

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

APRIL 2020

Seacliff

•

Warrington

•

Evansdale

•

Waitati

•

Doctors Point

•

Purakaunui

LOCAL COMMUNITY

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plus lots more ...

Blueskin Bay Community Spaces

Warrington Hall

Available for birthdays, family gatherings, exercise classes, dances and do's etc at reasonable rates. Hire includes a fully equipped kitchen and tables and chairs.

Contact Lyn 482 2896 or Rowena 482 2667

Waitati Hall

Suitable for large meetings, conferences, concerts, dances etc. (up to 100 people) features toilets, stage, sound system, large screen.

Contact

**ALL CLOSED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Suitable for committee meetings, small gatherings, training, interviews etc. (up to 20 people) features modular tables, large projection screen, kitchenette and toilets.

Contact Blueskin Nurseries at 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

Hire charge is usually applicable, details can be obtained on request

Editors Note

Hi everyone, I'm feeling very odd – it's Wednesday morning, I should be sitting at my desk at the Council instead I'm sitting at home finishing off this issue and keeping an eye on my work emails for any urgent messages signalling that I have work to do. I'm sure it must be equally strange for most of you but I hope the Blueskin News will bring at least a flavour of normality with our usual mix of stories.

I have included a page for kids as they are all now home bound. For the next issue which may well just be online (on the Community Facebook page) it would be great to get some submissions from them, pictures, poems, jokes etc etc.

I haven't included all the cancellations but I think you can assume that all local groups and classes will not be happening as all our venues are closed for at least the next 4 weeks. I have heard of some that are going online so keep an eye on the facebook page.

While we're all confined to home and the weather is still good an early garden clean up might be in order, healthy exercise and the satisfaction of seeing what a difference you can make is very good for the body and mind.

Lastly, keep in touch with your friends and families - my children are in Brisbane and London and we now WhatsApp every day just for a couple of minutes.

Keep well, Bernie



I love working in this area and strive to ensure you achieve best possible price when selling. I have high buyer demand for this area. If you'd like to discuss your property I'd love to hear from you.

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Trees for Families

Sunday, 10 May | 11am

Every Mother's Day, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dunedin, Keep Dunedin Beautiful hosts Trees for Families. Trees for Families provides the opportunity to celebrate family milestones, while contributing to a native revegetation project in Dunedin.

Contact Keep Dunedin Beautiful to register before Sunday, 19 April.

Trees cost \$20 each and must pre-ordered. Meet at harbour cycleway, Otago University Rowing Club end.

Keep Dunedin Beautiful | 03 477 4000
keepdunedinbeautiful@dcc.govt.nz



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kaunihera a-rohe o Ōtēpoti



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Covid-19 Level 4 Alert - what it means for our community

Supporting each other in changing times

Our country and community has been through a lot of confusion and stress over the last week with how to respond and prepare for the Covid-19 outbreak.

How are we going to keep safe and look after each other?

As part of our local Emergency response Network we have community plans and resource lists, if you have a copy of the local Blueskin Directory these are on page 9-13. Each area (Karitane, Seacliff, Warrington, Waitati and Purakanui) has a phone tree and or door knocking systems to check up on the neighbours. You of course can do the same, check in with friends near and far, let them know you are thinking of them.

As the weeks become months we will need stronger networking and more volunteers to support people to stay in their homes. Lists are being compiled on community facebook pages and also through your area response plan volunteers. Do not be afraid to reach out and ask for help, we are all in this together

What we can we do to get through?

Social distancing - a tool public health officials are now enforcing under Level 4 alert to slow the spread of a disease that is being passed from person to person. Simply put, it means that people stay far enough away from each other so that the coronavirus - or any pathogen - cannot spread from one person to another. Stay at home if you're out walking and meet someone - keep a distance of at least 2 metres. As toilet tissue and bulk foods fly off the supermarket shelves (places the elderly should avoid - remember all over 70's should now be staying in their homes) delivering groceries medication or firewood, making sure susceptible

community members have items they need to survive an isolation period will prove vital

Healthy folk can do their part to mitigate the loneliness by a quick chat over the fence, a phone call every few days or introducing seniors to technology such as FaceTime, WhatsApp or Skype to keep in communication with loved ones

Most important - practicing good hand hygiene, wash your hands for twenty seconds as per diagram below.

Mandy Mayhem-Bullock



Blueskin Community Facebook

At a time when everyone has been told to stay home and new developments on the COVID-19 situation are taking place every day, connecting communities through social media becomes paramount.

The Blueskin Community Facebook group is a place for local people to offer help or ask for the help they need during this difficult time, in conjunction with the efforts of Civil Defence welfare volunteers and the community board. The group brings together people who live and or work within the wider Blueskin area, stretching from Karitane, Waikouaiti and Waitati/Warrington over to Dunback, the upper Waitati valley, Osborne, Purakaunui and Long Beach.

For example, I've been following examples from overseas, in countries where COVID-19 situation is currently more severe. In my parent's village in Mid-Wales, locals are using community social media pages to offer spare produce, shopping runs, dog walks and prepared meals for those that can't do these things for themselves under the circumstances. We can do this too. Likewise, if you need to reach out for assistance locally, we can share a post for you or put you in touch with local volunteers, send a message to the page and we'll help anyway we can.

The Blueskin Bay area is made up of resourceful and community-minded people, who have a lot to offer each other. I urge anyone in our community who isn't already on Facebook, or a member of the page, to sign-up or join the Blueskin Community Page www.facebook.com/groups/BlueskinCommunity/

Let's support each other. Kia kaha

Ioan Bramhall Co-admin of the Blueskin Community Facebook group.

WAIKOUAITI COAST COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Alasdair Morrison

In addition to work associated with the current issues with the COVID 19 outbreak, the normal work of Council goes on, as does planning for the future. By now you should have received a green brochure in the mail entitled 'Have Your Say'. This gives you the opportunity to make a submission to the Draft Annual Plan, as well as inviting comment on the amendment to the 10-year plan. You will also see that there is a Draft Waste Minimisation and Management Plan. It is quite important to have a look at this, and have your say, since it will affect the way in which all of our rubbish and waste is dealt with in the future.

The ORC has had a look at our suggested upgrade of the bus services to the north coast areas. They gave it to the bus companies for costing and have come back to us advising that we should address this issue in our submission to the ORC Draft Annual Plan. I would encourage all of you who are dissatisfied with our rather poor bus service to also make a submission. People will be able to submit feedback on the proposed plan between 26 March and 24 April, and hearings will be held between 21 and 26 May. The plan will soon be available on the ORC website: orc.govt.nz

We have two more formal meetings before the end of the financial year and we still have some money in our discretionary fund which we would love to give away to worthy local projects. To apply for a grant, either contact a board member or download the application form from the DCC website. Our next meeting is scheduled for 29th April, starting at the slightly earlier time of 4.30 pm at Warrington Surf Club. Until then please stay safe and keep following the guidelines from the health authorities and the Government.

Please feel free to give me a call with any concerns or comments you may have.

Alasdair Morrison, Chairman,
Waikouaiti Coast Community Board. Ph. 0274 354 384



The Godwits are leaving

These incredible birds breed in Alaska and feed in our estuary, enjoying a perpetual summer as they circumnavigate the world. This is the longest known migratory path for any bird. The trip here takes 7 – 9 days. That's 12,000km of non-stop flying across open water - how lucky are we that these little birds choose Blueskin Bay as their R&R spot!

Arriving here at 300g, they have now gorged themselves on our bountiful estuarine food sources to weigh 600g and they have replaced their flight feathers and are ready to journey back to the northern hemisphere. The polychaete worms, baby cockles and whelks and tiny crabs in the bay have been their staple food since they arrived in October. Their feathers are not waterproof, so they can't stop at sea. Travelling at 60kph, they are off. They fly home via Australia, Japan and Russia. They feed along the way, heading home, so they are ready to breed when they arrive in Alaska. The godwits that leave New Zealand in early March breed in the south, where the ice melts first, and birds that leave at the end of March breed in the north, where the ice melts last.

An amazing bird – worth protecting. See you next year team!



Blueskin Bay Watch

Written by Sue Hensley

The tentacles of Covid-19 have a long reach. Simone Langhans who is guiding us through steps to initiate a management plan for Blueskin Bay is now in lockdown in Spain and will not be able to make it here for the one on one interviews which were planned for April. At present we are working on a Skype alternative. For us this is a minor blip and our hearts go out to those bearing the more serious impacts of Covid-19.

The meeting due to take place at the Waitati Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 April, has now been postponed until further notice.



Sea water in the their veins

Our Warrington and Waitatua teen age lifeguards are a special breed. They don't stop! Every evening you can see the little beach CanAm towing a trailer to the beach full of boats and surf skis. Warrington Surf Life Saving Club has sixty trained lifeguards and together they have completed over 1,000 hours of service to our community this summer - 'between the flags'. In addition they have raised over \$10,000 via wood chopping, quizzes, raffles and stalls to buy the boats and gear they use.

Warrington Surf Lifesaving club is small but precious. These fit and talented teens compete on the national stage and bring home the silver (and gold) ware. This week 3 gold medals and a silver were won at the National competition in Gisborne. Competition hones expertise. Rescues mounted by WSLSC IRB drivers have saved up to 30 swimmers in one call out! Our kids are the second top IRB club in the south and in the top ten in NZ last year.

So, when you hear those screaming two stroke motors on a quiet morning - know that when you swim between the flags - they are watching - you are safe.

Start the machine

by Paul S Allen

Start the machine

the melancholic movement,
cogs unending interactions, round
and round,
no exit on this circle ride.
Start and start it must.

Do not fight it,
capitulate to the machine,
primed and set in motion,
day in day out,
the task is never done.

Routine and creativity clash
in a fight for the mind
and all it's space,
clarity of thought fogged
with everyday activity
that must be put in motion.
Start the machine,

start the machine!

Start the noise.

Start the toil.

Start the fuss.

Start the conformity.

Start the mediocracy.

Then... one day it will stop.

The end.

Sandra Clark
Real Estate Specialist

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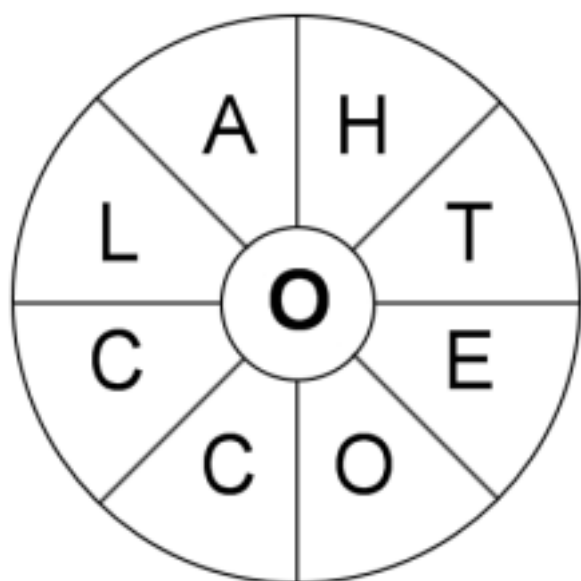
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Kids Column

Fun puzzles to solve



How many words can you make from these letters - you must always include the middle letter?

Can you solve this problem?

	+		=	8
+		+		
	-		=	6
=		=		
13		8		

Fill in the coloured squares so that all the sums are correct!

Easter word search

R A B B I T O S R D M M
A M S H E H A P R I L F
C S R Q S U N D A Y N F
J P Q X L N T H P Q M L
G R R V W T M Z A D L O
A I C H O C O L A T E W
I N C F B J X Y Y W C E
S G H F U L Q W H R A R
U C I R N L Y I E O N S
X X C G N E G G S B D M
G I K Z Y O M M H M Y N
O Y B A S K E T L I E E

SUNDAY
CHICK
CANDY

HUNT
RABBIT
APRIL

CHOCOLATE
BUNNY
FLOWERS

SPRING
EGGS
BASKET

Some Riddles and Jokes

Q: What gets wetter the more it dries? A towel.

Q: When you look for something, why is it always in the last place you look? Because when you find it, you stop looking!

Q: A cowboy rode into town on Friday. He stayed in town for three days and rode out on Friday. How was that possible? Friday was the name of his horse.

Q: One night, a king and a queen went into a castle. There was nobody in the castle, and no one came out of the castle. In the morning, three people came out of the castle. Who were they? The knight (night), the king, and the queen!

Q: What has a face and two hands, but no arms or legs? A clock.

Q: What has to be broken before you can use it? An egg.

Q: It starts out tall, but the longer it stands, the shorter it grows. What is it? A candle.

Q: What belongs to you but is used more by others? Your name.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Broccoli? Broccoli who? Broccoli doesn't have a last name, silly.

Knock, knock. Who's there? Atch. Atch who? Bless you!

Knock, knock. Who's there? Cows go. Cows go who? No silly, cows go MOO!



CANCELLATION BLUESKIN SHOW DAY

Due to Covid-19 the Blueskin Show Committee has had to cancel this years Blueskin on Show.

We apologise for any inconvenience but look forward to seeing you all next year.

Mark Brown

President Blueskin A&P Society.



BRCT

BLUESKIN RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TRUST

April 2020

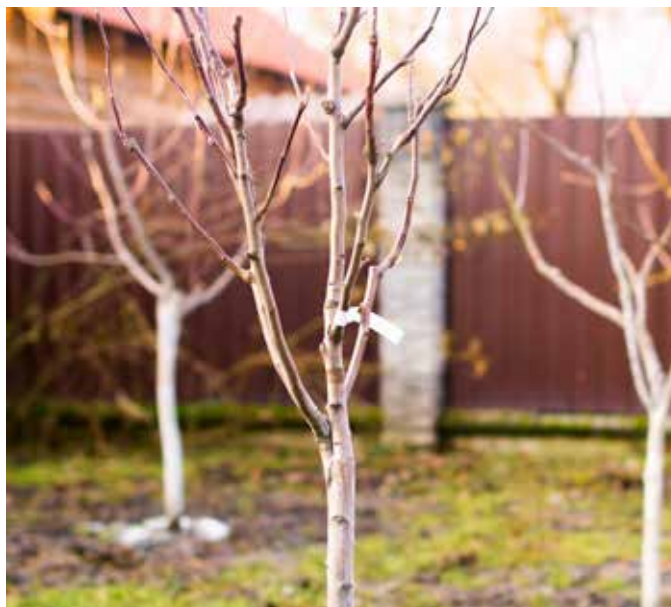
My good friend, mentor and patron of the Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust Jeanette Fitzsimons died on the 5 March. It was out of the blue as her husband Harry described it, as Jeanette, never one for sitting back, had finished some chain-sawing the day before and was at work on the farm when she had a fall, which led to the hospital and then a massive stroke.

As we've seen from all the messages from around the country and around the world, her humility and her commitment to making our country a better place inspired so many of us. She is dearly missed by her family, and the rest of us who were touched by generosity and passion. Jeanette was a great friend to our community. She'd visited many times and presented at public events and was deeply involved with and interested in all the Trust's projects, most recently contributing to and helping raise donations for the climate safe house project. Her energy and passion for solutions was renowned.

I will profoundly miss her guidance and friendship. Jeanette leaves her husband Harry Parke, her children and grandchildren. I send on behalf of all of us here at the Blueskin Resilient Communities Trust and Blueskin Energy Ltd our deepest condolences to Harry and all Jeanette's family.

The BRCT website is www.brct.org.nz and you can contact us by email at: office@brct.org.nz or phone 03 482 2048.

By Scott Willis



From the team at Blueskin Nurseries

The cafe and the nursery are now closed to foot traffic. Please email us at sales@blueskinnurseries.co.nz with your questions and we will answer them. Or send your order in for winter delivery of fruit trees.

Thank you for your support and we will see you in 4 weeks.

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BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

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Covid-19 Update

(at the time of going to press)

The Dunedin City Council continues to monitor its public facilities and services during the Covid-19 outbreak. As of Saturday 21 March all libraries will be closed to walk-in customers until further notice, but our digital services are still open.

The Digital Library

This may be a good time to take a look at the Dunedin Public Libraries website:

www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz and check out the Digital Library options. Here are two for starters:

■ As a library member, you have access to **BorrowBox**, an easy to use platform that allows you to browse, preview, reserve and download eBooks and eAudio titles onto your electronic devices.



Borrow New eBook Releases



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■ **PressReader** provides online access to today's newspapers and magazines from around the world in full colour in their traditional format and layout including complete editorial content, graphics, advertising, classifieds and crossword puzzles. The collection has over 6,000 newspapers and magazines in 60 languages.



Dunedin Public Libraries App

The DPL App makes reserving and extending loans really easy, ask at the desk or search your App Store for Dunedin Public Libraries. You can also access BorrowBox and Pressreader from the app.

Children's Book Club

Monday 11 May, 3.30 - 4.30pm

There is no April book club due to the Easter break. Currently the May club is going ahead but watch this space for updates.

Lego Club

Cancelled until further notice.

Bookshare

Cancelled until further notice.

Blueskin Bay Knitwits

Cancelled until further notice.

Service Centre

Open until 5pm weekdays for DCC rubbish bags, dog registrations, Bokashi buckets, parking fines and rates.

Book a Librarian

Need help using the library? We can show you how to use our computers, search our catalogue, set up an email account, download e-books or e-audio, and help with your research project. Talk to us about booking a FREE 30 minute session for one-on-one assistance with a librarian.

Library Hours

Mon & Tues: 2-6pm

Wed, Thurs & Fri:
10am - 12pm & 2-6pm

Sat: 10am - 1pm





We had a marvellous time on our whole school camp which saw us head over to Hoopers Inlet on the Otago Peninsula. It was great to get to a part of our local area that we don't get to very often. We had nice weather which made tenting fun. We scaled Hereweka first up to orientate ourselves with the amazing peninsula landscape and enjoy the awesome views.



From there it was a medley of excellent tourist/camp activities which were a trip on the Monarch and visits to the aquarium, the albatross colony at Tairoa Head and Larnach Castle. We learnt lots of interesting information about the area, both from a historical and wildlife perspective. We also enjoyed a variety of water and beach fun. The kids loved making detailed maps of the Peninsula when we got back to school.

We have also been enjoying our new kitchen set up in the senior class. We have been cooking and baking, doing some fascinating food science experiments and we also had a wonderful hands on lesson in how to make Chinese dumplings which was a big collective effort. The end product was delicious. Our potato harvest was decent and there were some huge spuds among the crop. The kids always love digging in the earth for potatoes.



The Little Pipi's playgroup on Thursday mornings has been blessed with some sunny autumnal weather lately, which has made for some lovely outdoor fun.

Any queries about Pūrākaunui School please call the office on 482 1026.

Tim Cook Principal



A Message from Waitati School Board Chairperson:

Kia ora koutou

It was with great sadness that we accepted Stacey's resignation as Principal. Stacey came to Waitati mid-way through 2015 and she will be finishing at the end of this term. In those five years with her leadership the school achieved a glowing report from ERO for the quality of education and management and the school's roll grew dramatically.

We are in a strong position with a great team of teachers and support staff, many cool classroom programmes and wider opportunities in place for the education and growth of our kids. The school has strong engagement across all aspects of its activity – I'm not only thinking of the relationships with the school whānau here, I'm thinking about groups like Blueskin Playcentre, the Ministry of Education, Ngai Tahu, DCC, the Waitati community and our neighbouring schools. Stacey has been a very good manager of those relationships and also the school's finances, property and the all-important operational policies and processes. It's a complex and demanding role. So, we are grateful to Stacey for all that she's done and wish her all the best in her new role at Oamaru North School.

We will have a poroporoaki to farewell Stacey at the Waitati Hall on Monday 6 April from 6pm. This will be an opportunity for any members of the school and wider community, young and old, to say their farewells. We will provide cups of tea/coffee and cake at the conclusion.

Antony Deaker, Board Chairperson

Thursday 9 April	Last day of Term 1
Tuesday 28 April	School Closed - Teacher Only Day
Wednesday 29 April	Term 2 starts
Friday 8 May	School Closed - Teacher Only Day



Waitati Toastmasters

As we are preparing to stay at home for at least four weeks, I've been thinking that this self-isolation might be difficult. I wanted to let you know that if you need some mental stimulation, want to improve your communication skills, or just want some social interaction, then you are very welcome to come along to Toastmasters meetings.

From this week clubs will be having their weekly meetings online using video conferencing. The technology is simple to use from a phone, tablet or computer/laptop.

Meetings are based on the Toastmasters education programme which will still be available while we work from home.

Please feel free to join any of the Waitati Toastmasters club online meetings which are at 7pm on Wednesdays.

To attend the online meeting register on the following link:

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.

When: April 1, 2020 07:00 PM Auckland, Wellington Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/vJQqce-urzugunPPXWkMgyXEN0phYIZRC9A?fbclid=IwAR0ASnJc1r1-kS-frleVnTNWu3F1vM-SsZGz8yNUqa0aYcHtY9RnhZOYyBc>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

If you need to contact me at all.

email: waitatitoastmasters@gmail.com or

Facebook @waitatitoastmasters

Best wishes and stay safe.

Jane Gregory.



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Bath on the Deck

The terracotta bath, sits perched for all to see.
On the edge of our deck, but it's not for you or me.
The thrush is in there, having a good old splash.
And the female blackbird waiting, makes me
want to laugh.
The bellbird bathing is a delight.
Splashing about with all her might.
Beside the bath is a little perch
Where she flaps her wings with vim and verve..
Then hopping back in, she starts again.
So many times. I counted ten!
The fantail once came fluttering by.
Will she? Won't she? My oh my
Several times she takes a dip.
Then flutters off on a fly catching trip.
The tui causes such a stir.
It looks like a fountain over there.
Such enjoyment is plain to tell.
Free entertainment for us as well.
We change the water to keep it clean
For beautiful birds to bathe and preen.

Lynda Bassett.



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We have had a minor flurry of people asking why the screenings of the Waitati Film Society are no longer published in the Blueskin News. The answer is simple, the Society no longer exists. Its comfortable, well equipped theatrette has been dismantled, its equipment dispersed and its remaining funds donated, of course, to the Blueskin News.

The decision to close the 42year old Society was self evident. Our full memberships had slowly declined and our financially important casual (single screening) members had also dwindled in numbers. Yet the National Federation still insisted that we pay a large levy based on a minimum of 30 members for us to have access to their films.

In addition, the three key organisers, of the Society over the past 41, 32 and 28 years were, understandably, showing signs of volunteer fatigue. Such is life, things change and move on. Back in the days of our clattering 16mm projectors there were no other sources of non-mainstream films. Nowadays Netflix and the Dunedin Film Society are just two of many.

Mark, Leonie, Brigitte.

Editor: We'd like to thank the Society for their generous donation to the Blueskin News.

The Rant by Rebecca aged 8

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

What Makes Me Glad

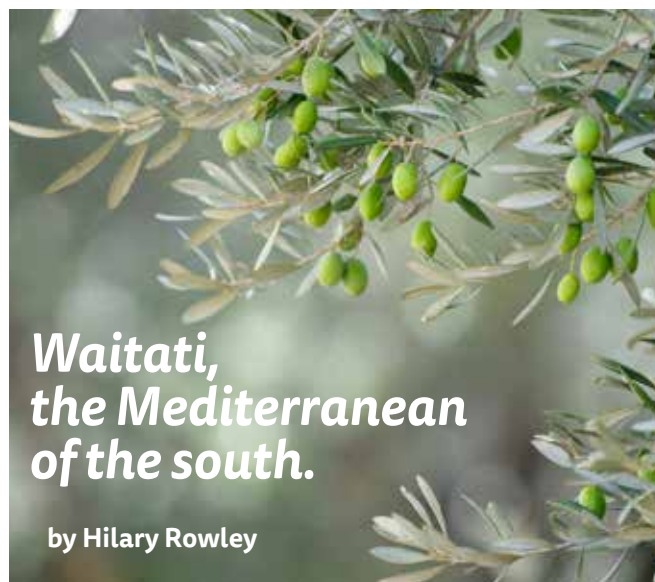
... Birds
... Bush
... Beach
... Friends
... School.

What Makes Me Sad

... Being ignored.

What Makes Me Mad

... Nothing really makes me mad.



Waitati, the Mediterranean of the south.

by Hilary Rowley

45 degrees South or thereabouts, that is our latitude, and the Mediterranean, where olives thrive is around 45 degrees North, so we are potentially in a good olive growing area here, and it is improving all the time with climate change.

We have some olive trees which are growing well. In their first year they were in pots on the deck, against the very sun drenched black wall of the house. We got a small crop of ripe black olives which I preserved successfully in oil. Since they have been planted out we have only had small olives which don't develop fully, except in that really hot summer we had a couple of years back, when I tried making oil. This oil experiment was a failure, I made a grey green sludge, because quite a large volume is needed to actually get some oil out.

There are 2 varieties which suit our cooler climate and they are both good for oil or for pickling. We have them both and they are Frantoio and Leccino. It is best to have 2 varieties for good pollination. They require well drained to medium fertile soil, and a sunny sheltered area, the latter is very important for getting ripe fruit.

A certain retirement home in Dunedin has a sunny West facing, tarmac car park with trees growing in it which produce beautiful black juicy olives, these are the ideal conditions.

All is not lost if you don't have the best conditions for fruit, they will always have leaves (one would hope) and olive leaf extract has antioxidant, antibacterial, antimicrobial, anti inflammatory and immune stimulation properties.

I did a search for home made olive leaf recipes to try. One was to drink it has a tea, the other was to make a tincture. Simply put some chopped olive leaves in a jar and cover with alcohol. Store in a dark place, shake daily and after 2 weeks strain, and you have a very useful tonic.

It may not be quite the Mediterranean here yet but one of the few upsides to climate change is to be able to grow our own luxury foods.

Every little bit helps

For half an hour on five mornings last November Isla (aged 8) and grandad (a little bit older) sat by the side of Highway 1 at Waitati when people were driving to work. We wanted to see how much fuel would be saved and how much less CO2 would be emitted if more people shared their car for the commute to Dunedin. To do this we counted the number of cars and utility vehicles that drove past and whether there were one or more people in them. 567 of the 744 light vehicles counted had just the driver in them, and although not all of the vehicles were doing their daily commute, a lot would were. Depending on how far they had to travel cost of fuel being used and the amount of CO2 emitted are easily estimated.

Financial and environmental costs of commuting to Dunedin

Return distance of commute	Litres of petrol consumed at 7.5lt/100km	Fuel cost per return journey at \$2.20/ litre	Litres of CO2 per return journey at 2.31/litre	Annual cost 230 return journeys	Annual CO2 production
30km	2.25	\$4.95	5.2	\$1139	1195lt
40km	3	\$6.60	6.9	\$1518	1594lt
50k	3.75	\$8.25	8.7	\$1898	1992lt
60km	4.5	\$9.90	10.4	\$2277	2391lt

Even on an individual basis the savings over a year are plainly substantial, but when we multiply the data by the number of drivers who might be prepare to share their commute that the savings start to pile up.

We have assumed that 50km is the average return commute and that 100 of the 567 lone drivers might share their commute with another person. The number of vehicles would fall by 50 each way on each day, and the financial and environmental reductions start to add up: 43,000 litres of fuel not used, \$95,000 not spent and 100,000 litres (0.179 tonnes) of CO2 not produced.

They are all just a very small drops in an ocean to slow the rise in global warming... but we have to keep trying don't we?

Isla Liddy and Michael Fay

March 2020



Halo Project update

Our 'host-a-possum-trap' scheme is available in Waitati to Purakaunui, Careys Bay to Sawyers Bay, also Long Beach and Aramoana, and later this year from Roseneath to Ravensbourne. We now have 1375 traps on the ground and so far this year removed nearly 400 predators. Our goal is to keep predator numbers low to protect native wildlife, trees and gardens, and we need residential areas participating in backyard trapping to achieve this.

During March-April, male possums are on the move looking for partners, and are heard hissing, grunting, growling and screeching. If you have possums in your area and are keen to get involved we'd love to hear from you! To host a possum trap at your place email info@haloproject.org.nz or phone 022 026 2115.

During our recent blue penguin survey around Doctors Point we counted more penguins than we've ever recorded!

Our Source to Sea programme is in full swing at St Leonards, Sawyers Bat, Port Chalmers and Karitane Schools, where students explore and learn about their local stream catchment.



WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

March enjoyable evening at Paul and Ruth's place, where we discussed amongst many other things.....

THE BOOK

The Guest Cat by Japanese author and poet **Takashi Haraide**.

"Gentle thoughtful and subtly profound." From the Gardian probably summed it up nicely. General thumbs up from those present. Marc "enjoyed the multiple themes e.g. Observations of change in the community and necessary adjustments to them"

Other books read....

Me: **Hemingway – Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises**, rediscovering what a compelling writer he was! Always leaves you with plenty to think about.

TV/MOVIE

A film I taped from free to air on the off chance it might be ok? **Water For Elephants**, a dramatic well filmed film in the style of the fifties, had everything you could want in a film! *(The real star of the show was the elephant!)*

MUSIC

Van Morrison: Back On Top. Bought second hand, (memories of Roy Colbert!) I had forgotten how good "Van the man" can be! Waiting for Scott to report back from WOMAD on what tickled his fancy?

BEER ETC

Me: **DAB Maibock 7% STRONG** from Dortmund brewery Germany. Tasty seasonal beer for a cool evening.

Paul: **Baltika's Russian Stout**, "one for sipping and savouring"

Marc: **Lefse Bruin beer**, Belgian dark ale style. Also enjoying a Jerez brandy left by German and Spanish house guests, **Cardenal Mendoza Solera Reserva** "rich full and sweet".

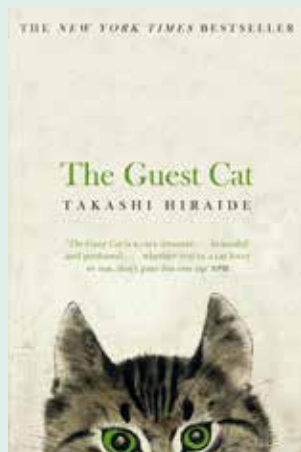
WORD OF THE MONTH

Reason: the faculty of the mind by which man/woman draws conclusions and determines right and truth: just view of things. *(could we please have more of this?)*

THE MEANING OF LIFE...

"Perhaps as you went along you did learn something. I did not care what it was all about. All I wanted to know was how to live in it, from that you learned what it was all about?"

Hemingway – Fiesta.





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BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB

"One of the recurring pleasures of planting bulbs in Autumn is walking amongst them in Spring and wondering how you did it!"

On Thursday 12 March, 22 of us met at the home of Shirley Zweis, Orokonui Road, where she and fellow clubby Carol Fletcher entertained us to an evening with the theme "Focus on Fruit". They had gone to an enormous amount of trouble preparing a banquet of nuts, seeds, dehydrated fruits and purchased unusual fruit e.g. dragon fruit for us to try. We were encouraged to take a fruit based chutney or jam along with recipes and crackers for a taste-a-thon. What a feast. Shirley had a great quiz and we learnt so much.

The guest speaker was Jason Ross who gave us an insight into fruit trees that do well in this environment and demonstrated his new month by month chart which will soon be available at Blueskin Nurseries. A great help to all who are planning fruit tree planting.

In April, we host the vege, fruit produce etc competition, sand saucer making, at Blueskin on Show (schedule in this and last month's edition of Blueskin News) so no meeting as such. See you there instead.

For all information about our club, please contact Lyn 482 2896 or Daphne 482 2428



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Fishermans Hash



A great weekend lunch or light dinner. The mix will easily keep for a day or two in the fridge. Makes approx 10 cakes.

Ingredients

For the Avocado Smash

2 Ripe Avocados
½ Lemon
Flaky Sea Salt
Black Pepper (fresh ground)

For the Fish Hash

300g White Fish (I used elephant fish)
3 medium Potatoes
3 Spring Onions (finely chopped)
50g Chorizo (finely chopped)
2 Tbsp Rice Flour
Flaky Sea Salt
Black Pepper (fresh ground)
2 Eggs (beaten)
3 Tbsp oil

Method

Open the avocados, remove the stones and scoop out the flesh into a bowl. Mash the avocado to a smooth consistency. Add the juice of half a lemon and season well with salt and pepper. Mix well and set aside. (The lemon adds flavour and prevents the avocado from turning black.)

Finely dice the fish into small pieces and place in a large mixing bowl. Grate the potatoes with a cheese grater. Squeeze out all the excess water from the potatoes once grated (use a clean tea towel to do this if you need to). Add to the fish, along with the chorizo, spring onion and rice flour. Season with salt & pepper. Add the two beaten eggs to the fish mix and fold through, making sure all ingredients are well combined.

Place a large heavy-based frying pan on a medium high heat. Add approx. 3 tablespoons of oil. When the pan has reached temperature, add small handfuls of fish hash mix to the pan. Flatten the cakes in the pan using the back of a spoon / spatula.

Fry hash cakes 2-3 minutes each side until golden brown.

Remove from the pan when done and place on a paper towel to absorb excess oil. Set aside in a warm oven, until needed, if you're frying in batches.

Assemble the hash cakes 2-3 cakes per person adding a dollop of avocado smash on top. A poached egg on top is a nice touch, if you feel like it. Enjoy!

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There will be no in person classes this month. However we will be offering online options, email shinebrightcentre@gmail.com for times and further details.

WANTED

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DUNEDIN BIODIVERSITY FUND

Need help with a project that will enhance Dunedin's native biodiversity?

The DCC's Biodiversity Fund has been supporting projects in the city since 2007. The purpose of the fund is to support landowners and communities to protect, manage and enhance the condition and extent of indigenous biodiversity across Dunedin city.

The Dunedin Biodiversity Fund has two rounds per year and applications for the first round are now open. Applications must be made online at www.dunedin.govt.nz/biodiversityfunding.

Applications close on Thursday, 30 April 2020.

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