



Tūātapere | Clifden | Orawia | Blackmount | Monowai | Colac Bay | Orepuki

Cover Photo: Mike Goodwin

Issue 280  
**JULY 2025**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	1	2 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den Yoga @ Orepuki from 5.30pm	3 Sewing & Patchwork. 10-3pm The Den	4 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	5 C&W Archives Saturday Special Opening, 1-4pm	6
7 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Story Time @ Library	8	9 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Yoga @ Orepuki from 5.30pm	10	11 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	12 Harakeke Earring Workshop @ Boundary Creek 10am -12pm	13
14 Bootcamp @ Orepuki FIRST Day of School Term 3 Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	15 Predator Control Meeting 7pm @ the Den	16 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den Yoga @ Orepuki from 5.30pm	17 C&W Archives Family History/Whakapapa Research day 1-4pm gold coin donation Sewing & Patchwork. 10-3pm The Den	18 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	19	20 Content for next months WW due
21 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	22	23 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Yoga @Orepuki from 5.30pm	24	25 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	26	27
28 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	29	30 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Yoga @Orepuki from 5.30pm	31			
		Coming up ...	Incorporated Societies Info Evening 13 Aug T&C Club 6-8pm			

Special thanks to



Want your event here? Let us know at  
[yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com](mailto:yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com)







# MONOWAI POWER STATION TURNS 100:

## *A Century of Powering Southland*

By Mike Goodwin/Advento Photography

On May 1st, 2025, Monowai Power Station proudly celebrated its 100-year anniversary. I had the honour of attending the centennial event, joining past workers, engineers, families, and locals to mark a milestone in New Zealand's energy history.

Tucked away on the banks of the Waiau River, Monowai is New Zealand's oldest operational hydro-electric power station. Officially opened on 1 May 1925, the station was the result of more than two decades of planning, lobbying, and engineering. Local leaders, including the Southland Progress League and the newly formed Southland Electric Power Board, pushed hard to bring renewable electricity to the region. Their vision and determination laid the foundation for one of Southland's greatest infrastructure achievements. Materials for the project were shipped from London, including transformers, turbines, and over 1,000 tonnes of cement. Roads and bridges—like the Sunnyside Bridge near Tuatapere—were built to bring materials and workers to the remote site. By 1925, Monowai was generating 3.6 megawatts of electricity, powering thousands of homes and businesses across Western Southland.

The station was so successful that it helped secure Southland's position as a leader in renewable energy. Over the decades, Monowai supported the grid through challenges like the 1939 integration into the National Grid, power shortages in the 1940s, and flooding events in the 1990s. Major upgrades in the 2000s ensured it continues to operate today.

The centennial event hosted by Pioneer Energy was a chance to reflect on the hard work of those who built and operated the station. Storyboards and historical displays—including engineering plans, archival photos, and timelines—were set up on-site for visitors to explore. I was privileged to photograph the occasion and capture the sense of pride shared by everyone there.

If you'd like to learn more about Monowai's history or explore other local archives, visit the Central & Western Murihiku Southland Archive, located at 48 Main Road, Tuatapere. They hold a growing collection of historical photos, articles, records, maps, and community material from across the region. You can also bring your own historical items—photos, VHS tapes, or documents—for scanning and digital preservation. This service is free if you donate a copy to their public collection. Personal copies can be made with a small donation to help support their work.

For more information or to arrange a visit, head to the Heritage Hub in Tuatapere—a treasure trove of our shared local history. As locals, we can be proud of the role Tuatapere and the wider community played in supporting this project. Here's to the next 100 years of renewable energy in Southland.





**Neat Cut**

Phone: Anita Green 027 506 2418  
Tuesday 9-5pm, Thursday 10-8pm, Friday 10-5pm - Appointments are encouraged.



**Anne Horrell, Chairperson**

**Contact: 021 2169 808**

**Email: [altonlea.horrells@xtra.co.nz](mailto:altonlea.horrells@xtra.co.nz)**

## Community Board News

### Community Service Award:

Michael Thomas McLees. On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June it was with great pleasure that Mayor Rob Scott presented the family of Michael McLees of Blackmount with a Community Service Award. Those also present at the McLees home included Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Chair Anne Horrell, Councillor Derek Chamberlain and Community Partnership Leader Stella O'Connor.

Michael was nominated for this award by members of the Blackmount community for the huge contribution that Mike made to his community.

Coming from a long family association in the Blackmount district Mike was passionate about the area he and generations before him called home. He was a quiet, unassuming man who served in the Blackmount Volunteer Fire Brigade for an incredible 38 years, including roles as Deputy Fire Chief and Secretary. He had a 97.5% attendance rate at callouts and training sessions and received numerous honours including the Gold Star Award, Long Service and Good Conduct medals. He was also instrumental on the Blackmount Pool Committee, the Blackmount School Board of Trustees and the Blackmount Chapel Committee.

From 1998-2015 he managed the very popular Friday Night Club; a much needed social hub for local farmers. Michael was a quiet achiever; someone who leads by example in a no nonsense, practical way. His legacy is in the beloved community he helped build through his willingness to help. A loving and devoted family man Mike is deeply missed by his wife Lynette, his daughter Jessica and her husband Ben and wee daughter Olivia and his son James. Although sadly Mike died before receiving the award (21<sup>st</sup> August 2024) we are very grateful to the McLees family for allowing us into their home to pay tribute and share memories of a remarkable, lovely man.

### Monowai Village Services Society:

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May the MVSS held their AGM at the Blackmount Community Centre.

The office bearers for the coming year are Neil Wohlers - Chairperson, Sharon Evans - Secretary and Tainya Dickson - Treasurer. The committee consists of all members of the Society. At the meeting Rachael Poole - Committee Advisor of the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board- was co-opted as a non- member to take on an advisory role.

A new constitution of the Society was adopted. Those present were delighted with the great success of the recent centenary celebration of Monowai Hydro Power Station.

**Tuatapere Pool AGM**  
23rd July 7pm at TBC

All Welcome. Reminder that if we do not get more people willing to help with the pool we may lose this awesome asset. So please let us know if you are able to help in any way. either message us via FB or email us at [tuataperepool51@gmail.com](mailto:tuataperepool51@gmail.com)

Thank you. We look forward to seeing some new faces at our next meeting



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### *TTWCB Meeting:*

On Tuesday 3rd June a formal meeting of the Community Board took place. At this meeting, applications to the Community Partnership Fund were considered. The amount available for distribution was \$8,309. Following a good discussion the following recipients were: Western Southland Wool Craft Group- allocated \$500 towards assisting the cost of the 'Have a Go Kids Fibre Craft Corner'; Orepuki Community Promotion's Charitable Trust- allocated \$2,500 towards assisting with the costs of the supply and fitting of a defibrillator; Orepuki Volunteer Fire Brigade- allocated \$4,000 towards assisting the cost of replacing three water tanks; Tuatapere & District Promotions Incorporated- allocated \$1,300 towards assisting the costs of computers and equipment for the Central and Western Archive. At the meeting the Community Board approved the request by the Tuatapere Community Pool Committee to uplift \$5,014 from the Tuatapere Ward Pool Rate Reserve towards operational costs for the community pool. At the meeting the Board was updated on the timeline for the 2025 triennial election, Community Board projects update, Councillor's report and CB Chair's report- as well as CB members reporting on various portfolios. Some of these will be detailed below.

### *Defibrillator-Orepuki:*

We are delighted that sufficient funds have now been raised by the Orepuki Promotions Group for the purchase and installation of a defibrillator for Orepuki. This is an important asset for the residents of Orepuki village and district. Well done to all of those who have pursued this wonderful initiative.

### *War Memorial Gates-Orepuki:*

The War Memorial Gates at Orepuki have been given a spruce up with soldiers' names touched up with paint. This is so good considering that they were very faded and almost illegible.

### *Southland District Council Meeting-Tuatapere*

On 11 th June the SDC held their meeting in the Tuatapere RSA Lounge. Following the business part of the meeting the Mayor, Councillors and staff members joined members of the Community Board on a local tour highlighting projects and future plans. This was a very positive day and the visits included the Tuatapere Railway Station to see and to hear about the progress being made by the Tuatapere Heritage Rail Trust. Visits also included the Central & Western Archives Hub, the Waiau Memorial Library, the Greenheart Reserve, the Tuatapere Domain, Elder Park and the old Clifden Bridge site. At each site plans are underway for future use and development. Thank you to those community members who were present at the various sites and contributed so informatively on the present activities and future plans for each facility.

### *Jack & Mattie Bennett Playground: Half Mile Road.*

Consultation with school students and pre-schoolers has taken place by Active Southland staff member Jenna and CB member Marilyn Parris. Following the contribution of new playground equipment ideas CB Chair and CB member Marilyn have responded to the children thanking them for their original, creative ideas (wiggly, twisty slides and tunnels were common themes)!

### *Monkey Island Shelter:*

On 12 th June a meeting was held at Orepuki Community Centre to discuss the future of the Monkey Island Shelter. In attendance were 20 community members as well as Mayor Rob Scott, Councillor Derek Chamberlain, TTWCB Chair Anne Horrell and staff members Stella O'Connor, Chris Chilton and Sam Marshall. A very positive discussion took place and some wonderful ideas were presented (and recorded). The ideas will be collated and will form the basis of the future plans for the Monkey Island Shelter.

### ***Local Body Elections: The timeline for the 2025 triennial elections is as follows:***

- 4 th July 2025: Nominations open (forms available on the SDC website).
- 1 st August 2025: Nominations close at 12 noon.
- 9 th September-22 nd September 2025: Delivery of Voting Documents.
- 11 th October 2025: Voting closes at 12 noon.

Please feel free to allow yourself to be nominated or to nominate others. It's always good to see a voting process take place in honour of Democracy!



## Community Board News

### ***Congratulations!***

*Anne McCracken:*

A long- time resident of the Tuatapere district and in recent years of Invercargill, Anne McCracken, has been honoured a King's Service Medal award at this year's King's Birthday Honours. Anne received her award for her tireless commitment to Southland in many organisations and groups. She served the Waiau District as a District Councillor, a great supporter and member of the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Trust, an active member of the Waiau Health Trust and many other initiatives, prior to her relocation to Invercargill. Well done Anne!

*Orepuki Promotions' Group and Orepuki Volunteer Fire Brigade:*

for the great success in raising the required funds to replace three water tanks. The previous tanks were leaking and were unable to retain sufficient water to be effective in the event of a major fire. This is a great achievement by a small community and such a worthwhile outcome. One local fundraising event raised over \$8,000 in one evening!

*Waiau Star Rugby Club:*

On yet another highly successful Club Day on 14 th June. Huge congratulations is extended to Walter Clarke on being awarded Life Membership and to Peter Van Dam (achievement of 200 Senior games) and Matthew Low (achievement of 100 Senior games).

*Stephen Crack:*

Lloyd Morgan Life Membership: Congratulations to Stephen (Crackles) who was honoured with the Lloyd Morgan Life Membership Award for his long and huge commitment to the Tuatapere Lions Club. At the Lions Changeover Evening the President's role was passed from Nigel Fowle to Shirley Crack (the first woman to hold this position in Tuatapere).

## SECOND HAND POP-UP SHOP

AT THE DEN  
ERSKINE STREET, TUATAPERE



**Starting in August**  
**SATURDAYS | 10AM TO 1 PM**

A great opportunity to grab a bargain  
and support the community!

**WANT TO LEND A HAND?**  
CONTACT HELEN ON 0221 039 327

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
DONATIONS CANNOT BE LEFT AT THE DEN.

## HANDY PHONE NUMBERS



### **EMERGENCY**

**POLICE /FIRE/AMBULANCE: 111**

**MEDICAL CENTRE:** (03) 2266 123

**TUATAPERE POLICE STATION:**  
(03) 2269 020

**TUATAPERE COMMUNITY WORKER:**  
027 757 5983

**HAUROKO VALLEY SCHOOL OFFICE:**  
(03) 2266 753

**WAIAU AREA SCHOOL OFFICE:**  
(03) 2266 285

**TUATAPERE CEMETERY TRUST:**  
027 246 4857

**TUATAPERE SERVICE STATION:**  
(03) 2266 475

**TUATAPERE FOUR SQUARE:**  
(03) 2266 898

**TUI BASE CAMP CAFE-BAR-RESTAURANT**  
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**HUNGRY HIPPO SHOP & TAKEAWAYS**  
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**WAIAU TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB**  
(03) 2266 489

## Tuatapere community market

SECOND Saturday  
**ON HOLIDAY UNTIL AUGUST**

11am - 2pm



Last Light Lodge - 2 Clifden Highway,  
Tuatapere

Text 0274599654 to book a \$5 table



# LIONS CLUB TUATAPERE



## Hay Day 2025

The Tuatapere District Lions rolled out their 33rd Annual Hay Drive on Friday, 6th June — and in true Western Southland fashion, not even the cold, wet, and windy weather could keep the locals away. A good crowd turned out for the much-anticipated auction, with bidders keen to support some important causes. Proceeds from this year's Hay Drive are headed towards Hospice Southland, the Tuatapere Funded Ambulance Service, the Orepuki Fire Brigade Upgrade, the local Education Fund, and the Central and Western Archive.

As always, the success of the day wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our farmers, who donated the baleage, hay, and straw, and the local businesses who put up prizes for the auction. It's a true community effort that benefits us all. While baleage numbers were down on last year — with 253 big baleage sold, which is 40 fewer than 2024 — the prices were well up, reflecting strong demand. The average price for big baleage came in at \$121, a solid jump from last year's \$65.

Here's a look at how the auction shaped up:

### Auction Prices

- 253 Big Baleage – Average \$121
- 101 Conventional Hay – Average \$13.25
- Conventional Lucerne – \$19.00
- Round Hay – \$97.50
- Round Straw – \$55.00
- Square Baleage – \$105.00

The competition was just as fierce when it came to the prize categories, with plenty of friendly rivalry among local farmers.

## Prize Winners 2025

### Baleage

- 1st – Graig Anderson
- 2nd – 99 South (Jamie)
- 3rd – Tom Cruise
- 4th – Heather Carr
- 5th – Derek Chamberlain
- 6th – Andy Cade

### Conventional Hay

- 1st – Nicol Horrell
- 2nd – Blyne De Vries
- 3rd – Anita Erskine

### Best Swede

- 1st – Keiran O'Brien
- 2nd – Josh Gill

### Big Hay

- 1st – Tyson Jamieson
- 2nd – Bruce Howden
- 3rd – Peter Cassels
- 4th – John Clark & Eddie

### Chow

Kelly Farms

### Kale

Grace Church

### Booby Prize

Stephen Crack & Nicol Horrell

### Fodder Beet

David Church

A big thanks again to everyone who contributed, whether it was by donating, buying, or just turning up to support the day. Here's to next year — hopefully with a bit more sunshine!





**TUATAPERE & DISTRICTS LIONS CLUB**

# **2025 HAY BALEAGE & SILAGE COMPETITION**

**We wish to acknowledge the continuing generous support  
of our sponsors.**

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Cable Price	K J Logging	Tool Shed
Caltex Oil Shop	K J Sutherland Contracting	Total Oil/EWL
Carran-Scott Contracting	Kiwi Eco-net	Tuatapere Rural RD
Carrfield Wool	Live Stock Supplies	Tuatapere Service Station
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Dagwood Dagging	M&M Logging	Waiau Area School
DT King & Co Ltd	Mr Steel	Waiau Health Trust
Diacks Nurseries	Munro Drainage	Waiau Town & Country Club
Donaghys Ltd	Nutritech	Waiau Valley Shearing
Dwayne Unahi Contracting	Orepuki Cafe	Waikiwi Vets
Eamon Egerton Contracting	Orepuki Tavern	Wairauhiri Jets
Farm Chief Farmguard	Otautau No 2 RD	Watsons Farm Solutions
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- Clinical Notes are available for you to read now
- View your medications 24 hours per day
- View your vaccinations 24 hours per day
- Our phone lines can be very busy at certain times; by using this App it will reduce wait times on phones which will be more efficient for everyone concerned

If you are not all already registered or you have not activated your MMH account, I urge you to try it out. You will not regret it, if you need help please come and see us and our team will get you well sorted. Below is the QR code that will take you directly to the website to start the registration process. Download the Manage My Health App in your play store. If you would like to know more about it, please contact us.



#### Practitioner/Nurse Availability:

Monday-Friday NP Amanda McCracken –

9.00am-12.00pm / 1.30pm-4.30pm

Monday – Virtual GP Danuta Amelung – 9.00am-1.00pm

Thursday-Virtual GP Rob Pfiefer– 9.00am-1.00pm

Alternate-Tuesday's Murray Allen-9.00am-12.00pm / 1.30pm-4.30pm

Monday – Friday: Registered Nurses -- 9.00am-12pm / 1.30pm-4.30pm

#### Bad Debts:

We are using a Debt Collector for any outstanding accounts 90 Days plus; you will have been advised several times prior to this option for payment of accounts. Any accounts which are referred for debt collection incur a fee, as the debt holder you are liable for any of these applicable on top of your debt. As always should you require help, guidance or support in meeting your payment obligations please contact myself.

Kind Regards

Jo Sanford (Manager) 0272950429



**Waiau Health Trust**  
**69a Orawia Road, Tuatapere**  
**Approved Registered ACC Provider**  
**Monday to Friday**  
**8:30am – 4:30pm**  
**Ph: 032266123**

*Practitioner Hours*  
*Amanda McCracken (NP)*  
*every weekday*

*Murray Allen (GP)*  
*Fortnightly on Tuesdays*

*Telehealth-Tyto Video Consults every*  
*Monday & Thursday*

*Physiotherapist*  
*Thursday*  
*Phone for an appointment*

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*Visits Tuatapere regularly*  
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*Warts/Minor Skin Lesions*  
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*Homebased Maternity Care*  
*We are offering this service in the*  
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*Sanford on 032266123 for enquiries.*

*Day Activities Programme for*  
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## TUATAPERE PLAYGROUP

Tuatapere Playgroup welcomes all 0-5 year olds & their parents or caregivers to come join the fun!



You'll find us at **23B Orawia Road, Tuatapere**

**Friday mornings from 9.30am to 12.30pm.**  
Bring a packed morning tea and drink bottle.

We provide a warm, friendly atmosphere for children to form bonds and learn alongside each other and a place for parents to connect.

For more info message our Facebook page or contact Brooke 0275515591.

## WESTERN SOUTHLAND WOOL AND CRAFT GROUP

Spinning, Felt, Weaving, Knitting, Crochet.

Other crafts welcome!

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month.

10am-3pm. \$5.  
BYO Lunch.  
Scout Den, Erskine Street.



For details please contact:  
Helen Todd 022 103 9327

## TUATAPERE TOY LIBRARY

Tuatapere Toy Library has been a toy swap/hire service provided to the young families of Tuatapere and surrounding districts since 1989.

The purpose is to create opportunities for the little people of our community to have accessibility to toys.

A small contribution of an annual membership allows families to join the group and have access to the toys.

For more information or questions please text or ring **Nathalie Pahl** on **027 4759 075**



## TUATAPERE AMBULANCE

### Did YOU Know?

The Tuatapere Ambulance is a funded service by the Tuatapere Lions Club, for the residents of Tuatapere & Districts.

Should you receive an account for this service from St John, please forward it immediately to:

**The Treasurer  
Tuatapere Lions Club  
PO Box 47  
Tuatapere**



Sometimes we experience difficulty in receiving the invoices for YOUR trip - so PLEASE do forward them on to us.  
Thank you!

**Tuatapere Lions Club Charitable Trust  
Ambulance Committee**

## WESTERN SOUTHLAND HEALTH SHUTTLE

The Western Southland Health Shuttle Service travels from Otautau, Ohai, Nightcaps, Tuatapere, Riverton - covering all of Western Southland. We also connect with the Invercargill-Dunedin shuttle.

The Western Southland Health Shuttle operates Monday - Friday (excluding Public Holidays).

Bookings are required by 3pm the day prior to transport.

**Ph: 0800 103 046 to book.**

Please book as soon as you receive your appointment.

## TUATAPERE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

We're on the lookout for members to join this rewarding organization. We are looking for persons who are, ideally, available throughout the day.

If you think that you would like to try this (sometimes lifelong) commitment, then please feel free to come and try it!

We train on Tuesday nights at 7:30pm during daylight saving and 7pm through the winter months.





We look forward to meeting with you.





# TUATAPERE PLAYGROUP

## Term 3, 2025 Learning Plan

Date	Theme	Activity
18th July	Make a Mask	What animal are you going to make?
25th July	REAP Visit 	Maree from REAP will provide some exploration themed activities for the children.
1st August	Paint a Polar Bear 	Using a fork and white paint to create a snowman!
8th August	Volcanoes 	Building a volcano in the sandpit and watch it explode!
15th August	Winter Beanies 	Brrr its cold, lets stay inside and create a winter beanie. How many different colours can we use?
22nd August	Daffodil Day 	To celebrate Daffodil Day we will make some daffodil suncatchers for the window.
29th August	Spring Craft Day 	Diving into our art cupboard to make some Spring Crafts for the wall.
5th September	Fathers Day 	Making our special fathers a card to celebrate Fathers Day
12th September	Cupcake Decorating 	Yum, lets decorate some cupcakes to celebrate Spring time!
19th September	Teddy Bears Picnic	For the end of term we will bring our teddies in and have a picnic with everyone!

# Waiau Town & Country Club

<https://www.waiautownandcountryclub.co.nz>

Phone: 03 2266 489 | Address: 41 King St Tuatapere

✉ waiautcc@gmail.com |  facebook.com/waiautcc

 Courtesy Van Available

## Club Opening Hours

Mon - Thurs 4pm till close.

Fri 3pm - close.

Sat Noon - close.

Sun 3pm - close.

**New Members Always Welcome!**

Just pop in or call the club for a nomination membership form.

Annual membership \$50 p/p or

\$30 p/p for pensioners.

**Bistro  
Hours**

**Thursday - Sunday  
5 - 9pm\***



(\*Bistro may close from 7:30pm onwards if not required)

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Keep an eye on our  
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more details on  
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options!  
03 22 66 489

**Waiau Town & Country Club  
Members and their Invited Guests**



\* 13 Tonne Digger \* 5.5 Tonne Digger \* 2.7 Tonne Digger- dry hire or operated  
\* Tip Truck \* Bob Cat \* Augers \* Post Driver \* Tree Saw & Hedge Trimmer

\* Tree Trimming \* Post Driving \* Fencing \* Cleaning of Wintering Sheds \* Site  
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For all enquiries and bookings please contact Lance or Alice Harris

Lance: 027 304 3714

Alice: 027 270 0363

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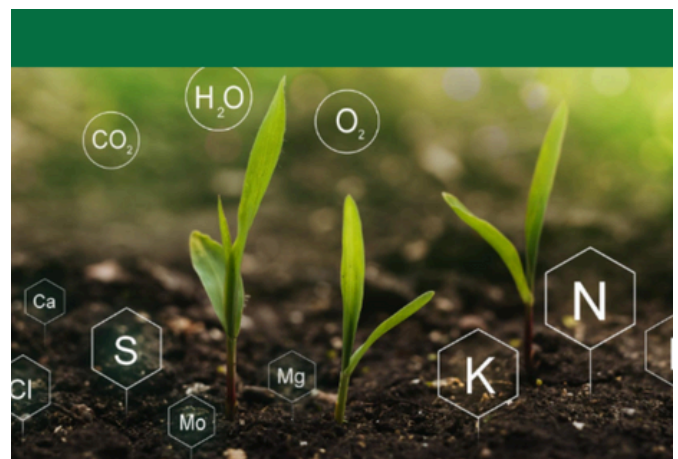
We believe in  
Community and  
endeavour to  
show this the  
best we can by  
the way we  
care and serve!



We warmly  
invite you to  
come along to  
one of our  
services.  
It would be great  
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Feel free to contact Grant 027 221 2234 or Mike 027 236 6349 to find out what they can bring to your business.

# Tuatapere Reserve Pest Control Group (CT) A Year of Progress



It's been a busy and productive twelve months for the Tuatapere Predator Control Trust as we continue working towards protecting and restoring the health of our Reserve and surrounding areas. A lot has happened since we first started trapping in the Domain Reserve back in September 2023, and it's worth taking a moment to look back on how far we've come.

## Early Success and Growing Momentum

Efforts began with an intensive trapping programme in Block 1 – the bush area between Half Mile and the Domain. Over 300 possums were culled in those first months, along with countless mice, rats, and the occasional hedgehog. The results were obvious: undergrowth started to bounce back, birdsong returned, and encouragingly, Kākā and Kākāriki were heard and sighted in the area for the first time in years.

Community support has played a big part in our success. We've secured funding from a range of sources, including Environment Southland, Meridian Energy's Power Up fund, Tuatapere RSA, Clifden Rural Women, the SDC Communities Fund, and Tuatapere Four Square. These funds have allowed us to purchase and install dozens of AT220 automated traps, helping us expand our pest control efforts into Blocks 2, 3, and 4, including the reserve area behind the cemetery.

## Building for the Future

With the help of volunteers, we've not only maintained regular traplines across the reserve but also kept up with the requirements to hold onto the automated traps supplied by Environment Southland. In October 2024, we held our AGM, reporting back on a solid year of progress with all office bearers re-elected. Our annual accounts and Charities Commission reporting were also completed successfully.

We're proud to share that our efforts were recognised nationally, with the Trust securing \$15,000 through Air New Zealand's Every Corner project. This funding will allow us to purchase even more automated traps to target pest populations behind the cemetery, an area where juvenile possums and ferrets have recently been spotted.

## Nature is Responding

The signs of improvement in the Reserve are encouraging. Native vegetation is regenerating, birds like Kākā, Kākāriki, and even native bats have been seen or heard, and there's a growing dawn chorus to greet early risers around the Domain. While pest numbers within the Domain Reserve itself have dropped significantly, we know the work isn't done yet. We're pushing further into more remote areas to keep the momentum going.

## Looking Ahead

Our monthly meetings are now held on the third Tuesday of each month at The Den, Erskine Street Play Park, starting at 7 pm. We always welcome new members – no experience necessary, just a willingness to muck in and help protect our special patch of native bush.

If you've got some spare time and would like to adopt a trapline or lend a hand in any way, please contact Glenys Harvey Secretary/Treasurer. 9274307731.

It's been a huge community effort to get to this point, and we want to thank everyone who has contributed, whether through funding, volunteer hours, or simply showing support. Together, we're making a real difference to the future of Tuatapere's native wildlife.



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## Inside the WAS Library

There's something truly special about watching a student light up when they find the right book. In our library, we're all about helping kids discover the joy of reading – whether it's getting lost in a great story, exploring new ideas, or simply finding a book that makes them feel seen. Reading opens doors, and we feel lucky to be part of that journey with them.

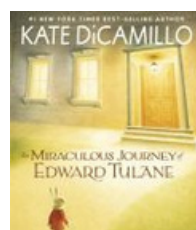
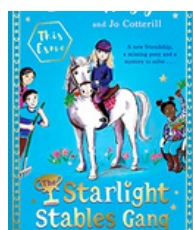
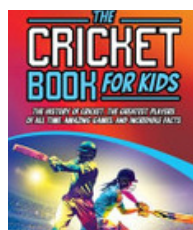
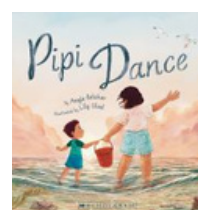
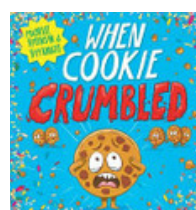
Library time is a highlight of the week for our junior classes! Each class visits the library to return their books, hunt for new favourites, and check out a few treasures to take home or read in the classroom. There's even a special classroom collection so there are always great books nearby.

Room 4 takes things up a notch with six superstar student library assistants who are experts at helping their classmates (and even other classes!) return and issue books like pros. Everyone can borrow their books for up to two weeks – just long enough to fall in love with a story or two.

It's awesome to see students looking after their books by keeping them tucked safely inside their bookbags or reading folders. Remember: books love company, but not soggy sandwiches or leaky drink bottles!

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## Free Lunches in Schools

As we approach the end of Term Two the cooler weather has actioned our winter menu into play. In Term Three we are considering the return of our Hot Soup option with Garlic Rolls. This half of the year we have offered Chicken Pasta, Butter Chicken, Pizza, Wraps, Sweet and Sour Meatballs and Rice, Nachos, Cottage Pie, Chicken Salad and a Roll and Beef Burritos. Burgers, either Beef or Chicken are always popular and a firm favourite for all year levels with sandwiches served twice a week.

Earlier in the year the Ministry of Primary Industries verified our kitchen facilities and health and safety procedures by once again approving the Free Lunches in Schools programme. This ensures all the criteria has been met, the paperwork is correct, and we follow the food control plan and food safety rules. When changes are made, we are informed and ensure we stay up to date. This is particularly important with new allergens in food being detected that we monitor our student's dietary requirements.



We continue to serve the lunches at three different times depending on the year level. This gives each year group the opportunity to sit and eat their lunch in a staggered time frame. There is no packaging waste with the lunches being served using crockery and cutlery. We look forward to continuing to serve our students nutritious lunches in the future. Roberta and Paula, the Free Lunches in Schools team.

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**KIA ORA, NI HAO, KAMUSTA**  
Western Wanderer Readers

To conclude our term, we held a Matariki breakfast with our school community. It's a time for remembrance, celebrating the present, and planning for the future. We've also passed the winter solstice; from now on, it only gets lighter. Here's what we've been up to in and out of the classroom, to end our Term 2.



Two Year 5&6 teams headed to the Young Einsteins Challenge in Winton. The Hauroko Hunters - Layla, Hadlee, Lauren, and Cohen, and Hauroko Hot Shots - Stanley, Grace, Jackson, and Oscar. Both teams worked well, collaborating on answers to a range of current events questions, including famous people, places, flags, entertainment, and sports questions. The Hot Shots were placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and the Hunters 5<sup>th</sup>, across 20 teams from throughout Southland. An awesome achievement!



Thanks to REAP, each class engaged in Science with Sue. Designing an experiment to test various types of filters and using the knowledge gained to separate mixtures. They also investigated some properties of light and learnt how to use a light microscope to explore the tiny worlds around us. We are lucky to have such an inspiring Science teacher at HVP supporting our staff and students.



# HAUROKO HAPPENINGS

## DEEP COVE



Twenty-six Year 7 and 8 students headed into Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound for Camp. What an absolute treat - first up the boat from Manapouri across to West Arm, before boarding the bus over the Wilmot Pass. At the top, we found snow and made the most of this! Our students completed the following walks: Brassel Point Nature Walk, Hanging Valley to Huntleigh Falls, Helena Falls, and the Manapouri Hydro Power Station Tail Race. Another feast on offer was the flora and fauna discovered including kea, weka, glow worms, seven gillers, king fish, spotties, penguins, jock stewarts and dolphins. The Fiordland Navigator took our learners through Doubtful Sound and up a few arms, where we saw many a stunning waterfall, and observed the "sound of silence" Patea is known for. Thanks to Camp Leader Sally and our parent support - Kate E, Chris P, Jeremy, Marilyn, Rob, Suz, and Lindsay for making this school camp an unforgettable experience in a magical spot!



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Thursday	10am to 3pm

Cellphone: 027 757 5983

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# Te Anau Bird Sanctuary's Future Under Discussion



The future of Te Anau's much-loved Bird Sanctuary remains uncertain, but locals, iwi, and tourism leaders are determined to ensure it stays open and thriving.

Concerns were raised after the Department of Conservation (DOC) announced it would step back from managing the site. Local vet Christina Abramowicz called a public meeting last weekend to keep the community informed, with around 20 people attending and many more wanting updates.

Since then, regional tourism body Great South and Te Rūnanga o Ōraka-Aparima have stepped in to support the community. Bobbi Brown, Great South's General Manager for Regional Strategy, says a consultation process will start next month on behalf of Ōraka-Aparima and Southland Fish & Game, who are responsible for the land. "This gives the whole community a chance to have their say," Brown says. "There's a good plan in place to make sure everyone's voice is heard, and the sanctuary won't be lost."

She says the bird park is a key part of Te Anau, both for locals and visitors, and all options for its future will be explored. DOC, which announced earlier this year it would step back from managing the sanctuary, is still working through its own process to decide how it might be involved. DOC Acting Operations Director for the Southern South Island, David Agnew, says DOC is working closely with Ōraka-Aparima and Fish & Game to look at options for the future. "DOC remains committed to the welfare of the birds and acknowledges the importance of Te Punanga Manu to the community," Agnew says. No further comment was available this week.

Brown says the sanctuary offers a unique opportunity to see rare native species up close. "It's hugely popular — one of Te Anau's top attractions — and visitors value the experience. Some even say they'd happily pay more for a guided tour." With over 60,000 visitors a year, the Sanctuary is Te Anau's second most popular tourist attraction. Ōraka-Aparima recognises its cultural and environmental significance and wants to help secure its future. Abramowicz says the fate of the sanctuary's four breeding takahē is a particular concern, especially after a DOC review suggested that breeding could be shifted to facilities in Queenstown. She was surprised the DOC document wasn't made public, so she called the community meeting to raise awareness.

"The takahē has a special connection to Te Anau — they were rediscovered here in Fiordland by Dr Geoffrey Orbell in 1948," she says.

The sanctuary is free to visit, with optional \$10 adult tours (children free), and is open 24/7. It's a popular stop for tourists and locals alike, and a key part of school education programmes. 'Orbell the Takahē' is even the Te Anau School mascot. Te Anau also has a strong track record in conservation, including breed-for-release programmes for several native species. Many businesses, tourism operators, and residents have shown support for the sanctuary's future, with existing sponsorship in place and more locals keen to get involved. Fiordland Community Board chairperson Diane Holmes says it's positive to see Great South and iwi stepping in. "This could lead to a really good outcome," she says.





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But do you know what we actually do and how we can help YOU? Your CWA Archives Community & Heritage Hub is here for you and your family/whānau history, any local businesses interested in the preservation of their heritage, sports club who would like to have the past and present professionally documented, and community groups who need services and perhaps somewhere to display their own community history, plus more – much, much more. We do not only showcase local history, we also help the community with services they may need. If you have not popped in to see us yet or checked us out online, we urge you to do so. We are being used by more and more members of the local township, district communities and those further afield every week, with visitors now coming from overseas to see us! We run a Family history or Whānau Research group with training on searching out your ancestors, every third Thursday afternoon, most of the year, from 1-4pm, gold coin cost.

We have a very simple, but important role to undertake in our district communities, which is to collect, preserve and share, history records of heritage, people, places, creativity & nature, across Central & Western Districts. We have a huge range of Research Resources, we do many Historical Displays, and as we had all of the office equipment already and are a non-profit community owned and operated organisation, we were happy to also provide Public Use Computers and Laptops with Unlimited Wi-Fi, all FREE to use, along with scanners, printers, laminators and more. Our Digitising & Office Services can be used by you or we do it for you. To cover costs, we ask for a koha/gift. Currently we are open 4 days a week, and during summer this is 10-4 on Tues-Fri and the first Saturday of the month. In winter we cut back to 1-4 the same days, as not many people like to come out in the cold! We also sell history books, many of Lloyd Esler's, and local artists work to help fundraise for our costs.

We often have people email in something for us to print for them, so they can pick it up at their convenience. This saves the cost of owning and operating a printer from home. We also design posters and print them for community groups, who may also not have the equipment, or even the computer skills to do so. We run computer, laptop and phone IT training, so that you can learn hands on, to operate your devices properly. These are often held when the need arises, so keep your eyes open for the next group or if there are a few of you, arrange a time to come in and get personalised help you need.



We run workshops on heritage preservation usually in March during Heritage Month. Below are photos from our opening event, Heritage Arts & Crafts, and our first Heritage Month in 2024, a Photo Preservation Workshop where we hosted staff from He Waka Tuia, the Art+Museum facility in Invercargill, which is filling in for our long awaited new Te Unua Southland Museum.

We get a huge variety of inquiries, from public walk-ins, those who contact us and book in a visit, and also from people messaging or emailing inquiries to us. We already have over 10 volunteers, but can always do with more, as our work-load increases all the time. We would love some more volunteers with computer skills of any kind, but are more than happy to have anyone, as there is so much to do. Some of the tasks are identifying local buildings and people, so those with local knowledge are very helpful to have too. We have a lot of fun at work and our Christmas Parties are an end of year thanks.

In any one week, we can have tasks as varied as, printing emails, making posters, copying photos onto a USB Stick, digitising Slides, answering Government Department inquiries about certain types of local environment history events, finding information about who the South West Coast lighthouse keepers were, looking up early matches of the local Rugby Clubs pre Waiau Star days, finding family history information for ex-locals and locals and visitors from overseas, helping with Kura or School visits, getting research information out for students doing school projects, helping local community groups and clubs digitally preserve their history and tell their past stories, providing them a place to put up history displays where the public can view this, and highlighting local events and families. We also often have passers-by call in to find their whenua or land at the Rowallan-Alton SILNA blocks and we have made a point of indexing all the names of those the original grants were made to, a huge job. Our DigiHub, purchased mostly with funds from Meridian Power Up, can photograph large items such as maps and will capture glass covered photos and paper items without glare. It can also digitise and copy film, slides, negatives, etc. We have a book cradle for large books and can copy old newspapers.

Some of our most popular displays so far have been the Grocery Stores Display, the Tūātapere School history and the Tūātapere Hump Ridge Track creation story. We have also put on displays for the local Tūātapere Golf Club, the Waiau A&P Show – featuring early farming families of Erskines and Bennetts, the Bridge Building over the Waiau at Clifden and Tūātapere, Monowai Power Station Centennial, the original Arts & Crafts History display when we first opened – featuring the Borland Pottery Schools of the past and local pottery and potters, including our very own Peter Johnson, plus we have had local Agricultural & Farming displays, District Schools displays, the Surrounding Communities history displays and the Tūātapere Branch Line Railway Display, and much more. Every year we put on an Anzac Display. We love it when local community and sports groups come in with their history and either put it up for display or trust us to do this for them. It creates a place where we can all come together to celebrate our past in the present. If you have any records, photos or paper and film items of our town or district history that we could digitise (copy) or that you would like us to safely store in our sector standard archive holdings, please contact us as below or come in and visit us during opening hours.

We are OPEN to the public Tues-Fri 1-4pm til 30 Sept, then from 1 Oct we return to Tues-Fri 10-4.

Come to 48 Main Rd, Contact us on: [CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com](mailto:CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com) or  
Ph/Txt: 027 2114675

We're ONLINE: <https://ehive.com/collections/202139/central-western-murihiku-southland-archive>

# ATTENTION ALL CLUBS, COMMITTEES, AND INCORPORATED SOCIETIES - BIG CHANGES ARE COMING

There's an important deadline approaching that affects hundreds of groups right across the country and many right here in Tuatapere and the wider district.

All Incorporated Societies must re-register by April 2026 under the updated Incorporated Societies Act 2022. If your group doesn't complete the re-registration process by then, you risk losing access to your society's assets — they could be frozen or locked up, and your society could end up struck off the register altogether.

This affects a huge number of local groups, including sports clubs, community groups, volunteer committees, recreational groups, and even some trusts that are registered as incorporated societies.

## Why Is This Happening?

The Incorporated Societies Act has been overhauled for the first time in over 100 years to modernise the way societies are run and governed. The new Act introduces clearer rules around governance, decision-making, and accountability — but it also means every incorporated society must go through the process of re-registering under the new rules.


It's not automatic. If your group doesn't re-register by the deadline, it ceases to be a legally recognised society — and that means your group's assets (like money, equipment, property, or other resources) could be frozen or inaccessible.


## Help Is On The Way

We know the process can feel overwhelming, especially for volunteers who are already busy keeping their groups running. That's why we've arranged for expert advice to be available right here in Tuatapere.

Denise Loormans from Southland Community Law will be holding a public information session to walk everyone through what needs to happen. She'll explain the new rules, what the process looks like, and what steps your society needs to take to stay compliant and protected.

Session Details:

 Wednesday, 13th August

 6.00pm – 8.00pm

 Waiau Town & Country Club

The 2026 deadline might sound like it's a long way off, but the process takes time — especially if your society's constitution or rules need to be updated to meet the new legal requirements. If you don't re-register in time, your society risks losing its legal status and access to its assets.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact:

John Munro — 027 412 2925



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## **Weekly Happenings:**

### **Thursday**

Free Pool All Day

Happy Hour & Meat Raffles from 5:30pm

### **Sunday**

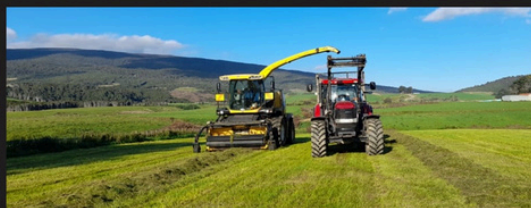
Pool Competition from 2:30pm



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