

# BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

MAY 2025

Seacliff

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Warrington

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Evansdale

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Waitati

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Doctors Point

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Pūrākaunui



## BLUESKIN ON SHOW 2025





# I LOVE LOIS – Susan Lois Skellett

12 August 1952 – 13 April 2025

**Lois, soulmate to her husband of 40 years Chris, Wonderful mother to Jessica, Lucy and late Henry, four times a Grandma to Alana, Amber, Margot and Cassidy.**

Lois was born in Christchurch and had a big brother Gary, 19 years her senior. She attended Ilam primary school and then Kirkwood Intermediate. Lois met her best and oldest friend, Karen there and went on to Riccarton high school together.

Lois trained to be a teacher and did one placement before deciding it was not for her.

At age 18, she travelled with her friend Cathy to Mexico City, hitch hiked across Central America, travelled Europe, to Rome, Greece, and the UK – Scotland and the Shetlands too. She slept in caves in Crete, went to music festivals and concerts, London pubs and theatres and had many great adventures. They were carefree years.

Daughter Jess read from Lois's travel journal from 1975, when she had visited a tarot card reader in Rome – she was told that while she would never do without, she would never be rich.

In her diary she wrote "Well thats OK with me. I'm not concerned with wealth." Heart, relationships, people and happiness were what really mattered

When she returned to Aotearoa she didn't want to live in Christchurch again. She had to live by the sea. Lois worked as a postie in Dunedin, cycling up those hills kept her fit.

Then she trained to be a psych nurse and worked in Porirua. She met her first husband, Geoff and they purchased a house in Paekakariki. Later they moved to the Sounds to run a mussel farm. Tragically Geoff was killed.

Lois went back to Wellington.

This was a tough time for her but when Chris came into her world, life took off for them both, they were the perfect fit for each other. They made the move to Dunedin together.

Lois made it her mission to become a mum, after 9 rounds of IVF, her dreams became reality. She loved her family very much, she was a thoughtful and energetic parent and grandma. Her daughters said she taught them how to be happy, to make good decisions, and to be kind. Lois always made them feel important and loved. She did the very best job to guide them.

Famous in Warrington for the Iconic 'I Love Lois' hedge, this became the perfect metaphor for all that she was. Special to everyone that came into her life.

The hedge came about 25 years ago. After many requests from Lois to trim the unsightly overgrown hedge. When Chris finally got around to it he decided to make the best of his grumpiness and transformed it into a statement.

The 'I love Lois' hedge has been a topic of conversation and landmark every since.

Best spoken out loud so she might appear from behind it.

Lois made magic moments. Busy and energetic she was known for her kindness and wit. She was the queen of gift giving.

Lois was a lot of fun, she always has a sparkle in her eye and a great sense of humour, an avid animal lover and the centre of community. She took good care of people, particularly if they were going through tough times.

She connected people throughout her career and she showed people how to be themselves and to be strong .

She always had time to give. Lois had a big heart, she was generous and she made people laugh.

A Friend, Daughter, Sister, Wife, Mother, Grandma, Aunt and Great Aunt.

## Rest in peace Lois

**I Must Go Down To The Sea Again  
Spike Milligan**

*I must go down to the sea again, to the  
lonely sea and the sky;*

*I left my shoes and socks there - I  
wonder if they're dry*

## From the Editor

Hello everyone, welcome to May's Blueskin News.

We had our committee meeting on Thursday last week and as usual once the more official parts of the meeting were finished we ended up with a general conversation about how we could add more interest to the BSN. Not that it isn't full of interesting articles already! 'Where are they now' was one suggestion that caught our imagination – there are many families that have been in and around Blueskin Bay for many years whose children have left to pursue successful and exciting lives around New Zealand and the rest of the world, it would be great to hear of their adventures! We are generally a nosy lot so don't be shy, just write in.

Another suggestion was including some more general history. I have put an excerpt from R G Pullar's book *By Blueskin Bay* (1957) on page 11. The Blueskin Bay Library has several copies of this book as well as the more recent *Blueskin Days* by Ian Church which was published in 2007. Both these books are a great read. If you have old family photos or family stories that go back to the beginnings of our community we would love to hear from you.

Again on the subject of history, the Blueskin News is 40 years old this year. It should be a matter of some pride that our small Community has managed to keep such a brilliant resource going for so long. That is mostly due to the hard work of those who have taken on the task of producing and editing each issue, those who have regularly contributed articles each month and the people who have supported it as committee members, advertisers and readers. There have been quite a few editors in those 40 years and they all have my respect and admiration. It would be lovely to include articles from some of the early copies so if anyone has any either in paper or digital form please let me know.

Enough of history, enjoy this issue, there's plenty in it.

**Keep safe and happy Bernie**

## 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 Bay 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 can be obtained on request.



## BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET Sunday 4 May

### Madness vs Sanity



### The Sproglets visit the Aliens





## Annoyance is the cost of community

**People suck, generally. Humans are temperamental, sentimental, chaotic and confused at the best of times and when we all try and live together in close proximity well, the proverbial sometimes hits the fan. Blueskin Bay has a solid history of attracting people slightly off centre and as a result the wider community is filled with people who are ... somewhat spicy.**

Spice can add to the flavour of life out here but sometimes it makes your eyes water. Walnut trees or native trees? Fluoride in the water? Freedom camping or not? Basketball court anybody?

In communities like ours people are unafraid to be loudly and unapologetically themselves. "I have an opinion and I shall announce it to the world and I shall be heard!" It can be annoying when people want to talk. Even more so when what they say is not what we want to hear.

There is a richness we have in this beautiful place that money can't buy, we know our neighbours – we know too much about our neighbours. We know who lets their dog bark at sparrows-fart at 6am, who composts with a religious fervour, and who believes the government is hiding secret water recipes in the dam. They might be right. But therein lies the magic and the migraine of community: it's noisy, nosy, and impossible to unsubscribe from.

Sure, your neighbour's drum circle might interfere with your afternoon nap. Yes, someone will suggest a public meeting about the lack of sand on the beach (as if anyone can negotiate with the tide). And absolutely, you will hear about Margaret's cat going missing for the 43rd time this year. But for all the eye-rolling, deep sighs, and polite-yet-murderous smiles at the local hall carpark, these small annoyances are the mortar that holds the whole wobbly structure together.

Annoyance, after all, is just a sign that you care enough to notice. It means you're involved. It means you haven't fully given up and retreated to a bunker of apathy and noise-cancelling headphones.

In the end, community is like a potluck dinner –you're never quite sure what you're going to get, some of it's undercooked, or vegan and someone always puts raisins where they don't belong. But you show up anyway. Because maybe that weird salad is actually delicious. Maybe Margaret's cat turns up. Maybe someone finally plants a walnut tree and a native.

Because despite all the chaos, people still come together. And that's kind of the point

**Cam**

## ORC reminds communities to burn dry firewood this winter

**Air quality becomes degraded during winter due to the use of wood burners combined with cold calm weather, and the occurrence of inversion layers. ORC is currently running its annual Burn Dry, Breathe Easy campaign highlighting ways to ensure your firewood is dry for burning in winter, and the effects that burning wet wood and other items can have on air quality and the environment.**

Woodsmoke pollution can be reduced when you burn only dry wood and keep your fire hot and not smouldering.

Always make sure the wood you are burning is dry. It's better for you, your home, and the environment.

### **Burn Dry, Breathe Easy tips:**

- Stock up on firewood before Christmas to allow it to dry out before the following winter
- Stack your firewood off the ground, out of the rain and with plenty of airflow so it dries faster
- A well-built fire of scrunched up paper/firelighters, kindling, and firewood with plenty of airflow ensures a well-heated home and less smoke



- Don't burn wet or green firewood, treated wood or household rubbish as they can release harmful toxins into the air.
- Use a wood moisture meter to check if your firewood is dry enough to burn. Less than 25% moisture means more heat and reduced smoke
- To reduce smoke overnight, make sure you can still see flames when you turn your fire down.

**Find out more at [orc.govt.nz/burndry](http://orc.govt.nz/burndry)**

# A Stillness Beneath the Surface

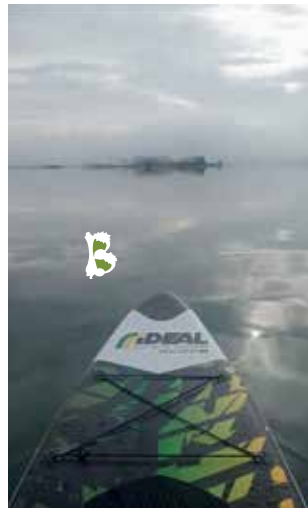
There's a quiet place, just beyond the edge of the world, where the water stretches out as still as glass. The bay, calm and untouched by wind, becomes a mirror to the sky, and in that stillness, time slows. Here, I paddle through the silence, alone but never lonely, surrounded by the world, yet not quite a part of it. I see the traffic along the road, moving in steady rhythm, but it's distant, muted. The bay holds that distance, offering a quiet retreat from the rush of things.



The water, soft and undisturbed, mirrors everything. There's a serenity to it, an invitation to float along and just be. The mist that rises in the morning softens the light, diffusing the harsh glare. Below, the clarity is sharp—every ripple, every curve of the seabed, visible in a way that feels too perfect to be real. The crabs and flounders move with a quiet grace, untouched by the world above, as though the bay holds its secrets in the depths.

On one such quiet morning, while gliding through the stillness, something caught my eye, a glimmer of reflected light, faint but unmistakable, resting in

the sand. Curiosity nudged me to reach down and pry it loose. It was a bottle, perfectly preserved, as if time had forgotten it. The bottle, I later discovered, was from 1898 – a remnant of a company called Taine's Black Lacquer, once a maker of wood stain. Now, it rests among other bottles in my small collection, each one holding a piece of history, each one carrying a quiet memory. Like the bay, they hold moments—preserved and waiting to be remembered.



Each paddle stroke is a rhythm, a moment to breathe without the weight of words. The world moves on, but here, in this space, there is a peaceful detachment. The clarity of the water and the stillness around me offer a kind of quiet understanding, a reminder that sometimes the most important things are the ones that aren't spoken, the ones that simply exist, just beneath the surface. It's easy to think that adventure lies somewhere far away—beyond mountains, across oceans—but sometimes the most extraordinary places are the ones just around the corner. We pass by them every day, unaware of the quiet magic they hold. Whether it's a hidden bay, a forgotten trail, or an overgrown path behind a familiar fence, these places are waiting to be noticed. There's wonder woven into the fabric of our own neighbourhoods, if we only take the time to look. I'll be attempting to share more of these quiet discoveries as the months go on, little moments, tucked away, just waiting to be explored.

BLUESKIN  
GARDEN  
CLUB



**The temperatures are lowering, the leaves are changing colour and dropping – all are signs that Autumn is upon us and winter is coming.**

Time to get the garden organised. I have found broccoli, cabbage and cauliflower combo packs planted now are invaluable for harvesting before Christmas. Broad beans should be planted now as well.

Garden club attended the Blueskin On Show Day with a plant stall. It was a lovely day with the weather being kind, and with there being plenty to see and do.

During the summer, several of our garden club members have been successfully rearing and releasing monarch butterflies. I have learnt so much about their different stages and have had great joy in releasing 69 butterflies with 6 to go. These last butterflies will overwinter in a tree somewhere, and will commence a new generation in spring.

If you would like to join us in our interesting activities, please contact me

**Bev Lyon (027 533 2238).**





## Wings of fire continued...

### 5.12pm Pulled oven out to reveal ...

Some older cooker plugs have one screw holding each wire core. When they loosen, over time, they can arc and the arc gets hotter until it melts its surrounding material. In my case, plastic.

In our case the plastic caught fire and, fortunately, between the wooden frame of the house and the flame was a thick board of plaster. Look how close the gas pipe is!

Had it been scrim and the flame got inside the wall ... no house!

I believe the previous similar case on the bay took the house completely out.

The message ... check your plugs and do not leave any appliances on while you are out.

**Sue and Steve Bourne**

## May Interesting Dates

Saturday 3	World Naked Gardening Day
Sunday 4	World Laughter Day International Firefighters' Day
Monday 5	International Day of the Midwife
Tuesday 6-12	New Zealand Sign Language Week
Thursday 8	World Red Cross Day
Saturday 10	World Migratory Bird Day
Monday 12	Mothers Day International Nurses Day
Tuesday 13	International Hummus Day
Thursday 15	International Day of Families
Friday 16	International Day of Light
Saturday 17	Pink Shirt Day
Tuesday 20	International Red Sneakers Day World Bee Day
Wednesday 21	World Day for Cultural Diversity International Tea Day (UN)
Thursday 22	International Being You Day International Day for Biological Diversity
Friday 23	World Turtle Day
Sunday 25	International Plastic Free Day
Friday 30	World Multiple Sclerosis Day
Saturday 31	World No Tobacco Day World Parrot Day

## East Otago Plunket Round Up



The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti continues to run weekly during school term time 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.

If you would be interested in registering for an informal First Aid Course aimed specifically at parents / caregivers please contact [annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz](mailto:annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz) These courses are only 1.5 hours long and cover the basics such as primary assessment, CPR, choking, burns RSV, meningitis, poisoning and more. The cost is \$15.

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

**Kā mihi nui, Annabel**



## Warrington Indoor Bowls Club

**Warrington Indoor Bowls Club has got off to a great start this season. We have been back at the hall for three nights and our numbers have swelled to 20.**

It is great to have some new members join what was a very small club in numbers. There is still plenty of room for more folk to join us. So if you would like to meet some locals, or just get out of the house one night a week then you are very welcome to join us. Tuesday nights, 7.30pm at the Warrington Hall. A big thank you to Cliff and Denis for the coaching of new players. Any queries to Lyn 022 048 7696 or just come along.

**Lyn**

# WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

An enjoyable meeting at Marc's started with an enthusiastic welcome by Lilly the resident Greyhound. Minus Peter and a late arrival from Wellington by Scott, the usual wide ranging communion ensued. Various topics were discussed including Marc's wonderment and puzzlement at the use of online social media and people's reasons for partaking in this dubious activity, Ross's disappointment and frustration at the DCC removing \$17+M put aside for a new performing arts center from the budget after so much work going into it, putting forward possible venues etc by folk in our community, and of course some interesting stories from Scott on recent goings on in Parliament which, for some reason or other, apparently I'm not free to share here.



## THE BOOK

***The Ruin of all Witches - Life and Death in the New World*** by **Malcom Gaskill**. Of the six members present three finished reading it and three did not for various reasons. It is a researched historical account from the 17th century, "... is a fascinating glimpse into the past, offering a wonderful review of what consumed New England's many towns, whilst the Old World was being turned upside down by civil war" ***Aspects of History*** by **Mark Turbull**. A view three of our members might possibly share, Martin found it dry and unappealing, Scott never got past the first page due to time constraints and it made me frustrated and angry as it seemed to echo the same narrow-minded stupidity and intolerance we find our selves surrounded by presently. I stopped reading it and looked for something a little more uplifting and engaging. Did I find it? well that's another story!

## OTHER BOOKS

**Marc - *The Wall*** by **Marlen Haushofer**, an Austrian author 1963. It tells the story of a woman in a holiday house in the mountains, who one day discovers herself isolated from the rest of the world by an invisible wall. Various described as a dystopian novel, 'a feminist vision of escape' (*The Atlantic*) and a critique of consumerism. It is a compelling read. The protagonist speaks in a frank and authentic voice, conveying an enduring sense of unease that is unresolved by the books end. The prose is prosaic in describing the struggle for survival and lyrical in its depiction of nature freed from the strictures of humanity. I highly recommend it.

## FILM

**TINA**, loved it from start to finish! Do yourself a favour and get along to see this. If you don't love this film you need an attitude adjustment in my not so humble opinion, really, not kidding here.

## MUSIC

***The Wind*** by **Warren Zevon** - from the pile, a \$5 bargain box purchase from somewhere. Isn't it great when you rediscover an author or musician you had forgotten about and reignite the flame of passion and enjoyment all over again. This a brilliant Album, great tunes alternating styles and instruments and featuring wonderful backing musicians including Ry Cooder, Don Henley, Dwight Yoakum, Bruce Springsteen, Jim Keltner, David Lindley, Emmy Lou Harris etc. The album is on YouTube - try 'Knocking on Heaven's Door' or my favorite 'Keep Me in Your heart Awhile'.

## WORD OF THE MONTH

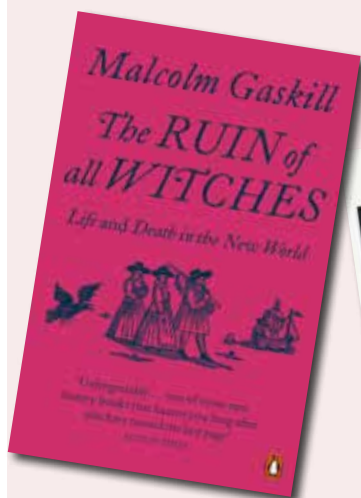
**Asinity**: "Opponents charged each other with diabolic allegiance, and free thinkers were denounced as heretics, which in Massachusetts was a crime akin to idolatry and witchcraft." Sound familiar?

**Malcom Gaskill: *The Ruin of All Witches*.**

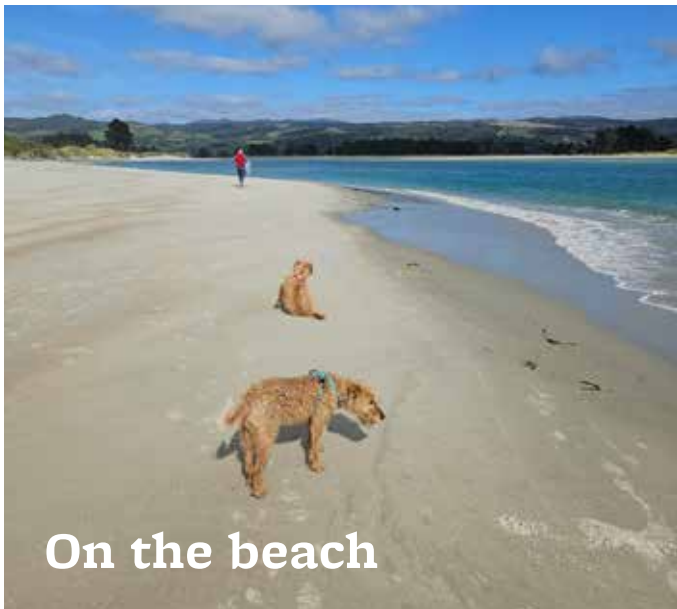
## MEANING OF LIFE

"I was walking pretty well then I fell into a hole  
I should climb out quick but I hate doing what I'm told  
I don't want your pity or your fifty dollar words  
I don't share your need to discuss the absurd."

From ***Rub me Raw*** by **Warren Zevon**.







## On the beach

**Our beaches – waves rolling in on pale sand, figures in black neoprene running with their surfboards tucked under their arms, people walking dogs, joggers, boats navigating the bar on their way out fishing, kayakers, people fishing from shore or catching crabs with chicken bait, someone doing what looks like the twist in the waves as they search out tuatuas with their bare feet, rock climbers, groups of older people with back packs and walking poles going on adventures somewhere, swimmers, cyclists, yoga people, horse riders, children building sandcastles...**

Then there are the seals, sea lions, seagulls, terns, and shags drying their wings, ducks, and shoals of mullet...

Most of this activity occurs only on sunny days with little wind, when the sea sparkles and the sky is that ridiculous blue that no one would ever choose on purpose as a natural sky colour.

In winter, when the beaches are whipped by freezing southerly winds, and the sand blows in your eyes, threatening to strip off an outer layer of skin (microdermabrasion), it is only the hardiest of people and their dogs who head out on the beaches to blast out some cobwebs.

On Doctors Point beach we have made many friends over time, and our dogs have many friends too whom they can't wait to meet up with and have a bum sniff and a hoon around.

The beaches are like a Victorian promenade without the parasols and frock coats. We get to recognize people from a km away by their walks or the colour and shape of their dog.

Alex and I were staying in Christchurch without our dogs, and going walking every day in a pine forest, we kept greeting dog walkers, who snubbed us rudely, until I realized it was because we didn't have our dogs with us as convenient conversation starters. We were just weird, overly forward strangers. This would never happen on Doctors Point or Warrington beaches.

You can chat to pretty much anyone on the beach; it is such a great way to meet new people. The fair weather people are not so sociable, but those who venture out in a blistering southerly, wrapped in puffer jackets, hats and scarves will surely be the very best people to get to know.

**Hilary Rowley**



## Kia ora Blueskin Playcentre,

We've had a lovely term at Playcentre with a high attendance rate, which has been wonderful. ERO visited us and were very positive about our friendly, inviting and organised Playcentre; it was great to know that we're doing so well. Thank you Kimberleigh for all your hard work and to all the parents who make the Playcentre dream happen. An extra big thank you to Hanka who has been beavering away painting, cleaning and organising, you've made a real difference to the Playcentre.



We also had an extra Playcentre session at the end of term for a lovely potluck, which was very delectable. I'm particularly thankful that Marcus had been spearfishing because the butterfish was delicious.

Next term we have a theme of celebrating all the different cultures that playcentre whānau have and we'll have a couple of trips to support this.

Do keep an eye on our Facebook page for more information.

We're open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays during school term from 9-12. We look forward to welcoming you then!

**Heather**





# BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY



28 HARVEY STREET, WAITATI | 03 482 2444 | [DUNEDINLIBRARIES.GOV.T.NZ](http://DUNEDINLIBRARIES.GOV.T.NZ)  
OPEN: MONDAY – FRIDAY, 11AM – 1PM AND 2 – 5.30PM | SATURDAY, 10AM – 1PM

**COM2TECH**  
Connecting Communities Sustainably

## FREE Community Digital Dropins

ADVICE AND LEARNING SUPPORT AROUND PURCHASING, MAINTAINING AND USING YOUR DIGITAL DEVICES EFFECTIVELY AND SECURELY FOR YOUR LIFESTYLE AND CAPABILITIES.  
CELLPHONES - IPADS - TABLETS - LAPTOPS - PC'S

**Mondays 10am-12pm**  
Valley Project, 262 North Road, NEV

**Thursdays 10am-12pm**  
South Dunedin Community Network Hub  
278a King Edward Street, South Dunedin

**Wednesdays 10am-12pm**  
Central Library, 1st floor computer suite room, Moray Place

**Wednesdays 11-12.30pm**  
Blueskin Bay Library, 28 Harvey Street, Waitati

**Fridays 3.30-5.30pm**  
Mosgiel Library, 7 Hartstonge Avenue, Mosgiel

Also Supported by:



Contact for details: Amy Souquet  
Phone. 0272569182  
Email. [office@com2.tech](mailto:office@com2.tech)  
Website. [www.com2.tech](http://www.com2.tech)

## 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.

## HELL READING CHALLENGE

The Hell Reading Challenge is back for 2025. Read 7 books and get a FREE 333 kids pizza. Pop into the Blueskin Bay library and pick up a pizza wheel and get reading your seven books.

For more details check out:

[www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/the-hell-reading-challenge](http://www.nzbookawards.nz/new-zealand-book-awards-for-children-and-young-adults/the-hell-reading-challenge)

## CHRIS SLABBERT DISPLAY



There is a new collection on display from local potter Chris Slabbert who works from his home on Doctors Point Road, Waitati.

We have two display cabinets available so if you have taonga you would like to display pop into the library and have a chat to the library staff.

## STORYTIME WITH STEPHANEY

Fridays, 11am (except school holidays)

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

## BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE

Thursday 22 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.

## DCC SERVICE CENTRE @ BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

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



## What Makes Me Sad

We regularly visit cemeteries to tend to graves and pay our respects to friends, family and acquaintances who lie there or at least have memorial plaques or stones there. As we get older I become more aware of my

mortality, we see more folk we know pass on, some of them of an age or even younger than myself. This is sobering and reminds us all to live in the moment and appreciate what we have, and those around us we hold dear.

On this note I would like to pay my respects to a good friend Peter Matheson who recently passed away. Peter and his life partner Heinke lived in Waitati for a good many years. Peter's epitaph could well read "a scholar and a gentleman" as he was the epitome of both of those things, but of course much more as well. With a perpetual twinkle in his eye, a sharp wit, and ever present wicked sense of humour, Scottish brogue, passionate sense of right and wrong and fairplay, ever the defender of the underdog and advocate for the oppressed, and wide repertoire of stories, he was always wonderful company. The following is an excerpt from an article he wrote for the Blueskin News a few moons ago.

'Blueskin Bay - walking Catriona's dog, twice each day, has sharpened my sense of what it means to live on this estuary. To the normal rhythms of night and day, rain and sun, wind and calm, comes the deep breathing, in and out, the long snaking curl of the ebbing tide, the rippling, fan-like surge of the waters as they push in. The rituals of the bird's: ducks, shags, herons, oystercatchers, yesterday a priestly spoonbill, as they gather and scatter, swoop and solemnly wait, line up for tea. Every day the clock changing, the mud-flats gleaming at different times, great roots and trunks of trees surfacing.'

The lee-lang day had tired me;  
And when the day had clos'd his e'e,  
Far i' the west,  
Ben i' the spence, right pensivelie,  
I gaed to rest.

from 'The Vision' by Robbie Burns

Bheir sinn an cuhnic dhòmhsa - We will remember him  
Tioraidh an-dràsta Peter - goodbye for now Peter

Ian Melvin

## Here I Belong

*On this soft-shining radiant day  
Grey-silver seas beneath a massive sky,  
Light elbowing out the gloom.  
A flirting sun caresses distant hills  
And teases awkward trees.  
Precisely fashioned drops of rain  
Are measured one by one  
On tarmac road.*

*I walk - it's second-nature now -  
The rim of land and sea;  
Left to my hand the quietude of waves.  
A curious seal ups periscope  
Then dives again;  
Click-clacking starlings sigh,  
Acknowledging the crunching surge  
Of Aramoana's surf.*

*Here I belong;  
I swim this land  
And walk this sea,  
I breathe these hills  
As they breathe me;  
My weightless feet  
Touch covenanted soil,  
On this soft-shining, radiant autumn day.*

Peter Clarkson Matheson



## Fun With Firewood

**It was great to see the excited winner of the firewood raffle at the Waitati show. Nice one Lynley. Enjoy. And it made me wonder, was the firewood winner at the Flying Fox fair equally as excited? And the winners of the other trailer loads which plethorate our community event agendas, how excited were they? I'd hazard a guess, very. And it got me thinking about firewood. It's firewood season after all.**

Most people have to buy-in their fire wood, an expensive endeavour which is fraught with disappointment, but it is their only option. Others, like myself, live somewhere with an accessible supply. Lucky you, I hear you say. But I've done the math, and it turns out, from tree to log burner, my firewood is no less a precious commodity. To supply 3 households, I maintain chainsaws, log-splitter, chipper, vehicle and trailer. I easily spend 120 hours a year on firewood. Felling, ringing, splitting, stacking, drying, rotating. And in 12 months or so, finally burning. Phew.

Lucky for me, the firewood journey excites me just as those raffle winners are excited. From the tree until it radiates wondrous heat from my log burner, firewood is a 'work for reward' process. Hot, hard work done in the warm seasons to ensure warmth in the cold ones. It's similar to growing your own fruit and vegetables, which requires planting, watering, weeding, harvesting and preserving, before finally eating. Both pursuits are extremely rewarding, and self gratifying.

So, as the day's get shorter and the nights get colder, I and many other people in Blueskin Bay, will be lighting the fire, to bask in a warmth that no heat pump will ever replicate.

Doug Nuttall



# Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

## Waikouaiti Tardis



Robert Lawson

**Yes, you read that right! You have probably walked/driven past it countless times without even giving it a second glance, its facade so familiar as to render it almost invisible. It fronts the main road, a verandah, added in the 1920's, gives it a slight Edwardian house appearance. Only fading letters BNZ etched into the front window glass donates what this fantastic gem of a building actually was. A bank! A beautiful, serious building.**

A wonderful piece of architecture designed by the celebrated Scottish born New Zealand architect Robert Lawson in 1868. Robert Lawson's most significant public buildings in the city are Dunedin Municipal Chambers, Otago Boys High School and the Seacliff Lunatic Asylum complex (now demolished). He designed over forty churches with Dunedin's First Church for which he is best remembered, and the extraordinary Larnach Castle. He designed 21 banks of which only a few are still in existence.

This only serves to highlight the Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre's determination to restore our bank back to the original beauty that Robert Lawson created. Of course nothing worth doing is ever easy. Firstly, Heritage New Zealand, whose financial assistance we desperately require, was most reluctant to see any later additions, such as the verandah and side portico, removed. There was something of an impasse. Shirley McKewen brilliantly suggested we ask the community to make the final decision and managed to get Heritage New Zealand to accept the outcome. Thank you Waikouaiti, you agreed with us! The very tatty side portico has gone and so will the verandah in due course.

There is so much to see inside, from the original wooden bank counter and vault to the recreated living quarters of an upper middle class Victorian family. A veritable time machine! For a small fee of \$5 you can be given a guided tour through. Our opening hours are Wednesday, Thursday 1-4pm, Friday, Saturday and Sunday 10am-4pm.

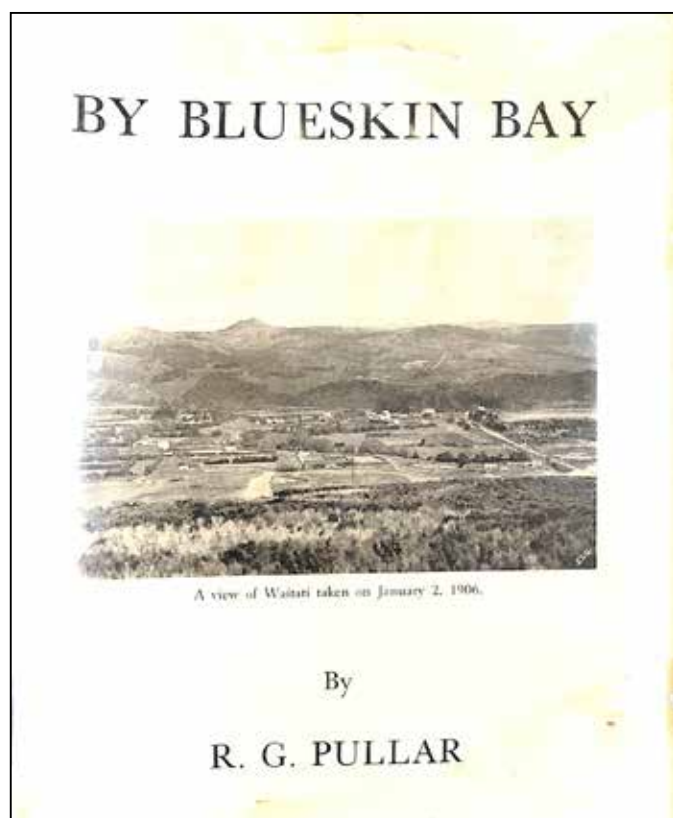
Situated behind the bank building and on Kildare Street is the much more modern Heritage Centre opened in 2021. Come in and browse the gallery. There are resources for research and a well-stocked retail area with works by local artisans, chocolates and speciality teas. Something for everyone's budget.

Heads-up on several very important events coming. Firstly, is an exhibition on Plunket. Karitane and Doctor Truby King is home of the Plunket movement, and this exhibition promises to be a fascinating and comprehensive experience. The Heritage Centre will run the exhibition for 12 months, beginning toward the end of June. Secondly, please put in your diary the Sunday of Labour weekend for our famous plant sale. With hundreds of plants at great prices, it is not to be missed!

Bev Medlin

## A History worth reading

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### EPILOGUE

In the foregoing chapters is the plain unvarnished story of the pioneers of the Waitati district—a record of men and women caught up in one of those extraordinary events in human history, the migration of a people to a new and almost unoccupied country thousands of miles away from the land of their birth.

It is a story that can never be repeated because their adventure took them to the last of the unoccupied areas of the world, many parts of which scarcely had been trodden by the foot of man.

To the new settlers the country seemed to be a real land of promise. The mild climate, the ample food supply, the freedom from restrictions imposed by authority in the land they had just left, all contributed to a sense of well-being and perhaps added a feeling of greater dignity in their new way of life.

But when men and women leave a country where their forebears have lived for hundreds of years they leave behind some thing that cannot be fully replaced during their lifetime in the new land.

The warm companionship of village life, the closely settled farmlands, the amenities of the cities and the symbols of their religious life in the form of great Cathedrals and old established churches were all lacking in their new environment.

It was this break with the past that became the real hardship suffered by the pioneers. Particularly was it so in the case of the womenfolk. The struggle to establish themselves in the new land was something of an adventure for the men; but few women thrive under primitive and lonely conditions and in their heart of hearts many at times must have wished they were back again in their homeland.

One of Waitati's pioneer women, homesick for a sight of her native land possibly spoke for others besides herself when she exclaimed:

"If I could only go by land I would go back to Scotland tomorrow, even if I had to walk every step of the way. But it is the sea. No. I could never face the sea again."

**Kia Ora Waitati Whānau, I hope you enjoyed the Easter celebration. We are looking forward to Term Two and all the amazing opportunities it will bring us at Waitati School. We are making progress on replacing the flying fox, edging ever so close to installation day. If you want to help, we are after a lot of bark to put in our fall area under the Fox.**

I am sure you have heard of the new refreshed New Zealand Curriculum, Te Mātaiaho? We had a successful Teacher Only Day at the end of Term 1, meeting together with Karitane school, Palmerston School, Pūrākanui School and Waikouaiti School for Day 1 of the MOE Math training. We like the new curriculum and find that it is clear about what to teach and when. This term, Waitati School is beginning to plan from this curriculum and using our new resources, Numicon. We are excited about this.

We have two years to implement both new curricula, English and Math, and we will need every minute of that time. If you want a comparison, it's like getting a new car manual with updates, with the information set out differently. Some of the car maintenance checks have been brought forward, and it feels like a logjam. There are some new names for car parts and the systems that surround them, and some of the parts are being manufactured differently, split into multiple components. However, on the whole, what you have to do to maintain your car hasn't changed, and there are many things you do recognise. You just need time to learn the new methods, words and spread out the maintenance, and time isn't something you have.

Our Play and Projects Deep Learning Theme this year is Manaaki Papatuanuku (Enviro-Schools). "I care for myself and my Environment." Our learning competencies include caring for myself and my environment, understanding my role as a kaitiaki (guardian), and developing citizenship, fostering a genuine interest in human and environmental sustainability. We will use Fridays to explore this in-depth and participate in several learning experiences, including a picnic and walk around the Estuary to view our Creation artwork, a visit from the Life Education Bus, and The Woolshed. Curriculum Subjects covered are Science, PE & Health, technology and of course, Math and English. It will be interesting to see what science projects the students investigate.

On Friday, 16 May, we will be celebrating Pink Shirt Day with the rest of New Zealand. We will learn what bullying is and what it isn't, as well as how to be upstanders and know what to do if we ever feel bullied, whether in person or online. We are linking to our school value of Turangawaewae, belonging and feeling happy with yourself and who you are.

Thank you for your continued interest in Waitati School, and in particular, for your support at the A&P show. Thank you also to the Blueskin Bay Garden Club, which provided us with funding to support our landscaping efforts.

**Tara O'Neill, Principal**



## Waikouaiti Coast Community Board

**At our 9<sup>th</sup> April meeting in Karitane Hall, the topic of the half-basketball court for Warrington was discussed in detail. Members of the local community gave their views, both for and against the project. After due consideration, the Board unanimously agreed to ask the DCC Parks & Recreation Department to proceed with the construction.**

This is the season of 'Plans'. By the time you read this, we will have submitted to the DCC 9-year Long Term Plan and 'Local Water Done Well', the new name for '3 Waters'.

We will also be submitting on the Otago Regional Council Regional Public Transport Plan 2025-2035. We would also encourage you to submit to this plan, particularly if you are concerned about the level of public bus services in our north coast area. Warrington residents may have a view on the fact that your area is not currently rated for the provision of public bus services. We have managed to improve bus services during school terms for schoolchildren, but you may wish to see this service expanded. Consultation closes on 2 May.

We still have money in our Discretionary Account, and we have one more meeting in this financial year. 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. Our next formal meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 June at Warrington Hall starting at 5.30 pm. If you wish to come along and speak at the Public Forum, please contact Rebecca Murray on 477 4000 or send an email to [Rebecca.Murray@dcc.govt.nz](mailto:Rebecca.Murray@dcc.govt.nz)

**Alasdair Morrison,**  
**Chairman, Waikouaiti Coast Community Board**  
0274 354 384 : [info@calmarine.co.nz](mailto:info@calmarine.co.nz)





# Pūrākaunui School

## Pūrākaunui School is a Wee Gem

After spending a term getting to know the wonderful families of Pūrākaunui School, I can honestly say this wee school is a diamond in the rough. Each day begins with tamariki coming together for a mihi, karakia, and waiata — setting a positive, grounded tone for the day ahead.

Routines are well-established, from our youngest five-year-olds to our rangatahi. Shoes are placed neatly on the rack, lunchboxes go on the shelf, and spelling or reading bags are popped in the basket. These rhythms create a calm and focused learning environment.

The school is strongly supported by its community and whānau in countless ways — from gardening and cooking to outdoor education and fundraising. Though small in size, this kura is strong in spirit. I feel genuinely grateful to be a part of it.

### Book Review Esio Trot by Roald Dahl

**Gabe:** "It was kind of good because I enjoyed that he was swapping the tortoises. It was a little bit funny. My favourite character was Alfie the tortoise."



Alfie the tortoise by **Dana** (5 years old)

### Open Water Swimming Lessons

We make do! When slips closed the road to Port Chalmers, we adapted — shifting our swimming lessons to beautiful Long Beach. It turned out to be a real gift. Tamariki grew in confidence in the water and loved being outdoors together. It was great for everyone's well being.

Once again, our school community rallied around and made it happen. Kā mihi nui!



### Keeping It Simple: A Sleepover Under the Stars

Pūrākaunui School recently hosted a sleepover right here on school grounds. Tents and swags were pitched, whānau stayed to lend a hand, and the evening featured a screening of *Smurfs: The Lost Village*.

One of the highlights was watching the tamariki show grit and determination as they worked together for hours to safely light a small fire using a flint — a beautiful moment of shared perseverance and problem-solving.



### Tuakana-Teina is the Pūrākaunui Way

At Pūrākaunui School, we see the Māori concept of tuakana-teina in action every day. This relationship-based approach to learning sees an older or more experienced student (tuakana) guiding and supporting a younger or less experienced one (teina). It's a two-way street — both tuakana and teina have something to teach and something to learn.

As the whakataukī says:

"Mā te tuakana ka tōtika te teina, mā te teina ka tōtika te tuakana."

"From the older sibling the younger one learns how to do it; from the younger sibling the older one learns how to be tolerant."

We saw beautiful examples of this during our school sleepover and witness it daily in the classroom. This model — grounded in Māori values — is more than a buddy system. It's a dynamic, inclusive pedagogy that supports learning, wellbeing, and strong community relationships. Its strength lies in reciprocity, aroha, and respect.

### Thank You

To all our amazing volunteers, student teachers, staff, and parents — thank you. Your continued support of this little kura is what makes it such a special place. Your dedication to our tamariki is truly appreciated. We all get a good deal here!

Ngā mihi maioha,

**Mikaela Wilson Principal**

# Around the Bay – May Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
<b>MAY</b>	<b>Hell Reading Challenge</b> Read seven books and get a free 333 kids pizza. Come into the library and pick up a pizza wheel to get started.
<b>Thursday 22</b>	<b>Bookshare:</b> 3.30-4.30pm, join us for tea and a chat about what you're reading and get ideas for what to read next. All welcome.
<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>Blueskin Bay Knitwits:</b> 6.30 – 8.30pm Contact Christine 021 133 9340
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Blueskin Bay Knitwits:</b> 2.30 – 4.30pm Contact Christine 021 133 9340
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>FREE Community Digital Dropins:</b> 11am – 12.30pm
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	<b>Story Time with Stephaney:</b> 11am

WAIPUTAI HUB	
<b>Saturday May 10</b>	<b>Making Buttons, toggles, and tags with Modeling Clay</b>   1 – 4pm  With Maria Mckay Dowden, koha, limited spaces. Email <a href="mailto:waiputai@gmail.com">waiputai@gmail.com</a> or text 021 171 0226 to book.
<b>Wednesday May 15</b>	<b>Digital Learning Clinic</b>   2 – 6pm  Book a spot with Christine, koha, limited spaces. Email <a href="mailto:waiputai@gmail.com">waiputai@gmail.com</a> , or text 021 171 0226, to book a one to one session.
<b>Saturday May 31</b>	<b>String making workshop with plant material</b>   1 – 3pm  With Julie and Barbara from Coastal Otago Willows and Weavers, koha, limited spaces. All materials provided. Email <a href="mailto:waiputai@gmail.com">waiputai@gmail.com</a> , or text 021 171 0226 to book.
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Homeschool Art Group:</b> 12.30 – 3.30pm, Contact: Amy  <b>Ping Pong:</b> 7 – 8.30pm. All ages, levels and drop ins. Contact: Helena 022 6474 738
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>Internet Cuppa &amp; Printing:</b> 2 – 5pm Access to internet computer (no-gaming), and printer (A4 black/white (20 cents/page) & A4 colour (\$1/page). <b>Note:</b> Bookings essential and must be made by Tuesday. Book a space by texting 021 171 0226 or emailing <a href="mailto:waiputai@gmail.com">waiputai@gmail.com</a>
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Homeschool Group:</b> 10.30 – 3.30pm, Contact: Debby
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal</b> 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily

ST BARNABAS CHURCH	
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>Service:</b> 10.00am Contact Jeremy 027 436 1481

WAITATI VILLAGE	
<b>Sunday 4</b>	<b>Village Market:</b> 11am Contact: Mandy

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
<b>Wednesday 7</b>	<b>Quiz</b>   7 – 9pm
<b>Wednesday 28</b>	<b>Live Music with Paper Moon</b> Playing classics music from 1930's, 40's and 50's – and maybe even 60's.

ARC BREWERY	
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>Live Music:</b> 2 – 5pm Contact 021 4108 1141

WARRINGTON HALL	
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>Indoor Bowls:</b> 7.30pm
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>Yoga – All levels:</b> 6.30 – 7.30pm Bring your own mat   \$10pp Contact: <a href="mailto:hagino.yoga@gmail.com">hagino.yoga@gmail.com</a>
<b>FRIDAYS</b>	<b>Community Acupuncture:</b> 9am – 12pm Contact Collin Blake <a href="mailto:cblake@siacu.nz">cblake@siacu.nz</a>
<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>Waitati Warblers:</b> Singing for joy 4 – 5.30pm Contact: <a href="mailto:nancymiller140@gmail.com">nancymiller140@gmail.com</a>

WAITATI HALL	
<b>MONDAYS</b>	<b>Steady As You Go:</b> 1.30pm Age Concern  <b>Gentle Yoga:</b> 6 – 7pm Bring your own mat   \$10pp Contact: <a href="mailto:hagino.yoga@gmail.com">hagino.yoga@gmail.com</a>  <b>Table Tennis:</b> 7.30pm til late Contact: Nigel 021 236 2818  <b>Community Acupuncture:</b> 9am – 12pm Contact Collin Blake <a href="mailto:cblake@siacu.nz">cblake@siacu.nz</a>
<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>NIA Dance Class:</b> 11.30am-12.30pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350  <b>Yuan Qigong:</b> 5.30-6.30pm Movement and Meditation for Deep Relaxation Single class \$15 or \$120 for 10 sessions. Contact: Jay <a href="mailto:bodymindqi@gmail.com">bodymindqi@gmail.com</a>
<b>WEDNESDAYS</b>	<b>Energetic Yoga Restore &amp; Rejuvenate</b> 6 – 7pm   Bring your own mat   \$10pp Contact: <a href="mailto:hagino.yoga@gmail.com">hagino.yoga@gmail.com</a>
<b>THURSDAYS</b>	<b>SHINE BRIGHT – Pilates for Back and Posture:</b> 11am – 12 noon. Casual \$18, concession 10 sessions \$130 Contact: Sabine 021 207 0664
<b>SATURDAYS</b>	<b>NIA Dance Class:</b> 4 – 5pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
<b>Monday 5</b>	<b>Blue Bin:</b> Bottle/Glass Recycling <b>Red Bin:</b> Rubbish <b>Green Bin:</b> Food Scraps/Garden Waste
<b>Monday 12</b>	<b>Yellow Bin:</b> Mixed Recycling <b>Green Bin:</b> Food Scraps/Garden Waste
<b>Monday 19</b>	<b>Blue Bin:</b> Bottle/Glass Recycling <b>Red Bin:</b> Rubbish <b>Green Bin:</b> Food Scraps/Garden Waste
<b>Monday 26</b>	<b>Yellow Bin:</b> Mixed Recycling <b>Green Bin:</b> Food Scraps/Garden Waste



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# CLASSIFIEDS

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Open Mon, Tues, Wed from 9 -12 during term time. Come and visit us! We are located at Waitati Primary School.

## EAST OTAGO PLAYGROUP

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

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Tutor: Maria Mackay  
Waiputai Hub  
10 Stephenson St.  
Warrington

May 10, Saturday, 1-4 pm, Limited spaces, Koha

For further info and to book a spot, text 0211710226, or email [Waiputai@gmail.com](mailto:Waiputai@gmail.com)

## 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](mailto:waiputai@gmail.com)

## LILLIPUT LIBRARIES

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

## YUAN QIGONG

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## WAIKOUAITI COAST HERITAGE CENTRE

Come and visit. 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.



**String Making with Plants Workshop**  
Waiputai Hub  
10 Stephenson St.  
Warrington

Saturday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1-3p.m.

Using a range of material foraged from gardens and roadsides. All materials provided. Koha appreciated  
Tutors: Barbara and Julie from Coastal Otago Willows and Weavers

Limited spaces: To book a spot and for further info email [Waiputai@gmail.com](mailto:Waiputai@gmail.com), or text 021-171-0226



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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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## CONTACT US

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**Kaspersky is \$79**  
as of Nov 2024  
Premium antivirus version

Microsoft have advised w10 is ending support mid 2025 & to run with 11 your pc needs to be no older than 4yrs to comply!





## Anzac Biscuits

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 cup of flour
- 1 cup coconut
- 3/4 cup of sugar
- 150g butter
- 4 tablespoons golden syrup
- 1 teaspoon baking soda



Preheat oven to 180°C and line a couple of baking trays with baking parchment.

In a large bowl mix the oats, flour coconut and sugar together.

In a small saucepan melt together the butter and golden syrup when fully melted add baking soda.

Mix wet ingredients into dry ingredients. It's kind of crumbly but scrunches together. Press into balls and flatten. If they're thick then the biscuits will be chewy in the middle and thin biscuits will be crispy.

Cook for at least 12 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

Enjoy.

