

# BLUESKIN NEWS

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER Est. 1985

JUNE 2020

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

## Blueskin blanket

### In this issue....

White crosses for Anzac Day **page 2**

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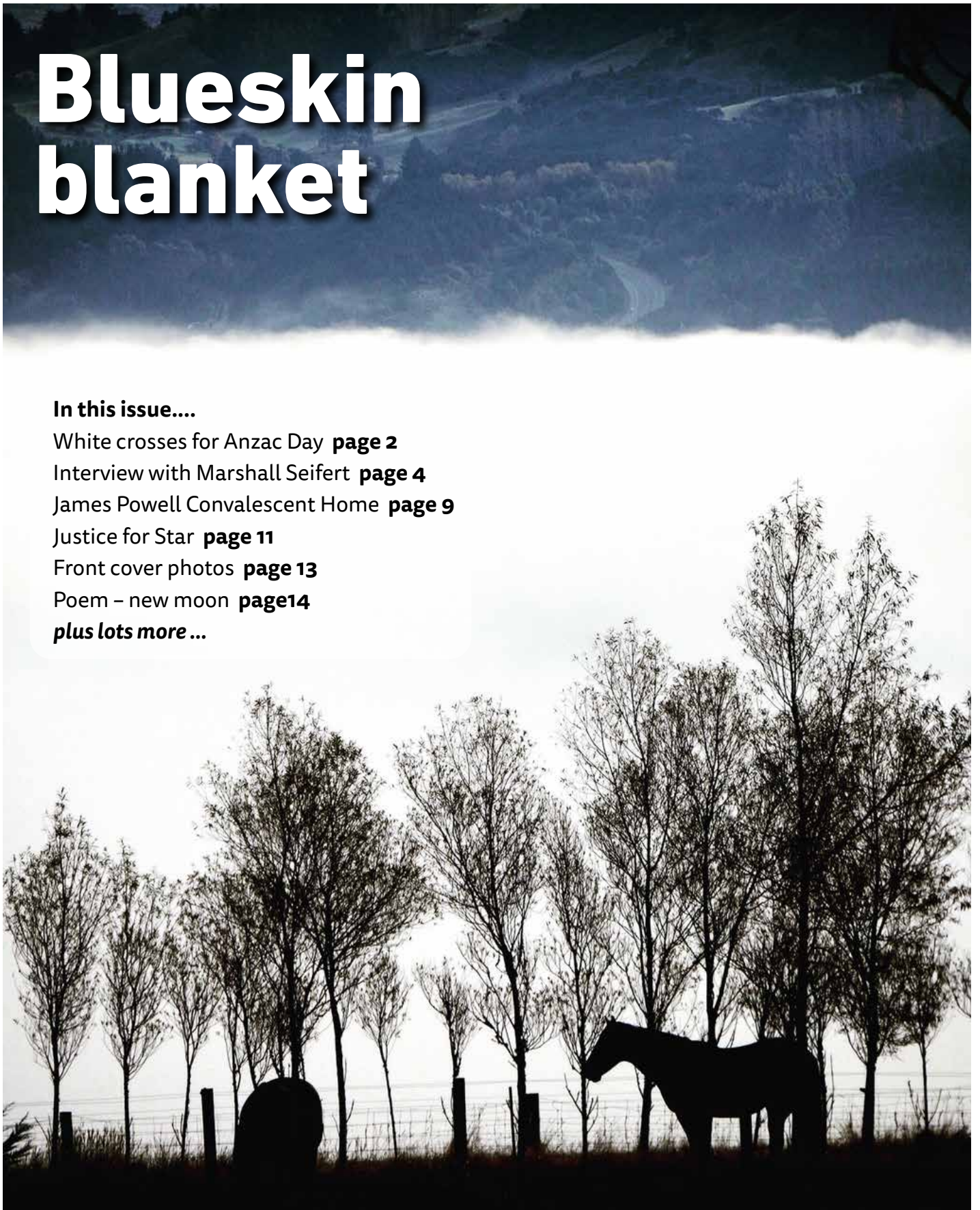
James Powell Convalescent Home **page 9**

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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, presentations, 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

**ALL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## Editors Note

Hi everyone, well I'm still here sitting at my desk in the living room, still working from home. I've decided that it would be nice just to work two days in the office and the rest at home when we all get the opportunity to go back into the Civic Centre. The 7 of us in my team keep Skype open on our desktops all day, we have a group meeting at 10am to decide on priorities and emails whizz in and out. I think we have all been communicating on a different and more caring level since lockdown and we probably know much more about each other than we did before. It's been a good experience. I hope all of you have had similar feelings if working from home or even if you have just had the opportunity to spend more time with your kids and family.

Things are changing now though - I've been out to lunch with friends in town, I've been for a beer at Arc, I've met up with local friends for our usual Friday evening drink, a mate is coming to stay for the weekend, all socially distanced of course! We all seem to have come through it more or less intact. But I find I'm wary of strangers especially in town, don't come too close - will this wear off or is it now part of our psyche? Strange times indeed.

Anyway the BSN is a great read this month, a good mix of articles - keep them coming. I'm always looking for something different!

Keep safe, warm and well - Bernie

## WAIKOUAITI COAST COMMUNITY BOARD COVID19 COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Please contact POWA if you;  
\*Need assistance  
\*Need further information  
\*Can help in any way as a volunteer



### Contact Details:

Sonya Billyard 027 253 9205  
or Judy Martin 021 130 7765  
Email - [powa.ed@gmail.com](mailto:powa.ed@gmail.com)

POWA is also collating information regarding vulnerable community members in the Waikouaiti and Karitane area. A 'phone tree' is set up between volunteers and community members who choose to be on the list. We have volunteers available for grocery/medication pick-ups or just for a chat.

It's reassuring for our elderly residents to know people are only a phone call away.  
Facebook - Waikouaiti Covid Care, Karitane Community and P.O.W.A.

### WAITATI/BLUESKIN BAY

As part of our local Emergency Response Network we have established local 'phone trees' and a system of people who will check on their neighbours.

As the weeks become months we will need stronger networking and more volunteers to support people to stay in their homes. Many people are using local Facebook pages to keep in touch these are; Warrington Community Board, Blueskin Community and Blueskin Bay Fan Club

Do not be afraid to reach out help is only a phone call away.

Your local Emergency Response Volunteers:

**Seacliff** Alex McAlpine (027) 705 2115, Andrew Duckworth (021) 175 4276  
**Waitati** Mandy Mayhem-Bullock (03) 425 044, (021) 919 555  
**Warrington** Nathan & Katie Parker (03) 482 21456, (027) 214 8294, Tim Locker (03) 482 2022 (021) 161 2299, Elspeth Moody (021) 156 0691

# WAIKOUAITI COAST COMMUNITY BOARD UPDATE

## A word with new meaning

When I was a young lad in Scotland the terms 'Zoom' and 'Zooming' related to my ability on a bicycle. Where I lived we spent hours on our bikes – *zooming* along the country roads racing each other, *zooming* down hills at breakneck speed with scant regard for safety and, sometimes, *zooming* along in the slipstream of the double-decker bus heading to town for school. In later years, an older cousin of mine became very keen on photography, and he started to show me what could be done with a 'zoom' lens on a camera.

Moving along a number of years to the USA, we have a chap by the name of Eric Yuan who, in 2011, started a new videotelephony company. It became known as **Zoom** and Mr. Yuan is worth a cool 7 billion US dollars.

Now here in New Zealand, in the midst of COVID-19 restrictions, Zoom meetings have become a part of normal life for companies, councils, organisations and government where all participants can join a meeting from home, via their computers. In early May Dunedin City Council held its first formal council meeting via Zoom and also hosted three days of Annual Plan Hearings, where around one hundred submitters joined the Councillors via Zoom. Otago Regional Council also joined the party with Zoom meetings for their Annual Plan Hearings.

Community Board Chairs have been part of the Zoom meeting process and, in representing the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board, I have been pleased to put forward our views on a number of issues to both Councils, as detailed in last month's Blueskin News issue. We look forward to hearing the outcomes in due course.

The DCC new financial year starts on 1 July and our Discretionary Fund will be topped up by \$10,000. To apply for a grant, either contact a board member or download the application form from the DCC website. Our next formal meeting is scheduled for 17 June, starting at the slightly earlier time of 4.30pm in Waitati.

**Alasdair Morrison, Chairman**

**Waikouaiti Coast Community Board**



## WHITE CROSSES FOR ANZAC DAY

On the 100 year anniversary of the commencement of WW 1, Archives NZ released to the public the War records of Servicemen who fought in World War One.

Ruth Porteous and myself, both keen Genealogists, decided to research the names on our local War memorials. This research was not always straight forward and very time consuming. When checking some of our local names, we found several people all with the same initials and surnames, resulting in many files to look at to find the correct one.

We now have accurate records and are currently looking at a format to enable these to be put at the Blueskin Library as a public record.

Following the RSA commemoration with white crosses at the Cenotaph in Dunedin, the crosses were available for families to collect. We were able to go and look for names from our Cenotaph.

We now have an almost complete set for all the men who gave their lives in World War One and Two. By ANZAC Day in 2021 I plan to have the set complete.

These crosses belong to our community and are kept to be used each year on ANZAC Day. We ask that they are not removed from beside the Cenotaph.

**Glenys Clements**





## Gardening after Lockdown

It has been so nice the last couple of weeks to see the excitement on customers faces when they get their hands on plants, seeds, compost and gardening delights. After weeks of lovely settled Autumn weather a lot of people have spent hours in their gardens- tidying, clearing, maintaining and doing all the jobs that have been on the list for years.

So what is next –

1. **Adding winter colour to your garden** – Polyanthus, Helleborus (winter roses), Ericas, Heuchera, Grevilleas, Daphnes and so many other gorgeous plants to give you colour in the garden and attract the native bellbird and tui to your garden.
2. **Vegetables in a covered environment** – Now the summer producing fruit and vegetables are coming out of the greenhouse for the winter – there are lots of vegetables options for in here through the winter months – baby spinach, lettuce, celery, mesculin salad
3. **Microgreens and sprouting** – Microgreens are an easy, tasty treat for the winter. All you need is some seed raising mix (organic mix available at Blueskin), a small pot or tray and some seeds. Pea shoots, radish rambo, wheat grass, mung beans, beetroot and lots more.
4. **Birds** – During winter months, the birds especially our native birds get hungry and like a few treats. We have a great range of bird feeders and wild bird seed. To attract birds to your garden plant Grevilleas, Proteas, Leucodendrons, Cotoneasters, Rowans, winter flowering Ericas, Dragons Gold Kowhai, Himalayan Strawberry tree (*Arbutus unedo*), Daphnes, Japonicas (*Chaenomeles*) Kaka Beak and other flowering shrubs.
5. **Time to plant** – Garlic and shallots and to start sprouting your potatoes – lots of deep organic matter required for garlic and shallots.

Yes we are open to customers and trading – please follow us on facebook and Instagram for updates. Happy gardening, please feel free to drop in with your gardening questions. Also thank you for your support and shopping locally, we really appreciate it.

**Sally Brown**

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paul@ashfordlandscaping.co.nz

Paul: 021 069 5258




**BLUESKIN NURSERIES  
& CAFE**

## Winter Garden update







**Blueskin's favourites for Winter**  
YES garden centre & cafe is open in Level 2.  
We have lots of gorgeous winter flowering plants available in store!

Follow us on Facebook & instagram for everything gardening!  
**@blueskinnurseries**



2 Harvey Street, Waitati Phone 03 4822828  
www.blueskinnurseries.co.nz  
Open 7 days from 8.30am



# Interview with Marshall Seifert

by Mandy Mayhem-Bullock, April 2020



**When I asked Marshall what it is that makes Waitati special, he replied "Well, I could not imagine living anywhere else now – and I have seen a fair bit of the world!"**

We spoke for 45 minutes about how he came to be living here, his career and fondest memories of life in Waitati. What follows are a few highlights from our conversation.

Born in Melbourne but raised in New York. Marshall first came to New Zealand after meeting a Canterbury shearer at the World Trade Fair, he was managing a farm in Wainui and he played cricket!

"I visited him in 1963 and made the decision then that if I ever bred I would come here. I met my wife not long after in her home town of Copenhagen. We married in 1967, and returned to Christchurch until she finished medical school.

"Anneleise got a job at Cherry farm, we bought a house on Brown Street and I found work in broadcasting, it lasted about 3 years and then I gained a position as a recreation officer at Orokonui.

"For many years I was also a househusband or stay-at-home dad until the girls started school.

"I involved myself with the Globe Theatre as a committee member, also acting and directing, this got me started on concerts. I think I did 6 capping shows, 3 or 4 hospital reviews and a fundraising event – 'Once a Year Day' Concert (named for the famous song in the Pyjama Game). It proved so popular it was live broadcast on National Radio for 6 years, the cast were all from local institutions.

"A national documentary called 'The proper place in society' covered some of this time and the travelling musical group."

Marshall was also on the Southern Sinfonia board for 12 years. In 2009 he put together a concert celebrating the life and works of Frances Hodgkins. The first half covered the countries she had worked in and the second half was a visual of her works. Anthony Ritchie was the composer, it was scripted by Catherine Chidgey and Rima Te Wiata played the part of Frances.

Marshall was also a TV celebrity – working as a softball and basketball commentator for 20 years and in the popular series 'Antiques for Love or Money' starring alongside Cherry Raymond and Trevor Plumbly.

From 1981 to 1996 Marshall celebrated emerging New Zealand artists through his self named gallery on Dowling street (now Brett McDowell Gallery).

Still involved in exhibitions he recently formed a society of two with Louise Burnside called 'The society for the propagation of the early morning Teabowl'.



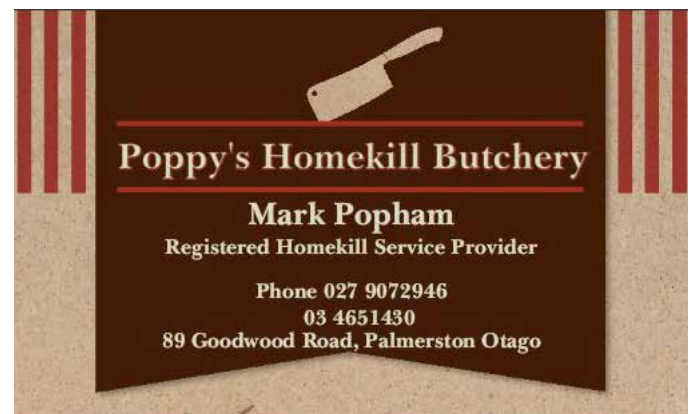
His fondest Waitati memory – "The experience of having New Zealand's pre-eminent potter Barry Brickell arrive by train to be greeted as if he was royalty. It was coincidentally my daughters 40th birthday. A group of Waitati Militia representatives assembled at very short notice to create a spectacle that impressed Barry so much he frequently spoke about it. He totally loved it, the songs, banter and general raucousness."

## Port To Port Cruises & Wildlife Tours

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# WHERE DOES ALL THE SEAWEED GO?



**Warrington Beach has had small mountains of bladder kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, accumulate after recent strong sea swells. These have delighted those walking the beach with families and dogs during the lockdown periods.**

But where does it all go?

Myriads of tiny creatures eat it all up!

A close look at the sand some days later gives us the answer, as we see small holes perforating the sand around seaweed clumps above the tidelines. These little holes are made by small crustaceans - distant relatives of shrimps and crayfish. Sandhoppers, called *Bellorchestia*, eat every last scrap of seaweed. These are, in turn, eaten by seabirds.

We don't often see them. If you sleep on the beach however, be prepared for a shower of jumping invertebrates in the night - they are nocturnal and going around all night long. By day, they bury themselves under the seaweed and sand to about 30cm - the drier the sand, the deeper they go.

While sandhoppers are found on sandy beaches world wide, Aotearoa NZ has 8 native species. Fun fact - the discovery by Niwa Scientists of giant sandhoppers in one of the deepest, darkest places on earth - 7000 metres deep in the Kermadec Trench, north of New Zealand. At 30 cm length and pinkish white in colour, finding these covering Warrington beach would be disconcerting!!

Photo : *Bellorchestia* – commons.wikimedia.org



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# AN OPEN LETTER TO MY FELLOW SENIOR CITIZENS

Marshall Seifert April 2020

*TOPIC : An idea that may help to ease some of the burdens and stress of the current situation*

Recently a black cloud fell upon the beautiful country of Italy. A fast moving pandemic spread fear and terror amongst it's people. One day someone came up with an Idea "why not throw open our windows and sing to our frightened and lonely neighbours'. It was a simple gesture but it gave the world a reminder of compassion and goodwill.

It is my belief that New Zealand currently needs such creative ideas and we need them quickly. At the moment those of us over 70 or in ill health are living in the state of conscious or subconscious fear and our children feel powerless to help us. Stress is a serious problem that can take a strong toll on our mental health. With this in mind, I would like to make a suggestion of a project that might help ease some of our present anxieties.

There are two things that are shared by all of mankind but are personal to only YOU. The first is your fingerprints and the second is "The story of your life"

*My idea is the following:*

What if we Oldies, on behalf of our nation and our own mental wellbeing, were to take on the task of telling our families our personal life story. The ups and downs and roundabouts that have made up our long lives. It would not only give you a task in your long isolation but would also strengthen the ties with your offspring.

The way it would work is that each family would arrange a link-up (most probably by telephone) once a week for one hour. The first half hour would be for us to tell our story and answer questions from our children and grandchildren. (A sample question might be - "Grandma, when you were my age what was your favourite food?")

The second half hour is for them to entertain us. I suggest we would like to hear the latest family news and gossip, jokes, songs, poems etc and I am sure we would like to share in the greatest of all tonics, "Laughter".

You may feel that this might be difficult for you or something that you might think about in the future. The stark facts are, not all of us are going to get through the next few months and reality is at this time, we won't even get a funeral! Sharing our isolation with others can help form a buffer from negative thoughts and self pity. On the plus side we can all dwell for months on memories of being part of the worlds luckiest generation and having lived in NZ.

In conclusion: Of course sooner or later we will pass on. When that time comes, if you have taken on the task you will find comfort in knowing you have given your loved ones a priceless gift ... "Your Life Story".

Thank you for reading my letter. I wish you all good luck and try and throw open some windows to your family and friends.



**Warrington Surf Lifesaving Club remains closed for the season but as always, training for lifeguards continues throughout the year. About one third of our lifeguards are adults who have joined for one simple reason. They want to be involved in beach activities with like-minded folk!**

By becoming a lifeguard, adults can enjoy using the clubs large supply of surfboards, paddle boards, rescue boats, surf skis and canoes. Adults can become a part of the Blueskin Bay community by joining a team, joining in

group training or just heading out for some fun alone or with friends and family.

This season we are recruiting interested adults! If you would like to improve surf swim skills, gain skills in first aid, marine radio, marine craft and rescue techniques - why not join up?

Email [warringtonslsc@gmail.com](mailto:warringtonslsc@gmail.com). The course starts very soon. Don't worry, it doesn't start with surf swimming!!

If you enjoy being part of a team, love getting out amongst it and want to make new friends locally - sign up to join - In It For Life.

# BLUESKIN BAY LIBRARY

28 Harvey Street, Waitati, 9085 · Ph 03 474-3690

[www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz](http://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz)

## New Library Hours

Monday to Friday

10am-11am  
for people aged 65 years and older

11am-2pm  
for everyone else

The services we provide will be limited, but you will be able to return and borrow books, DVDs and other library items.

Scanning and photocopying facilities will be available. Free wifi will also be available and customers will be able to search the library catalogue. Our home services will be operating.

The library's free public access internet computers will **not** be available, nor will newspapers.

In line with other DCC facilities, new processes will be in place for contact tracing, to manage queues and to limit the number of visitors inside the libraries at any one time. We want to cater for as many people as we can so we're asking customers to keep their visit to a maximum of 30 minutes.

To make it easier to provide your details for contact tracing, download the **Rippl** app before you visit the library. If you don't have a smartphone or are unable to download the app, you will need to provide your contact details to staff.

People who have been unwell in the last 48 hours, are self-isolating for COVID-19 or who have been tested for COVID-19 and are waiting for their test result should delay their visit. Unaccompanied children under 14 years old should also not visit the library at this time.

Overdue charges will be waived from 22 March to 30 June 2020.

Other community library hours:  
Port Chalmers: Monday – Friday  
10am-4pm

Waikouaiti: Monday – Friday  
10am-2pm

## Explore the Digital Library

Here's a sample from the host of digital options – free with your library membership:

■ **Who Else Writes Like...?** is recognised as a standard work to help introduce both book borrowers and buyers to novelists whose work is unfamiliar to them. It is designed to answer the perennial question "I've read all the books by this author, who else writes like that?"

■ **Learn a Language:** Duolingo is the free science-based language education platform that has organically become the most popular way to learn languages online. Each lesson includes a variety of speaking, listening, translation, and multiple choice challenges, and records how many days in a row you spend learning a language. There are 29 languages available.

■ **Story Box Library** is an educational website, created for children to view stories by local authors and illustrators, being read aloud by fantastic, predominantly Australian and New Zealand, storytellers.

And if you haven't yet discovered Australasia's premiere streaming channel with hundreds of award-winning documentaries, independent features and festival favourites, what are you waiting for...

■ **Beamafilms** newly released head-banging, pitch-perfect collection of rock 'n' roll cinema includes *Bruce Springsteen: On The Road*, Hendrix doco *Jimi: All Is By My Side*, Joplin biopic *Janis: Little Girl Blue* and the vintage Rolling Stones gig *The Stones in the Park*.







Hocken Collections, Uare Taoka o Hākena, University of Otago - Otago Witness, 9 January 1921

## Warrington Convalescent Home Marks 100th

Chuck Landis

2020 marks 100 years since the opening of Warrington's James Powell Convalescent Home (JPCH). Sited along Coast Road north of Warrington, the Home was founded as a "home for women convalescing following release from hospital" by the Patients and Prisoners Aid Society (PPAS). Following many years of promoting this idea and for a recovery home by the Society's charismatic chaplain Reverend F. G. Cumming (1861-1941), funding was finally obtained: During Cumming's extensive travels around South Island (often by coaster and motorbike) the chaplain struck gold in Westport – with businessman James Powell. In his will, a few years later, Powell left the Society £3000 (I've also seen £2000 and £6000 cited). With these funds, in 1916 the PPAS purchased a 'sturdy villa' from Presbyterian Reverend E. R. Davies. (Does anyone know anything about Rev. Davies? – He may have taught at Knox.) The property was attractively located on the brow of a hill overlooking Warrington Beach, village, adjoining hill country and distant seascapes. During ensuing years, adjoining paddocks were purchased by PPAS to develop a farmlet. In addition, a block of native bush was gifted by George Fenwick. Patient numbers were about 200 per year following WW2 but both patients and donations gradually decreased. Eventually the Home was closed and went up for tender in 1975, it was purchased by Chuck and Carolyn Landis of Bay Road, Warrington.

Conversion of a modest home to a resthome proceeded rapidly when Powell's bequest was received, Construction surveys, plans, building and landscaping were carried out

by Otago firms, many of whose names are still recognized – Mason & Wales, Love Construction, and David Tannock of Dunedin park and botanical garden fame. Other local people contributed materials and money. The lovely and comfortable patients' lounge was funded by Sir George Fenwick (the ODT founder and editor) and named after his wife, Lady Fenwick. Extensions to Rev. Davies' original villa were added in several stages and in directions into the 1930's and beyond. Finding the original house outline through floor-board patterns is a real challenge! Most patients (about 200 per year) had a small single room opening onto a long open-air verandah. When we moved in, each bedroom was painted in an old-fashioned pink and each had pink furniture as well – bed, chair, dresser, mirror and commode. The only relief from all the pink was the black Gideon's Bibles in each room.

In the early days patients were tucked into chaise lounges and wheeled out for fresh air. In later years sanity prevailed and the verandah was glassed in (though walking outdoors was encouraged). The chaise lounges (showing their wear) are still on the verandah and rather nice for a warm sunny winter's Sunday siesta. 10 rooms with brass door plaques still commemorate original donors, their wives and charitable organisations.

*Several points remain confused – the amounts cited for Powell's gift ranges from £2000 to £6000 and the date of opening is usually cited as 1921. However it appears that the matron/nurse and her assistant were already in residence in 1920.*

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

**Hi everyone. We are now into a new rhythm here at school, having successfully negotiated our way through Level 3 and now Level 2 begins.**

It has been great to have some kids come back and to teach them face to face. We have also had a couple of new entrants start during this time which has been fun, as there has been lots of special one on one teacher time for them.

Combining teaching on site and remote teaching has kept us busy. It was great to see the kids at home every day via video link and we have been keeping the distance learners busy with a smorgasbord of activities. It has been very impressive to see how the kid's confidence with digital skills has grown rapidly with this new approach to learning.

We can't wait to have everyone back together next Monday when schools officially open. We have some interesting food science work to continue with after Term One's abrupt end cut this topic short. We have the Harold and the Life Education bus visiting next week which will be timely after recent events. We are finding it is very cosy by our roaring fire as the recent beautiful autumnal weather is slowly but surely being replaced by some winter grey.

We also look forward to welcoming back our Little Pipi's playgroup on Thursday mornings soon. Any queries about Pūrākaunui School please call the office on 4821026.

**Tim Cook, Principal**



**Kia ora!**

**Wow, amazing how lockdown managed to be both whirlwind and a test of stamina all rolled into one.**

Our centre's parents fared relatively well it would seem, and I do believe that their experience in playing alongside theirs and other children, supporting and extending play, encouraging positive relationships between older and younger siblings etc. are things they are all well versed in. Probably they would humbly tell you otherwise, but I have seen them at it on session.

Reflections from our tamariki during lockdown were that they really missed each other, enjoyed the company of their normally at-work parent, got bored of their books and missed the library, wanted to go swimming and back to team sports.

It was good to be checked on and have friends to check on and keep the strands of our community net strong. Awesome work Blueskin Bay!

Until Aotearoa is back at baseline, we can't accept visitors. However, stay in touch with us and we can let you know when we have the green light on that.

Contact Us: Jay Fowlds, 0212016411  
Blueskin Playcentre on Facebook  
blueskinplaycentre88@gmail.com.



### **Things that make me glad:**

For the first time in my memory I had the feeling that Aotearoa was a community, like ours, with some sort of shared view that people matter. Being kind and staying at home was a tag line that aligned our priorities. What an amazing thing and what a relief

### **Things that make me sad:**

Even before we open back up and life returns to a normal that was always a bit too fast for me, the main road that cuts between Waitati and our local shop is bumper to bumper with speedfreaks that can't even manage a courtesy tap of the brakes when pedestrians are crossing- there's certainly no social distancing round our corner when cars and trucks are hooning at 120.

### **What makes me a bit mad:**

Just between you and me, even though I'm sure I felt the country breathe a shared sigh of relief when the government decided to go hard and go early, ensuring the virus didn't take hold, now people are exclaiming we need forget that and open up before Jacinda ruins the country.

**by Angela Lyons**

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



## SCHOOL UPDATE

**I should start by letting you know that I am the Acting Principal at Waitati, with Stacey Honeywill's recent departure to Oamaru North School. This was a role I accepted a few days before lockdown! It has been an interesting ride through the different levels of operations over the last seven weeks, but the staff, parents and children have all been amazing.**

The staff quickly implemented home learning programmes for students and organised the delivery of devices to families who had an urgent need for them. The home learning programmes that the teachers designed showed great creativity and variety. Every family had their own unique set of circumstances to deal with during the lockdown, and we recognised this and tried to be flexible in our approaches and expectations. When we reached Level 3, a small number of students were successfully integrated back into on site learning, while home learning continued for the majority.



*Our youngest students from Mapounui are loving this story read by their teacher, Kat Frankpitt on our first day back.*

The wonderful news is that as I write, we are celebrating our first fully operational day back at school. Nearly all our children are back, and they seem delighted to be catching up with their friends and teachers.

School life is not quite as we know it yet, but it is fantastic to see the students interacting and charging around the beautiful school grounds. I eagerly await the day when parents can again freely intermingle after school in the Waitati way. Term 3 also sees the arrival of Tara O'Neill who will be the new principal. I am sure she will look forward to introducing herself through these pages in due course.

**Acting Principal John Fisher**



**by Mandy Mayhem-Bullock**

I want to thank our community for your patience and kindness. Our whole world was turned upside down 15 months ago. Everything about this event is so horrific and bizarre. My heart aches for the pain and the horror of what little Star experienced. The hardest part was the time it took to get an arrest, 4 and a half months. The date for court sentencing is now 5 June.

I was pretty sure all along who had done it. On the Monday evening after Star was stabbed this person came round to my house! He was asked to leave, but he insisted on telling us how it wasn't him. Six weeks later coinciding with the search warrant he went to the media again to say it wasn't him.

We had Star since he was a newly weaned foal, he grew up with my kids, we let him come inside the house! The big horses have been spooked and sad and traumatised by all of this, so sensitive. I know they miss their buddy.

When the Police carried out the search warrant I expressed to them I had a hunch the evidence would be on his shoes, they assured me they had got all the shoes. Sure enough when the evidence came back from testing (in a long queue of evidence behind the Mosque shootings- hence the months it took) it was the shoes that got an arrest!

Blood splatter on his boots put him at the scene. His lawyer requested an independent examination of the evidence, then they requested an indication of sentence. After that and on the same day he plead guilty, knowing he would get a reduced sentence for doing so. He has already served almost a year of this sentence.

This has been a long drawn out painful experience for my family and my community. It happened right on our doorstep in the one place that we thought was a safe haven. It breaks my heart that this tragedy belongs to us and that all of my community has had to go through this, feeling vulnerable and unsafe and so deeply sad. RIP Star



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The savaged form stills  
Tiny tremors fade  
Life's marvel chills

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Moments to destroy

Frail and defenceless  
Delight to the senses  
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Diverting the sickly  
Charming the troubled  
You uplifted the weary  
Assuaged the bereft

With artless affection  
The culprit rubs my leg  
Love and outrage war  
Forgive or spurn?  
I reach to the silken head

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## Cough Toffee or ordinary toffee, you choose

**by Hilary Rowley**

Everyone knows how an irritated, dry throat feels, and the only thing to sooth it is sucking on something sweet. I read a Consumer review years ago, which concluded that it makes no difference what you are sucking so long as it is syrupy when it goes down your throat. You don't actually need to buy individually wrapped cough drops with loads of fancy ingredients.

I have always wanted to have a go at making a cough toffee, and despite what I just said about fancy ingredients, I wanted to make my toffee using a tincture of white horehound, (also spelt hoarhound) a bitter perennial herb known to help sooth coughs.

Make a tincture by packing the leaves and flowers of white horehound into a jar and topping it up with vodka. Shake frequently for 6 weeks, strain and bottle.

To make cough toffee, or any toffee I did some experiments, and it seemed to work fine with any of the substitutions of ingredients which I tried, so have some fun and experiment, just keep the basic quantities the same, and use the same method.

In a pot put the following:

1 cup of sugar.

2 Tablespoons of horehound tincture, or lemon juice, or water, or rum.

2 tablespoons of Honey, or golden syrup, or ginger syrup.

25 grams of butter or margarine

1/2 teaspoon peppermint essence, or lemon essence, or flavour of choice.

Put the pot on a low heat, initially stir the ingredients together, then leave them unstirred. Stand a pot of water nearby. Also, prepare a buttered or oiled tray, a pair of kitchen scissors and a kitchen knife with a buttered or oiled blade.

As the mixture boils, test your toffee now and again by dripping a few drops into the cold water. Fish it out with your fingers. If it feels hard bite it. When the little bit of toffee cracks or snaps when you bite it, it is ready.

Pour the liquid toffee onto your prepared tray and shift it around with the oiled knife as it starts to cool. Shape it into a long sausage shape, and when you are able to handle it with your hands stretch it, fold it, twist it like a rope. Keep doing this until it is feeling firm, but still malleable. Cut the long toffee rope with your kitchen scissors. To store shake the pieces in some icing sugar, other wise the humidity in the air will make your toffee stick together into a big sticky blob.

It is easy to make and is surprisingly happy with variations. You don't even have to wait until you have a cough. Butter and rum toffee is yum.

# Derek the Dunnock



Moult's finally over so I s'pose I'll have to say something about Covid-19. Us dunnocks've been hanging round locked down Homo so-called sapiens (Hscs) amazed at their lack of mobility. Up to now they've been rushing about like mad. I would like to point out however that us dunnocks and our avian comrades have been suffering from bird pox for several decades now. It's a viral infection that in our own species attacks our feet and bills with gross wart-like growths that lead to slow death due to the inability to forage efficiently. The sensible approach to controlling this poxy virus is remarkably similar to the Hscs approach to Covid-19. Essentially, social distancing around bird tables and feeders. Though I would like to point out that as these feeders and bird tables are Hscs artifacts, it would be considerate of them, to say the least, to sanitise

them and keep them clean at all times. In a rare incidence of cross species compassion I would like to say that I'm very sorry to see the predicament the Hscs has found itself in. I admit there's a bit of self interest here because they do feed us quite a lot. We benefit considerably from their waste products and their alteration of the forested habitat of this "green and pleasant land" [- Peter Fraser, ex NZ PM, according to Davinia Dunnock from the Politics Otago campus].

You may recall that I've mentioned in the past my despair at the lack of intelligence of some of my rellies. I'm exasperated if not sad to report that Doris Dunnock (my mum, or maybe not) insists that we're dealing with CORVID-19 and is demanding a Level 4 lockdown for all her offspring - whomsoever they may be - for fear of an invasion of the dastardly crow

[Corvid] family- the carrion crows, european magpies and jays - top predators all. Yet another conspiracy theory. No amount of resort to google maps will convince her that these Corvids are 12,000 miles away in the northern hemisphere. She still insists cell phone towers, being potential Corvid nest sites, should be pecked down by mass dunnock invasion. If she carries on like that I fear for us dunnocks. It could trigger an eradication programme. Will we be the next alien invasive species to be targeted after the wilding pines? Anyway, I feel for our Homo so-called sapien comrades who are finally being confronted with the reality and limits of living in the natural world, something us avians've been doing for some sixty million years.

## Front Cover Photos

I had some wonderful photo's sent to me after my request on the community facebook pages. The image I finally chose was by Emma Maxwell. Here are a selection of the others.





## Birds of Blueskin Bay

By Dean Griffiths

We are really fortunate to live in an area that has an amazing array of native birds whose diversity, populations and survival are greatly aided by the Halo project, Orokonui Ecosanctuary, private trapping and everyone who nurtures and protects our natural environment that these birds call home.

One of the upsides for our whanau being in lockdown was having more

time to watch, appreciate and wonder at the native birds that visit our Waitati home and the antics they get up to. We are frequently visited by South Island Robin, Kereru, Tomtits, Piwakawaka (fantail), Starlings, Grey warblers, Chaffinches, Sparrows, Bellbirds, Song Thrush and even Kaka now occasionally pay us a visit.

### Kereru (wood pigeon):

These frequent visitors never cease to amuse. They often engage in high wire cat and mouse games, flying and hopping after one another on power lines. They can be seen in a myriad of acrobatic poses, including upside down, in our cabbage trees feasting on berries, and in the early evening we catch their quite superb aerial antics with long swooping dives. Did you know that kereru are mostly silent except for occasional 'oos', and a Kereru was once one satellite-tagged and travelled at least 480 km during a 100-day period, involving four crossings of Foveaux Strait..

Grab a picture of the birds in your neighbourhood and share your bird encounters with the Blueskin bay whanau. email to: [blueskin.input@gmail.com](mailto:blueskin.input@gmail.com)

## new moon

by Kirstie McKinnon

little pine  
with a stone friend  
hedged by hefty roots  
and the many moons  
of two old trees  
the young pine  
trills to a rocking flicker  
of estuary light  
on the shore  
a happenstance of children  
skim stones  
biff stones  
chuck them  
further, farthest, far  
two adults wait near happy  
one on a stump  
one on a rock  
the moon cranks-up  
to sling  
a grin



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## BLUESKIN RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TRUST

June 2020

We've moved out of Covid response into Covid recovery, or reset as it may be. There's a cartoon I've seen which has a character looking at the downward curve of Covid19 with a self-satisfied look, while behind him rises the mountain of climate impacts. As momentous as the Covid crisis has been, it pales into insignificance in the face of the tasks ahead as we tackle climate change. We've entered the Long Emergency of a changing climate, where pandemics, economic instability, and many other adverse events will occur with greater regularity. BRCT exists to build community resilience, and that's our focus.

Electricity provision is an 'essential service' and one that powers our homes and businesses. In 2017 we launched the Blueskin Energy Network. The purpose of our local electricity retail service is to reduce energy hardship and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Just before lockdown we began a 'retrofit' of BEN to allow expansion into all of Otago and Southland. This meant working with a new backroom partner and redesigning our solar share service. We're still working through all the upgrades and have submitted an application to the Provincial Growth Fund to grow the service nationally. There's a huge amount of uncertainty in the electricity sector at present, with some retailers finding themselves in difficulty due to Covid19 ramifications on the electricity market, but we're confident that we have a model for cleaner, cheaper, smarter power and are pleased to be providing electricity for the new High Street Co-housing development.

The other thing that's been occupying me during lockdown has been working with Council to understand and communicate community support. Finally we've loved being part of Waitati School and will miss that energy and noise, but we're pleased to see the school grow from strength to strength!

The BRCT website is [www.brct.org.nz](http://www.brct.org.nz) and you can contact us by email at: [office@brct.org.nz](mailto:office@brct.org.nz) or by phone on 027 488 8314.

By Scott Willis



## A good news story

Results from the first re-measure of vegetation health, following OSPRI's possum control in the Mt Cargill/ Mihiwaka area, shows an expected positive result. A clear trend in improved tree health is evident and highly likely due to possum control.



Vegetation monitoring, together with possum population monitoring data, helps us understand how effective the possum control programme is. And the signs are good. OSPRI's possum monitoring shows abundance is down to low or very low levels in the Mt Cargill area. The results of vegetation monitoring show that indicator species are recovering, confirming what we'd expect with this drop in possum abundance.

'Indicator' trees (a sample of possum-preferred trees) are remeasured at 2-3 year intervals using three methods to assess canopy damage and stem use by possums.

Mahoe and kotukutuku/tree fuchsias at Pigeon Hill and Mihiwaka were surveyed for foliar browse and trunk use in January. There was a large decrease in the proportion of trees being used by possums, as indicated by fresh bite or scratch marks. Photo-point results also show canopy condition has improved.

Even with these great results there are still plenty of possums out there, so the more people trapping the better our possum control will be. If you have a possum trap, check and rebait more regularly at this time of high possum activity for best results.

If you're keen to host a possum trap, learn more about what we do, or subscribe to our newsletter, check out our website [www.haloproject.org.nz](http://www.haloproject.org.nz), or email [info@haloproject.org.nz](mailto:info@haloproject.org.nz), Ph 022 026 2115, [Facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui/](https://www.facebook.com/halobeyondorokonui/).

Photo caption: Peeled bark from possum scratching.  
Photo: Alex Ghaemaghany, MCU.

# WAITATI BOOK CLUB by Ian Melvin

May – Once again it was decided to play it safe and meet by online conference, things ran a bit smoother this time. I went to Scott's to share his computer access and his lovely beers and a whiskey. Great to be with friends again in person, realised how much I'd been missing that. Reminded how much the simple things matter!

## THE BOOK

**Billy Budd** by Herman Melville, (author of Moby Dick). The overwhelming majority enjoyed and rated this book highly.

I in the minority of one didn't!

Once again Melville's setting is at sea, a slow but intense drama unfolds aboard a sailing ship in the 1800's. A poem from the book to give a taste...

Billy In The Darbies.

Good of the chaplain to enter Lone Bay

And down on his marrow bones here and pray

For the likes just o' me, Billy Budd – But look:

Through the port comes the moon shine astray!

It tips the guard's cutlass and silvers this nook:

But 'twill die in the dawning of Billy's last day..... etc.

## Other Books Read

Scott – **American Dirt** by Jeannine Cummins. Controversial! -a white woman writing about a "fictional" Mexican immigrant. Visceral, gruelling, so hard to put down! Aimed directly at fascist Trump government! Wow!

Oprah Winfrey "from the first sentence I was in...."

## BEERS

Shared by Scott and Jenna – **Prohibition Porter**, Liberty Brewing Helensville. Brewed in charred oak barrels 13.1% 5\*\*\*\*\* (9.5/10)

## WINE

Martin – **Adaptaur Reserve Shiraz**, Barossa Valley. Stunning!!! Big flavoured, great with a slab of steak! Adaptaur is a breed of cattle! \*\*\*\*\*

## MUSIC

Me – from my favourite music shelf: **Ain't In No Hurry/Jorma Kaukonen**. Gentle, old timey, folksey, country, finger picking guitar, raspy fireside vocals, accompanied by acoustic backing. One of the all time great guitar players.

**Jefferson Airplane/Starship, Hot Tuna**, to down home roots music.

## WORD OF THE MONTH

Savour/Savor – food, drink, life: take time to enjoy, enjoy it properly!

## MEANING OF LIFE

"The vessel of life sails on the gentle swells of family and friends.." Jorma Kaukonen.





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# BLUESKIN GARDEN CLUB

***"The tree which moves some to tears of joy is in the eyes of others only a green thing that gets in the way. As a man/woman sees, so he/she is..."***

*Wm Blake*

I was struggling to think of what I could write when in a 1993 "New Zealand Gardener" mag (- I finally cleaned out a cupboard that has been accumulating lots of STUFF over the years. We all have one, or two.....) I spotted this quote which I thought most appropriate in these times of Lockdown/Shutdown. As I walk around the village, many properties have great piles of green waste waiting to be dealt to and transported to the landfill or elsewhere, my place included. At least my pile has made it onto the trailer. Now for the next step.

While we have few flowers to ooh and aah over this time of the year, I look at my shedding trees and instead of thinking of all the work they create, I admit I actually enjoy raking up leaves - the sound, colours - oranges, yellows, magenta and the smell especially the walnut which has leathery big leaves that I dump into the back of the shrubbery as a mulch. I don't bless the cabbage trees although their contribution as fire lighters also have merit. I've had to time to sit and observe the traffic around my birdtable/feeder, tuis, bellbirds, waxeyes, riflemen, sparrows and the wood pigeons high in the now naked trees.

Observing their pecking order and the big birds bossing around the smaller ones. I feel blessed to have their company and while the lock down was limiting, I was in two many minds whether I actually wanted to step down to level 2 and return to that frantic pace we all seemed to adopt. I know the kids desperately missed their friends as did I but as a garden club, our members continue to communicate via digital networks and our concern for each other is gratifying to see. Who knows when we can get back to meetings, but each day we can consider ourselves lucky to live in this wonderful part of Otago.

For more information about our Garden Club, phone Daphne 4822428 or Lyn 4822896.



## Carrot and Pineapple Cake

This makes the moistest, tastiest Carrot Cake you've ever tasted - Editor

4 eggs  
2 cups White Caster Sugar  
1¼ cups vegetable oil  
1 cup plain white flour  
1 cup wholemeal flour  
1½ teaspoons baking powder  
2 teaspoons baking soda  
2 teaspoons cinnamon  
1 teaspoon mixed spice  
2½ cups grated carrot  
432g can crushed pineapple (drained)  
1 cup walnuts, chopped

### Icing

250g cream cheese (Philadelphia Caramilk), room temperature  
75g butter, softened but not melted  
1 1/2 cups Icing Sugar  
Juice and rind of one lemon

### Method

Pre-heat oven to 180°C. Grease the sides and line the base of a 30cm round cake tin or 2 x 20cm round cake tins with baking paper.

Beat eggs, sugar and oil together until the White Sugar has dissolved. In a separate bowl, sift together flours, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon and mixed spice.

Fold dry ingredients into egg mixture then also fold in the grated carrots, pineapple and walnuts.

Pour mixture into prepared tin or tins and smooth top. Bake for 1 hour or until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in tin(s) for 15 minutes, then turn onto wire rack to cool completely before slathering with cream cheese icing.

To make the icing, beat the cream cheese and butter together until all lumps are gone (this is where having the cheese at room temperature shows its benefits). Add Icing Sugar, lemon juice and rind then mix until well combined.

If using two cakes, ice the top of one cake generously then place 2nd cake on top then cover the lot with the rest. As an optional extra, top with some more chopped walnuts.



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Leaving behind one of your dog's little parcels is the kind of gift no-one wants to receive.

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## Leanne Black Real Estate

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- Matt and Kim



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