

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

JUNE 2025

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



Halo Project

A few weeks ago, the Halo Project held its annual Volunteer Celebration — a heartfelt gathering to acknowledge the incredible contributions of those who give their time and energy to restoring the whenua here in north-eastern Ōtepoti/Dunedin. Held at the epic Arc Brewery the event brought together long-time volunteers, new faces, and the Halo team for an evening of kai, stories, and gratitude.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of the Halo Project. Whether planting native seedlings, removing invasive weeds, acting as trustees, controlling predators or monitoring biodiversity, these dedicated individuals help realise the Halo Project vision “from Silver Peaks to sea, communities and nature thriving in balance”.



Conservation volunteers play a vital role across Aotearoa. As we face the urgent challenges of climate change, biodiversity loss, and degraded ecosystems, it is volunteers who often lead the charge. Their efforts help protect our taoka native species, strengthen our connection with nature and support the social bonds that make our communities resilient.

The Halo Project is deeply proud to support this community to enhance, protect and connect with this landscape. The impact of the work completed by volunteers is heard in the ever-increasing flutter of kererū wings, the loud morning chorus of the korimako/bellbird and the scuttle of skinks in the grass. This impact will echo across this landscape for generations to come.

Alice Macklow

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

Our heritage centre has recently hosted a group of gardeners from Milton and we have another group scheduled for next month.

The groups who arrange to visit our facility are often treated to morning (or afternoon) tea and leave telling us that their time with us was too short and they will have to come back. I know that probably most won't come back anytime soon, but I have always thought that word-of-mouth is the best method of marketing for a business, and we do seem to be getting an increase in the number of groups visiting.

I recently met with officials from the Waimate museum, who tell me their museum complex includes 13 buildings which they have to manage and maintain. I am very pleased we only have two buildings, one of which is modern, requiring minimal maintenance. The Waimate museum struggles with many of the same issues that we face, so it was great to be able to share ideas and knowledge and hopefully be of support to each other. I intend to visit Waimate soon and encourage you to pay the museum a visit next time you head north. It sounds like a very interesting museum complex.

Regarding our Heritage Centre, we have just received new stock for the gift shop, which you may find interesting if you are looking for gifts or items for your home. If you are a local and have never visited, I think you would be pleasantly surprised.

The bank building is still open for visitors. The scaffolding was actually intended for the old Post Office and will soon be removed.

Our major fundraiser for the restoration project is the annual plant sale held at Labour weekend. I am looking for medium sized plastic plant pots and any perennials you may be dividing (with its name). just leave outside the Heritage Centre. Contributions much appreciated



Our major Plunket display will open on Saturday 21 June, at 1pm there is no charge but a donation would be appreciated. Isn't the Plunket room, (see photo) constructed by our chairperson Ian, just perfect. The guest speaker will be Elyse Childs who is the great grand daughter of Joanna Mackinnon, the first Plunket Nurse employed by Sir Truby King.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 30th August.

Shirley McKewen, Treasurer



WARRINGTON SCHOOL

Warrington School recently took part in the Dunedin Horticultural Society's Autumn Show.

For the 5th year running we were the only school to take part in the Basket of Vegetables competition. Once again we won the trophy and a monetary prize. This organisation is the oldest one in New Zealand and they would love to have other schools take part. So the challenge is - come on all you Enviro Schools bring along your entry and give Warrington School some competition!! Room 2 made succulent bowls to enter as well. 13 bowls were entered and much admired. Three children received placings and monetary prizes and the rest of the class also received certificates. There was much excitement on the Monday morning when we returned to school with the entries. The whole school had their photo taken with the trophy, vegetable basket, and Room 2 proudly showing off their certificates.

Lyn and Lyne "Dig This" co-ordinators



Madness vs Sanity



The Sproglets visit the Mothership

From the Editor

Hello everyone, welcome to June's Blueskin News.



Cats, you either live with them and worry about their impact on local wildlife or you are allergic and every cat is attracted to you! I belong to the former group. You don't own a cat, they consent to you providing food and shelter and the occasional petting and stroking session. I have shared my home with 16 cats over my adult life, from Velcro who came into my life when I was a student at University in Bristol and was happy to come to lectures riding on my shoulder, to Mew who lived with us in Brisbane and insisted on bringing snakes into the house, live ones!

Above is Sage who along with Smudge and Sophie have been sharing my life in Warrington since I came back in 2010. Unhappily Sage has disappeared, she has been gone for a week now and although the other two have gone walkabout in the past and returned safely, Sage is the most timid and I fear that she has had a mishap and will not be coming home.

I am not a person who gets sentimental about animals. Having said that, I will truly miss her, she taught me to open the back door for her rather than use the cat flap and would wind my legs asking to have her tail pulled. Thanks for being in my life Sage.

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.



Sunny, still autumn mornings has led to lots of outside play and pleasant adventures, including big bubbles (thank you, Cara!), lots of bikes and trikes time, and sandpit enthusiasm.

A special thank you to Pūrākaunui School for hosting us this month. We all really enjoyed playing in the very impressive, well-maintained school grounds and meeting all the lovely children. Thanks for a great morning!

This June we have a visit to Warrington School which we're really looking forward to, as well as the Chinese

gardens as part of our cultural celebration term focus (thank you Courtney and Kim for organising!). I'm also particularly looking forward to our end of term potluck, which is always a scrumptious, social and delectable experience!

You're very welcome to join us at Blueskin Playcentre or on any of our trips with your little people, so please get in touch via Facebook, or email, or just pop on by to Blueskin Playcentre between 9 and 12 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We look forward to seeing you there!

All the best, Heather

NOT A RANT

by
Rog



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

When I was asked to have a say in the Blueskin News, I knew that I was not one to have a rant about something, rather to observe what is happening in our community, our city, our country and the world, and to see if any changes can be implemented to improve our lives. Consequently, I like to commend those who produce answers to the many complex problems present in today's society.

My wife and I have been fortunate enough to be able to travel around the world consistently for the last 20 years or so, visiting a combination of both first world and developing nations.

We have seen a lot of changes in people's behaviour during that time, but we have observed that there is a consistency in a number of behaviours that has never changed.

Worldwide, we have observed that people wish to earn a living that will allow them to either rent or own a dwelling, have the ability to feed their family with nourishing food, to educate their children to a standard better than they were, have access to good quality healthcare and to allow the next generation to have a better lifestyle than they have had.

Those desires are now becoming more difficult to achieve in our ever-changing political landscape.

Currently, worldwide, we are seeing a decrease in the popularity of the Centre Left vote and a surge in the popularity of the Centre Right. Of more concern, is that worldwide, we are seeing an increase in the rise of the Far Right, especially in Europe. We must remember that there is no one political group that can perform the miracles that we require, but by working with other, sometime quite diverse groups, that we may in the future, be able to provide those answers to the world's complex problems. It saddens me that the cooperation needed between diverse political groups to reach a common goal, is not occurring, to the detriment of our society.

Just a number of weeks ago the Israel/Palestinian conflict and the Ukrainian/Russian war were the newspaper headlines and the main topics shown on the nightly news. But that suddenly changed when the Trump tariffs were introduced, as that affected us financially. Those other conflicts are still occurring, with hope of a possible resolution in both, but we must remember not to take our eyes off the two afore mentioned problems, as it affects so many families on all sides.

The tariffs introduced by Trump have, and will continue to, affect all, with people's Kiwisaver funds decreasing, the Governments Super Fund getting depleted, and price rises across the board

just around the corner. The group most affected will be those who are struggling currently to make ends meet. This is not just a New Zealand problem, but a worldwide issue, and one not easily solved. We need to protect our most vulnerable, who will be the most affected. This entails all parties, regardless of their political persuasion, working together to ensure a fairer society.

It has saddened me recently to watch the Treaty of Waitangi being bought into the political sphere. We were told, right at the beginning, that the changes some wanted, were never going to pass into law, but it then became a political football and created division in our society, that we do not require, now, or in the future. To be a more mature nation, we need to learn to listen and live with all people within our society, working towards the common goal of making our nation one that the world looks to as being successful at achieving equality for all. I always have hope that this will occur but, unfortunately, I do have my doubts.

From my perspective, it makes me happy to see our community as one who works well together to achieve a common goal, more I'm sure than many others. This certainly is something that we should feel very proud of. This working together has been no better displayed than the example of the care shown to an unwell neighbour. A number of kind souls have helped by doing such tasks as gardening, cleaning, shopping, walking the dog and removing the rubbish, among other things necessary. These tasks were done for the love of helping someone in need, something that is happening less and less in our society. What a great team of caring helpers! You all impress me greatly.

It also makes me feel glad when I read in the Blueskin News, of all the different activity groups that are across our community. There is such a wide and diverse number of activities that our community can become part of. This allows people to meet others and indulge in activities that they see as fun. And as we now know, people meeting, conversing and laughing with others, is a fantastic help towards our mental wellbeing. Well done to all those that organise those community group activities. You are also the unsung heroes of our community. Please keep up the great work that you are doing.

In finishing, I see New Zealand, compared to many other countries I have visited, as a gem. Yes, we have problems to solve, but they are certainly not unique to us, as many other countries have similar problems. The bigger the country, the more problems they have. At the least our country has various safety nets to protect the most vulnerable, whereas many countries abroad do not. Long may those safety nets be retained.

I hope that we can continue to listen to all perspectives in society, accepting that we won't necessarily fulfil all our desires, but arriving at solutions to problems that we may have previously thought as being unattainable.

Keep up the great work Blueskinnies...you really are a fantastic community and we are very proud to be members of it.



BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET
Sunday 1 June

Where are they now?

Famous Exports from Blueskin Bay



Abby Wolfe

Abby grew up in Thornicroft Road and attended Waitati Primary School. She joined a band in Intermediate as a keyboard player, not a very good one. The band asked if she would have a go at singing and her career blossomed from there.

Abby taught herself to play guitar, age 15, and penned her first hit Runaway in 2013. Winner of Blueskin's Got Talent in 2015. She was on the main stage at the Waitati Music Festival the same year.

Her debut EP in 2021, Lose Myself, amassed 760,000 streams on Spotify alone Abby spent 2 years writing and producing songs in Auckland, before returning home.

She is the director of AWOL Creative – mentoring young people in songwriting, recording, and production.

Abby has played major NZ festivals like Baydreams and Waterbourne and been selected for APRA song hubs and songwriting camps.

Currently she is writing her debut album and producing EP's for 3 emerging artists – Beth Elsdon, Emily Esplin and Tui Olive. In the near future, she will be recording her album, followed by its release and subsequent tour!

YouTube – [youtube.com/@abbywolfe?si=oKb7c53iuzS9_P2m](https://youtube.com/abbywolfe?si=oKb7c53iuzS9_P2m)

Facebook – www.facebook.com/theabbywolfe

Instagram – www.instagram.com/theabbywolfe

AWOL Creative – www.awolcreative.com | www.facebook.com/awolcreative

East Otago Plunket Round Up



The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti runs 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.

The next First Aid Course aimed specifically at parents / caregivers is to be held in the Plunket Clinic rooms in the Palmerston Community Centre on Friday 6 June at 10.00. For the small fee of \$15 you get a 1.5 hour session covering all the basics such as primary assessment, CPR, choking, burns RSV, meningitis, poisoning and more. Children are welcome to attend! Please contact annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz to register.

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

Kā mihi nui, Annabel

A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, wearing a white lab coat and a white nurse's cap with a green cross. The child is using a stethoscope to listen to a yellow piggy bank. In the background, there is a blue sign with the Plunket logo and the text 'whānau āwhina plunket'.

Palmerston First Aid Courses

Friday 6th June 10.00 – 11.30

Venue: Plunket Rooms, Palmerston Community Centre
104A Ronaldsay Street, Palmerston

- \$15 per person.
- Aimed at parents of babies and toddlers: covers primary assessment, CPR, choking, RSV, meningitis, poisoning, burns, breaks and head injuries.
- Informal session: children welcome.
- **Bookings Essential as spaces are limited:** Email annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz

Course Provider: First Aid Solutions

Kaitiaki Māori ngāi iā tōkōi he wānanga mō ngāi āwhina. E tika hoki te āwhina i te hōu. I te hōu 2020 kōi te wānanga iā tōkōi he wānanga i te hōu. I te hōu 2020 kōi te wānanga iā tōkōi he wānanga i te hōu.



Tataramoa/ Bush Lawyer

Bush Lawyer, it will find you and it won't let you go (just like an American lawyer who will hang on tight once they have their hooks into you, and get as much money from you as possible).



Bush Lawyer is a relative of the blackberry (*rubus* family), roses are in this family too and it is their evil thorns they have in common. It is a climbing/rambling plant so will be hanging across other plants just waiting for an exposed bit of skin to hook onto. Nasty.

Early Europeans in Aotearoa must've been desperate for jam as they used to pick the tiny little raspberry like fruits and make jam out of them. I don't think I've ever seen a ripe bush lawyer berry (they are yellow to red in colour when ripe) as the rats and birds eat them before we even see them. And then imagine trying to pick them with all those thorns, bugger that.

The goodish news is that the green berries, when boiled taste sweet, so if you are in the bush, hungry, lost and desperate, and have a pot, water, dry firewood and a handful of bush lawyer berries you are in for a sweet treat.

Tataramoa is the original name for Bush Lawyer. Māori had many uses for this plant, but the one which most excites me is its sleep inducing properties.

It also reduces anxiety and is good for headaches and migraines.

The guy I saw recommending it on Facebook suggested making tea with 2 or 3 leaves (fresh or dried) and steeped in a cup of boiling water for 5 to 10 minutes. It doesn't taste bad. However the tea is not recommended for pregnant women.

While poking round the internet for information on this I found a lovely website called @awhiorarangoa which provides information and products for sale, for use in Rongoa medicine. They sell an oil made from Tataramoa, or a tincture. The oil is massaged into your temples and neck for a good nights sleep. People were raving about it in the comments section.

I ended up buying some of the tincture to see if it is worth my while risking getting scratched to bits making my own version. My insomnia is famously hard to cure, but it will be worth a try, and if it fails for me, I will have helped a small New Zealand business run by māori women.

I thought there was heaps of Tataramoa in the estuary track bush, but a friend and I walked the whole track with eyes on full forage mode, and found nothing.

There is definitely plenty of Tataramoa out there somewhere local, just waiting to get its hooks into you.

Hilary Rowley

Expressions of Disinterest

I remember life before television. TV began here in the early 60's, but only in the 4 main Centre's, and it wasn't until 1969 that NZBC's one and only channel expanded throughout the Motu. Also, television was only for those who could afford the extravagance. In 1966, a set cost 132 quid (\$262), which was 4 times the average weekly wage. As well, there was an \$8 per annum license fee.

In 1967, the first family on our street got one. The Coleman's, proud and accommodating, allowed all us kids to gather at 5pm each day, to watch The Lone Ranger, the masked crusader, and his trusty sidekick Tonto spreading 'decency, law and order, and faith in the future' throughout the wild west. We were mesmerized. A few years later, most of the street had a television, including us. Eating dinner went from the kitchen table to knees in the lounge. And at 6pm, it was The News. God help any kid who disturbed my father's watching of The News. It wasn't easy, as there were seven of us. Watching The News has been a habit of mine ever since.

But apparently, Modern Man has had it with The News. We're over it. All those geopolitical and economic landscapes disturbing our existences. How dare they bombard us with stories of hardship and death, of crashes and catastrophe, of existentialism and Donald Trump, of Putin, Zelensky, Netanyahu and Gaza, of climate change and artificial intelligence. It's all so negative. Boring! Let's watch some Netflix.

And the ruling classes are happy to have us watching Netflix. They're glad that less and less people are watching what they're up to, and the current global phenomenon of political media bashing encourages our disinterest. And it's not just television News. Newspapers, journals, and opinion columns all have waning viewers, people's News diets now an algorithmic smorgasbord of what we want to hear, glanced on our phones in 10 sec bursts during dull patches in the latest action movie.

But, express disinterest at your peril. The News may be bad, but if we all bury our heads in the sand, the chances of 'decency, law and order, and faith in the future' becoming prevalent, will vanish, just like The Lone Ranger does at the end of every episode.

'Hi Ho Silver and away!'

Doug Nuttall

WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

For once it is a clear night to drive over the hill to Ross's place above Pūrākaunui. A waning crescent moon above, the lights of Blueskin Bay, Port Chalmers, Pūrākaunui, Long Beach below at different times and a ship lit up on the horizon. On the CD player *Son of Dave* sets the tone, blowing hard on his blues harp with his shaker footstomp and vocal gymnastics along for the ride. Arriving early Ross and I open a bottle and chew the fat until the others arrive, minus Scott who is on duty in Wellington and Martin who sent a group email and book review from Surrey England where they are preparing for another European cycle tour. Things soon warm up to the usual toasts, banter, and lively exchange of stories and viewpoints on a myriad of topics including the joint exhibition opening of Marc and Inge's work that had occurred earlier in the evening.



THE BOOK

***The Death of Ivan Ilych and other stories* by Leo Tolstoy.**

From Martin – my two cents worth. Tolstoy makes the universal theme of death, and how we and our community deal with one of life's few certainties, starkly come alive. It has the power to induce regular self-reflection. On the book, on one's life well lived? And on the process of death. Which is a good thing, as "an unexplained life is not worth living" to quote Socrates (not the football player). The circling vultures around Ivan's imminent demise, his wife's behaviour and the only source of true love and devotion coming from the serf are powerfully presented. A novella to recommend.'

Of the other stories in the book mainly positive comments were heard... Peter commended the last story as possibly the best. As I (Ian) had given up in despair at this point and didn't finish, but will now return to and reread it. With I admit limited enthusiasm.

OTHER BOOKS

***The Good Woman of China: Hidden Voices* by Xinran**

Xinran presented a radio show in China where she encouraged women to call in with their personal stories. This book relates some of those stories: an insight into the past and present of Chinese woman's stories and into the changing culture and life of China and its people from past to present. Having worked in the Chinese garden for 10 years with and around Chinese people and the culture and history of China for which I have an enduring deep respect and warm affection, I liked this book a lot.

MUSIC

Kasey Chambers and Shane Nicholson: *Wreck and Ruin*

An Aussie Bluegrass Duo, these guys are right up there in this genre from the full on foot-tapping typical bluegrass yeehaa stuff with great instrumental solos to, my preference, the quieter ballads with sweet harmonies reminiscent of Gillian Welch and David Rawlings. Lovely video clip on YouTube – The Quiet Life, worth a look and a listen. There are no dud songs on this album.

BEER

Van Pur Blonde, Dubbel, Tripel – Belgian beer styles produced in Poland using Belgian malts to give that distinctive malty and slightly sweetish spicy character, affordable and very good. The Triple at 8.5% ABV is currently my favourite, but they are all good.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Pretentious: "In reality it was just what was seen in the houses of moderate means who want to appear rich, and therefore succeed only in resembling others like themselves...", "but to him it all seemed quite exceptional."

From the ***Death of Ivan Ilych*** by **Leo Tolstoy**

MEANING OF LIFE

"... people should have compassion and understanding for the disabled. Compassion is easy enough but I think understanding is not so easy. How any people can break away from their able-bodied mindset and understand disabled people in their own terms."

From ***The Good Women of China: Hidden Voices*** by **Xinran**.



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

MATARIKI STORYTIME WITH FLAYME

Tuesday 17 June, 5pm

There will be a hour storytime followed by some light refreshments. More details soon.

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE

Thursday 26 June, 3.30 – 4.30pm

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

HELL READING CHALLENGE

Kia ora kids! 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

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



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
Website. www.com2.tech

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 BAY KNITWITS

Mondays, 6.30 – 8.30pm

Tuesdays, 2.30 – 4.30pm

Contact Christine 021 133 9340

All ages and experience levels are welcome.

SEED LIBRARY



We have a seed library at the library but unfortunately, we seem to be depleted of seeds. If you have seeds that you would like to share, please drop them off at the seed library.

OUR LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

The library has a comprehensive local history collection about the Blueskin Bay area with plenty of information about our schools, churches, and cemetery. Louise also been working on a local history bibliography so be sure to ask the library team if you want help with researching anything local.

DCC SERVICE CENTRE @ BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

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

Coal in Blueskin Bay?

Reply from Colonial Secretary Sir James Hector to an Application for loans for assistance in searching for coal in Blueskin Bay

The James Hector letters form a significant historical record of the early days of the colony and the interactions between scientists, explorers and geologists of that time.

Geological Survey Dept.
Wellington 23 January 1873

Sir, With reference to the letter from His Honour the Superintendent of Otago enclosing an application from Mr William Grant for assistance in searching for coal at Blueskin Bay which was referred during my absence from Wellington. I have the honour to remark as follows:

Blueskin Bay is a deep indentation in the coast line 12 miles north of Dunedin, occupied by extensive mud flats that are laid bare at low tide, the sea entering by a shallow passage that is not available as a harbour.

The head-lands are formed of the same volcanic rocks as those surrounding Dunedin Harbour and these rest on beds of the same middle tertiary strata with Brown Coal seams that occur between Dunedin and Green Island. Though to what extent they are exposed at the surface in the Blueskin district I am not able to state as they have not yet been surveyed in sufficient detail to determine that point.

The ranges round to the head of the harbour and to the westward are composed of schist rock but are also capped by volcanic rocks rising to an altitude of 2,000 feet. Any coal seams that are likely to be found will therefore belong to the same formation as that in which the seams at Green Island occur, there being no evidence so far as I know of the existence in the district of any of the upper secondary strata in which a better class of coal seams might be looked for.

As no immediate advantage would be gained by the discovery of Common Brown Coal seams in this district which must remain potentially inaccessible until the construction of the first section of the railway north from Dunedin, I therefore think it will be premature to undertake its exploration at the present time and especially as the railway works when they are commenced will most probably lay open sections that will enable the structure of the country to be better understood and lead to the selection of the best localities for future trials.

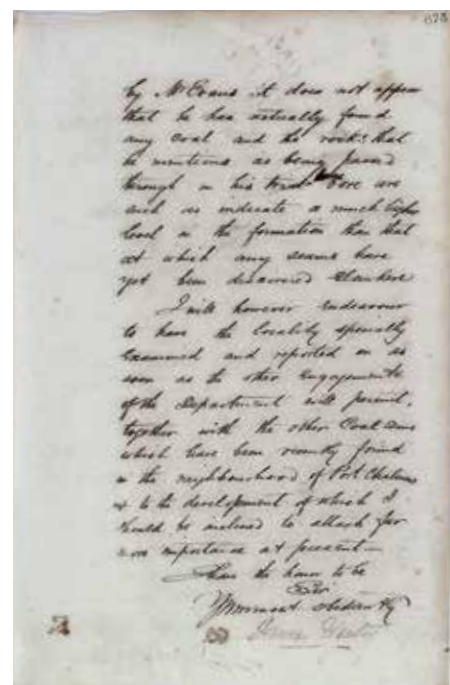
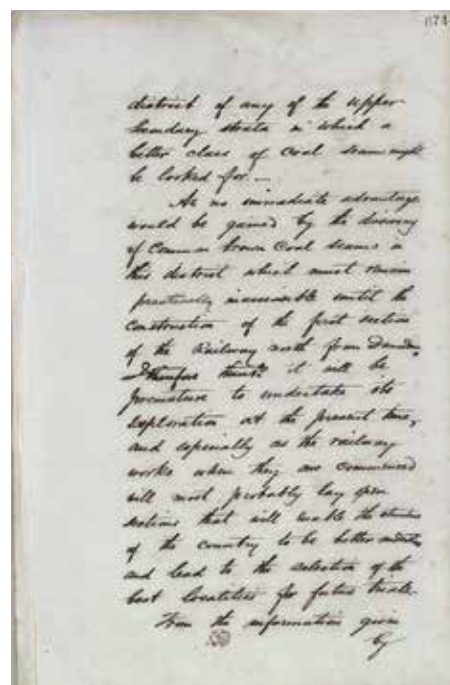
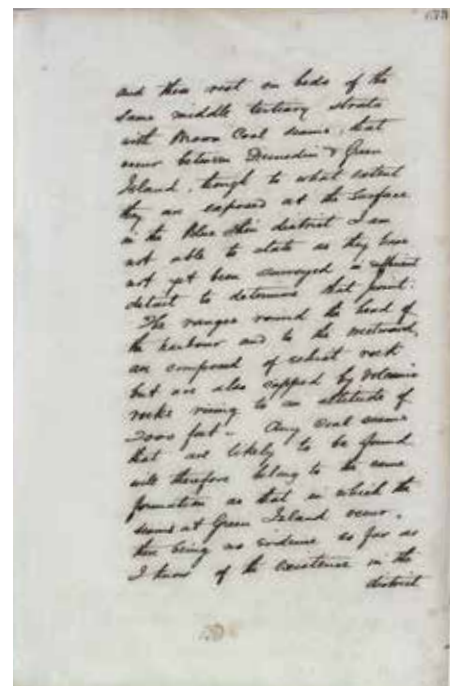
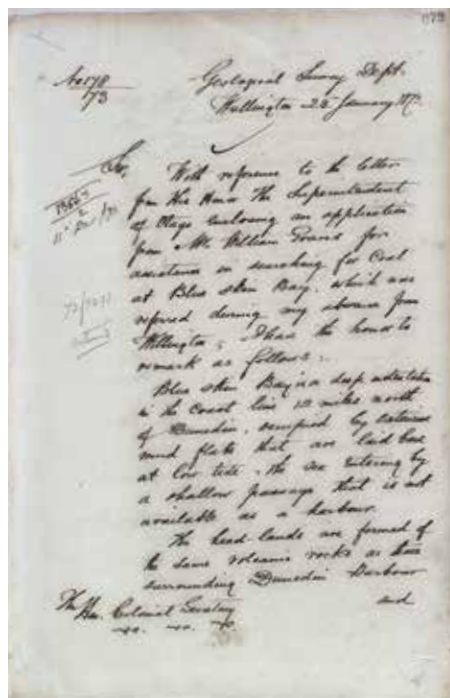
From the information given by Mr Grant it does not appear that has actually found any coal and rocks that he mentions as being passed through in his trial boar are such as indicate a much higher level in the formation than that at which any seams have yet been discovered elsewhere.

I will however endeavour to have the locality specially examined and reported on as soon as the other engagements of the Department will permit, together with the other Coal Seams which have been recently found in the neighbourhood of Port Chalmers and to the development of which I should be included to attach more importance at present.

I have the honour to be Sir, your most obedient servant

James Hector

Outward Letter: Colonial Secretary; Page 672 - 675: Application for loans for assistance in searching for coal in Blueskin Bay, 23 January 1873, by Sir James Hector. Te Papa (MU000013/001/0002/0487)



BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB

Today, 15 May, I walked around Blueskin Nursery and happened upon this beautiful Rhododendron in full flower. It is called 'Honey Butter' and is described as having deep orange-yellow flowers. I was surprised that it was flowering this early. It would be a lovely addition to your garden, flowering at this time of the year!

Garden Club had its AGM on 8 May at the old church adjacent to the nursery. Members enjoyed a yummy lunch catered by the nursery cafe staff, before the meeting. The theme for the day was 'Sunday best' and our ladies looked great in their outfits and beautiful hats!

On 14 June at 10.30am, at Warrington Hall, we are pleased to be having Janine Shaw from Waikouaiti, demonstrating and helping us make greeting cards. This will be followed by a shared lunch.

If you would like to join us give me a ring at 027 533 2238.

Bev Lyon



Are rabbits a problem on your property?

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Winter is an ideal time to tackle rabbits — limited food supply means they're more likely to take bait and burrows are easier to find.

For more information, visit:
orc.govt.nz/rabbitmanagement

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Waitati remembers Rupert Darnell Greenwood

10 July 1984- 28 April 2025

I was born with Cystic Fibrosis(CF) and over the course of my short life came close to death several times. In 2015 I flatlined and briefly died. Miraculously I came back intact. Early 2016, close to death, I received a double lung transplant. This gift gave me time to meet my wife, her 2 kids, marry and through IVF, have 2 more babies.

From <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/ruperts-request-for-his-young-family>



Rupert was born in Cust, North Canterbury on 10 July 1984. He lived in Palmerston with his Dad, Phil for a while before moving to Waitati in his primary school years. Rupert then attended Logan Park High school.

His school friends have many fond memories -

Jeff Hardisty recalls there were many occasions not appropriate to share - when he was a teenager he learnt the drums. He took his drum kit with him when we went flatting. Rupert got in trouble with the neighbours a few times in the Carroll Street flat, for drumming late at night.

He always loved Star Wars. I remember there being a few models around his house as we grew up. At some point we put our money together to buy a Phantom Menace computer game. It was only a one person game, if I remember right and we took turns with who got to have it, in the end I kept it. We also skipped half of school at one point to go and see one of the prequel movies.

Willow Lloyd-Smith said Rupert was one of the kids in Waitati during the late 90s and early '00s. A lot of fun was getting into mischief. Playing spotlight at Orokonui, lighting bonfires on the beach

and listening to music. Mainly the band 'Smashing Pumpkins', though Rupert was a true 'Red Hot Chilli Peppers' fan, drumming along whenever he had the chance. He was obsessed by them and Star Wars.

Rupert loved paragliding, space and was fascinated by aviation. He would have loved to be a pilot but because of his medical condition this was never possible.

Marie Lloyd will always remember Rupert's raspy laugh echoing around the house when he came to visit her son, Morgan. He had a special antenna that was always right. It didn't matter if it was a Monday or a Friday he would arrive just in time for his favourite meal. On one occasion I remember being at home while the armed offenders were doing a raid next door. The yard was full of men slithering along on the ground. I phoned the police who couldn't give me any idea how long they would be there. We couldn't leave. My concern was Rupert who was with us, he didn't have the pills

that he needed to take every time he ate. They took the place of his pancreas. I still have some of those pills in a jar, a memory of that special young man.

Each day travelling on the bus into town Rupert would sit up at the front and talk to drivers Ernie Mason and Peter Dowden. Both of these gentlemen suggested that they were his inspiration to become a driver himself. Rupert took great pride and care in his role safely delivering people around the city.

Life changed for Rupert when he received his lung transplant, it gave him almost 10 years. In this time he found love, married and started a family.

He was a old fashioned guy and he took great pride in financially supporting his young family.

He never complained about his health, he had an incredible outlook of life and never took anything for granted.

Rest in power Ru, we will miss you



Rural skip days to be discontinued

Kia ora koutou, as part of a drive to keep rate increases to a minimum our waste team conducted an exercise to establish the true cost and use of the thrice-yearly 'rural skip days'. Due to their high cost and declining use, the skip service will not be offered after this year's May/June winter series. However, residents have other options for disposing of their waste, and waste minimisation grants may be available to community organisations who wish to host 'hawk and hurl' type landfill diversion events for their communities.

What are rural skip days?

Rural skip days have provided the residents of Warrington, Long Beach, Aramoana, Sawyers Bay, Henley, Allanton, Portobello and Outram the convenience of disposing of their waste in local skips.

How much do they cost?

The cost of providing this service – which includes skip hire, waste contractors, landfill disposal and traffic management – is approximately \$700 per customer.

Though fees have been charged for disposal, the significant shortfall has been subsidised by other ratepayers. With a price tag of at least \$170K per annum and very low attendance (typically 15 or fewer customers per day), the rural skip days are an obvious budget saving and the Council has decided they will be discontinued.

The last rural skip day series will be offered this May/June, and we encourage people to make the most of it! Residents will see the skip days advertised on signs in the neighbourhoods, and in community newsletters.

What other options do people have?

Going forward, waste disposal options include:

- Making the most of the kerbside collection service
- Taking larger items to the Green Island landfill or other transfer stations
- Donating quality items to local charity shops

Waste minimisation grants

Local community groups may wish to organise events where people sell or swap their unwanted but still useable goods and furniture.

This could divert waste from landfill, save on landfill fees, and perhaps even raise money for a local cause. An event like this may require a small budget for costs such as advertising, signage and general promotion. Dunedin City Council staff can provide advice on running and writing funding applications for such events. If you'd like to know more, please call us on (03) 477 4000 and ask to speak to our Waste Minimisation Officer.

What next?

We know this news will be disappointing for some. We have informed communities about this change via community newsletters, and you are welcome to share this information with your networks.

More information

Background to the decision: Agenda of Council – Tuesday, 28 January 2025

Dunedin transfer stations: Green Island landfill and transfer stations – Dunedin City Council

Waste minimisation grants: Waste minimisation funds – Dunedin City Council

A past 'Hawk and Hurl' event at Portobello: Hawk & Hurl – Portobello Community

Thank you very much for your understanding.



At our heart we are a community conservation project, so it's no surprise how important locals are to the sanctuary. As volunteers, members, and visitors.

To acknowledge this support and make wildlife as accessible as possible we are hosting a locals welcome weekend for Kings Birthday weekend 31 May – 2 June.

Keep an eye on our website and socials for more information as we get closer.

Kia pai tō rā Taylor Davies-Colley



Marilyn Althea Power 14 June 1945 – 6 May 2025

Resident of Waitati for 30 years. Marilyn was married to Colin for 58 years and they had three children – Cameron, Nathan and Suzanne. She was a much loved nana of Emma, Stevie, Maeve and Daniel.

Born in Lower Hutt to Bob and Althea, Marilyn had 3 older brothers, Barry, Lenny and Colin. When she was 15, she relocated to Dunedin with her parents when Bob got a transfer to Hillside Rail Workshop.

It was in 1966 at a dance in the South Dunedin Town Hall that she met Colin Power. It was a short courtship and he proposed after one month. They moved north to Wainuiomata to be near Marilyn's family and were married in Lower Hutt on 25 March 1967. They honeymooned around the north in their little Standard 8.

Cameron entered their lives just as man landed on the moon in 1969, with Nathan arriving soon after in 1971 and Suzanne in 1973. Three children under 3 and a half kept her busy.

In 1973 they travelled to Dunedin for a wedding and the opportunity came up to purchase 74 Doctors Point Road, in Waitati. The house needed work but it had "potential". They proceeded to renovate the house and were able to create a big veggie garden, thanks to Paul Clements and his bulldozer.

Colin became the primary caregiver, chauffeur, and chef when Marilyn returned to work in 1975. She initially worked in the office at Orokonui Hospital, and then as a clerical worker at Cherry Farm.

From 1981 she worked at the Dunedin Public Hospital in various departments, including the wages department and as the ward receptionist in the Children's Ward, 9A and 8A, ultimately retiring after 36 years working for the hospital board. For 20 years she also managed the bookings and accounts for the PSA Frankton House.

Marilyn loved to sing and to garden, but most of all she loved to dance. She even participated in several 'The Gang Shows' in her younger years. She and Colin were always the first onto the dance floor and enjoyed every minute they were dancing together.

She was an amazing supportive mum and her children's biggest cheerleader. She and Colin were a great team, and famously they never fought.

Always a happy smiley cheerful person, Marilyn was always pleased to see you. She always cared about doing a great job – no matter what she turned her hand to. She was a great organiser who loved to be helpful.

Marilyn always took the time to laugh, to listen, and to make that phone call. She genuinely loved bringing people together and was sincerely interested in their lives and wellbeing.

She will be sorely missed by many.



Marshall Seifert receives National Awards

Recently, Marshall Seifert travelled to Hamilton with his wife Annalise. Accompanied and organised by their daughter Leah, he was the recipient of two national basketball awards. The awards were presented to him by Basketball New Zealand at their annual prize giving at the Globox Arena in Hamilton before the NZ mens and womens teams played Australia.

Marshall (pictured with acting BBNZ CEO Belinda Edwards) received the following awards:

Long Service Award (30 years). This was for his outstanding commitment to New Zealand basketball from 1967 (when he and Annalise arrived in New Zealand) through to the late 1990's when he was a national basketball commentator on the TV and radio. During this 30 years, he coached the NZ junior men's team as well as the Otago men's team and Otago University team with great success nationally and in Australia.

The other award was the Murray McMahon Award for outstanding contribution to NZ Men's Basketball.

Marshall was a hugely influential and respected person. He had an intense, consequential involvement with basketball in New Zealand. He helped score an important, often amusing, piece of the country's basketball story.

Leah Seifert

Around the Bay – June Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
Tuesday 17	Matariki Storytime with Flayme 5pm An hour of stories with light refreshments.
Thursday 26	Bookshare: 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.
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
WEDNESDAYS	FREE Community Digital Dropins: 11am – 12.30pm
FRIDAYS	Story Time with Stephaney: 11am

WAIPUTAI HUB	
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
WEDNESDAYS	Internet Cuppa & Printing: 2 – 5pm Access to internet computer (no-gaming), and printer (A4 black/white (20 cents/page) & A4 colour (\$1/page). Note: Bookings essential and must be made by Tuesday. Book a space by texting 021 171 0226 or emailing waiputai@gmail.com
THURSDAYS	Homeschool Group: 10.30 – 3.30pm, Contact: Debby
SUNDAYS	Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily

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

WAITATI VILLAGE	
Sunday 1	Village Market: 11am Contact: Mandy

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
Sunday 1	Heather 10am – 1pm Courtyard Heather is a music student and this concert is part of her study.
Wednesday 4	Quiz 7 – 9pm
Wednesday 25	Live Music Jazz Night

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

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

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 Community Acupuncture: 9am – 12pm Contact Collin Blake cblake@siacu.nz
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
THURSDAYS	SHINE BRIGHT – Pilates for Back and Posture: 11am – 12 noon. Casual \$18, concession 10 sessions \$130 Contact: Sabine 021 207 0664
SATURDAYS	NIA Dance Class: 4 – 5pm \$10 Contact: Clare Reilly 021 177 5350

WASTE RECYCLING – WEEK TWO	
Monday 2	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 9	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 16	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 23	Yellow Bin: Mixed Recycling Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste
Monday 30	Blue Bin: Bottle/Glass Recycling Red Bin: Rubbish Green Bin: Food Scraps/Garden Waste



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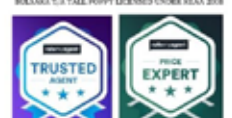


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with your community. Where possible, please try to limit articles
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Waitati

SCHOOL UPDATE

Kia Ora, Autumn is just wonderful. The weather settled, with cold mornings with warm afternoons. The Swamp, where children play during lunchtime, is filled with dappled light and just the right amount of mud.

We welcome our generous lunchtime volunteers who kindly open up our amazing spaces. How lucky our learners are. On different days, they have access to the music studio, ceramics studio, and swamp during lunchtime. Thank you to Robyn, Jamie, Stephen and Nathan.

The swamp has been a favourite play area for Waitati children, whether they attend school or not, for many years. Last term, the area had to remain closed due to wasps. Now, Term 2 is open. You are welcome to continue to use the swamp at Waitati School, including the loose parts. Please respect these things and the children's huts, and return what you borrow when you play at our school. If you have any loose parts that would be great for building and creating please drop them off at the office.

Our outdoor classroom is stocked with loose parts ready for children to use.

At Waitati School, like many schools in New Zealand, Literacy and Numeracy are seen as essential. Teachers and Parents work with our students to become masters of both, but they are not the end point of education. As Derek Wenmouth says in his article 'Necessary but not sufficient', "The end point is to help young people make meaning, ask questions, think critically, relate to others, and contribute to society."



We don't have to choose between the explicit teaching of the basics or the authentic creative learning, like projects and play, because we need both to grow learners for the future.

Our Swamp area is a foundational space where learners can make meaning of their world. They have time to make mistakes, argue, co-operate, and solve problems. The learning from the core subjects gets pulled into creative areas like the swamp. For example, boys in years 3-7 played in the sandpit with water. This took the shape of making Dams. Banjo came and asked if he could do his science project on Dams. This led to making Dams in the stream (yes, it is cold), which is at the end of the swamp (only with an adult present, of course). I have been privileged to observe this play.

It has included the building of a successful dam to encourage eels to live, discovering siphons, designing filters for dead leaves to pool and building transportation across the stream. We take this play and unpack it in the classroom in a never-ending cycle. We provide books where they can learn more about physics, step them through our EnviroSchool inquiry cycle, and ask experts to speak.



We encourage critical thinking, inductive and deductive reasoning, citizenship, and collaboration. We include multiple disciplines, like the Kai Tahu Creation story, which informs scientific thinking.

We form layers of learning opportunities in which the child can create and weave their learning theories.

I like how Derek ends his blog. "Foundational skills are vital. But they are not the summit – they are the base camp. From there, the real climb begins."

Tara O'Neill, Principal



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

SAVE THE DATE

Waitati Brewers' Convention 2025 2pm, Sunday 26 October, Labour Weekend

It's time to put down a brew! Those of you who have competed before will know that the style of beer for the Jan Breward Cup is chosen by the previous year's winner. The 2024 winner was Jared Reeves with his Motueka dry-hopped sour beer. For 2025 he has nominated Dark Beers! It's not that we take brewing seriously but Poppa Kev has devised the following definition of dark beers:

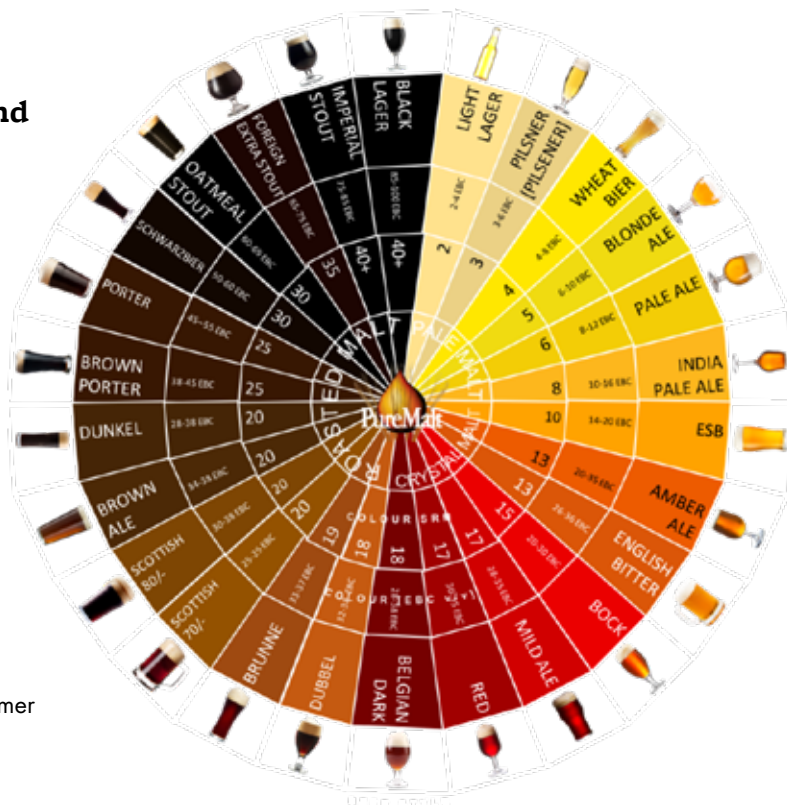
EBC measure shall be 34 and above. In the style wheel this includes, but is not restricted to: Brown Ale, Dunkel, Porters, Schwarzbier, Stouts and Black Lager.

Many styles of beer can become coloured in this range through the judicious addition of dark grains.

If you're not into dark beers there is also the Gary Pearson Cup for any other style of beer. The 2024 winner was first-timer Harriet Love with her Feijoa beer.

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

Chris Linsell



Sue

An acknowledgement to the recent passing of a friend and neighbour 'Sue' Cadwallader who came to our street just over a year ago having being diagnosed with a terminal cancer. With her dog Oliver 'Ollie', her chooks, her love of nature and straight forward no nonsense approach to life and living, she touched the lives of many of us. I include a message from Chris and Ruth Todd, also friends and neighbours, that captures the feelings of many of us in words.



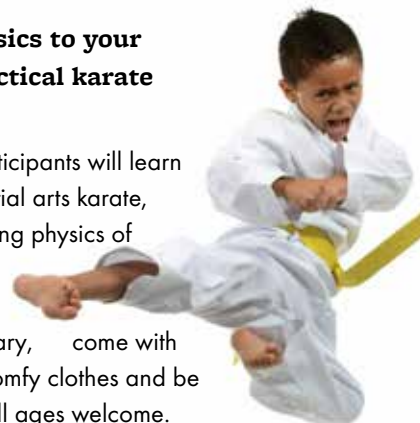
"We knew Sue only in her last months on Thornicroft Rd. On our first meeting she pulled out some day old chicks from under her shirt and gave them to us to mind as we talked. The last time was at a gathering of neighbours on Thornicroft Rd. which in view of Sue's weakened state was nothing short of heroic. In a short time she connected memorably with so many of us. Her clear eyed attitude towards death and her positive focus on what was still left in her 'cup of life' is inspiring."

Sorry for your loss – for our loss too.

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In this workshop, participants will learn the basics of the martial arts karate, covering the underlying physics of karate movements and techniques. No experience is necessary, come with an open mind and comfy clothes and be prepared to move! All ages welcome.



Monday 30 June – 11am, Waitati Hall

Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.



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