

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

NOVEMBER 2025

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

Local Elves! Green Hut Track Group



Rongomai steps



Diversion on Careys Creek track



Church track before clearing



Rongomai crossing



Drainage on Church track



Church track after clearing

The Green Hut Track Group is a local group of volunteers who look after the tracks in the Blueskin area. The team comprises Pete Smith, Mike Fitzgerald, Mike Bardwell and Danny Hailes as well as Kelvin Lyon who does mowing around the Warrington tracks.

They have been very busy lately recently creating a diversion on Careys Creek track around a very muddy patch of ground near the eucalyptus trees. Further up the Careys track at the Rongomai Junction they've created a stone river crossing and tidied up around 110 steps along the steep track. Just recently they tidied the Church track from Coast Road down to Watson Street in Warrington.

ANNUAL BREWERS CUP

Sunday 26 October 2pm

We tasted 27 dozen beers over the day.

Cider Cup won by Jeremy Baker

Damson Gin won the Spirits & Liqueurs Holy Grail for Hilary Rowley.

Harriet Love won the Jan Breward Cup – Specialist Category with her Coffee Stout.

Second – Hagino Baker's Raspberry Porter.

Brewers Choice was Daniel Jepson's Blackberry Stout.

First equal in the Gary Pearson Cup were:

Chris McLay and his Pale Ale and Chris Linsell and his Hazy NEPA.

Second – Jeremy Baker's Wild Berry Sour.

Another fantastic party in a paddock thanks to hosts Sue Stephenson and Chris Linsell



From the Editor

Hasn't the weather been all over the place, highs of 24°, gales, heavy rain, hail, thunder and lightning, snow even... and through it all the grass keeps growing! But with all this climate uncertainty one thing is sure – Christmas is drawing inexorably closer.

I've added my mother's recipe for Christmas Pudding to this month's BSN as it needs to be made before December to give it a little time to mature. Next month is the last issue for the year and will be our usual bumper offering with extra pages and extra colour. So please look out your best photographic and written memories of the last year to share with us all. I'd love to include poems, jokes, paintings, your Christmas traditions and recipes. The best painting or picture will appear on the front cover next month. Entries need to be in by the 15 November, send to blueskin.input@gmail.com, there is no age limit!

Meanwhile, I spent an hour on Whatsapp with my son the other night discussing presents for his two godchildren and his son. He had decided to buy them all classic children's books, what a great idea. Winnie the Pooh, Aesop's Fables, Just So Stories all the ones he had (and still has) as a child. The ones I had as a child. My favourites were Hilaire Belloc's Nonsense Rhymes which my mother knew off by heart and narrated with great drama, I can still hear her voice. Kid's don't appear to read very much any more, phones and tv are much more immediate and exciting, but instill a love of reading and stories early and it will stay with them for life. The following is one of my favourites by Hilaire Belloc:

The Dodo used to walk around,
And take the sun and air.
The sun yet warms his native ground –
The Dodo is not there!
The voice which used to squawk and squeak
Is now forever dumb –
Yet may you see his bones and beak
All in the Mu-se-um.

Keep warm, 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.



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

They've got the power

Since our power bills have become email and are automatically paid, I have not been paying much attention to them but, I did notice we had one which was over \$200 in winter and was shocked out of my complacency.

We have loads of solar panels, a 12 kwh battery, solar hot water, a fully insulated and double glazed house. We should have nearly negative power bills. We do charge an electric car and have pumps for our water and septic tank, but still, it should be cheaper.

So I rearranged things a bit, by setting the battery to save more power, so we were not using it up during the power company's off peak night time rates, and charging the car and doing the washing off the cheap grid power. I thought I had nailed it but a recent sunny spring power bill for \$101 had me grabbing the calculator and taking a closer look.

Only \$28 (including gst) of that bill was our actual usage, the rest of the bill was supply charges.

Of course we need supply charges, those lines and poles are old, and need maintenance and repair, but for the supply to cost 3 times the usage means there is no way to actually reduce our electricity bills. Even if we only used \$1 worth of power we'd still have a significant supply charge to pay.

When the power companies give out "hints" to help us save power I laugh. Is there anyone who hasn't been turning lights off when they leave the room, and doing their washing in cold water? It's not helping guys; those bills won't come down much even if we never turned on a light bulb and washed our clothes in a copper.

So how do we bring down our power supply costs?

Network Charges (OtagoNet)			\$6.28
Shoulder usage	31.41 kWh	0.1925 \$ per kWh	\$6.04
Off Peak Usage	43.34 kWh	0.227 \$ per kWh	\$9.84
OTF - Daily charges	108.42 kWh	0.0272 \$ per kWh	\$2.95
Total Network Charges			\$18.83
Energy Charges			\$0.67
Peak usage	43.34 kWh	0.0160 \$ per kWh	\$0.70
Off Peak Usage	108.42 kWh	0.0195 \$ per kWh	\$2.06
Shoulder usage	31.41 kWh	0.0272 \$ per kWh	\$0.86
Export	147.42 kWh	(0.1374) \$ per kWh	(\$20.25)
Total Energy Charges			\$1.31
Other Charges			\$0.49
ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY Levy	244.20 kWh	0.002 \$ per kWh	\$0.49
Metering daily charges	30 days @	0.55 \$ per day	\$16.50
Admin & climate positive certification	30 days @	0.3 \$ per day	\$9.00
Total Other Charges			\$25.99
Total Charges			\$46.19

Analysis: Analysis Period: 01 Sep 2025 to 30 Sep 2025 (the last actual reads we have for your premises)

AVERAGE WEEKDAY BREAKDOWN

PowerNet, our line provider is one of the most expensive in the country because of its huge coverage area and low population density. Dunedin's Aurora network is significantly cheaper.

The only way around this would be to, as a community, set up our own non-profit network company, lease the local lines and buy power ourselves. A job would be created for a manager, and our supply would be cheaper. This is actually possible.

Another clever thing is, we even had our own power company for a while BEN or Blueskin Energy Network, which ran on an app called P2P (peer to peer). The app told us when the cheap power or expensive power would be available on a given day, and gave us discount rewards for using the cheaper off-peak power. Our excess solar generation was sold cheaply to neighbours without solar panels, who were using power at these times.

I wish we had something like this again, it is the only way we can reduce our electricity costs. You sometimes don't realise how good something is until you don't have it any more. I'd like to be able to look at a power bill without spitting out my coffee.

Hilary Rowley

Join us for a Men's Health Expo – 8 November 2025

POWA and the East Otago Blokes Shed are proud to host a Men's Health Expo, shining a light on the unique health challenges faced by men and boys in our communities, especially rural men, working men, and those who often put their health on the back burner.

This free, family-friendly event is open to everyone and offers a welcoming space to connect with local health services, access important information, and take practical steps toward better physical and mental wellbeing.

With free health checks, informative stalls, and engaging displays, the expo empowers individuals and whānau to make informed choices and encourages early action for healthier lives.

Our Guest Speaker is Melissa Vining (Southern Charity Hospital), passionate health advocate and wife of the late Blair Vining. She will be sharing her story and inspire change.

Featuring stalls from: Prostate Cancer Foundation, MoleMap, Triton Hearing, NevaAlone (medical alarms), Stroke Aotearoa, Hato Hone St John, Diabetes NZ, Southern Cancer Society, WellSouth, Sport Otago, Tai Chi (wellbeing & bike repairs), Te Hā o Maru, KM Fitness and more.

Come along anytime between 10:30am and 1:30pm. Women, bring your men and help us build a healthier future together!

YOU'RE ALL INVITED

MEN'S HEALTH EXPO

SATURDAY - 8TH NOVEMBER 2025 EAST
OTAGO EVENTS CENTRE 10.30AM - 1.30PM

GUEST SPEAKER
12.30PM



Melissa Vining
SOUTHERN CHARITY HOSPITAL

FREE continuous buffet lunch

FREE health and blood pressure checks

Get advice on
gout, skin cancer, diabetes,
hearing, fitness/lifestyle,
mole alert, stroke
awareness, acupuncture
and more

Health is a team effort, bring your friends, family and loved ones
there's something for everyone!

raffles and spot prizes

HOSTED BY:
THE EAST OTAGO BLOKES SHED AND POWA

diabetes new zealand

WellSouth
Prioritising Health Systems
Healthy People & Healthy Places

Cancer Society

TRITON HEARING

Hato Hone St John

BLUE SKIN GARDEN CLUB

In October, garden club members gathered at Kelvin's and my home for the making of Hypertufa pots. It was a lovely hot day, perfect for the outdoor activity.

Kelvin, Lyn and Fiona mixed the cement, sand, peat with water in the concrete mixer, for everybody to use. After completing our pots, we all enjoyed a cuppa and a stroll in the garden.

The tufa pots in the picture were a couple I made here, with the Garden Club in the nineties, and are still being used!

On the 18 October, four members will represent our club at a 'Kindred Day' at Weston near Oamaru. Representatives of most of the garden clubs in Otago will attend.

We will hear several speakers, buy heaps at the plant stalls, and then view some local gardens.

On Saturday, November 15th, we plan to travel to Oamaru again, to view several gardens. We will be hosted by the North Otago Garden club.

If you would like to join us, ring me at 027 533 2238 **Bev Lyon**



Warrington Hall

We recently held our Annual General Meeting and have welcomed a new member - Daya Summers. Our Committee is as follows: Chairperson, Pete Smith, Secretary, Sarah Hailes, Treasurer, Melissa Barnes, Hall Bookings, Rowena and Ron Park. Committee: Lyne Carlyle, Daya Summers, Lesley Smith, Eleanor Riley and Lyn Hastie.

The hall is used regularly which is great but there are plenty of times when it is available for many and varied uses. The hall is well maintained and has a good supply of kitchen equipment for catering purposes. The committee is a small group of locals and many have been at the helm for many, many years.

A big thank you especially to our Treasurer, Melissa who keeps the books in order and has done so for a very long time. Rowena and Ron, you do a great job of the hall bookings and we thank you too. Lyn Hastie was thanked for 16 years of taking the minutes and keeping things ticking along. Thank you to Sarah Hailes who has taken on the role of secretary. Thanks to all the committee for all your time in keeping the Hall in good order and also for maintaining the garden beds. Last but not least a big thank you to Joshua for keeping our hall lawns looking tidy. For further information on using the Hall see the notice in this edition of BSN.

**Lyn Hastie,
Retiring Secretary**



Pūrākaunui School

Our Kura: Kind Heart, Brave Mind

At Pūrākaunui School, we deeply value the connection between our whānau, ākonga, staff, and the land (whenua). We have been reviewing our school values to ensure every person feels connected to this special place.

We are enjoying the discussion and considering concepts of manawanui (resilience) and manākitaka (kindness) as the core values guiding everything we do. We recognize that te reo Māori words are inherently rich in meaning, and their depth often depends on context. As a kura, we are committed to deep diving into the true spirit of manawanui and manākitaka. We are actively exploring the many ways this commitment to caring – for ourselves, for others, for our learning, for the environment, for art, and for our history – can support the holistic growth of every person in our community.

We are dedicated to helping every ākonga embark on their own unique learning journey. This journey isn't just about what they learn, but how they learn – developing the manawanui to face challenges and the manākitaka to support themselves and others along the way. It has been a truly rewarding three terms watching our ākonga make significant social and academic progress – a testament to their hard work and the dedication of our staff.

We are delighted to officially welcome Rachel Barrington to our teaching team for Term 4 and thank Anna Melville for all of her mahi last term! We also want to celebrate our student teacher, Netley, who has shown incredible dedication, taking on the class single-handedly in her stride! We want to thank our caretaker for all of the work on the trees around our kura and cleaning the roof over the holidays. John has so much knowledge and we are grateful for his support.

We look forward to seeing you at the fair to share in the warmth and spirit of our kura!

Kā mihi nui,

Mikaela

You Said What?

Once again, 'We The People', have spoken. Well, some of us. Nationally, only 32% of those eligible bothered. Dunedin was 10% better, but well below the 49% of three years ago. So much for 54 candidates creating renewed engagement. Our Central Government elections hit the high 70% range because they're way easier to navigate; a couple of choices, usually on party lines, tick tick, done and dusted. But local body ... phew! Throw in the ORC, Waikouaiti Coastal Board, and (weirdly for us in Blueskin Bay), The Oamaru Licensing Trust, and is it any wonder that 65% of people hit the off button. So what did we, the 42%'ers, say?

Calm down, I reckon. No great lurch to the right, no great lurch to the left. Eight councillors re-elected. Three of the dis-elected were dross, while Andrew Whitley was soft-right, and Jim O'Malley has paid the price for getting Albany Street over the line. Interestingly, five of the supposedly 'evil 8' who voted with him, were re-elected, despite a concerted campaign to 'remember their names'. As for Albany street; this geographical border between Town and Gown is an abomination at present. Bring on the up-grade I say.

And the Mayoralty race? We dodged a bullet. And that's because, despite Andrew Simm's giving Harvey Norman a run for its money in the ODT, and Lee Vandervis garnering his usual supporters, we have Sophie Barker, Dunedin's second only female Mayor. And with Cherry Lucas as deputy, and the re-election of Mandy Mayhem, Marie Laufiso, and Christine Garey, there's a good Wahine core to influence the incoming six, all men.

Thankfully, one of those men is green-credentialed Mickey Treadwell, who 'pipped-it at the post', to ensure only one Future Dunedin candidate survived. Of the rest; Andrew Simms seems determined, in a 'Montgomery Burns' kinda way. John Chambers brings health sector knowledge at a precient time. Russell Lund brings a 'can do-will do' attitude. Benedict Ong brings financial expertise (apparently). And Doug Hall's probably gonna bring his dad.

As for the ORC; it's lurch to the right is frighteningly predictable, and I predict some frighteningly un-sound environmental decisions are gonna spew from their new offices in Manse Street. And The Oamaru Licensing Trust? My dad worked for them for many years, and when I was 14, I had an after-school job at the bottle store, washing and re-filling flagons (the half gallon jars) with beer. Enough said.

Doug Nuttall

**on the
spot**

Blueskin General Store (Waitati On The Spot)

Store Hours:

Mon – Sat 7.30am – 7pm | Sunday 9am – 6.30pm

Ph 482 2741

WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

Meeting at mine, Scott's back in Wellington sadly and we had a message from Paul on a train in Tokyo. suffering from a cold, but still managing a very brief book revue and a beer recommendation. The five of us in the remaining quorum settled in to our business while the rain began to fall outside. We compared local body voting strategies, and of course discussed a wide range of other topics propitious of the times. As usual these included the book and beer etc.



THE BOOK

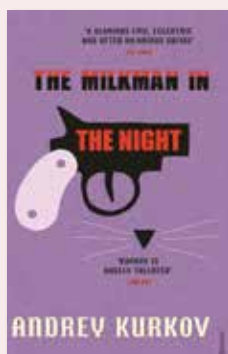
The Midnight Library: Matt Haig
“Nora’s life’s been going from bad to worse. Then at the stroke of midnight on her last day on earth she finds herself transported to a library. There she is given the chance to undo her regrets and try out each of the other lives she may have lived. Which raises the ultimate questions: with infinite choices, what’s the best way to live?” – from the cover blurb.



Mild appreciation was observed from some and others not so much. I highly recommend.

OTHER BOOKS

The Milkman In The Night: Andrey Kurkov “The story explores themes of love, betrayal and absurdity of existence, all against a society grappling with it’s own identity and chaos. The narrative is rich with unexpected twists, and a touch of magical realism, offering a satirical yet poignant reflection on the human condition” – from a revue from ‘The Greatest Books’. Set in the Ukraine after the USSR and before the Russian invasion this book gives an interesting insight into how that society and country was functioning. Highly recommended.



MUSIC

Sorting through the pile of cassettes I find forgotten treasure: **Bluespeak** and **Bluespeak: Late Last Night**. Two recordings from Greg Johnson when he was playing with his Jazz Quartet in Auckland here in Aotearoa. Picking up where Chet Baker left off, piano and organ Tom Ludvigson, trumpet, flugelhorn and vocals Greg Johnson, bass Jason Orme, drums Peter Scott. Laid back cool Jazz, my kind of music. Greg Johnson must be one of our most under-rated talents in my view. Try **Bluespeak Late Last Night** on Spotify



BEER

Paul from Japan – **Rindo** by **Groundtap**, a Saijo Brewery. Very soothing on the throat after a day of talking, be surprised to see it in NZ but Garage Project beers seemed to be everywhere when I was in Taipei recently, so who knows? Brewery description: Hazy IPA bright citrus aroma reminiscent of lemon and mango, flavoured by the dry hop method, body and sweetness well balanced



Ian from the Karitane Store and Kitchen - **Straffe Hendrik Brugs Quadrupel Bier** 11% ABV **Brouwerij De Halve Maan** Belgium. Rich, dark, spiced, complex flavours – highly recommended outside on a nice day with one of their wonderful pizzas.

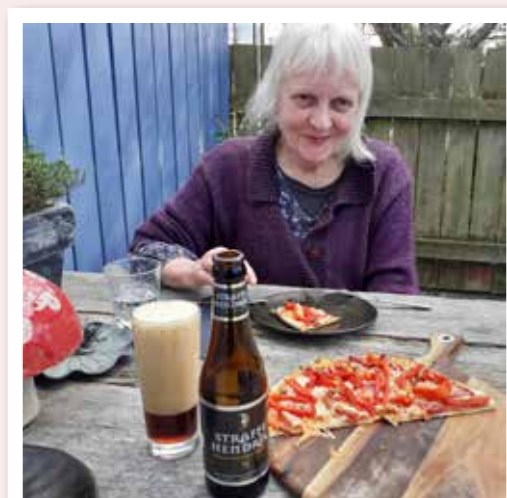
WORD OF THE MONTH

Perspective: “She was first and foremost, a human living on a planet. Almost everything she had done in her life, she realised – almost everything she had bought and worked for and consumed – had taken her further away from understanding that she and all humans were really just one of nine million species...”

MEANING OF LIFE

“Maybe that’s what all lives were, though. Maybe even the most seemingly intense or worthwhile lives ultimately felt the same. Acres of disappointment and monotony and hurts and rivalries but with flashes of wonder and beauty”

Quotes from **The Midnight Library** by **Matt Haig**



BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY



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

COM2TECH 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



Tuesdays 11-12pm
Blueskin Bay Library, 28 Harvey Street, Waitati



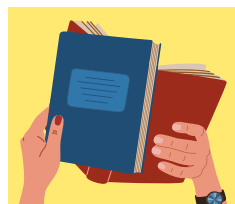
Fridays 3.30-5.30pm
Mosgiel Library, 7 Hartstonge Avenue, Mosgiel

Also
Supported
by:



Contact for details: Amy Souquet
Phone. 0272569182
Email. office@com2.tech
Website. www.com2.tech

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE



**Thursday 27 November,
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.

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.

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.

COMMUNITY CABINETS



Isabel Smith, Kikorangi Willow has an amazing display of her Willow work in one of our glass cabinets. It is well worth a look. Some items are for sale, and she donates 10% of the proceeds to a family in Gaza.

If you have taonga you would like exhibited in one of our two community cabinets which are situated by the seed library, pop by the library and have a chat to the library staff.

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.

CHRISTMAS WORKSHOPS

We are planning to run some Christmas workshops late November, early December. Watch this space. There will be more details soon.

DCC SERVICE CENTRE @ BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

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

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.

The final CPR / Choking (and more!) First Aid course for the year will be held on Thursday 6 November in Waikouaiti. Spaces are limited, contact annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz for more information or to register.

Having difficulty with you pēpi's sleep and settling? You can get a multitude of help from Plunket. Call Plunketline on 0800 933 922 to book a video consultation, contact your local Community Karitāne to book a session with them on 0800 184 803 or check out Plunket's monthly Virtual Bites sessions online that anyone can attend from the comfort of their own home for advice and support, advertised on our national and local Facebook Pages (your local one is Otago Plunket).

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

Kā mihi nui, Annabel



Thursday 6 November 10.00 – 11.30

Delivered by Practical Training Solutions

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

- \$15 per person.
- Aimed at parents & caregivers of infants and children: covers infant and child CPR, choking, poisoning, RSV, meningitis & more.
- Informal session: children welcome.
- No credits or certificates issued
- **Bookings Essential as spaces are limited:** Email annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz or call 027 229 1608

Kōtahi mano ngā tā hāi te oranga mō ngā tipuranga i toa i te hāpori
In the first 1000 days setting the path of wellness for our communities, for generations to come

Kererū!

Delightful as it is to see kererū around the place one can't help but wish that they didn't eat all the fruiting buds on apple pear and plum trees. With this in mind I made a simple deterrent that, in its first week seems to be doing its job extremely well.

The two photos show the design and the finished item, one leg breaking off in construction.

Use a bit of core flute about A3 sized, I painted mine black. I set it up close to the trees allowing for plenty of movement in the wind. Not a single kererū noted in my back garden since I set it up

Chris Hinton | 021 769 782



BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET
Sunday 2 November

Waitati

SCHOOL UPDATE

Welcome to Term 4! It's wonderful to be back for the final term of the year!

We kicked off Term 4 with a Mihi Whakatau to officially welcome four new students to our school whānau. We also extend a warm welcome back to Bea Lee, who will be covering classroom release time this term.

A huge welcome also goes to Alice Morrison, who is helping us out while Bec Des Fountain is away. Bec is in Morocco supporting her daughter and Waitati School alumni, Freya, as she competes in the Under-17 Women's Football World Cup! This is a fantastic achievement for one of our ex-students, and we send our very best wishes to Freya on this incredible journey.



Our fundraising efforts are still going strong! You can find us at the Blueskin Community Market on the first Sunday of every month.

The last two markets were a great success, with our cinnamon scrolls, knick-knacks, and beautiful flower bunches proving to be very popular! Please continue to come along to the markets and support our little school – every purchase makes a difference.

As we look towards the end of this year and plan for 2026, we'd like to extend an invitation to anyone considering a new school environment or who has a four-year-old approaching school age.

At Waitati School, we offer a truly stunning environment filled with laughter, smiles, and a team of dedicated teachers who share a passion for learning.

Please don't hesitate to reach out for a visit—we'd love to show you around!

Kā mihi nui

Bex Williams, Acting Principal



Food Resilience

Do you want to learn how to grow vegetables and preserve fruit and produce?

I have read in the ODT that Watties are going to stop processing locally grown produce, it is cheaper to import it! What about this country's food resilience and the fuel costs etc just transporting all the food. Maybe it is better to plant pine trees.

Who wants fruit grown overseas when we have beautiful, fruit and produce produced locally?

I have gardened here at Blueskin Bay for over 50 years and grow most of our vegetables. I also preserve/bottle/dry excess produce and buy fruit at the Farmers Market.

If anyone local would like to learn how to grow some of your own food, bottle fruit, make pickles, freeze produce, dry it. Please get in touch and I will try to arrange some sessions to teach the basics.

Anyone interested in helping – please also reply.

Glenys Clements

Email p.g.clements@xtra.co.nz or text or message: 027 273 8749





Waikouaiti Coast Community Board

So there I was – Monday of Labour Weekend, just after lunch, heading for the airport (for a job up north) – and it was snowing heavily at the top of the motorway. This was just a few days after the carnage in many parts of the country brought on by the unusually high winds. Both of these occurrences serve to remind us that, although we live in a beautiful country, mother nature can throw severe weather events at us, often with very little notice. And we should ask ourselves once more “Are we prepared?”

Over the next few months our incoming board will be focusing on ‘Community Resilience’ and ‘Emergency Preparedness’ and you can expect to see some commentary on this on social media and in local publications.

The recent Local Body Election gave us two new board members. Four existing members who stood for re-election were successful – Andy Barratt, Sonya Billyard, Geraldine Tait and myself. We have been joined by Anna Knight from Warrington and Danny Hailes from Evansdale. Our inaugural meeting on 4th November will be a rather formal affair, which includes the swearing-in process. No actual ‘business’ is conducted at such meetings.

Our first formal meeting will likely be in December at a date to be advised. One item on the agenda will be Funding Applications. If you, or someone you know, has a community project that could do with some funding assistance then you can complete a funding application form which can be found on the DCC website.

Alasdair Morrison,
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board
info@calmarine.co.nz

Ma’s Christmas Pudding

Sunday 23 November is stir-up Sunday. Get your ingredients together now and get ready to make a wish!

110g shredded suet (it’s called Atora in deli section of New World)
25g whole candied peel, finely chopped
25g whole almonds chopped (skin on is ok)
1 small apple cored and finely chopped (no need to peel)
grated zest ½ large orange
grated zest ½ large lemon
2 tablespoons rum or brandy or whisky
75ml barley wine (you can get this from Meenans/Liquorland)
75ml stout
2 large eggs
50g self-raising flour, sifted
110g white breadcrumbs
1 level teaspoon ground mixed spice
¼ level teaspoon nutmeg
good pinch ground cinnamon
225g soft dark brown sugar
110g sultanas
110g raisins
275g currants

Begin the day before you want to steam the pudding.

Take a large mixing bowl and start by putting in the suet and breadcrumbs, spices and sugar. Mix these ingredients very thoroughly together, then gradually mix in all the dried fruit, peel and nuts followed by the apple and the grated orange and lemon zests. Tick everything off as you go to make sure nothing gets left out.

Next in a smaller basin, measure out the rum, barley wine and stout, then add the eggs and beat these thoroughly together. Next pour this over all the other ingredients and begin to mix very thoroughly. Gather all the family round, especially the children, and get everyone to have a really good stir and make a wish!

The mixture should be fairly sloppy – it should fall instantly from the spoon when this is tapped on the side of the bowl. If you think it needs a bit more liquid add a spot more stout.

Cover the bowl and leave overnight.

Next day stir in the sifted flour thoroughly, then pack the mixture into a lightly greased 1.2 litre (or two 570ml) basin, cover it with a double layer of baking parchment and a sheet of foil and tie it securely with string (I use a suitable length of knicker elastic instead of string!). Place the pudding in a steamer set over a saucepan filled with simmering water (if you haven’t got a steamer, place an upside down saucer on the bottom of the saucepan and fill with boiling water to about 1/3 the way up the basin) and steam the pudding for 8 hours.

Keep an eye on the water underneath and top it up with boiling water straight from the kettle about halfway through the time. When the pudding is steamed, let it get quite cold, then remove the baking parchment and foil and replace them with some fresh ones.

Now your Christmas pudding is ready for Christmas Day. Keep it in a cool place away from the light.

On Christmas Day put the Pudding in the steamer, cover and leave to steam for 2hrs 15 mins. Serve with Brandy (or Whisky) Butter and cream.

Bernie



Two very different events but with the same broader purpose took place at Orokonui over the last two weekends.

On the 19 October more than 80 runners arrived at the sanctuary in the early hours of the morning to take part in the Orokonui Challenge. This 18.5km race takes participants through a scenic but exhausting course over Māpounui, through to Pūrākaunui beach, around to Doctors Point, before climbing 300m up the Orokonui valley back to the visitors' centre. The event has now become a regular fixture on the Dunedin running calendar with participants travelling from Christchurch to test themselves.

Then over labour weekend we had our second Locals Welcome Weekend of the year. With discounted entry and activities this event was all about encouraging locals who haven't been in a while or perhaps never at all up to the sanctuary to see what we are about. From the early days of conception, through tough times, and to where Orokonui is today. Local community has always been there for the sanctuary, and this is one of the ways we can show thanks. Despite "Spring" weather there was a good steady flow of visitors through the sanctuary and café most days. Understandably the snow had people second guessing a visit on Monday. Those who did come and explore were treated to some great wildlife encounters, with the takahē family and their two small chicks being the stars of the show.

Although different in many ways both these events are working towards the same goals. To provide diverse opportunities for the community to connect with the sanctuary and our work, and to raise funds to support the sanctuary's conservation and education work. If you want to hear more about events like these at the sanctuary sign up to our newsletter on our website.

Taylor Davies-Colley



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...

Whew, where do you start? A President of the US who has been responsible for his country not only supporting a so called war against innocent civilians and children but also supplying arms and funding to help facilitate that ongoing conflict, unrealistically expecting to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for belatedly attempting to broker a very one-sided ceasefire and peace plan? Our Foreign Minister grandstanding on a decision to recognise a Palestinian state and then on the world stage announcing that we would in fact not be recognising Palestine. Putting us embarrassingly in a small minority of countries not willing to do the right thing and then adding salt to the wound by denigrating protesters critical of that decision.

WHAT MAKES ME SAD...

The poor turnout to local body elections. So many folk whinging and complaining about local issues and rates increasing etc but then not taking the opportunity to have their say on who gets to make those decisions on their behalf! So hard to understand what makes them tick really.

WHAT MAKES ME GLAD...

The ordinary folk who stand up for what's right, eg. the regular large turnouts to protest on behalf of Gaza and urge a stop to the conflict.

The plethora of magical places around us where we can go to have some time-out from all the negative and problematic stuff happening in the world right now.

Two recent places visited come to mind – Moores Bush in the Leith Valley, a native forest restoration project and the Truby King Reserve in Seacliff especially in Spring when Nature puts on her show.



IT'S THE HOLIDAY SEASON AGAIN!

The Gift Of Giving

Everyone deserves to smile at Christmas!

This Christmas I am continuing the successful charity drive for the sixth year running, 'Gift of Giving' with the support of our local OutPost Cafe. Donated (unwrapped) gifts for all ages can be placed under the tree at The Outpost Cafe (182 Main Road, Waikouaiti) between 17th November - 18th December. Alternatively, you can call Leanne to collect. All gifts are donated to **Anglican Family Care** who ensure the gifts get to those in need. **Thank you** all for your wonderful support making this happen each year X.
Everyone deserves to smile at Christmas!



Leanne Black

027 552 5502

Around the Bay – November Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
Thursday 27	Blueskin Bookshare: 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.
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	
Tuesday 11	Waiputai Trust Annual General Meeting, 6-7pm All welcome, refreshments served
MONDAYS	Korero te reo Māori 6.30 – 7.30pm Starts 14 July \$5 registration koha Email waiputai@gmail.com to register.
TUESDAYS	Homeschool Art Group: 12.30 – 3.30pm, Contact: Amy Ping Pong: 7 – 8.30pm. All ages, levels and drop ins. Contact: Helena 022 6474 738
THURSDAYS	Homeschool Group: 10.30 – 3.30pm, Contact: Debby
FRIDAYS	Piano lessons with Marion Poole \$40 a session, 2pm onwards.
SUNDAYS	Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily

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

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

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

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
Wednesday 5	Quiz 7 – 9pm no cover charge
Sunday 16	Live Music with Dee Street Band

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
Monday 3	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 10	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 17	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 24	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste

Special Days in November

1 Saturday	World Vegan Day	17 Monday	International Student's Day
3 Monday	Diwal	19 Wednesday	International Men's Day
4 Tuesday	Melbourne Cup Dayi		World Toilet Day
5 Wednesday	Guy Fawkes Night		World day for the Prevention of Violence Against Children
7 Friday	Gumboot Friday	20 Thursday	No Smoking Day
8 Saturday	World Urbanism Day		World Philosophy Day
10 Monday	International Accounting Day	21 Friday	World Television Day
11 Tuesday	Remembrance Day	22 Saturday	Son's day
13 Thursday	World Kindness Day	25 Tuesday	White Ribbon Day
14 Friday	World Diabetes Day	30 Sunday	Computer Security Day
16 Sunday	International Day for Tolerance		

Local Advertising

Rachel Brooking MP for Dunedin

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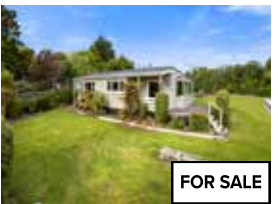
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Open Mon, Tues, Wed from 9 -12 during term time. Come and visit us! We are located at Waitati Primary School.

WAIKOUAITI COAST HERITAGE CENTRE

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

WAIPUTAI HUB

Waiputai Trust Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 11 November 6-7pm All welcome, refreshments served

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

FOR SALE

Sunburst sailing dinghy for sale in Waitati, wood construction, at least 30 years old. Phone for details, Clive 021 0257 4890

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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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 lovely Blueskin Bay,

We are so excited to share some news about Playcentre's new Kaimahi? Playcentre has developed this paid role to take the burden of centre administration jobs off our parent volunteers. We are so happy about this change! Lord knows, parents of young children have enough to do, without trying to wrap their tired brains around how to use Xero and making sense of the finer points of Health and Safety legislation! Playcentre has made this change because more parents are now juggling part-time work and parenting, plus the demands of these roles have become so much more challenging as legislation and compliance has become much more complex.

We're really glad to be able to get back to "Old School Playcentering" – being able to focus on playing with our kids, supporting their learning through cool opportunities and outings, nurturing our community, and of course, the odd bit of fundraising! So if you've been thinking about coming to Playcentre, but have been scared of getting roped into lots of extra work, please come along and check us out! We think this new way of doing things will fit us all much better!

We'd like to offer our sincere and wholehearted thanks to the generations of parents who've done this hugely heavy lifting over the years. You've created and nurtured a very special Playcentre at Blueskin Bay. We are so grateful for the wonderful centre you've handed to us and plan to treasure this taonga so Blueskin children and parents can enjoy it for many years to come.

Aroha nui, Cara



P.S. A huge thank you to the Camy's Grandad, Dave and Fire-Fighter Paul who hosted our tamariki on the best outing ever to the Waitati Fire Station!

He Karanga!

A Call to Our Community — Join us for the

PURAKAUNUI SCHOOL FAIR! & COLOUR FUN RUN SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

10am: Colour Fun Run 3km

All ages welcome, with great prizes to be won! We meet outside the school and head off down Mihiwaka Station Road and back again, then around the school field.

11am — 2pm: School Fair

FAIR HIGHLIGHTS

Come and enjoy a fantastic family day out! We'll have something for everyone:

Delicious wood-fired pizza • White Elephant sale — grab a bargain! • Thrilling bouncy castle and fun games • Beautiful views for a picnic and a play in the forest pods

• Unique Christmas gifts for sale, perfect for getting a head start on the festive season • Beautifully screen-printed bags created by our konga in collaboration with local artist Manu Berry — these will make excellent gifts!



Protecting Otago's species takes all of us

Have your
say!

We're putting together a strategy to maintain Otago's unique biodiversity.

We want to hear your thoughts on how biodiversity in Otago is faring and what our focus for the future should be.

From tūi song in your backyard to the eels in our estuaries, sea lions patrolling our coast, and mountain daisies flowering on an alpine peak, protecting Otago's native biodiversity involves all of us — **so we don't lose what we hold precious.**

Feedback
open

**3-30
November**

Paper copies
of the survey
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Read the draft strategy and **give us your feedback:**
orc.govt.nz/ourbiodiversityfuture

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