetable basket at the Blueskin A&P Show, a proud moment for the school and the children.

We supported our fundraising efforts by selling candy floss and doughnuts, though I had a brief concern about everyone's teeth. Our thanks to the Waitati community who supported us again, helping make this experience possible. We value the connection and generosity from our wider community.

We enjoyed fantastic local trips this term, including a visit to Discovery World and Moana Pool. This felt like an adventure for our tamariki and added excitement to our swimming experiences.

We also collaborated with other small schools across Ōtepoti, including Saint Leonards, Ravensbourne, and Broad Bay. These opportunities add fun, variety, and help our tamariki build friendships, develop social skills, and feel part of a wider learning community.

We've continued to build on the values we explored last year, particularly manaakitaka (showing care, respect, and kindness) and manawanui (being courageous, resilient, and persevering through challenges). These values are woven into our daily learning, friendships, and experiences, and our students are proud of how they're living them.

The school bike track is coming along beautifully, thanks to Rotadig's hard work. We're excited to see this space taking shape for our tamariki.

We were thrilled to receive our surfboards this term, and our after-school surf club has become a favourite. It's popular with everyone, including the teachers, and helps build confidence, skills, and connection with our local environment.

Cori stepped in while Sarah was away, and it's been delightful having her in the office. Julien, her two-year-old, helped spark something special, leading to the new playgroup.

Sarah Wara, a highly experienced early childhood teacher, now works with us at the junior end of the school as we grow our cradle roll. It's lovely having little people back at school, bringing energy and connection.

Our Little Pipi Playgroup now runs on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00am - 12:30pm, and we warmly welcome whānau with young children.

Looking ahead to Term 2, we're excited to be part of Kids Sing and Pink Shirt Day, and to continue building rich learning experiences for our students. Our afternoons will focus on science, technology, art, forest play, and our Garden to Table programme.

We're grateful for our community's support. Pūrākaunui School is special, and we love being part of this connected and supportive environment. If you're passing by, stop by and see what we're up to. We're always happy to share our learning.

Kā mihi nui, Pūrākaunui School

Kia ora koutou, Term 1 has been full of energy, learning, and connection at Pūrākaunui School. We're excited to share what we've been up to.

We've been busy learning. Alongside daily teaching, we've focused on building school capability. I've been studying to support dyslexic learners, completing a 12-month Accelerating Learning in Literacy programme and participating in the Beginning Principal Programme and Numicon maths professional development. This learning is making a difference in how we support all learners.

Sophie, our kaiako, has taken to her role swiftly and with ease. She brings skill, warmth, and professionalism to her teaching.

WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

Arriving at Scott and Jenna's place, we settle in the lounge, get ourselves sorted with our various accompaniments, pour our drinks, and get down to the business of putting the world to rights ... which it turns out we are unanimous in our view that it seems presently, an impossible task!

Nevertheless, we sort through the various possibilities, and eventually, as always, arrive at discussing the merits of 'The Book' along with sharing a dram from a selection generously provided by our host.



THE BOOK

In The Country Of Men: Hisham Matar. As explained by Ross, who chose this book, it is in part motivated by and references the personal experiences of the author. His father, a prominent political dissident of the Gaddafi regime, living in exile, was kidnapped in Cairo, and imprisoned in Libya by government agents. That story is told in Matar's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *'The Return'*.



'In The Country Of Men' is the story of a nine-year-old boy living in Tripoli under the Gaddafi regime, confronted with the effects of the revolution and the life-changing challenges that follow. For more on this try *Lecture, Hisham Matar, In The Country Of Men* on YouTube. Generally enjoyed by all who had read it and considered worth a read.

OTHER BOOKS

Marc; Colorless Tsukuba Tazaki and his years of Pilgrimage: Murakami. A successful professional renews contact with a group of school friends to resolve a falling out. In closure of the incident, he hopes to find happiness and fulfilment hitherto lacking in his life. For a long-standing fan of Murakami, this was a tame ride. The promise of quirkiness and intrigue, so much a characteristic of his writing, was unsatisfied. Forgiveness and redemption are perhaps apt themes for our time, but the telling of it lacked his usual flair.



Ian: rereading This pākehā, life - an unsettled memoir: Alison Jones. "Every Pākehā becomes a Pākehā in their own way, finding their own meaning for that te reo Māori word. This is the story of what it means to me." - a quote from the book which captures its essence. This, in my opinion, is a must-read for every kiwi, and can change the way you see yourself in the world, in a good way.



WHISKY

Lammermoor Single Malt Manuka smoked Whisky: Lammermoor

Distillery, Upper Taieri - Paerau (distilled illegally since 1863). One of the very few distillers to grow their own grain, malt, mash, fermented, distilled and matured on site. The peat is dug from the ground, fresh spring water flows from the hills, and barrels are from Central Otago vineyards. This is not a Whisky for the faint-hearted or those with a delicate palate. A full-hearted smokey peat flavour that grabs you by the tonsils and makes your eyes water. Those that love a good Islay Whisky will sit up and take notice of this one. Thanks to Scott for sharing this at our meeting.



MUSIC

Isbells: Belgian Indie Folk band centered around singer-songwriter **Gaetan**

Vandewaude (vocals and guitar), and including **Chantal Ada** - keys and vocals, **Gianni Marzo** - guitar, **Gerd Van Midder** - bass and trumpet, **Christophe Vandewaude** - drums. "If you like Bon Iver or Fleet Foxes, you will flip out over Isbells" *BBC Radio One*. Try "What You Give is What You Get" or "Hold On" or "Side by Side" on YouTube.



WORD OF THE MONTH

Pākehā "There is nowhere else in the world you can be Pākehā, whether the term remains forever linked to the shameful role of the oppressor or whether it can become a positive source of identity and pride is up to Pākehā themselves. All that is required from them is a leap of faith." **Ani Mikaere.**

MEANING OF LIFE

"Mine is not a redemptive story of good feeling, and togetherness: I try to show that Māori-Pākehā relationships are difficult and wonderful all at once, and that complexities are not only exciting but also make us who we are as quirky unique New Zealanders" (me: 'kiwis') quote from *"This Pākehā Life"* by **Alison Jones.**



BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET

Sunday 3 May

Doctor Riley of Opeke, Doctors Point

Talented surgeon and lecturer

Fredrick Ratcliffe Riley was born in 1865 Devon, England. He was a distinguished medical student at London hospital, where he received many prizes and awards. Qualifying in 1890 Riley was admitted as a Fellow of the royal college of surgeons of England in 1886.

He sailed to New Zealand as a ship's doctor in 1887, at the call of his brother Arthur. He worked for him as a *locum tenens* and succeeded him to take up general practise in Winton, Southland.



Former Knox church Manse 348 George Street.

He moved to Dunedin in 1902, age 37 and married Charlotte Susan Graham, a magistrate's daughter. They took up residence in Pitt Street and eventually moved around the corner to occupy the former Knox Church Manse, 348 George Street.

Riley ran a successful private practise and taught at the medical school lecturing in gynaecology and obstetrics. He was appointed Obstetrician at St. Helens Hospital when it opened in 1905. And was an honorary member on the Dunedin Hospital Board for 23 years. He also served as a city councillor but found it too time-consuming.

Apart from his practise, his volunteer hospital work and his tutoring, he was also an enthusiastic photographer and a collector of art and artefacts.

As he prospered, he also purchased properties.



Student group at Professor Riley's summer home Opeke, Doctors point, Waitati 1919



His favourite was "Opeke" on the edge of Blueskin Bay, A Beautiful 30 acre farm he bought off Michie in the area know now as Doctors Point.

Riley and his work colleagues, Fitzgerald, Fitchett, Batchelor and Williams liked to host a huge picnic to entertain the 4th and 5th year medical students there annually.

A photo hangs at the medical school in Dunedin of one such occasion with Dr Riley surrounded by students standing at Opeke.

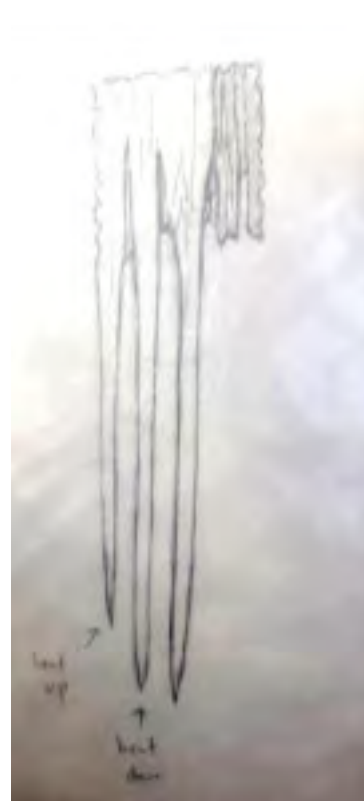
The students would arrive by Train in a special carriage that stopped for them at Michies Crossing. The day was spent swimming, boating, playing tennis or badminton. Some students liked to look for Māori artefacts on the adjacent Warrington spit.

Sadly, Dr Riley died post operation, of a heart attack on 1st of August 1932, aged 67.

He is buried at the Northern Cemetery.

After his passing the family donated 200 items to Tuhura, the Otago Museum.

Among the collections is a comb he found on Warrington beach (See sketch of image)



Dr Riley was one of the doctors who set up Doctors Point beach reserve.

There is a plaque in the carpark with his photo and some more information about its establishment to protect the beachfront from being subdivided.

And for this protected amenity, today's residents are grateful

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre



The attack of the Otago Mounted Rifles at Messines 7th June, 1917 by official New Zealand army artist Captain Matt Cauldie.

"Talk about the charge of the Light Brigade. The infantry said we were mad, and by Jove we were! We charged over barbed wire entanglements, over trenches..." (Trooper Fred Naylor, Otago Mounted Rifles).

Otago Hussars

The men of the Otago Mounted Rifles (OMR) were hard men who personified to the very end the meaning of their regimental motto *Es Fidelis* – ‘Be Faithful’ (Troopers’ Tale, 2012).

On November 4 1864 members of the Otago Hussars met at what is now the Wine Cellars Bar on Stafford Street, for the first discussion about the formation of the Otago Mounted Rifles; a combined, coordinated force of the many Territorial Units from North Otago to Southland. To put the title Hussar in an historical context, the Hussar was a significant class of European light cavalry. Originating in 15th Century Hungary, the Hussar were renowned for scouting, raiding and rapid agile combat tactics on horseback. The Otago Hussars trained as a mobile force able to gallop to the Southern Coast to repel a foreign invader and hold them at bay until reinforcements arrived. Troopers from the Otago Hussars fought valiantly in the South African Boer War (1899-1902) on the veld in the Transvaal.

The Otago Mounted Rifle Regiment was formed in 1911 and was deployed for service in WW1. It was formed from units of the Territorial Force which included the 5th Mounted Rifles (Otago Hussars). They saw service in Gallipoli and Egypt with the New

Zealand Mounted Rifles Brigade. At Gallipoli, an advance guard of the OMR was the first mounted riflemen to land at Anzac Cove, and first New Zealand troops to land at Cape Helles. Cape Helles was the main landing area for British and French forces on the 25 April 1915. The Otago Mounted Rifles fought with distinction during the intense and harrowing August offensives characterized by intense heat, rampant disease, and catastrophic casualties. Swarms of flies, severe water shortages, and the stench of unburied dead, made conditions horrific. Survivors were some of the last to be evacuated from the peninsula.

They were the only New Zealand mounted troops to serve in France on the Western Front where they fought with distinction at the battle of Messines. ‘In April 1917 the OMR made history with their stirring horseback charge across No Man’s Land under heavy shot and shell. The OMR had the honour of being the first mounted troops from Australasia to arrive at the firing line in 1915, and were still in action on the morning of Armistice Day in November 1918’. (Troopers Tale, 2012).

Bev Medlin

Hi everyone, I hear some of you took the opportunity to look over our display of Blueskin Bay history while at the A & P show. If you missed it though, you can catch up on some of the display at your library, so do take a moment when you next visit.

Our current military display at the Heritage Centre is receiving a lot of praise. I think even we were surprised at just how many military related items are in our collection. We would also like to thank our local RSA for their contribution. We owe so much to those young men who sacrificed their health and lives for the generations that have followed. Unfortunately, it would appear that some lessons have still not been learnt. This display will end in the final week of May to be replaced with our five-year celebration.

To celebrate our five years of the new Heritage Centre being open we will have a major art exhibition and in addition we will discount all our retail stock by 20% during this month. There will be some great bargains, maybe some early Christmas shopping can be had!

Have you given some thought to becoming a volunteer with us, it is a great way to engage with the community.

Shirley McKewen

Brain Saver: Supporting Brain Injury Survivors in Aotearoa

Brain Saver is dedicated to assisting individuals across Aotearoa who have experienced a brain injury.

We offer free recovery support packs designed to ease the recovery journey for survivors. Recovery can be challenging, and no one should have to face it alone. If you or someone you know has suffered a brain injury,

Get in touch with us today:

Phone: 022 574 9254

Email: brainsavernz@gmail.com

Follow us on Instagram: @brainsavernz

022-5749-254
brainsavernz@gmail.com
@brainsaver

Follow us and our growth while we help to support individuals one step at a time.



Dig for victory

Hilary Rowley

A wise (ish) person said to me the other day “Do you want to know what WW3 looks like? This is what WW3 looks like” and you know, maybe that is true. Someone in the media called the world “a hot mess”, and that is true too. Then there are those people who have been for a fairly pointless and very expensive (in fuel and resources) trip around the moon. They got a very sensible little takeaway from their trip, to paraphrase “There is a lot of darkness out there and then there is our beautiful little blue lifeboat, which we really should look after as there isn’t anything else we are remotely evolved for or capable of living on”.

Now I try not to get depressed about all this, and I think all we can do as animals on our sweet planet is our best. That does not mean winning the race to have the biggest, fattest, newest stuff.

This current crisis is great for finally getting people thinking about our reliance on fossil fuels. We have a very long way to go, but it is a start. The frightening thing is that we rely of fossil fuel quite a lot for supplying our basic needs. Prices of absolutely everything are going up – a lot. So... it’s WW3 (sort of) and we need to take a leaf out of the WW2 British playbook and dig for victory. I know we are in a country which exports food, but that food will continue to be exported and the prices are very high. We have not bought steak in such a long time, because it is just too expensive, and this is only the beginning.

It is time to think about a bit of home food security. Prepare some garden beds ready for spring. Get your shit (cow, horse, sheep, alpaca...) together to avoid relying on imported artificial fertilisers, and grow some useful and filling food next summer. Think potatoes, pumpkins, carrots, parsnips, zucchini, and corn.

I have been experimenting with home grown grains, seeds and pulses for a few years now. I think flint corn (the sort you make polenta and tortilla from) and shell-out runner beans have been my best use of space, but it is also possible to grow quinoa, millet, amaranth and edible lupin (not the wild sort). I have not grown oats but I know the crop grows well here. When oats were the fuel for farming (to feed horses) all the farms in this area grew big crops of oats, and there is nothing like a bowl of porridge with oat milk on top. Right now you can forage for sweet chestnuts and acorns as they do make great flour for baking, but are not so good for traditional wheat bread.

Even if it doesn’t come to the scenario of people being unable to afford food in the next couple of years, I really think that in the next 50 years this will happen. So start digging for victory soon, so at least you have some skills to teach the next generations. You can only do your best for them too. Oh, and don’t panic.



Blueskin Playcentre

Kia ora Blueskin Bay, First of all, thank you so much for all of the support we were shown at the Blueskin Show. Blueskin Playcentre relies on community funding and support in order to remain a fee free Playcentre, so thank you for enabling that to continue!

As the winter rolls in, please feel free to enjoy Blueskin Playcentre's warm hospitality and the indoor opportunities for play that we have on offer. We all know what it's like to be limited by the weather and trying to entertain little ones at home, it really is much easier as a collective. As the saying goes, it takes a community to raise a child, so if you're wondering how to make that happen, the community hangs out at Blueskin Playcentre, so pop on by.

We're open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8:45 until 12:15 and Blueskin Playcentre is based at the end of the shared drive with Waitati School.

Please see our Facebook page with day-to-day information or email us at blueskin@playcentre.org.nz with any questions. See you at Blueskin Playcentre,

Heather



Community Emergency Response

A recent history in Waitati



In the last 20 years there have been several weather events affecting the community. The most severe was the August floods of 2006 – the river breached in several places. Flooding the school grounds, the village and across the paddocks along the Main Street. Sheep perished in 3-metre-high water. A large part of issue were trees blocking the water under the bridges, river remediation has occurred since then. Background information and report:

www.dunedin.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1234901/waitati-flood-reporting-august-2006.pdf



Then there were the 200 stranded motorists when the highway closed due to snow, it was a Sunday afternoon at the end of the school holidays. The community activated and hosted them for the night. This has been a common theme, flooding and road closures.

However, there was one Tsunami evacuation in the middle of the night - luckily no crisis but good practise.

In 2016 after another flood, this one caused a slip on the side of the motorway into the river, exposing the fibre-optic cable. No one needed evacuated but the Doctors Point community was cut off by flood waters up to Blacks' Bridge.

Blueskin Resilience Tust began work with Paul Allen from the Civil defence and community representatives. Visits to the Bunker, Tabletop training exercises took place, the formation of community plans, and Blueskin Hazards brochure and the publication of the Blueskin Community Directory 2018 (recent edition available for \$5 at the Blueskin Library).

In August 2019 we took part in a training exercise with the Red Cross over a weekend. We responded during the Covid lock down by reaching out to isolated community members and senior folk providing support while keeping our distance.

In April 2021, we hosted a one-day training exercise in Waitati for surrounding groups (attended by members of place-based groups and city-wide community boards)

Change of roles and Major Andy McKenzie Everitt (who lived in Waitati until recently) was appointed to Civil

Defence. More TTX (tabletop exercises) this time with the fire and emergency volunteer crew.

Waikouaiti Coast Community Board member Sonya Billyard planned an excellent Be Ready Expo in 2022, including the Palmerston/Waihemo board. The Waikouaiti and Karitane community response groups were formed.

In 2022 work continued to set up Seacliff and Warrington community response groups and to strengthen Blueskin Bay resilience. Joint training exercises happened at the Waitati hall. We wrote more community plans and changed our emergency hub model, each time improving on our ability to respond to emergencies.

In October 2024 a weather event at Blueskin Bay was ok! Phew

Over the past four years the relationship with Civil Defence was paused, the community response group continued to activate as needed. Especially to provide shelter and rest to road closure refugees. Thank you to the hosts and community for your on going Manaakitanga. Especially the response group volunteers, and Rik and Blondie Ngamoki for regular accomodation at Te whare Wananga.

We are very lucky to live in such a well-connected village. If you want to be involved – please get in touch, there will be training opportunities soon.

In the meantime, do you have a grab bag ready, do you and your whanau have an emergency plan?

At the Waitati Community Hall there was a public meeting on the 10 April hosted by the Community Board and Taylor Hendl from Civil Defence. 16 people attended the presentation.

We have a cupboard in the foyer, it holds food and supplies. There is also a community list of resources so we can rally together and support each other.

One thing we would like to know is who our vulnerable folk are. If you live alone, have a mobility issue or require regular medicine, please reach out to me so we can check in with you in times of need (confidentiality assured). Please call Mandy 021 919 555 or email Mandy. mayhem@dcc.govt.nz

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. It's free to join - just come along on the day!

Did you know that Plunket helps facilitate local low-cost first aid courses aimed at caregivers and parents of infants, pre-schoolers and children? In East Otago these are run by Practical Training Solutions and at the low cost of \$15 cover the basics of CPR, choking and much more such as burns, poisoning, allergic reactions, meningitis and RSV. These courses are held in the evening at our Plunket rooms in the East Otago Events Centre in Waikouaiti. The scheduled dates for these are 30 April and 13 October. If you're interested, or if these dates don't suit get in contact as if there is enough demand another course can be scheduled or we can look at getting you on this course at another venue in Dunedin or Oamaru where these courses are offered quarterly.

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

Kā mihi nui Annabel annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz

THE RANT

Ian Melvin



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

WHAT MAKES ME MAD AND SAD

Whew, where do you start... or finish for that matter? In short... the lack of understanding, empathy, honesty, and understanding, prevalent in the world... so many people focused on the me instead of the we...!

WHAT MAKES ME GLAD

This week we attended the unveiling of a good friend Peter Matheson's headstone at the Waitati cemetery, a very moving ceremony on so many levels... Some of the many personal highpoints for me were our friend Roswitha singing a very moving waiata in te reo and later Keri Cameron from Te Whare Wānanga (Māori cultural venue and marae) in Waitati taking my hand in a firm grip 'give me your nose' to hongi... as we shared breath with our heads together... later he gave a moving speech in te reo and English, with a power and mana that captured the moment and occasion... I had forgotten the gift that he/they have for encompassing you into their world and culture so generously, and how good that feeling can be.

They have been a part of Waitati for a long time working away at their 'mission' as Keri put it, flying largely under the radar of most of the community most of the time... I for one, am very happy and grateful they are a very valuable part of our community.

WARRINGTON SURF LIFESAVING CLUB



The Warrington Surf Lifesaving Club Annual Awards presentation was held on Saturday 28th March. All club members were invited to attend the event which was opened by Club Chairperson Isabella Aldrich; praising the success of the club and highlighting the significant events of the past year which included the opening of a new lifeguard building, 50th anniversary of the club operating at Warrington and competition successes locally, regionally and nationally.

First off, certificates were presented to our junior surf participants who are the future lifeblood of the club. Showing up week in

week out in all types of weather, many of them competing throughout the season, with numerous medals being won and placings achieved. Nicholas Duncan won the award for best junior male and Molly Gibert won the award for best junior female. Jonathan Duncan won the award for most improved and Emily Sterk was presented with the award for contribution to Junior Surf, in recognition of her role helping to coordinate the junior surf programme amongst other things.

In the senior division, the best female award was presented to the Ladies Canoe team (Maddie Ozanne, Phoebe Ozanne, Isabella Aldrich and Molly Gorman) for their efforts this year. Mark Hastie won the award for best Senior Male

Recognising the lifeguards this year, Fergus Laws took the award for Lifeguard of the Year with Greta Schwefel winning Rookie Lifeguard of the year and Freda Clark most improved Rookie.

The final award, presented before a wonderful shared kai, was for significant contribution to the club over the last 12 months. All club members were invited to nominate someone for the award which is to recognise efforts in any area of the club including competing, lifeguarding, coaching, officiating or general running of the club. A whopping 17 different nominations were made this year, but it was finally won by Maddy Ozanne in recognition of her outstanding contribution.

Jonny Hogben

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BLUESKIN BAY KNITWITS



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

Contact Christine
021 133 9340

All ages and experience levels are welcome.

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE

Thursday 28 May, 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 13 May.



SEED LIBRARY

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

COMMUNITY CABINETS



We have a fascinating display from the Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre where there are old cameras, photos, and other paraphernalia to pique your interest so pop along and learn more about our local history. There are also albums of old photos of the Blueskin Bay area.

If you have taonga you would like exhibited in the other community cabinet which is situated by the seed library, come and have a chat to the library staff.

CRAFTERMORNING



Wednesday 6 May,
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 paper jewellery. All materials provided.

DCC SERVICE CENTRE

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

Around the Bay – May Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
Wednesday 6	Craftermorning: 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 paper jewellery. All materials provided.
Wednesday 13	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
WEDNESDAYS	Focus on Drawing Class, May 6- June 24, 6:30p,m-8:30pm
Wednesday 6	One off Digital Learning Clinic 3pm-7 pm. To book an individual 30-60 min. session, email waiputai@gmail.com .
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: 9am – 12pm Contact Collin Blake cblake@siacu.nz
SATURDAYS	NIA Dance Class: 4 – 5pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350

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

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
Monday 4	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 11	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 18	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 25	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste

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

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and evenings:
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Monthly : First Wednesday is Quiz night until 9pm
Last Wednesday is Live Music until 9pm



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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.

LILLIPUT LIBRARIES

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 Saturdays 10 - 11.30 at Waikouaiti Racecourse, Clackmannan Street email wptoylibrary@yahoo.co.nz



Waikouaiti First Aid Courses

Thursday 30 April 7pm start / Tuesday 13 October 6pm start

Delivered by Practical Training Solutions

Venue: Plunket Rooms, East Otago Events Centre
203 Main Road, Waikouaiti

- \$15 per person.
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2	7	1	5	8	3	4	6	9
9	4	5	7	2	6	1	3	8
8	3	6	4	9	1	7	2	5

Answer to April 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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Kia ora whānau, I trust you all had a wonderful Easter break! While I know our kaiako enjoyed the rest, I've also been incredibly busy behind the scenes getting everything ready for an action-packed Term 2.

We kicked things off with our ANZAC art, which looked stunning displayed at the hall on Anzac Day. A huge "iino pai" to Ardie and Elizabeth for having the courage to stand up and speak, we are so proud of you both!

Reflecting on Term 1, what stands out most is the growing sense of pride within our kura. Both tamariki and kaiako are truly taking ownership of our environment, inside and out. These "small but mighty" changes are reflected in how the tamariki show up each day; it is wonderful to see the tuakana/teina spirit alive and well on the playground.

The mahi from last term was simply fabulous. From the haiku, cinquain, and bio-poems in Huatea to the brilliant writing in Mapounui and the engaging activities in Mihiwaka, the classrooms were full of smiles and genuine joy.

Looking Ahead: Science & Matariki

This term, our focus shifts to Science and Matariki. Mapounui and Huatea are diving into their Science Fair projects, while Mihiwaka will be exploring scientific concepts through play-based learning in the afternoons.

To celebrate Matariki this year, we are trying something a little different. Moving away from our lantern tradition, we are hosting a drama-based afternoon at the Waitati Hall, along with our Assembly.

- School Assembly: Friday 19 June, 2:30pm
- Where: Waitati Hall
- Followed by: A special performance from each class
- To finish: Bring some shared afternoon kai

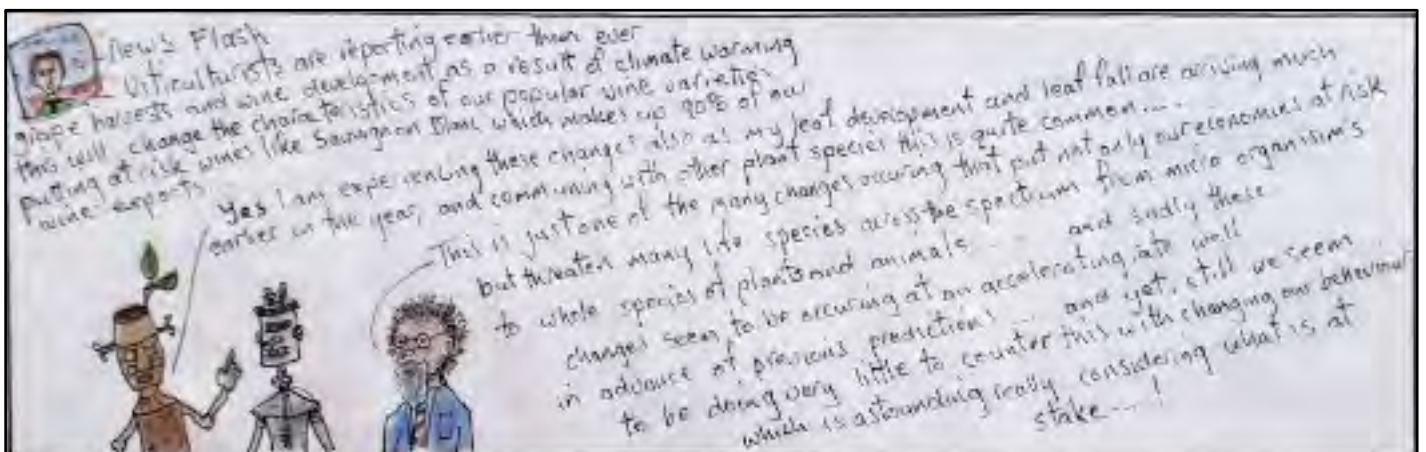
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**Ngā mihi nui,
Bex Williams, Tumuaiki**

**A game of tug-of-war one lunch time
Isla Turner with one of the many Monarch Butterflies that hatched in Mihiwaka in Term 1.
Koha for Kai on a Friday afternoon is very popular.
We had the Ranfurly Shield come and visit School.**



Madness vs Sanity



Anzac Day

25 April 2026

WAITATI

