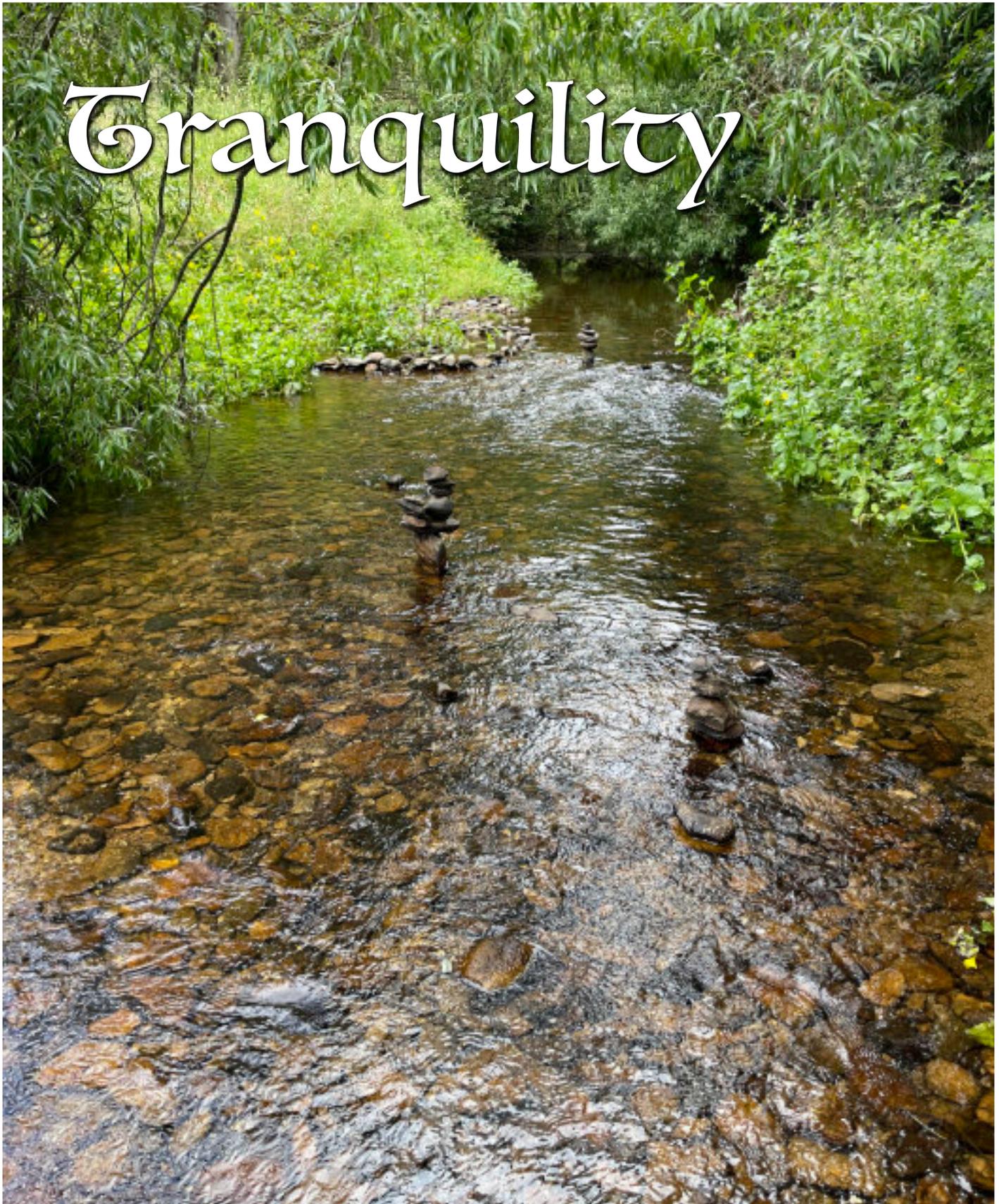


BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

FEBRUARY 2026

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



Careys Creek Creations - Danny Hailes

White Boxes In Blackball

As 2025 ebbed, an audacious invasion took place. A regiment of The Waitati Militia (routed seven years ago) returned to Blackball, intent on regaining the coveted Magic Teapot. Crushed by a vehicle as we retreated in 2018, that teapot was still with The Blackball Battalion.* This time, we bought backup – The McGillicuddy Clan.

From as far away as Scotland, The Clan (remnants of the once political behemoth The McGillicuddy Serious Party) swept into Blackball (the birth place of the once political behemoth Labour Party) to assist our quest. After all, meticulous planning of tactics, strategies, and battle dress in pursuit of Magic Teapots, is right up their alley. For four days, Blackball became a hive of military madness.

Tactic 1: Feed your army. The Clans' kitchen crew provided breakfast, lunch and dinner each day, and a post-battle banquet for 60 on NYE. Their contribution was outstanding, and we ate better than at home.

Strategy 1: Taunt the frenemy. A first-night stealth mission saturated their town with ridiculous signs attached to ordinary things, declaring them 'art objects', and for sale.

Tactic 2: Declare that Blackball is actually a White Box. Then create accordingly: A huge white box. A huge black ball. White box body-armour and white-box head protector (more on this tactical blunder later), cardboard shields, newspaper swords, flour bombs, banners and all manner of pacifist-warfare requirements.

Strategy 2: Entertain the troops. Battle Eves' 'mediocre performance cafe' (a Clan tradition of booing,cheering and laughing). The third day 'golf tournament', fraternising with the frenemy in 30° C sunshine. Post Battle – bands, beers and belly laughs.

Tactic 3: March on town square. Chant, taunt and jeer frenemy. Make futile attempts for peace. March to battlefield. Present the huge box and ball. Assume battle posture. March upon the Blackball Battalion.

Strategy 3: Die often, and die dramatically (the white head-box proved Strategy 2's genius).

Present shields, poke swords, throw flour bombs, tussle frenemy, forwards, backwards and side-ways. Blow-up big black ball (sorry Blackball Rugby League Club), deepen frenemyships. Return to HQ for the banquet and inevitable NYE shenanigans.

All in all, a very successful and fun-filled mission. Big 'ups' to everyone involved. Now, where's that Magic Teapot?

Doug Nuttall

*Actually the author ran over the teapot!



From the Editor

I see in the news today NZ Post are closing down 142 Post Shop Counters in community shops nationwide from May. In Dunedin our closest Post Office at the Gardens has already closed.

But the Warrington community is less worried about the posting of our letters and parcels and much more anxious about our deliveries, particularly to our Community Mailboxes. We don't have a roadside delivery to our physical addresses in Warrington, we collect our mail and parcels from the community mailboxes at the Warrington Hall. Anything that needs a signature is delivered to the Waitati Store and we are informed that it is there to collect. Our mailbox address is therefore CMB14116 (for example). In the past our lovely local posties knew everyone's physical address and items with just a physical address, such as 30 Bay Road, would be put in the right box.

However, NZ Post has changed the rules and the posties were commanded to return to sender any items without the correct mailbox number. This is fine if you can persuade the sender that a CMB number is a mail address. If you can't it is a problem: NZTA and Health New Zealand certainly won't use a CMB number. Buying your car registration on-line with NZTA is fine but using a CMB number as your mail address invokes an error code and if you use your physical address it has in the past been sent back to NZTA, where they promptly bin it. Letters with Hospital appointments and from the Ministry of Justice are similarly treated.

Luckily we have **amazing posties** who are trying to sort this out with NZ Post and NZTA among others and are putting items without CMB numbers in our postboxes anyway. Please give them a huge shout out for doing their best for us.

Keep warm, safe, and happy, Bernie



BLUESKIN NEWS AGM

Our AGM will be held at 7.30pm, Tuesday 24 February 2026, at the Waitati Hall. If you are excited by our community – its news, history, events and characters and want to play a more active role in sharing stories with locals come along to our AGM to find out more.

We are as usual looking for new Committee members, it's not onerous, one evening a month and we are a fun bunch.

All welcome.

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.

Am I Being Unreasonable?

My issue pertains to Warrington but I am sure applies in other parts of the North Coast.

As the Otago Regional Council refuses to give us a decent bus service and no service at all most of the time, is it too much to hope for that the DCC could provide a useable and safe footpath between Warrington and Evansdale? As local people know it is a very well used path, firstly for people walking to and thro to connect with the bus service at Evansdale. Many people can be seen going for a leisurely walk, pushing baby in a pram. Quite a few people go jogging along there and let's not forget those people who choose to walk to the Arc brewery rather than drive and risk being over the limit (very sensible).

If you use this footpath, you will know it is very overgrown, narrow in places and the surface is very rough. The road is a 70kmh zone and very busy especially at this time with lots of visitors to our area. It is really unsafe to not have a reasonably wide footpath in good repair. Did I mention there is no street lighting along this road and so it becomes even more hazardous in winter?

I emailed the DCC via their complaints service, I attached photos, and the reply I got back from the transport vegetation team, assured me that staff had done a site visit and that "our contractor is arranging work to clear weeds in your area" dated 15.12.25. Well, the mower did come along coast road and trim back some of the long grass but the flaxes, the buddleia and other shrubs have not been touched and the grass growing on the footpath has not been sprayed. Not to mention the pot holes and general state of disrepair. I have emailed them again, am I holding my breath? I accept we do not get the level of maintenance that some city streets do but should we expect a once yearly spray and clean up of this footpath so that it provides a minimal level of service? I think so.

Geraldine Tait



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

If you would like to register your pēpi or tamariki aged between 6 months and 5 years for water confidence / swimming lessons at Moana Gow Pool in Hawksbury Village, Karitāne in term 1, starting in early February, please email annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz for more information. The cost of the classes is heavily subsidised to keep these lessons affordable for local whānau.

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

Warrington Indoor Bowls Club

Our Club's monthly January meeting was a very happy get together, each of us wishing each other a Happy New Year, with handshakes, hugs and smiles. Great to catch up over two games then supper.

The Club wishes to invite the Community to join us for a free introduction to the great game of Indoor Bowls at our February and March meetings.

**INDOOR BOWLS OPEN EVENINGS
FOR THE BLUESKIN BAY COMMUNITY**
(ages 8 years upwards)

**2026 Tuesday 10 February 7.30pm
and Tuesday 10 March 7.30pm**

Warrington Memorial Hall, 11 Stephenson Street, Warrington
ALL WELCOME - Come and give it a go to see if you like the game
Contact: Lyn Hastie (President) 03 482 2896

BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB

Happy new year everyone! Here's wishing you all the best for 2026.

We have been home from holiday for a month, and have not been impressed with the weather – showers most days and plenty of wind. Here's hoping it improves soon.

We visited the Melbourne Botanical Gardens during our holiday, and I was very impressed with a beautiful tree that was flowering. It was a *Grevillea robusta* and probably was more than 10 metres in height. The flowers were gold in colour and made quite a show, as you can see in the attached photos.

Now to garden club matters. This year many interesting events are planned for our members, garden visits, talks, workshops, and of course the annual Spring Flower Show. So if you enjoy things related to your garden, why don't you join us.

For more information ring me at 027 533 2238.

Bev Lyon



ONECOAST
Waste Minimisation Workshop:

Free Bike Repairs

Sunday 1st Feb 2026
9am - 12pm
Blueskin Market
Waitati

Everybody is welcome to this family-friendly, community-focused, self-help workshop. Basic tools and some spare parts are provided, just bring your bike.



provided by: **ONECOAST**
 Resource Recovery - onecoast.org

with funding from: **DUNEDIN CITY COUNCIL** | **kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtepoti**

LEARNING CLINIC
FOR COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL DEVICES - EVERYONE WELCOME

Bookable 1/2 hour sessions
 2pm-6pm by appointment only

Wednesday 18 February
 Waiputai Hub

Free/
 Koha



Laptops, smartphones, tablets, apps,
 email, internet...

Bring your device and questions

Your Tutor: **Christine Higgins**
 20 years experience in IT Support, four years as a trainer

Book your individual session time by emailing
 waiputai@gmail.com, or by calling/texting 021 171 0226

Bookings are free or by koha



Bachelors Jam

There used to be an assumption that single men living without women were incapable of keeping a civilized house, and spent all their spare time drinking and smoking etc. (actually there may be some truth in this). This is where the name of bachelor's jam came from.

Bachelors were assumed to have no interest in actually making jars of raspberry jam. All they were really interested in had to involve alcohol and this kind of jam was simple enough to be made by the single man without assistance.

During the summer as each type of soft fruit becomes available, the bachelor would pick some fruit, pop it in a big jar with a close fitting lid, and cover the fruit with sugar and alcohol. At the end of the summer our industrious but uncivilized bachelor would have a full jar of mixed fruits macerated in sweet alcohol. I am not actually sure if he was actually supposed to spread it on his toast for breakfast ... to start the day with a stagger.

When I have made it before, we would spoon the fruit out onto ice-cream, which as you can imagine is a deliciously tipsy dessert, and strain out the alcohol to drink.

You can use strawberries, cherries, raspberries, boysenberries, blackberries, sliced peaches, apricots, plums, grapes ... I have had some start fermenting which doesn't taste so good, so the right proportion of fruit to alcohol and sugar is important. The German name for this delicacy is rumtopf, and is considered to be a mid-winter treat to drink and serve with desserts so obviously rum was the original alcohol added, but any spirit would do.

Bachelors jam

As each fruit comes into season place in a jar in the following proportions: 500g fruit, sprinkle on 250g sugar, leave for an hour then add on litre of alcohol (scale down according to the size of your jar). You can place a really clean object on the top to hold the fruit under the alcohol.

Each time you add more fruit, add sugar and top up with alcohol to keep the fruit submerged,

I'm glad this kind of learned hopelessness is mostly over and men are assumed to be as capable as women at cooking, keeping house and making preserves.

Anyone can make this preserve, but if you are a bachelor you may well win friends and influence people (potential mates) by serving up some bachelors jam at an intimate winter solstice dinner

Hilary Rowley



Waikouaiti Coast Community Board

Hello, and Happy New Year to you all.

As we start off into another new year our thoughts turn to the upcoming 'Annual Plan' where Dunedin City Council budgets are set for the coming year. Our priorities for our rather wide geographical area can be found in our 'Community Plan' - available at the Library, or on the DCC website. We have a detailed look at the plan during February and March, modifying it as required, and then submitting it to Council in April. This is followed by our in-person meeting with the full Council in May. Please let us know of any topics that you would like to see included, or modified, in our plan.

Our first formal meeting for this year will be held at the East Otago Events Centre in Waikouaiti on Wednesday 18 February, starting at 5.30pm. The meeting is open to the public. Please feel free to come along to the Public Forum at the start of the meeting to let us know of any concerns you may have. You will have to register in advance to do this, either by contacting any Board Member or by notifying our DCC Governance Support Officer Lauren Riddle on 477 4000 or by email at Lauren.Riddle@dcc.govt.nz

We are welcoming grant applications. If you, or someone you know, has a community project that could do with some funding assistance, then you can complete a funding application form which can be found on the DCC website, or give any board member a call if you need some clarity.

Alasdair Morrison, Chairman

Waikouaiti Coast Community Board : info@calmarine.co.nz

Waikouaiti Coast Community Board: 2025 -2028

Alasdair Morrison, Chairman	info@calmarine.co.nz	0274 354 384
Anna Knight, Deputy Chair	annaknight.wccb@gmail.com	020 477 7915
Andy Barratt	asbarratt@gmail.com	021 890 048
Sonya Billyard	billyardsonya@gmail.com	0272 539 205
Danny Hailes	dhailesdcc@gmail.com	0274 895 691
Geraldine Tait	gersftait@gmail.com	021 217 5492
Cr. John Chambers	john.chambers@dcc.govt.nz	021 449 542

WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

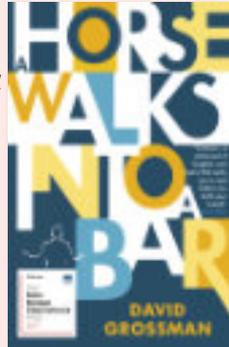


Pubnite – Ombrello’s minus Scott and Ross who were sadly otherwise engaged. A good nite out with good beer and good company, we had our own ‘private’ room out the back, which worked well as it was busy and somewhat noisy in the rest of the venue. Great service and food, with maybe a surplus of chunky chips.

THE BOOK

A Horse Walks Into A Bar by David Grossman. “A whirlwind of laughter and tears that sucks you in and makes you hold your breath” Daily Mail.

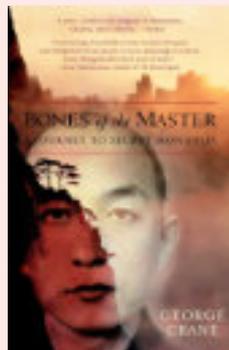
Did none of those things for me and I lost interest fairly early on. Scott said ‘excruciating’. Others however could see merit in it and even humour, but nobody used the word ‘enjoy’!



OTHER BOOKS

Bones of The Master A Journey into Secret Mongolia by George Crane

In 1959 Tsung Tsai fled from the Red Army who had destroyed his monastery and walked three thousand miles across communist China, determined to carry on the work of his old master, Shiuh Deng. Hidden in his peasant jacket he carried a book of poetry and his monk’s certificate, both capital offences. Nearly forty years later, Tsung Tsai travels back to his birthplace with his friend Crane, a hedonistic American poet with a dislike for authority. His mission – to find Shiuh Deng’s grave and build a shrine in his honour. Flouting bureaucratic restrictions, they re-enter a lost world of superstition nearly extinguished by history. Loved this book!



BEER

ARC Brewery’s Oat Milk Stout, this is very close to a perfect Milk Stout. Can’t recommend it enough.

Monks Stout by Dupont. Another Belgian Beer from the Karitane Store and Kitchen and a perfect accompaniment to their wonderful roasted capsicum and sun dried tomato and capers pizza. “flavours of coffee, chocolate, and dark malts, balanced by a dry slightly smoky finish and a lively fizzy carbonation ‘head’ ” – from brewery overview.



OTHER STUFF

Article by **Anne Salmond**: *We’re reforming the wrong part of government* in Newsroom.

Coalition Government Ministers insist their reforms of regional councils isn’t ‘a power grab’ but evidence suggests the opposite, to detriment of democracy.

MUSIC

Whare Flat Festival highlights:

Old Man Leudecke from Canada – try ‘Easy Money’ or ‘Yodelady’ on YouTube.

Drogkroka from Sweden – try YouTube, many videos.

Shakey Hollows, alt country band from North East Valley – try new album ‘Silver Locket’ on YouTube.

Ellen Barry, singer songwriter from Christchurch – check out her website for songs and profile. Maybe the next Nadia Read?

RD1 from Motueka, keep an eye out for these guys.

Yujing Cui a traditional Chinese musician from China now based in Christchurch. Her personal profile on Original Indie Folk website or great live video [YouTube.com/watch?=-tqWZkwyO2M&si=olbUhb_hA6M9tCG](https://www.youtube.com/watch?=-tqWZkwyO2M&si=olbUhb_hA6M9tCG)



WORD OF THE MONTH

Poetry – ‘A poem with a wrong word, is like a baby with no head, it cannot live’, Tsung Tsai passed an index finger to my forehead ‘simple is the first foundation’ ... ‘but not easy’ I said ‘not easy’.

MEANING OF LIFE

‘Yin Yang Georgie’ Tsang Tsai’s attention had remained with me ‘cause and effect ... only cause and effect. Emptiness comes from material. Material comes from emptiness. Yin and Yang. Cause and effect. Georgie caught in physical, in desire. Emptiness like wind, you cannot catch...’

Quotes from ***Bones of The Master*** by **George Crane**



BLUESKIN COMMUNITY MARKET

Sunday 1 February

BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY



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

COM2TECH COMMUNITY DIGITAL DROPINS

Tuesdays, 11- 12pm

Amy Souquet | 027 256 9182
office@com2.tech | www.com2.tech

Advice and learning support around purchasing, maintaining and using your digital devices effectively and securely for your lifestyle and capabilities.

STORYTIME WITH STEPHANEY

Fridays, 11am (except school holidays)

The first storytime of the year starts on Friday 13 February. See you there.

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.

BLUESKIN BOOKSHARE

Thursday 26 February, 3.30 - 4.30pm

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

TECH HELP 1-2-1



Second Wednesday of the month, 2- 3pm

Our first session is on 11 February, 2- 3pm

Drop in sessions providing 1-2-1 help with a range of tech topics.

VALENTINES' DAY ACTIVITY

Stephaney has an activity planned for Valentines Day so pop in either Wednesday or Thursday afternoons 11 and 12 February and pick up a love heart pack.

SEED LIBRARY

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

COMMUNITY CABINETS

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.

COMING UP IN MARCH

SEAWEEK ACTIVITIES

Planned for afternoons of Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 March.

Watch this space as we have a craft activity planned for both younger and older children. Please keep any bottle tops as we will be using them for the activity for younger children.

CRAFT MORNING @ BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

Our first Craft morning will be on Wednesday 3 March, 11-12.30.

Looking for something to do? Come along and join us for our Adult CRAFT morning sessions. Each month there will be a new project and it is free!

DCC SERVICE CENTRE @ BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

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

An Article from Blueskin A&P Society

President Katie Peppercorn

Bland Park was gifted in a will to the Waitati community by the late Mr Bland, for sporting and leisure activities.

The Blueskin Agricultural & Pastoral society (A&P) committee manages the maintenance, and facilitates the use of the park.

The committee is a not-for-profit, incorporated society comprising a great bunch of local volunteers and we always welcome new members. Individuals, community groups and organisations utilise Bland Park throughout the year for sporting, arts and cultural shows including midweek training and Saturday games during football season, tennis and cricket matches, rugby training and matches, athletics training, birthday parties, picnics, school Matariki celebrations, music festivals, dog walking and the popular annual Blueskin community show.

There is currently a skate park, tennis courts, baseball hoop area and a children's play park on the grounds.

Our current project is to upgrade the toilet facilities and improve accessibility. We have a plan and costings and now we are grant writing and fundraising, so come to the show and buy heaps of raffle tickets! Next committee meeting is Tuesday 17 February 7pm at the Waitati Hall

SHOW DAY -SUNDAY 29 March 2026

ALL DAY – LOTS OF FAMILY FUN- RIDES, MUSIC, FOOD & DRINKS.

Food stalls – Warrington School cooking up a storm on the BBQ and Waitati School on Cafe, with homemade cakes, sweets and tea and Puraukanui School are making apple donuts and candy floss, also a selection of food trucks and ice creams.

Lots of kid's activities including the Noddy Train, entertainment with Jay the Juggler and balloons, Pony rides, and a Bouncy Castle.

Live Music from Tiny Little Pieces of 8

The inaugural **Blueskin Show Mullet Competition**

If you have a business and want to be part of the show please get in touch- Businesses and Food trucks must be registered before the event (no turn ups on the day!).

CARBOOT SALE

Large 4m x 4m sites

No booking required. Gates open at 8.30am for setup

Car boot site \$10 includes gate entry for 1 person (pay cash on arrival)

Extra persons \$5 gate charge.

LOCAL BUSINESSES & FOOD STALLS

Commercial Area

Businesses/companies on show \$25 includes two gate entries

Businesses selling, eg food vendors \$50 includes two gate entries

The committee of the Blueskin A&P Society would like to thank you for your support.

To book in your business or food truck

Phil Kelly philip.kelly@otago.ac.nz

Katie Peppercorn katie.peppercorn@otago.ac.nz

Local and small and human: community-oriented commerce

Right now, we work with over 100 different suppliers, many of whom we know by name. When we pay our suppliers, that money goes directly into a small business bank account—often belonging to someone who has personally grown, baked, bottled, brewed, sewn, or crafted what customers are buying. That feels really good and really human. It feels like a healthy, local way of doing commerce.

Supporting small businesses is the most effective way to push back against the monopolisation and corporatisation of our food and goods. While contemporary food and product systems sometimes provide cheaper products, they decimate the planet, they take meaningful work out of the equation, and ultimately they only benefit higher ranking capitalists (CEOs, shareholders, upper

management). Supporting small businesses leads to fewer middlemen, shorter supply chains, more resilience, more sustainability, and a diverse and thriving local economy.

When you're able to shop at small local businesses, you're doing more than just buying groceries or gifts, you're backing a web of small businesses. You're supporting local livelihoods and helping build a stronger and more connected community.

Amee (from the Waitati Merchant)





The Halo Project Source to Sea team are working hard to identify the location of six pest plants within the Mihiwaka-Kāpuka-Taumāhaka/Mt Cargill area this year and they need your help.

Thanks to funding from the Otago Regional Council the team are surveying this landscape to remove these plants:

- Sycamore**
- Gunnera**
- Darwin's Barberry**
- Tradescantia**
- Chilean Flame Creeper**
- Banana Passionfruit**



Mihiwaka - Kāpuka-Taumāhaka is a taoka landscape supporting the health and happiness of the humans and wildlife who call our area home. Locals enjoy walking the network of tracks, from the Organ Pipes to Sullivans Dam, and the impressive Mihiwaka crag is well loved by climbers!

This ngahere/bush provides food and habitat for species spilling over the ecosanctuary fence. Many native invertebrates in Aotearoa have evolved in close relationship with specific native plants, relying on them for food, shelter, and to complete their life cycles. When those host plants are lost or out-competed, the invertebrates that depend on them disappear as well.



Each of the target pest plants can dominate the habitat in which they grow, causing our native plants to be outcompeted and reducing the habitat available to our native animals. Driving between Waitete/Waitati and Kōputai/Port Chalmers one need only glance out the window momentarily to see the thousands of sycamores taking over the landscape at the Centenary lookout. Working together, we can ensure this issue is contained!

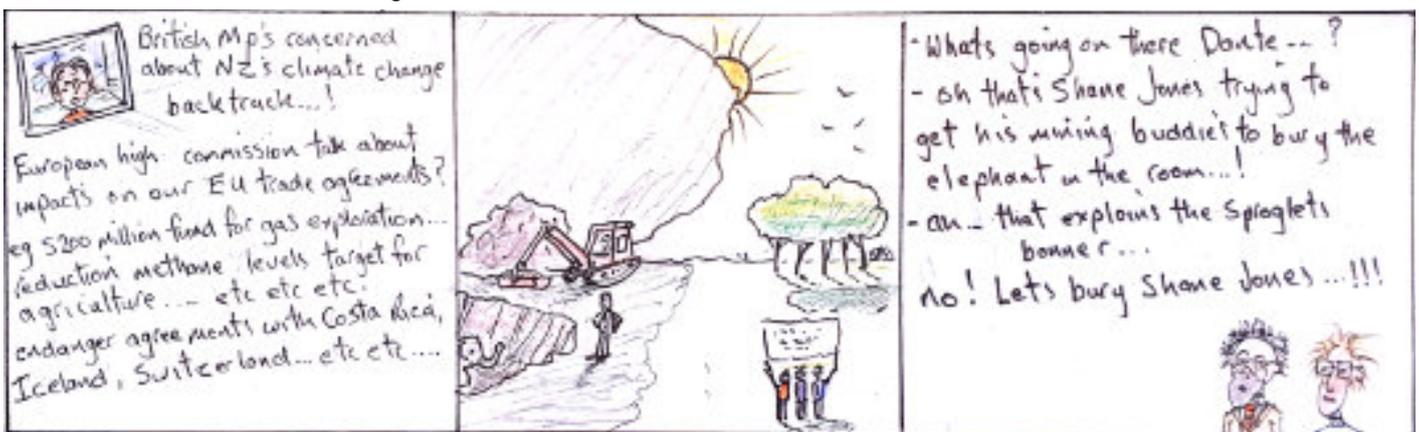
The Halo Project Source to Sea team will be surveying the roadsides and tracks in this area for these plants in the coming months. Keep an eye out, and if you see these plants at your place the team are happy to visit and help you with a management plan!

To learn more about or report the location of the target pest plants, head to www.haloproject.org.nz/mihiwaka or visit iNaturalist.org.

To learn more about environmental weeds and how to control them, check out: www.weedbusters.org.nz.

Madness vs Sanity

Proff Dante



Leanne's 'Gift of Giving' Christmas Charity Drive

For 6 years now I have run my 'Gift of Giving' campaign where locals get the opportunity to donate new and used gifts under my Christmas Tree at The Outpost Café. 2025 was another very successful year of collecting donated gifts with well over 450 in total.

Each year I've run the 5-week campaign advertising and collecting, then I deliver the items to my chosen Charity - Anglican Family Care. This service work with families/whānau to build brighter futures, offering practical support and encouragement. They work with the wider Otago and it's a service available to everyone.

At Christmas they set up a 'Shop' with the donated items, where families can go in and browse, this idea was incorporated year before last and it's brilliant. It means nothing is given to families that's not needed, they choose what's suited, and it creates a somewhat normal Christmas shopping experience.

This time of year, especially is really hard for families and parents facing daily challenges.

Rising costs of living and added pressures makes it hard to provide any extras in the festive season, which every child deserves to experience. The communities koha helped lift that weight, bringing, joy, hope, and a sense of belonging to those who needed it most. It's not just a gift, it's a message of care and community coming together. As a mum of three I know the importance of working together to support our children and I'm blessed to be able to run this campaign with the amazing support from our community.

Thank you to Outpost Café for allowing me the space and their staff who answer all the enquiries whilst being busy. To my little advertising helpers Jacob and Maia Larsen. Thank you to everyone who has donated, you have made a child smile this year and that's worth so much.



A special thank you to Oceania Gold who donated a generous \$2000 worth of new toys, Anglican Family Care were extremely grateful! I look forward to another successful charity drive this Christmas, with love,

Leanne Black

22/01/26

Kia ora Blueskin Bay Community

As some of you may be aware, McEwan Haulage will be undertaking truck movements along Doctors Point Road over the coming months as part of local subdivision works. Movements will be limited to working hours between 0730h and 1800h.

We understand that increased heavy vehicle activity can be a concern, particularly on local roads. To help keep everyone safe, we have worked with the local Community Board and have put the following measures in place:

- Geo-fencing of Doctors Point Road within our EROAD system, with a maximum truck speed of 40 km/h enforced.
- Minimising truck and trailer movements by using a stockpiling site at the beginning of Doctors Point Road, where material will be transferred onto truck-only units for transport.
- Truck Crossing signage in place around the entranceway to site while truck movements are taking place.

While there will be some additional vehicle movements during this time, we are committed to being respectful of the local community and to minimising disruption wherever possible. We value the opportunity to work alongside residents and welcome feedback if issues arise.

If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards,

Craig Moore McEwan Haulage
027 234 8705



15 March 3pm | \$10 - \$20

one hour all ages

Venue: Waitati Hall

Storyteller Tanya Batt and musician Peter Forster invite you into the twilight realm of the bat.

Showcasing Aotearoa's only Indigenous land mammal and one of the most prolific mammals on our planet, this all ages (5 years plus) programme is a weave of traditional bat stories from around the world, bat science and stranger than fiction folkloric traditions.

Dress up in your batty best, win prizes, sing along and discover just how incredible bats are.

Response to *They've got the Power*, by Hilary Rowley (November 2025)

Could Blueskin Share Electricity Again?

From our early solar uptake to the recent explosion of electric vehicles, Blueskin Bay has always been ahead of the energy curve. It's therefore no surprise that Blueskin was home to one of New Zealand's first community solar-sharing initiatives: the Blueskin Energy Network (BEN). As Hilary mentioned in her November article it would be great to see something like BEN return, and I have begun exploring options for an updated version.

Technology has changed in the years post-BEN. As well as having even more homes with solar panels, we've seen a huge increase in home batteries and electric vehicles, and a move away from gas to electric hot water cylinders. These technologies have the ability to store and shift their electricity use through time – a feature referred to as 'demand response' or the more trendier term 'flexibility'.

Rather than just sharing solar generation, a modern Blueskin energy sharing scheme could share solar and battery energy, reward households that provide flexibility, and lower total cost for all participants.

To give some context as to why flexibility is so valuable, it's useful to peep behind the curtain of NZ's electricity system. The electricity retailers in New Zealand that supply our homes and businesses have to buy their power from the national spot market, where prices change every five minutes. Much of the time, spot prices are very low (0.05 cents per kWh as I write this). But during peak periods (cold evenings, dry spells, unexpected generator outages, etc.), prices can spike dramatically. While households don't see these spikes directly, retailers often make large losses during these periods, and recover these losses by charging higher fixed prices the rest of the time. In other words, we all pay extra to cover a handful of very expensive moments.

With that in mind, here is my proposal for a modernised local energy network. Many Blueskin households have batteries getting

charged with solar energy or cheap overnight power. During peak times when electricity is most expensive those batteries could discharge back into the local system, helping meet demand without relying on expensive grid power. This wouldn't mean "giving electricity away for free". Battery owners would be fairly compensated, discharging would be optional and limited, and households can keep some amount of their own backup power if they want it.

In effect, battery owners would be helping smooth out peaks for the wider community and getting rewarded for it. Customers without a battery can also help smooth peaks and reduce cost by automatically shifting demand from EV chargers, hot water cylinders, and even heating systems. And just as we had with BEN, customers generating excess solar can share it with others in the community.

Electricity lines charges still apply and can't be avoided entirely. However, they are much lower outside peak periods, strengthening the case for charging batteries and EVs overnight and using stored energy during peak times.

If this idea resonates with you (whether or not you have solar/batteries), send an email to rafferty@anthill.co.nz to be kept updated. If there is enough interest, the next step would be discussions about how such a scheme could work and what people would be comfortable participating in.

Rafferty Parker

Waitangi Day 2026

Whānau Gathering at the Botanic Garden

Join us this Waitangi Day for a relaxed, whānau-friendly gathering in the beautiful Botanic Garden.

Bring a picnic blanket, settle in on the lawn, and enjoy a programme of kapa haka, live music, and kai.

Nau mai, tauti mai. Everyone is welcome.

Friday 6 February | 11am–1pm

Dunedin Botanic Gardens (Rotunda Lawn)

Free | All welcome



Karitāne Cultural Journeys

As part of Waitangi Day 2026, a small number of free guided cultural journeys will be hosted at Karitāne, led by Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki.

These experiences offer a respectful, place-based way to engage with Te Tiriti o Waitangi through local stories of whenua, awa, and whakapapa.

Friday 6 February | Free | Ticketed | Limited Spaces

Morning Session 8-11am – Awa & Māra

Afternoon Session 1-4pm – Huriawa Guided Walk

Bookings at karitanemoaritours.com

THE RANT

Rayna & Mark Dickson



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

What makes us SAD

That we head into 2026 with such divisiveness and extremism in the global and local political scene. Being an election year here in Aotearoa, this state is likely to intensify for us all as this year unfolds. What makes us really sad is the general lack of collaboration and attempts for bipartisanship in key policy areas such as economy, infrastructure, health, education and climate/environment. Continual polarisation and cyclical repetition on these issues, takes all our focus away from what's really important, finding mutually agreeable, viable and sustainable solutions going forward.

What makes us MAD

The waste of time, energy and resources, related to the above!

What makes us GLAD

As an antidote to what makes us sad and mad, we are so glad to live in a community that still does what it can to look after its own needs and natural environment.

We appreciate the many local enterprises, businesses and activities provided by and supported by local people. We are grateful to the folk who continually put themselves out there to make things happen, offering a myriad of options to meet the needs and wants of the different folk in our community. Just look at what's on offer in the BSN! None of this happens without willing and committed people on the ground and a new generation leaning in and taking over the reigns with new vision and energy.

What constitutes local is a personal decision, depending on one's own circumstances and perspectives. We are grateful that we don't have to travel far or necessarily by car, to meet many of our own day to day needs and wants. And we love knowing there is so much more going on, that may not personally be of interest or in which we do not choose to participate. That's our joy of living in this diverse community, not having to be a part of everything, in order to belong!

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

Hi all, welcome to 2026. We have a busy year planned for the Heritage Centre and we hope many of you will decide to call in and see us at some time during the year. We will be taking down our very successful Plunket display this month and replacing it in March with a Military display until May. We have a number of old uniforms, medals, photos and various paraphernalia related to the military over the years to put on display. Many young men in the Waikouaiti district lost their lives in battles over the years and not always overseas, current events demonstrate that lessons have still not been learnt.

The Heritage Centre may also have a presence at the Blueskin A & P show, we are hoping to provide a glimpse into your own local history.

On Easter Saturday we will once again open the doors to the old bank and encourage locals to come for a look through free-of-charge. It is an impressive building and in time will become even more so, with our efforts to restore the building. Have I already said it is a long slow process, but our tall chimney is now strengthened to withstand any earthquakes.

In June the Heritage Centre will be celebrating five years since opening our doors and to celebrate we plan to hold a major art exhibition during the month to promote the wonderful local artists who display and sell their work in our gift shop.

Sometime during the winter, we have another potential fundraising event which you will learn about in future articles. In July we are also intending to celebrate Matariki especially with local children. Then finally in October we will once again hold our popular plant sale during Labour weekend.

In the gift shop we have a range of new items with more to come, remember us when you are looking for a gift for that special person. We have something for all age groups. It is surprising how many locals call in for the first time and are impressed with what they see and buy. You will be too.



Around the Bay – February Events

BLUESKIN LIBRARY	
Thursday 26	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	
Wednesday 18	Digital Learning Clinic By appointment 2 – 6pm Free/Koha Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info
TUESDAYS	Ping Pong: 7 – 8.30pm. All ages, levels and drop ins. Contact: Helena 022 6474 738
WEDNESDAYS	Korero te reo Māori 6.30 – 7.30pm Starts 4 July \$5 registration koha Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info
FRIDAYS	Piano lessons with Marion Poole \$40 a session, 2pm onwards. Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info
SATURDAYS Beginning soon	Te reo Maori through games 10am – 2pm for 4 consecutive weeks For tamariki and whanau All levels and ages) Bring kai to share/koha Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info
SUNDAYS	Blueskin Bay Orchestra rehearsal 3 – 5pm. Contact: Emily Sterk Email: waiputai@gmail.com for info

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

WARRINGTON HALL	
TUESDAYS	Indoor Bowls: 7.30pm
THURSDAYS	Yoga – All levels: 6.30 – 7.30pm Bring your own mat \$10pp Contact: hagino.yoga@gmail.com
SUNDAYS	Waitati Warblers: Singing for joy 4 – 5.30pm Contact: nancymiller140@gmail.com

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

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

GALLERY ON BLUESKIN	
Wednesday 4	Quiz 7 – 9pm no cover charge
Sunday 16	Live Music with Dee Street Band

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

5	8	6	1	4	2	9	7	3
2	3	4	9	7	5	6	1	8
7	9	1	6	8	3	4	5	2
6	7	2	4	5	8	1	3	9
4	5	3	7	1	9	8	2	6
9	1	8	2	3	6	5	4	7
3	4	9	5	6	7	2	8	1
8	6	5	3	2	1	7	9	4
1	2	7	8	9	4	3	6	5

Answer to December Sudoku

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Join with other local Tairā te reo Māori.

This is an opportunity to spend an hour practicing speaking te reo Māori with other learners.

Waiputai Hub, Wednesday evenings
7 pm – 8 pm, starts Wednesday 4th March
\$5 registration koha

Email waiputai@gmail.com to register.



opening hours:
Fri 4 - late | Sat & Sun 12 - late

We are a small family brewery owned and operated by Jono and Emma, located in Evansdale on Blueskin Bay.

We are focused on brewing small batch crafted beers
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and evenings:
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Monthly : First Wednesday is Quiz night until 9pm
Last Wednesday is Live Music until 9pm



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Hoping everyone managed some rest and relaxation and is ready for 2026. I'm happy to help with any of your Real Estate needs.



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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

Having a Birthday Party or a Gathering. Why not rent the cozy and friendly Hub at \$15 hour. Call Nancy on 021 171 0226 for further info, or email waiputai@gmail.com

EAST OTAGO PLAYGROUP

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

LILLIPUT LIBRARIES

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

WAIKOUAITI PALMERSTON TOY LIBRARY

Borrow toys for children aged 6 months to 8 years. Open Saturdays 10 - 11.30 at Waikouaiti Racecourse, Clackmannan Street email wptoylibrary@yahoo.co.nz



Have you visited the Waitati community anti-scurvy pantry ?

There is a facebook group of the same name for updates.

This Community food sharing pantry is located in the playground next to the library in Waitati.

Drop off excess garden produce.

Help yourself, and donate what you can spare. It is good to return clean jars with lids for refilling.



Blueskin General Store (Waitati On The Spot)

Store Hours:
Mon - Sat 7.30am - 7pm
Sunday 9am - 6.30pm
Ph 482 2741

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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Printed by Digiart Design Limited

On Saturday 17 January, around 150 people gathered to celebrate the grand opening of the new Warrington Lifeguard and Club building. Matapura Ellison representing Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka Ki Puketeraki supported by mana whenua kicked off proceedings with a welcome to all comers amongst a warm evening sun. Speeches followed from Isabella Aldrich (Chair of Warrington Surf Lifesaving Club), Naomi Ingram (Committee member), Kelvyn Eglinton (Chair of Surf Lifesaving New Zealand) and blessing from Mani Sharplin-Malloy and Rick Ngamoki. Beautiful Waiata by mana whenua and clubbies sang out over the dunes signifying the coming together of the community and the goals of keeping each other safe around our beautiful Moana. The Ribbon was eventually cut by Warrington Life Member Lyn Hastie and Young Nipper Yvette Peters (5).

Warrington Moana Rua has a long and proud history and Miss Aldrich, sporting an original Club Blazer gifted by one of the early club members, spoke of how proud she was to be able to stand on the shoulders of the wahine that found the club back in the 1960's and subsequently brought the Moana Rua club to Warrington in 1976. In that time the club has continued to grow with regular volunteer lifeguarding patrols, a rookie ifeguard program, junior and adult surf lifesaving sport programme and successes locally and nationally in Surf Lifesaving Sport.

After a tour of the new building and shared kai in the packed clubrooms, Life members of Otago/Southland Surf Lifesaving and of Warrington club shared stories with members young and old. Arnold Jones (98) was one such Life Member thrilled to be invited along and shared wonderful memories of the club and Surf Lifesaving in Otago and Southland.

There is still time to get involved in Surf Lifesaving this summer at Warrington. Junior Surf runs on a Sunday Morning from 10.15am and the Senior Team at various times during the week. Email the club for more information at warringtonslscnz@gmail.com and remember to Swim between the flags...

Jonathan Hogben



Kelvyn, Arnold and Isabella: This shows Kelvyn Eglinton (Chair of Surf Lifesaving New Zealand), Arnold Jones (Life Member of Otago and Southland Surf Lifesaving) and Isabella Aldrich (Chair of Warrington Moana Rua Surf Lifesaving Club).

The New Building.

Lyn Hastie and Young Nipper Yvette Peters cutting the ribbon

Celebrating our wildlife & community

BLUESKIN SHOW DAY

Sunday 29th March 2026

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

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

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