

BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

JULY 2020

Seacliff • Warrington • Evansdale • Waitati • Doctors Point • Purakaunui

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plus lots more ...



Image: Kerry Hodge Photography

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Editor's Note

Hi everyone, welcome back to near normality. I no longer work solely in my living room, but have ventured back into the office for three days a week. It was lovely to catch up with workmates in person and attend meetings around a table rather than on zoom. Things have changed though now and most of us are working at least one day a week at home and we've discovered we are at least as productive if not more so in this new regime. With the extreme frosty mornings we have had it's nice not to have to brave the northern motorway if I choose not to.

The Blueskin News Committee met together again for the first time since February the other evening, it was great to discover that the News has come through the last few months so well. To that end we would like to thank all the advertisers who continued to sponsor us although many were suffering financially. Without their support and donations from other parts of the community we would not be able to print the News in the numbers that we do. We would also like to thank the Waikouaiti Community Board for their generous grant towards our ongoing costs.

Lastly I would like to thank Kerry Hodge for the front cover image we have this month – I'm sure lots of you have seen her photos of our local businesses on Facebook. We should all continue to do our bit to buy local.

Enjoy this month's read, keep safe, warm and well - Bernie



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Farewell to some very hard working folk



Warrington Surf Life Saving Club has recently lost it's two remaining founding members – Mrs Pat Ellison aged 95 was also a Life Member of the club and Mr Fred Burton was aged 94.

Without these folk and the late Duke and Molly Gillies along with Gil Ellison we would probably not have a surf life saving club as these 5 people were instrumental in building the A Frame clubhouse, which is 40 years old this year.

Moana Rua, aka Middle Beach, decided to shift it's club members due to erosion and danger at the town beach. In 1977 it was decided to erect a building at Warrington Beach. All labour hours were voluntary and most of the building materials donated or paid for by the building crew as named above. There was local opposition to the building and these folk often arrived out at weekends to find materials stolen and graffiti painted on the roof – "Pox on Surf-lifesavers Save our Beach". This received several coats of paint to hide the words.

As the Moana Rua ladies went their own way into other clubs and retiring from lifeguarding Mrs Ellison came out

from Dunedin and patrolled on her own – doing many rescues. She approached the local school Principals - the late Maurice Jordan at Waitati and Mary Kimber at Warrington along with Roger Bartlett who was Warrington's Board Chair. They were all keen to get the local youth of the area involved in club activities. Young folk from the area became involved and learned about water safety and surf lifesaving. There were no wetsuits in those days and a very small amount of equipment.

After 3 years of voluntary hard work the A Frame was opened in 1980 by Mrs Pat Ellison and Mr Duke Gillies. The club members took over the small shop on the domain and it was always open to sell drinks, lollies and ice creams during club times and continued for many years to serve the public and competitors during competitions. The club grew as did its equipment – boards, canoes etc and there was a need for more storage. The garage was built and opened in 1990 at a cost of \$8706.00.

Mrs Ellison was able to retire from life guarding duties as clubbies gained their lifeguard awards and were then able to patrol the beach. She, however, loved to attend club and competition days and kept many scrapbooks of photos and results. She and Fred always attended club special events until the last few years. As the club continued to grow a further addition was made. The large meeting room with storage underneath was opened by the late Pat and Duke in November 1980.

We have lots of photos of these special folk who were instrumental in getting the club started in Warrington and without them it would probably have never happened. There are also 2 club canoes named in Pat's honour – Lady Pat 1 and Lady Pat 2. Thank you Pat and Gil, Molly, Duke and Fred – your contribution to Warrington and the surf life saving movement has been immense and those who knew you remember you all with fondness and gratitude.

Lyn Hastie, Life Member, WSLSC.

Photo: Pat Ellison and Duke Gillies opening the new clubhouse 1998



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WAIKOUAITI COAST COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

Cycleways

The long-awaited Feasibility Study for the proposed Oamaru to Dunedin Cycleway became public last month at the Council Economic Development Committee Meeting.

Unfortunately, it turned out to be a bit of a damp squib. There was little in the way of detailed design, and the cost estimates were unrealistically low. The Councillors decided to put it on the shelf for the next couple of years and concentrate on cycleways to the south of the city which already have funding and the projects are underway.

As a Community Board we don't want to let things die, so we are going to have a good look at two parts of the proposed cycleway which have received the greatest public interest, but both of them have fairly big 'fish hooks' in them.

For the Waikouaiti to Karitane section there is the more than minor issue of getting across the Waikouaiti River. It is now evident that the long railway bridge across the river, east of Karitane, is not suitable to have a 'clip on' cycleway attached. For the Waitati to Warrington section there is the issue of the proximity to the railway line. We have been alerted to the fact that KiwiRail require a minimum 5 metre distance from the centre line of the rail track to the edge of a cycleway. Undaunted, we are going to gain a bit more relevant information and then hold a couple of public meetings to get community input into the subject. Dates and venues will be advised.

Bus Services

In the next issue of Blueskin News we will provide some details about the outcome of our submission to the Otago Regional Council Annual Plan regarding upgrading the bus service to the north coast area.

Vandalism

In mid-May some large holes appeared on Warrington Domain where someone had been creating what appeared to humps for bicycles to jump over. The Council Parks & Recreation folk got their contractors to repair the damage. In mid-June more holes and humps appeared and the Council's contractors repaired the damage once again. If you know who is responsible for the damage please advise Robert West, DCC Group Manager – Parks & Recreation on 477 4000.

**Alasdair Morrison, Chairman Waikouaiti Coast
Community Board – info@calmarine.co.nz 027 4354 384**



BLUESKIN RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TRUST

July 2020

In winter it's sometimes tempting to dry clothes inside. When we bring damp clothes inside to dry, we bring moisture into the home. Moisture equals high relative humidity, causing mould, which can lead to inflammation of the airways, and cause chronic health problems like asthma. A damp home is also harder and more costly to heat. It is always best to dry clothes outside on a washing line, or use a dryer that is vented to the outside or has a condensing function.

We've finally said good-bye to our small Waitati School office. The old dental clinic is needed due to the growing school enrolment and while we've loved being part of the school community for the past decade, we can see the need and are looking forward to the next stage.

Just like many through the covid lockdown, the BRCT office has run remotely. While the shutdown was disruptive, it was great to have coffee close at hand while I worked at home. Because our new office is not yet ready we'll still be working remotely but not slowing down. It's been a fascinating process tidying up and sorting out a decade's worth of work. Our pile of Mushroom Magazines were rediscovered, and we had to prune many other files and documents in order to make the move.

One of the more exciting developments through the lockdown period has been the increased communication with our community partners around the country, resulting in new opportunities. Our focus at present is on Climate Safe Housing, the Blueskin Energy Network and the Mihiwaka Walking Track (when the weather allows).

The BRCT website is www.brct.org.nz and you can contact us by email at: office@brct.org.nz or by phone on 027 488 8314.

By Scott Willis

A Chance Encounter

by Mike Fitzgerald



Coincidence is a funny thing.

Long before smart phones, people used to record friends and acquaintances addresses and phone numbers on scraps of paper or in little black books. While clearing out a filing cabinet I

came across my little black book of 50+ years ago and reminisced about all those forgotten faces.

One name stood out – Rick Stein, Padstow, Cornwall, UK with a footnote 'a hitchhiker at Clive Youth Hostel, Hawkes Bay NZ'.

In 1967 I was on a working holiday from the UK and looking after the youth hostel at Clive near Hastings while on the pea harvest for Watties.

Just before Christmas Eve 1967 I waltzed Rick, an English guy, with two companions, one an American girl from Oregon and the other a Christchurch lass.

They decided to stay on during the Christmas holidays and carry on touring NZ in the New Year. I decided that as we had a good crowd we would knock up a Christmas Day dinner. So after a whip round, a chicken and veggies were bought and with Rick's help I served up a roast dinner with spongey pud for afters!

Rick Stein and I stayed on at Clive long enough to enable us to get roped into repairing other Hawkes Bay youth hostels at Napier and Tutira. Later in the New Year we headed off in different directions exchanging addresses and contact numbers but not expecting to see each other again.

A year later after I returned to England I was in a record shop in Oxford Street, London and happened to glance up and see Rick Stein flicking through LPs on another counter. We had a quick reminisce about where we had been and what we had done before saying goodbye, never to meet again.

I've since heard he took up cooking!

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A clean bowl please!!

One of the delights of living in the Blueskin community is the birdlife. Tui and Bellbirds are known as Passerines – nectar feeding song birds.

Many locals also supplement the birds over winter by putting out sugar water in feeders. A great idea! Without sugar water many birds would perish... however, sloppy habits can make this a killer!

Massey University avian and wildlife health senior lecturer Brett Gartrell said dirty sugar water and unclean practices will result in the death of birds. Salmonella and candidiasis - the same bug which causes thrush in humans, are deadly to birds and will lurk in unchanged sugar water unless containers are emptied and cleaned, he said.

“It just takes one person not to do this and we can have a lot of sick birds on our hands. Once you see a bird gasping for air, it is basically curtains for it.”

A good idea is to put out just enough food to last a day and then when finished wash and sterilise the container. Unclean practices will result in the death of birds.

Tui enjoy the tall macrocarpa and eucalyptus trees that abound in our communities. Tui and Bell birds fill the winter morning and evenings with their magical songs. By planting flax, kowhai, kakabeak and tarata (lemonwood) we can attract and feed these species in a sustainable way.

Why not visit the DoC Website to learn how to attract native birds to your garden and learn why bread is not a good food for birds!

www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/conservation-activities/attract-birds-to-your-garden/



Kindling a passion for fire

by Hilary Rowley

It is a freezing cold night, it's dark, all your wood is a bit damp, to get the fire going you will have to go out in the dark to chop kindling. I bet this is a common scenario. The only real answer (apart from a heat pump) is to be prepared.

My chore as a child was to keep the big kindling box by the back door full, my pay was 20c a week. It seemed a fair enough deal at the time. At least there was plenty of easily split dry willow rounds stored in an old water tank, a huge waist high chopping block, and plenty of pine trees to collect cones.

50 years of fire lighting have given me a couple of useful tips to share. To avoid frustration everything must be dry. Gather and store kindling materials before you need them. Chop materials to length, and store them in sacks in a dry place. You need to collect dry, easily flammable things of varying widths, and some things that have volume and are strong enough to hold up your kindling with a piece of bigger wood on top of it and keep plenty of air circulating. Ideally a pine cone. Dry open pine cones are precious, I try to only use one to start a fire.

Sources of kindling: Any sticks and woody prunings collected over the course of the year and cut to length, cabbage tree leaves in little bundles of 4 or 5 tied in knots to give them some volume and stop them shooting up the chimney, fallen branches from gum trees and gum bark are great. Gorse is also really flammable. Collect pine cones, manky egg cartons, rolled up cardboard box pieces, cardboard tubes like toilet roll tubes, really dry flax stalks. Pallet wood is a good source of kindling too and there is a lot of it left out by businesses so people can collect it.

If you end up with leftover cooking oil and fat from cooking store it and smear a spoonfull over the wood you are trying to ignite before you light the fire.

Save your driest stuff for the worst weather, when everything is a bit damp.

Carrying home a bundle of sticks from a walk may make you look a bit third world, but that just means you look warm, dry, organised and calm which is always a good look.

As a grumbling child chopping kindling I never thought I would say it, but it is really good getting those kind of skills and responsibility at an early age. Stay warm.

WARRINGTON SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

May we remind all Blueskin Bay residents that we are actively canvassing for membership and lifeguard trainees!

A special course for adults wanting to upskill in open water surf swimming and train as a lifeguard. If interested please email warringtonslscnz@gmail.com

WSLSC was not able to hold a prize giving at the season end due to lock down. We are proud to congratulate all the people who have won awards this year. We will be able to celebrate these achievements at a club function in spring and to present awards then.



Highest Achiever Male Trophy	Hamish Eason
Highest Achiever Female Trophy	Zara Owen
Ibbotson IRB Cup	Tarryn Doyle (Driver), Kayle Harris (Crew)
Hastie Cup Senior Male	U19 Boys' Canoe Crew: Kayle Harris (C), Connor Aldrich, Angus Brett, Eli Familton
Pat Ellison Cup Senior Women	Open Women's Canoe Crew: Karyn Becconsall, Charlotte Becconsall-Ryan, Rebecca McNaughton, Sarah McNaughton
Junior significant contribution to the club:	Jane Schofield
Oldham Swimming Trophy	Blake Schofield
Mark Buckley Memorial Trophy (Lifeguarding)	Sarah McNaughton
Most valuable contribution to the club Trophy:	Ken McHoull
Junior Competitor Age Group Achievement Medals:	Sonny Arekatera Te Ra and Freda Clark



by Ian Melvin

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

What Makes Me Mad...

The black lives matter phenomenon and how we are still fighting the same old battles again...

It's not just about equal rights issues, race, colour, religion, gender, or sexual persuasion. Isn't it time to start to celebrate the differences, the unique qualities that each culture brings into our society? Who really wants to live in a world where we all look, dress, sound, think the same! How sad and boring would that be?

What Makes Me Sad...

Narrow minded attitudes, those who refuse to acknowledge that there is ALWAYS more than one side to everything! Life is complex, we are complicated, open your eyes, listen to others point of view, be prepared to change or modify your outlook, never stop learning – enrich yourself!

What Makes Me Glad...

The amount of optimism around at the moment Those who are looking, hoping, pushing for positive changes on so many fronts everywhere! What a wonderful antidote to Trumpisim.

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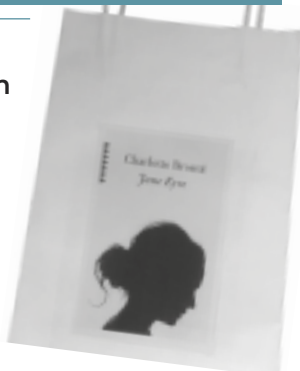
Monday & Tuesday: 2-6pm
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:
10am-12pm & 2-6pm
Saturday: 10am-1pm

Children's Book Club

Monday 6 July, 3.30 - 4.30pm

This month we are going to design a book bag using characters or scenes from our favourite books.

Please note this Club is for Year 3 and up.



Game On!

Every Thursday, 2 - 5pm

Fancy challenging someone to a game of chess? We have chess, Monopoly, Uno, Connect 4, Tumble and more – games galore for all ages.

Lego Club

Thursday 16 July, 3.30 - 4.30pm

We supply the Lego you bring your imagination. Suitable for ages 5+.

Bookshare

Friday 24 July, 2.30 - 3.30pm

Tēnā koutou katoa. Blueskin Book Share is back. Come and join us to discuss what you've been reading during lockdown, and get some fresh ideas for new pukapuka. Tea and coffee provided.

Blueskin Bay Knitwits

Mondays, 6.30 - 8.30pm

1st, 3rd & 5th Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.30pm

All ages and experience levels are welcome. Bring your own wool and knitting needles, and maybe a pattern or two to swap with fellow knitters.



Dog Registrations

All dogs must be registered by 31 July each year, pay online or pop in before 5pm to pay at the Library.



75+ Parking Scheme

Did you know that the DCC provide free parking in metered parking areas to Dunedin residents who are 75 years or over? Call in to the Library to find out more and pick up an application form.



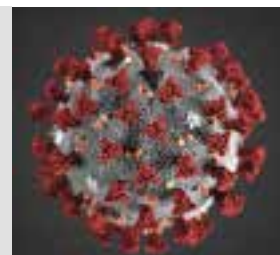
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■ **Beamafilm** have curated a special collection of films and documentaries to amplify Indigenous and Black voices – all free to access with your library card.



Among the new releases from Beamafilm is a great tie-in with the International Science Festival – *The Best of Nikki's Wiki*, it's all about doing awesome science experiments and building cool stuff. Nikki does it all from her bedroom science lab with her sidekick Robby. The Library will be screening this movie, **3pm, Tuesday 7 July** (free).



The International Science Festival programme can be found at www.scifest.org.nz





Maisy and friends at Koons wedding, May 1978. (l-r Ripp & Chuck, Peter and Jean Koons, Carolyn & Allison, Maisy.

Life in a convalescent home

Chuck Landis

Carolyn was already familiar with 'The Home', but I'd never seen it. So, early in 1975, when she said "The matron says they are going to close the Convalescent Home, would you like to see it?" I innocently agreed...I found it intriguing, but such a shambles! Walking home, Carol said "That is my dream home." I genuinely didn't believe her and responded "If it's a dream, it's a nightmare." But she wouldn't let it die and eventually convinced me to submit a tender. There followed a long stressful period when I feared we might actually get it and Carol fearing we wouldn't. I recall doing geological work in western Southland and receiving a short message saying our 'tender had been successful' and fearing what 'success' might mean.

When we moved-in (Aug 1975), the Home was an intriguing but leaky, dark and draughty house with rotten wood and an old overgrown garden. All the chattels were left behind. It had broken-down boundary fences and no useful internal fences. The caretaker had felled several native paddock trees for firewood. Cattle had 'the run' of the entire property—literally—right to the front door, bedroom window and veg garden! The spouting hung loose to the ground and hedges had not been cut for years. In fact, they'd grown into tall menacing macrocarpa tree-rows. Horrifying, it was, but also a huge adventure! Carolyn immediately purchased sheep and chickens, and we began lowering the hedges, hoping for a view of the sea. We were ridiculously naive—cutting those huge trees with an axe and hand saw! We'd spent all our money and became dependent on wood for coal-range cooking and open fires heating. Water came from rain tanks and a spring on the slopes of Porteous Hill above the railway; supply was frequently blocked.

It sounds rather grim and even foolish on looking back. But it was also a real adventure. We were young and energetic and

had many helpful friends and neighbors. Allison and Ripp could walk across the paddock to school and their friends enjoyed playing in the house and hedges. Carolyn focused on her farmlot, and I helped on weekends. Fortunately, the NZR "Workers Bus" stopped at the end of our lane and the Palmerston Rail-Car still ran a daily school and workers' service. Warrington had a shop and post-office; Evansdale had two garages and a tea-rooms. Coast Road still had extensive un-sealed sections.

After trying a variety of sheep breeds, Carol decided on a coloured-fleece flock. She initially focussed on spinning, knitting and dyeing. Then, in 1979, during my study leave based in Navajo country of northern Arizona, she became fascinated with Navajo culture and especially rug-weaving. On return from Arizona, Indian weaving became her focus and she created many wonderful pieces. Much of her weaving was done outdoors in true Navajo style. Most rugs were sold, though many still decorate the house.

We obtained a Jersey house-cow, Maisy, in 1976. She was very placid and endured family and friends milking efforts. She produced so much milk that we gave away gallons every week. During the Arizona study leave (1979 above), we loaned Maisy to the Dennison family of Evansdale. They liked her so much that they bought their own house-cow after we returned. Between us, the excess of milk increased, leading to Colin and Carol's cheese-making experiments and then establishing Evansdale Cheese. It was enjoyable but hard physical work and Carol eventually had to pull out. We walked Maisy to Robertson's farm on the Kilmog annually to meet 'Jimmy the Bull'. Carol milked her daily (with wonderful helpers) and reared her annual calf for 11 years.

Further notes from the rest home follow in the next issue.



Purakanui School

Hi everyone. We have had a nice month here at school, basking in all the lovely late autumn weather. We have only needed one or two fires, which are always a cosy treat on chilly days.

The children have all been working hard in the classroom and have definitely been enjoying being back together. At playtime the children have been having some great fun with hut building which always involves some impressive collaborative efforts. Another fun activity we have been enjoying has been parkour, where we put an assortment of our gymnastics and PE equipment together to make a circuit / exercise trail. We have also been treated to a visit from a lego robot called Vernie. Vernie was able to demonstrate some impressive movements and skills thanks to the coding skills of the children. It is always really cool to see this sort of technology in action. The kids all had lots of questions about Vernie.

With Matariki approaching the children have been busy putting together a dance in preparation to perform at our end of term mid-winter community assembly and shared meal. We will also be making lanterns to celebrate Matariki and winter solstice.



Our Little Pipis playgroup is back together on Thursday mornings. A real treat for the Little Papis recently were some horse rides on an Icelandic pony belonging to a Little Pipi! Any queries about Pūrākaunui School please call the office on 4821026.

Tim Cook, Principal



Blueskin General Store
1551 Waikouaiti-Waitati Rd, Waitati 9085
Mon – Sat 7:30am – 7pm | Sun 9am – 7pm
Tel 03 482 2741

Blueskin Playcentre



Kia ora e te takata o Waitētē

Playcentre Aotearoa has had some media coverage of late, relating to our ongoing under funding saga. It's hard to hear up to 100 S.Island Playcentres face closure; we educate 7% of the under-5 population and receive less than 1% of the Government ECE funding.

The best I can do to illustrate my point is to get reminiscent with you, our community.

Playcentre has been a consistent life/sanity/money saver for my family and I. In Wellington, we became parents. Entering at the deep end, as parenting always is, all our extended whanau were overseas and inaccessible. Having only 12 weeks experience of mothering, I nervously slipped through the doors of my local Playcentre. Still holding my tiny infant awkwardly I introduced myself to Nannie Kitty. Within 15 minutes I was sitting in the sun with a crowd of mothers, drinking tea and discussing my experience. They were non-judgmental and affirming. They laughed with me, hydrated me and their happy kids played around our feet, owning their Playcentre with natural confidence.

This, I could see, was an oasis of friendship and common cause, in what was a strange new territory: Parenthood. I went home, napped with my tiny son and woke up feeling more capable. My partner found himself allies. He met Dads who knew how to Dad! Walking down the street with the buggy he could do stop'n'chats with familiar men. Four years later the Wellington parenting crowd are friends for life.

Pleas add your voice to our cry for fair funding.

Contact Us: Jay Fowlds, 0212016411

Blueskin Playcentre on Facebook

blueskinplaycentre88@gmail.com.

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It was fantastic to see all of the children back at school after the big lockdown break away.

The look on all of their faces and the buzz around school was priceless! It can't be underestimated enough how important the social aspect of schooling is on a child's development. It's been very interesting to note that the junior children (and some older children!) have become a lot more confident and independent at the beginning of the day. I've been really impressed and have enjoyed seeing them carrying their own bags into school each morning and getting themselves organised. Keep up the great work!



Junior room mask making!


We are very excited about the beginning of the winter sports season, which for our hockey players begins this Wednesday. The school continues to have a strong presence in both the junior and senior competitions with the children regularly being put through their paces and training hard during lunchtimes. As part of our Physical Education programme, the children are completing our 1km a day running challenge and are beginning to accumulate some very impressive distances to help build their fitness base for the sporting season ahead.



Black Stick Kane Russell, training with the Warrington Year 7/8 hockey team

Our Explorers Club (4 year old transition programme to school) is continuing to grow and it's great to see so many new faces around the school. The Explorers Club runs once every three weeks on a Friday morning from 9.30 – 11.00am.

If you require any further details please contact Molly in the office.



Sandra Clark
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SCHOOL UPDATE

June has been a busy old time at Waitati School.

Our Manaaki programme on Wednesdays has seen us moving a mountain of bark mulch over to the native shrubs along the stream boundary. These plants are thriving and the mulch will certainly enhance their growth. It has been a case of 'many hands make light work', as students of all ages have attacked the task with great enthusiasm.

Passion Projects have also been very popular. A wide range of projects are being undertaken ranging from cycling skills, to dioramas to animations. Our youngest students disappear into the swamp with their teacher during this time and have a fabulous time.

Partly as a response to the unique Covid -19 experience this term, we decided to change the way we went about mid-year reporting. The students have had an active role in setting learning and values goals, in conjunction with their parents and teachers. The learning conferences that informed this goal setting were extremely well attended.



This week we donned rainbow colours to celebrate diversity, individuality and tolerance. These qualities are important aspects enshrined in our school values. The students also participated in a series of fun art activities. Keita Ross and Atawhai Turei displayed excellent initiative leadership skills while working with teachers to plan and co-ordinate this day.

In the next edition, we should be able to report on the upcoming poroporoaki for Stacey Honeywill, and also include an introduction from Tara O'Neill, the incoming principal.

Friday 3 July Last Day of Term 2

Monday 20 July First Day of Term 3

Monday 27 July Swimming (and every Monday afterwards until the end of term!)

John Fisher, Acting Principal



***When you wake in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive
To breathe, to think, to enjoy, and to love***

What can I say that hasn't been said many times by so many. WE MADE IT. Much has been said of the negatives of Lockdown but there are many positives to be had. Being in the "elderly" age group, which I dispute actually, I was grateful for the concern for my welfare and offers of help. Thankfully I needed little. What I will miss though, is the friendly chats by so many who were out walking the streets, keen for a chat. Now we're back to the cursory wave from a fast travelling vehicle, if that. Many clubs are back to normal - whatever that means and the Garden Club committee met and planned the next few months, one mustn't be presumptuous but here's hoping there's no further "wave". The first larger group meeting will be at the Warrington Hall on July 18th when we enjoy a catered luncheon followed by an AGM and of course, lots of natter. The Cancer Society Daffodil Day will again be held, run by our club at Waitati in August, and our Spring Flower Show in September. More about that next month. For more info about our club, please phone Lyn 482 2896 or Daphne 482 2428

Our gardens have bowed to the winter weather and most plants have gone to ground. There is so much beauty in these frosty mornings we just need to don jacket, gloves and hat and go out and brave it. Happy garden planning everyone.

Lyne Carlyle



Derek the Dunnock

CSN, Climate Safe Nesting

Past the shortest day, even if spring is not in the air, us dunnocks are planning for the coming nesting season.

Our team of concerned dunnocks have been flicking their wings and tweeting outside the Waitati library meeting room. We've formed a Dunnock Action Group, DAG, with a primary focus on the threat of flooding and sea level rise to nesting in Lower Waitati.

Dilyth "DCC" Dunnock, poor conflicted soul, pecking her way between the consecrated cathedral rhodies and the secular library forecourt, is finding it hard to distinguish the almighty Herself from the Dunedin City bureaucrats. She advised we adapt recent DCC building regulations to nesting in the flood zone, and simply "ensure that your nest is at least one point five meters up your tree, bush or preferred nest site."

My cousin Doreen said "That's all very well. It may save your nest. But where are you gonna forage in one metre of flood water? Ducks we ain't!"

Doreen's lived in lower Waitati since the Great Flood of 2006 so she ought to know a thing or two.

Duncan, bless his blushing tarsi, then proposed the Climate Safe Nest Solution (CSNS) whereby he said one constructs one's nest in a manner that allows its removal to a safe location in times of climate crisis.

To which Doreen exclaimed "Oh gawd, Duncan, 'ave you ever tried moving a clutch of eggs or a brood of baby dunnocks at the best of times, let alone in a crisis?!"

Dafid the Dollar Dunnock, our accountant, cheeped in, "You'd be using those heavy lifting storks then would you?" He flicked his wings. "Prohibitively expensive. Flying them in special from Germany? Where's the money comin' from?"

To Doris's suggestion "Couldn't we use those cheap Aussie Corvid magpies?" us other DAG members



started busily looking at our tarsi, flickin' our alulas or noisily foraging in the dead leaves under the hebes.

Davinia from the Otago campus piped up "Displacement activity" and "Elliot Howard". She's given up on politics and has been frequenting the zoo department car park of late.

"There was a time" she chirrupped "when Homo so-called sapiens (HSCSs) believed us feathered folk simply flitted around the world on a whim. Dear old Elliot, bless his cotton socks, put them right and showed that we, like HSCSs, have a sense of place, an attachment to home, a territory.

I knows all about that cos when I moved to higher Waitati I found every nook, cranny and gorse bush fully tenanted and stridently defended. It was only when poor young Declan Dunnock expired one long winter's night along with most of his teenage mates, that I managed to settle down in me own gorse bush. Dunnock real estate out of the flood zone don't come cheep.

Doreen got it first, piping in "Yeah, so what are ya gonna do after ripping your climate safe nest out of your bush, leavin' all that infree-structure behind? Where in Corvid's name are ya gonna move to?"

Our chairman Dorian G Dunnock pointed out that several months remain until nesting season starts in earnest and that there is an opportunity to continue this conversation and come to some useful community solutions. He suggested we invite some corporate nest construction companies to our July flocking. To which Doreen flapped off in a huff, tweeting under her beak "Ya won't catch me lettin' any bleedin' corporate multinational build my nest."

Ref: Howard, Henry Eliot, 1920; Territory in Birdlife; John Murray



Womb

by Iona Winter

kaleidoscopic
web veined / whenua blood
suspended
kākano
undulating / anointed / ripe
taoka
omnipotent / infinite
womb



Winter Gardening

Winter also brings the arrival of an abundance of roses, fruit, nuts, shrubs and deciduous trees. An exciting time of the year for gardeners!

Creating an orchard – Time to start planning, preparing and purchasing trees for planting. Our local orchardist Jason Ross has put together a very in depth guide to creating an orchard and a fruiting time line for Coastal Otago (available at Blueskin now). The most important things to consider when planning an orchard- what do you like eating? How much space do we have?

Birds birds birds – Attract the birds to your garden for winter. Tuis are considered intelligent birds with an unusual noisy song. Tuis are the largest of the song birds and some would say the bullies of the tree. They feed on nectar of the plants particularly NZ native flaxes (phormium) and also the Kowhai. Bellbirds also enjoy feeding off the nectar plants. We recommend planting trees and shrubs that have lots of juicy nectar in their flowers for the birds. These include Grevilleas, Daphnes, Kowhai, Callistemon (bottle brush), Flaxes, winter flowering ericas, Banksia and if you are limited for space, we have a good selection of nectar feeders available in store too.

Christmas lilies – Time to plant regale, asiatic and oriental lilies. Oriental lilies have large scented blooms and a long vase life. Asiatic lilies produce bright summer blooms but lack fragrance.

Fruit, nut and berry stock arriving late June. We will be holding pruning demonstrations in early July. To register interest contact us by phone or email 03 482 2828 or sales@blueskinnurseries.co.nz

Asparagus crowns – Compost, manure and seaweed are a fantastic combination for preparing an asparagus bed. We have just received a shipment of the popular Jersey Giant variety which come in a pack of 5 crowns.

Happy gardening and keep warm. Remember not to cut back frost damage until later in the season when the worst of the frosts have gone. Open 7 days from 8.30am

Sally Brown



BLUESKIN BAY ONLINE

BLUESKIN BAY ONLINE is a FREE searchable Local Business Directory developed to support local businesses across Blueskin Bay.

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Bird sightings

Our aim is to reduce and maintain low possum and stoat numbers to give native plants and animals the opportunity to thrive.

South Island robin/toutouwai, reintroduced into Orokonui Ecosanctuary in 2010 – 2011, are dispersing into the Halo Project area, and are vulnerable to rodents and mustelids (stoats, ferrets and weasels) which makes them a good species to monitor to assess the effectiveness of predator control outside the predator-proof fence.

We have reports of robin sightings from 13 locations in all directions outside of the ecosanctuary. Adding to that, we had several reports during the Covid-19 lockdown of robin around Doctors Point and Orokonui Estuary.

We are keen to hear about any robin sightings, as well as kākā sightings, in the area, so please contact us if you are fortunate enough to see one!

Want to start trapping? Already trapping?

Many residents in the Blueskin Bay area are part of our 'host a possum trap' scheme.

There are lots of reasons to trap pests in your backyard: protect your fruit trees and veg garden, keep your chickens safe, and bring back birds and lizards.

If you would like to host a backyard trap, please contact us and we can make a time to visit. If you have a possum trap and have run out of bait and lure, let us know and we can supply you with more.

Contact us on 022 026 2115, (03) 395 9753, email info@haloproject.org.nz or [Facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui/](https://www.facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui/).

The Halo Project Team



Halo Project team keen to receive details of sightings of South Island robin/toutouwai and kākā. (Photo: Nick Beckwith) (male robin has creamy-white front; female and juvenile have grey fronts)

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WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

June – Finally a meeting with real people again. Scott had the new range keeping us cosy, flue intact now! Marc – “a great night. It reminded me why I have persevered 20 years in book club, convivial company, and interesting conversation”. (Note. A 20 years reunion and celebration of members past and present is planned for the end of year pubnite!)

THE BOOK

A General Theory of Oblivion *Jose Eduardo Agualusa*. On the eve of Angolan independence, Ludo bricks herself into her apartment for the next 30 years. The outside world slowly seeps into Ludo's life, until one day Sebalu, a young boy from the streets, climbs up to her terrace... Everyone found something in this book, mostly very positive. My view, probably in the top 5 of books I've read in book club.!

OTHER BOOKS

Martin – “Having watched the Netflix series **Babylon Berlin**, a friend gave me the first instalment of the books by **Volker Kutscher**, The book is excellent for the political backdrop, an easy read with a fitting climax at the end.”

MOVIE/TV

Scott – “**Babylon Berlin**, 1920s Berlin, the social and political landscape that led to the rise of Nazism. Through the story of a police inspector... Music, dance halls, are wild, the slums totally believable... Some serious, quality, educational viewing, and totally compelling!”



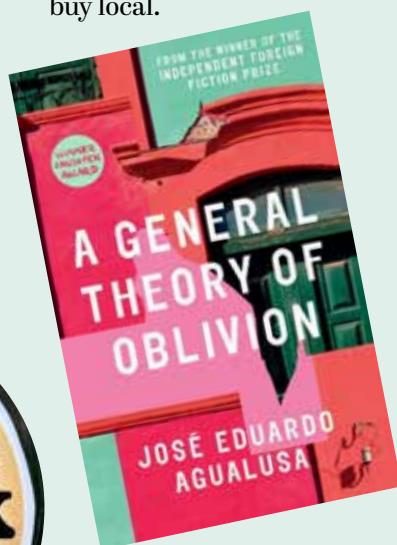
BEER

Marc – “Otago Brew School – **Beergarten Hefe**, a bit late in the year to be drinking this, an excellent summer beer. Refreshing, sweet, and typical of a wheat beer, a suggestion of banana.

Also of Otago Brew School – **Ultravox Vienna** lager, darker and hoppier than conventional lagers, with a bit more substance to it, well suited to colder days.”

MUSIC

Paul – **The Beths: Future Me Hates Me**. Debut album of 4 former jazz students. Jangling guitars, catchy hooks that lift the spirits despite the often dark and clever lyrics of songwriter and lead vocalist Elizabeth Stokes (hence the Beths!). 10 tracks none a dud! Highly recommended in this time of buy local.



WORD OF THE MONTH

Normal/Normality – (as in a return to), as an old hippy a word I reject, ie. conventional, repressive, narrow, judgmental, expectations of others view of what is expected of us. Do I now have to rethink this as some sort of positive state?

I know I'll ask Mandy what she thinks!

MEANING OF LIFE

“When people look at clouds they do not see their real shape, which is no shape at all, or maybe every shape, as they are always changing. They see whatever it is that their heart yearns for...”

A quote from Ludo, in *A General Theory Of Oblivion*.



Thinking Aloud – Allowed

Did you ever get taught in your PE classes that the acronym TEAM “stood for” Together Everyone Achieves More?

We saw this in the “TEAM of 5 Million”! But Togetherness cannot be mandated for too long. We get angry; we begin to demand our “freedom”; we hurt and then tend to pass on that hurt (“hurting people hurt people”); we return to rally with our “tribe” and forget too easily about the “others”. Sadly we’re seeing this daily in the media reports.

One of my great joys of the Lockdown period was the number of creative people speaking into the hearts and spirits of hurting people – offering an “alternative view” to the stats and tasks and actions to be done/not done, in response to decisions beyond our control. While I appreciated Dr Dave’s explanations and summary of “the situation”, I also valued the creative words of the Welsh spoken word poet, Tom Roberts (aka Tom Foolery) who wrote “The Great Realisation”. You might like to check it out www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nw5KQMXDiM4

As I have returned to “the Hamster Wheel” of normal pace of life, I am disappointed at how quickly I can lose my sense of equilibrium – that precious sense of centredness, and kindness, I vowed would remain as we emerged to the “new normal”. And I am caused frequently to reflect on the practices I need to quieten the “chattering moneys” inside my head... to slow the pace of my steps... to be more gentle of spirit. I wonder if you’re the same? (Also, how come I wash my hands so quickly now?!)

According to a famous letter from long ago, attending to matters of the spirit will produce “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control. There is no law against such things as these!” We know we can’t legislate for such things, but we can choose to gentle ourselves into intentionally “growing” more of these things – to attend to matters of the spirit.

If you’re interested in meeting with some other women who gather semi-regularly to encourage each other to tend to their soul and spirit, usually within a Christian meditation context, feel free to give me a call. We allow thinking... and often we think aloud - we are women after all!

Helen Beamish 027 693 0762



Nadia Lim’s Flatbread

If you’d like to make bread without yeast, here’s my easy-peasy flatbread recipe - great for turning into garlic butter naan to have with curry, a wrap Middle Eastern style, or a (non-traditional but still awesome) pizza base.

Ingredients

2 cups self-raising flour (or plain flour with 2 teaspoons baking powder added)

3/4 cup milk (of any kind), or plain yoghurt or water

1.5 Tablespoons olive oil (or any oil)

1/4 teaspoon salt

Other ‘nice to haves’ = butter, garlic, fresh herbs (but not essential!) to make a garlic n’ herb butter to spread on

Method

1. Place flour, milk, oil and salt in a bowl and mix to combine.
2. Knead on a lightly floured surface for 5 minutes or until dough is smooth. Divide into 4-6 portions and leave to rest on the bench for 10-15 minutes or so.
3. Heat a large, heavy-bottomed skillet or fry pan on medium heat. Roll each piece of dough out into a roughly 25cm circle, lightly brush with a little oil. Place in hot pan and cook for about 2 minutes each side or until puffed and golden. If you’re using garlic and herb butter, spread it on whilst bread is hot. Repeat with remaining dough.

Mmmmmmmmm!

Flatbread facts

Flatbreads were the earliest breads made by humans. They have been around for centuries and date back to the Ancient Egyptians. In the Middle-East, Pita bread has been in existence for at least 12,000 years.

Bread was so important to the Egyptians that it was used as a type of currency. Even more interesting is that they revered bread so much, they would often place it in the tombs of their dead.

The largest pita bread ever made was in 2001, in Greece. It measured a whopping 6 foot x 5 foot!



Waitati Volunteer Fire Brigade

The Brigade and the Community Board initiative.

We are pleased to announce this new opportunity for the Community to be prepared should any one of you be asked to assist with the Community Defibrillators, or be involved with CPR.

The Waitati Volunteer Brigade will run two courses for the Community, come along to a session of hands on training with the Defibrillators and learn the latest CRP techniques.

This opportunity is limited to 10 per session for two hours, at the Fire Station we have qualified personnel to teach and Brigade members who are able to assist.

Register your willingness to attend by phoning 428 8642 or emailing p.g.clements@xtra.co.nz from there we will organize the groups and times to suit.

The Brigade is now back to full training on Monday nights, we thank the community for keeping calls to a minimum during Level 4.

Paul Clements

Waitati Warblers

Now we are in Level one we are meeting again to sing.

We welcome all who enjoy singing, to join us. A wonderful mix of songs, styles, and cultures as we sing a Capella. The Warrington Hall is proving to be a warm and spacious place to share our enthusiasm for singing with others, Come and join our group of 20 plus!. Sundays from 4.p.m. until 5.30 p.m. Nancy Miller our director will be pleased to see you, contact nancymiller140@gmail.com

Murray Fletcher

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Orokonui Estuary Restoration Project

If you've been enjoying walking the Orokonui Estuary Loop track recently you'll have noticed a lot of new plantings.

Since early May volunteers have planted over 200 native seedlings. We've started at both the Boardwalk entrance and the Killarney St end and we're soon to meet in the middle. Our long term aim is to replace all weeds with appropriate native plants and restore the Estuary into a thriving wetland. The project is part of the Blueskin Youth and Amenities Association.

Volunteers have also kept thousands of previous plantings alive through regular weeding. Our group meets on a Sunday morning but we appreciate the help of other groups from time to time. Recently the Otago Polytechnic Arboriculture students have cut down half of the willows (exotic and invasive) and the Conservation Work Skills Crew (see photo) have planted most of the flaxes.



Photo: Conservation Work Skills crew putting flaxes in the ground. From left to right; Hadil Catherina, Quinn Ferguson, Brad Young, Cheyenne Gamblin, Bevin Craig, Joe Jackson and Estuary coordinator, Chris Baillie.

Ecosourced plants have been grown mostly by Blueskin Nursery and purchased with a Dunedin City Council Biodiversity grant and with donations from supporters. The DCC also covered the cost of local contractor, Kea Tree works, to remove a bank of gorse on a section of the track parallel to Orokonui Rd.

If you'd like to be put on the email list for future mahi/ work days please email chrisbaillie77@gmail.com. There's no obligation to participate regularly, all tools and gloves provided and morning tea too.

Chris Baillie

Warrington Hall

Warrington Hall Committee are pleased to welcome back our regular hall users after the shut down.

Taekwon Do, Indoor Bowls, Yoga and a new group the Waitati Warblers. Other folk who wish to use the hall should phone Rowena 482 2667 or see the hall notice in this bulletin for further information. The hall has been thoroughly cleaned and the outside area is looking well cared for thanks to our lawn mowing lad and the committee who maintain the gardens.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 13 August at 7.30pm at the hall. New folk are welcome to join us in helping to look after a well used and cared for community resource. It's a great way to get to know some of the locals. Please give some thought as to coming along to share the load. Meetings are 3 monthly and kept short.

Warrington Indoor Bowling Club is starting up for the season on Tuesday 16 June. New players are welcome to join us including children from about 9 years of age (this is because their hands need to be big enough to hold the bowls). The hall is warm, members are friendly and it is a great way to meet new folk in Blueskin Bay. Please arrive in time to start playing at 7.30pm, soft soled shoes are the only other requirement. If you have never played bowls before don't worry there are plenty of members to help with coaching. Any queries to Ruth or Cliff - 482 2849.

Lyn Hastie

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Susan 03 482 2644

BLUESKIN PLAYCENTRE

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

WANTED

People interested in restarting the All Saints Vege Co-op. Contact Giselle 027 272 4478 or Louise at Waitati Library.

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First Sunday of every month. Rain or shine. Grassy area next to the Gallery.

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- Matt and Kim



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