



WESTERN Wanderer

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

Cover Photo: Tuatapere Bush Tracks, Mike Goodwin

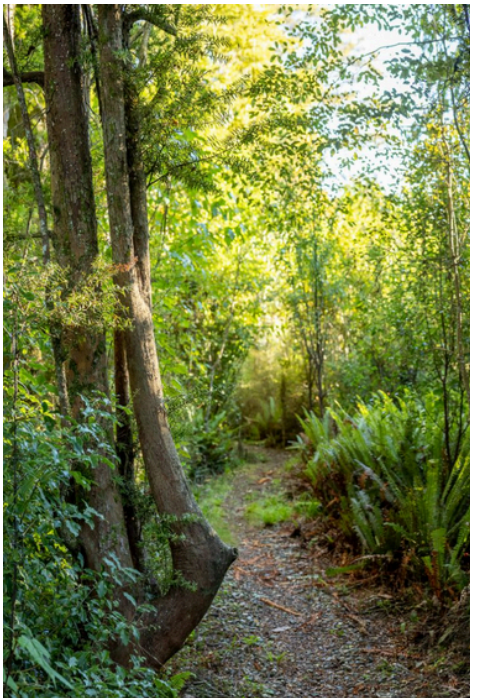
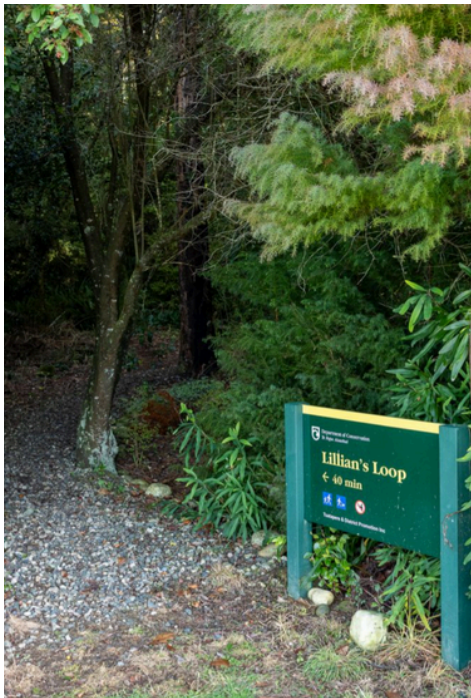
Issue 281
AUGUST 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				1 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	2 C&W Archives Saturday Special Opening, 1-4pm Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	3
4 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Story Time @ Library	5	6 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den Yoga @ Orepuki from 5.30pm	7 Sewing & Patchwork. 10-3pm The Den	8 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	9 Kids Craft Group 1-4pm @ Den Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	10
11 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Story Time @ Library Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	12 Tuatapere Amenities Trust AGM 2.30 pm Fire Brigade Rooms	13 Bootcamp/Yoga @ Orepuki Incorporated Societies Info Evening T&C Club 6-8pm	14	15 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	16 Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	17
18 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Story Time @ Library Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	19 Predator Control Meeting 7pm @ the Den	20 Bootcamp/Yoga @ Orepuki Content for next months WW due Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	21 Sewing & Patchwork. 10-3pm The Den	22 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	23 Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	24
25 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Story Time @ Library Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	26	27 Bootcamp @ Orepuki Yoga @ Orepuki from 5.30pm	28	29 Bootcamp @ Orepuki	30 Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	31 Community Partnership Fund Applications close
		Coming up ...	Tui Base Camp - Blue Ribbon Poker Run Saturday 27 September			

Special thanks to



Want your event here? Let us know at yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com



DOCUMENTING TUATAPERE

One Step, One Track, One Photo at a Time

By Mike Goodwin/Advento Photography

Over the past few weeks, I've embarked on a personal photography project that's close to my heart — capturing every walking track, park, and street in Tuatapere to create a visual record of the town as it is today.

My goal is simple: to document our community for future generations. Tuatapere has changed so much over the decades, and many of our most beautiful places are hidden in plain sight — especially the native bush walking tracks that make up the Tui Trails network.

This project isn't funded or commissioned by any group. It's something I've taken on myself as a contribution to the community I care about. Along the way, I've chosen to share some of the images with the local archives so they can be preserved, but this is entirely my own initiative — done out of passion, not obligation.

The Magic of the Tui Trails

The walking tracks around Tuatapere are some of the best-kept secrets in Southland. From peaceful riverside paths like Elder Drive Track to the lush forest of Lillian's Loop, every trail offers something unique. What makes them truly special, though, is the feeling they give you.

You're surrounded by the sounds of bellbirds, tui, and fantails — with the cheeky little piwakawaka often flitting along the path beside you, almost as if they're guiding you on your way. The stillness of the bush, the towering native trees, and the trickle of creeks offer a kind of peace that's hard to find elsewhere. And best of all? These walks are completely free, right on our doorstep, and open to everyone.

What to Expect

I'll be sharing photos, descriptions, and histories of each track — including:

- Heritage Orchard Walk
- Greenheart Reserve
- McLeod's Track
- Alton Terrace Walk
- Domain Bush Walk
- Elder Drive Track
- Keith Thomson's Walk
- Lillian's Loop


Each location will include GPS tagging, images from along the track, and a short story or background for you to enjoy. Whether you're a local looking to reconnect with these spaces, or a visitor discovering Tuatapere for the first time, I hope my work helps you see just how special this place is.

Get Involved

If there's a street, park, or hidden gem around Tuatapere you think I should include, feel free to reach out. I'm always looking for local suggestions — this is about representing the whole town, and I'd love your input.

Follow My Journey

I'll continue posting galleries here, as well as on Facebook, Google Maps, and in some cases sharing select images with the community archives.

 If you enjoy my photography and community projects, please follow along for more updates, stories, and visual journeys around Tuatapere and beyond. Your support helps me keep doing what I love — sharing the beauty of the world around us, one frame at a time.



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

Tuatapere Pool

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



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Tuatapere Reserve Pest Control Group

A few photos of the latest from the predator control group, taken from FaceBook.



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

Funding opportunities available



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Community Partnership Fund supports an array of local initiatives and projects. The Southland district's nine community boards are responsible for approving grants from their respective funds, and each has developed individual criteria for applications. Applications are closing on 31 August for the [Northern](#), [Oraka Aparima](#), [Tuatapere Te Waewae](#) and [Wallace Takitimu](#) community board areas. Get your application filled out today! Forms and criteria are available online via SDC Website.

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

WAI AU 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
(03) 2266 250

HUNGRY HIPPO SHOP & TAKEAWAYS
(03) 2266 417

WAI AU TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB
(03) 2266 489

Tuatapere community market

ON HOLIDAY UNTIL SEPTEMBER

11am - 2pm



Last Light Lodge - 2 Clifden Highway,
Tuatapere

Text 0274599654 to book a \$5 table

RATTY SAYS.....

Waiau Memorial Library



Under the Sea Diorama Competition Winners



Under 5

1st - Lachie
2nd - Harrison
3rd - Nolan and Charlie (tied)

5-7 years

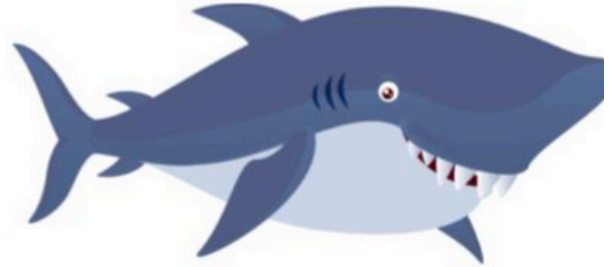
1st - Zoey
2nd - Lucy

8-10 years

1st - Aurora and Opie (tied)
3rd - McKenzie

11-14 years

1st - J.J.
2nd - Peyton



It's been a tough few days for Ratty. All of the entries in my competition were AWESOME and it was really, really hard picking the winners. Everyone put a lot of effort into their Dioramas. I was a very HAPPY Ratty when I saw all the different entries. There are photos of all of them. I had to 'brighten up' some of them because the photographer didn't do a very good job. They were told they need to do better for the Western Wanderer photos.

I hope I got all of the names right in the photos. The photographer forgot to write them all down and had to remember them, silly photographer. I think I need to find a new photographer.

I hope everyone had fun making their Dioramas, I did. And someone has already come up with an idea for next year's competition.





Hato Hone St John Ambulance

Our Christchurch emergency call center receives around 20 ambulance calls in the Tuatapere and the Waiau area monthly on average.

Being rural remote, with the nearest hospital over an hour away by road and the nearest manned ambulance station based in Otautau whose crew may already be attending a patient elsewhere in Southland when a 111 call is made leaves us vulnerable.

Your assistance is greatly needed by the Tuatapere community. We currently have a small number of volunteers helping with local first response in the area. Our volunteers respond to people in their time of need while having full time jobs and leading busy family lives.

Do you have an employer that would be willing to allow you to respond to a pager for an hour or so or do you have a few hours in the evening or overnight that you could turn a pager on and respond if someone needed your help?

Our full equipped First Response Unit can respond to emergencies in our community for the initial help and care of patients until a transporting crew from outside our area can arrive.

Hato Hone St John offers full training to enable our incredible First Responders to care for medical and trauma patients. We offer an internationally recognised First Responder Qualification with NZQA endorsement. We are proud of our local volunteers who are currently studying towards their diploma in ambulance practice - which is a significant bonus for response capability in Tuatapere and surrounds.

If you are interested in helping your Community and Hato Hone St John, please call Kat Andrew Group Operations Manager Southland West on 027 291 5462 or Volunteer Support Manager Sandra Wilson on 027 232 8479.

This could be a life changing decision for you as well as your community.

TUATAPERE SERVICE STATION

20 ORAWIA ROAD

PHONE: 03 2266475

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In stock now a good range
of crimp on hydraulic
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hoses. We can also repair or
make up new hoses.

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dark and going home in the dark
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now!

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OFFICE HOURS 8am to 5pm

Manage-My-Health:

Manage My Health phone App is linked directly to our patient management system and stores your personal health information.

Some of the many benefits to you as a patient are as follows:

- Book your own appointment 24 hours per day with our Practitioners and Nurses
- Order repeat prescriptions 24 hours per day
- View any of your test results 24 hours per day
- Family members can be linked to your access
- 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

Podiatrist
Visits Tuatapere regularly
Phone for an appointment

Warts/Minor Skin Lesions
Liquid Nitrogen treatment available
Phone for an appointment

Homebased Maternity Care
We are offering this service in the
patient's home. Please contact Jo
Sanford on 032266123 for enquiries.

Day Activities Programme for
the Elderly
Every Tuesday and Wednesday
Please phone for further information

District Nursing
Available as required by referral

Meals on Wheels please contact Jo
Sanford on 032266123 for enquiries



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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.



STAND TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Whatever you stand for, be a candidate in the
2025 Southland District Council elections.
You can make a difference. Stand for Southland.

Learn more at southlanddc.govt.nz/elections



We are excited to announce the recipients of the
May 2025 Tuatapere
Humpridge Track Trust Community Enhancement
Grant funding
round.

After reviewing the applications by our committee,
we have selected 4
outstanding organizations whose work aligns with
our mission.

Congratulations to our grant recipients.

Orepuki Volunteer Fire Brigade.

Tuatapere Piping and Dancing Society.

Waiau Health Trust (Tuatapere Medical Centre).

Orepuki Community Fitness Collective.

We are proud to support these organizations and
look forward to
seeing the positive impact they will make over the
coming year.

Thank you to everyone who applied.

EASTERN BUSH HALL COMMITTEE

Acknowledgement of Grants Received to go towards new roof

Rural Women Clifden	\$350.00
Tuatapere Lions Club	\$2,000.00
SDC – Te Waewae	\$1,500.00
Community Trust	\$2,000.00
Ohai Railway Fund	\$ 1,715
TOTAL	\$7,565

**Eastern Bush Hall
Committee**

CAN YOU HELP?



When the Fire Siren goes off, help is
needed to look after children while I
attend a call out.

Contact Loretta 027 462 9527

TUATAPERE AMENITIES TRUST AGM

The 2025 AGM for the
Tuatapere Amenities Trust
will be held in the Tuatapere
Fire Brigade Rooms, Tuatapere
on Tuesday, 12 August
at 2.30pm.

Apologies:

Elaine – (03) 2266174

Kim – (03) 2147979 or km@flintoffs.co.nz

Waiau Town & Country Club

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 3pm - close

Sat bottle store from 2pm

Sun 3pm - close

New Members Always Welcome!

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

Annual membership is \$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)

**We are the perfect place for your
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Keep an eye on
our Facebook Page
for more details
on upcoming
events ...

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options!
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**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

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Lance: 027 304 3714

Alice: 027 270 0363

Email: lanceharris533@gmail.com

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Community
CHURCH**

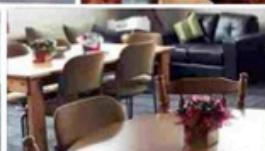
Steve & Sharon
are Pastors
and we are an area church



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



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invite you to
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to see you

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10am

Truro St, Orepuki

Steve & Sharon Calder
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**Tuatapere & DISTRICTS
LIONS CLUB PROJECT**



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Super Dirt can be collected from
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Phone Shirley or Stephen
(03) 226 6817

**Waiau Valley
Presbyterian Church
Tuatapere**

Main Road

We meet every **Sunday at 10.30am**

Need to know more?

Phone or message

Cedric on 022 027 3834

**WESTERN SOUTHLAND
CATHOLIC MASS**

Mass is held every first Sunday of the month at the Anglican Church at 11am. On Fridays, Mass (or Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion), is held at 1pm in the Anglican Church.

A timetable, as to what is happening each Friday, is available at the entrance to the Anglican Church.

We are very grateful to the Tuatapere Anglican Community for sharing their church facilities with us.

Fr Gerard Aynsley

Text preferred: 021580610

For all your fencing requirements

WESTERN FENCING
SHEEP | DAIRY | DEER



Call BEVAN 0277 413 213

Loretta's House Cleaning Services

Available for cleaning services
whenever needed.

Please contact Loretta
027 462 9527



TUATAPERE HEALTH & GIFT SHOP

(part of Riverton Pharmacy - beside Medical Centre)

69a Orawia Road Ph: (03) 226 6999

12:00pm - 5:30pm Mon-Fri

Good selection of Vitamins, Giftware &
Over-the-counter healthcare

First prescription drop-off from 1:30pm

Second prescription drop-off 4:30pm

COMMUNITY OUTLOOK ARTICLES

The Community Outlook articles are always available on the
On Natures Edge website!

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

SENIOR CITIZENS GROUP

Senior Citizens is a group of over 50s that meet every **Friday afternoon at 1pm** at the rooms behind the RSA Hall. We are always looking for new members so if you would like a fun afternoon playing bowls, cards or just catching up with friends, come and join the group.

If you need a ride - we can pick you up!

Please contact:

Olive Bennett (03) 2266 477 or

Alison Bennett 027 224 2724

TUATAPERE ENVELOPES

Envelopes printed with the
"Tuatapere on Natures Edge"

Logo can be purchased at Country
Corner Craft Shop 1A Orawia Road.

Cost \$4.00 per 10



Get your car washed, dried and windows cleaned. Price
arranged on request!

Contact: Rex Hibbs Flat 1/26 Orawia Rd, Tuatapere

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Senior Rates

Phone **John 022 164 8061**

PLEASE HAVE YOUR ARTICLES, NOTICES, OR UPDATED ADVERTS FOR THE WESTERN WANDERER SENT IN BY
20th of August (for SEP Issue) yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com



OREPUKI FITNESS

MONDAY: 6-7AM AND 6-7PM

WEDNESDAY: 6-7AM

FRIDAY: 6-7AM AND 6-7PM

\$5 PER SESSION

ALL FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME



Wednesday Nights

Orepuki Hall 5.30 pm Start

ALL WELCOME

INDOOR BOWLS

Are you interested in learning to play indoor bowls.



We practice on a Monday night at 7 30pm at Waiau Town & Country Club.

For more information ring Christine on 027 5498720

Tuatapere's own Crafters Collective

COUNTRY CORNER CRAFTS

WINTER HOURS 11 - 3PM

SUMMER HOURS 10 - 4PM

- Knitwear & sewing
- Jewellery & Bobbin lace
- Woodware
- Jams, pickles, sauces
- Art works & much more
- Looking for a Tuatapere souvenir? "On Natures Edge" always in stock

ENQUIRIES

LOUISE GREBER (03) 668 6001

MAX MALSEN (021) 422 800

LYLA SHERRIFF (03) 226 6187

New members always welcome.
Want to volunteer? Let us know!



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and everything in between

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Shearing magazine

Des Williams (editor)

Tel 07 839 2891 : Mob 0274 833 465

Email : shearingmag@xtra.co.nz

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4 Muck Spreaders • 16,000 litre Slurry Tanker
Pond Stirrer • Umbilical Slurry System



PHONE ALEX
0212775308 CELL
03 2255377 HOME

YOGA IN TUATAPERE AT RARAKAU LODGE

Rarakau YOGA CLASS

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Kia ora Western Wanderer Readers!

Room 1 News

Room 1 had a busy Term 2 with lots of things happening! Some highlights from the term included the Cross Country at Thornbury, where we all ran our fastest and were super proud of our efforts!

Our Matariki Hangi was fantastic, we helped to prepare and cook the kai and then everyone enjoyed eating it for lunch!

We worked hard creating an art piece for the Mihāro Art Exhibition and were thrilled to win an award for our entry titled 'Papatūānuku - Our Earth Mother'.

Throughout the term, we also had numerous visitors, including Richie and his team from Active Southland, who showed us lots of cool games, and NZ Playhouse visited us and presented a very entertaining show called 'The boy who cried wolf'.

We finished off the term with a 'PJ Day' to raise money for Ronald McDonald House, we loved seeing everyone come to school in their pyjamas!

We are excited for the term ahead, especially participating in Polyfest in August which we have been practicing hard for!



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Room 3

We have had the most amazing term. We have found out about planets in space and created wonderful presentations to share at assembly. Our learning also included our own Wax Museum! This was Mr W's idea to research a famous person, find facts about them, dress up as our characters and then invite our parents to come and see us presenting our work. It was a big hit. Sadly, Mr W left us at the end of Term 3. We shared a morning tea with Mr W and his family, students shared memories and a lot of tears were shed. We will really miss him but wish him all the best in Australia.



Waiau Area School students had an excellent showing at the New Zealand Area Schools National Tournament, held in Invercargill for the first time in the event's 30-year history. Competing as part of the South of the South regional team, our students displayed skill and sportsmanship throughout the week-long competition.

The girls' volleyball team featuring Emily Templeton, Meadow Rodgers, Summer Templeton, and Kenzie Martin dominated the court, going undefeated in all matches. Their efforts helped secure the regional title for South of the South, which hadn't claimed the championship in over 20 years.

Kenzie also contributed to the football team, while Summer stepped up to play for the Top of the North netball side. Emily, Meadow, and Kenzie were selected for the South Island volleyball team, with Meadow also named to the Ki o Rahi team an impressive feat for a small rural school. The tournament, which brings together students from some of the most remote schools across Aotearoa, offered a unique chance to compete at a high level and represent their region with pride. Congratulations to all our Waiau athletes, your achievements are well deserved showing your dedication, and the strength of our kura. Let's go Waiau!

20

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Western Wanderer Readers



Welcome back to Hauroko Valley Primary's learning action, as we recap the end of Term 2. Thanks to our Home and School team, who supported us with a Matariki Brunch. Sharing of learning with our families while enjoying kai went down a treat! We enjoyed a disco with DJ Mr P, who did an ace job providing the sounds for our movers and shakers in the MPB.

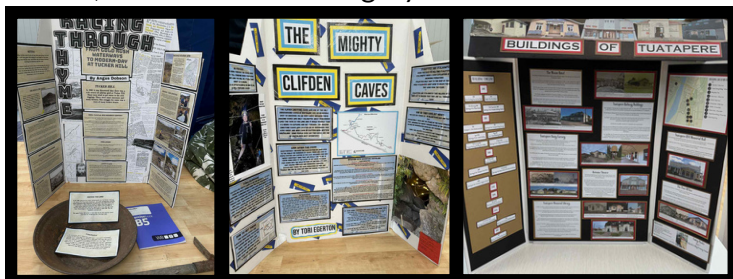


Hockey remains a strength of our school. Each week, we have three teams that head to Invercargill Hockey Turf for games in the Southland Competition. Our Year 3&4s and Year 5&6s are coached by Rebecca & Nic. The Year 7&8's are coached by Kate G. Thanks to our coaches and managers, Kaylene and Sheryl, and our supporters. Thank you to those who have supported our school's fundraising efforts - we have new hockey tops for our senior players, giving improved visibility.



Last Term, our Year 7&8 students presented Social Science Projects for the Southland Social Science Fair. There were 338 entries. We were proud of everyone's selection of topics, their commitment to completing research, and the high standards of presentation. Three of our entries received awards for their achievements: 3rd in Year 7&8 - "Racing Back in Thyme" by Angus D. Merit in Year 7&8, Finley for "Buildings of Tuatapere" and Merit in Year 7&8, and Merit in Conservation and Environment, went to Tori for "Mighty Clifden Caves." Ka rawe.

SOCIAL SCIENCE



HAUROKO HAPPENINGS

HVP entered the Mīhāro Polyfest Cultural Arts Exhibition with totem poles sharing taniwha by Mataī, thanks to Alice's work. It was a pleasure to also share the native bird art completed by Tōtara, and also the Year 7&8 Deep Cove linocut printmaking, all produced thanks to Whaea Andrea's guidance with classes. Congratulations to each of our artists for their creativity, skills for us to share with others as the theme "Legends of our Land."

MIHARO POLYFEST



ART EXHIBITION

AgriKids *-Livestock Legends-* nz

"The Livestock Legends" - Jake, Angus, and Dusty representing Otago/Southland qualified to compete at the NZ Young Farmers Grand Final for AgriKids. The boys continued to upskill in their journey to Nationals, working together to serve, build theory, and develop practical skills in preparation. This year, the competition was hosted by Southland in Winton, allowing us to attend and support our legends. They competed against competitors from around NZ, with 21 teams in total. First up, the Agri Quiz, Race Off, and to finish the 7 Agriculture Modules. What an amazing experience for our team! Thanks to sponsors - Fowle Contracting, and thank you to Clifden Rural Women and Hauroko Valley Primary for supporting our team and their families. 6th place out of 21 teams is superb!



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202f-zone6couragchild@lionsclubs.org.nz

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-Act as an encouragement for their future

-Help them to believe in themselves

-Help to increase their self-worth

All Children want to be respected by others, regardless of any special needs they may have. These awards will portray the children who have successfully overcome the additional barriers they face. The family will benefit from the awards, sharing their pride with their child and their experiences with other local children and families. There are three categories for this special award:

1. Contribution amid physical and/or intellectual impediments
2. Courageous act or deed
3. Sibling recognition

There will be a small presentation, a short introduction, and a summary of the reasons for the award, which will be read out. The recipient will be presented with the award.

Each Lions Club has a nomination form and will either receive nominations or send them to the Children of Courage Award email address:

202f-zone6couragchild@lionsclubs.org.nz (or to apply for a nomination form or for more information).

Nominations will close on Friday, 26th September 2025.



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Editor's Note:

The Western Wanderer has always aimed to celebrate the stories, people, and community groups that make Tuatapere special. The following piece, submitted by a long-time resident, offers a reflective look at how our town has changed over the years, both the losses we've felt and the resilience we continue to show.

While some views expressed here may not reflect everyone's experiences, we hope it prompts appreciation for those who contribute to Tuatapere's future in farming, tourism, volunteering, and community leadership. As always, we're proud to showcase the good things happening in our backyard.

Tuatapere: Then and Now - a personal reflection by JOB

Back in 1981, we arrived in Tuatapere to find a thriving little farming town with a well-balanced way of life. It had everything a small community could need: two sawmills, a pub, three churches, three mercantile firms, a bank, a post office, two schools, a picture theatre, an electrical shop, a butcher, two general stores, a pipe band, the Forestry Department, sale yards, DT Kings, a chemist - and of course, the much loved Doctor Elder. There was even a local policeman keeping things in check. Life was simple, stable, and solid. Fast forward to 2025, and things look a bit different. The town now stands on two legs - farming and tourism. The main difference between the two? The farmer is out on his land and with his livestock year-round. At the same time, the tourist operator waits patiently for their "stock" (visitors) to arrive.

So what's left of the old Tuatapere?

Gone are the pub, the theatre, the engineering and electrical shops, the butcher, the bank and the post office. We're down to one mercantile firm, one garage, two police officers, one church, DT Kings, and a single remaining sawmill. But not all is lost.

What we do have is Murray Dowling - a man who deserves a serious round of applause. Murray has played a key role in dragging Tuatapere out of the 20th century and planting it firmly in the 21st. Thanks to his efforts, we now have a modern supermarket, a café/bar, motels, and backpacker accommodation.

Let's not forget the jewel in the crown: Doctor Elder Park (the Domain), immaculately cared for by Fletch, Dave, Gary, and the rest of the legendary "Dad's Army." Add to that a fantastic Bushmen's museum, and you've still got a community with spirit, history, and pride. Times change, but it's people like Murray and our volunteers who keep Tuatapere's heart beating.

The Archives are doing a commendable job of preserving our local history. However, I believe a broader coverage of our past would have been ideal, rather than focusing so heavily on the Railway Station. While I understand the funding was specifically allocated for the Railway Station, I'm curious about how these allocations are decided.

We are fortunate to have a dedicated Lions Club that provides strong support to St John and the ambulance service. However, the Lions Club depends on the generosity of the local community, support that has its limits. Our town is home to four or five food outlets. The old Hungry Hippo continues to operate steadily alongside the Four Square Takeaways. Boundary Creek serves up coffee and baked goods, and the Club draws crowds with its steak nights and other tasty meals. Base Camp, which focuses on food, faces no real competition when it comes to its popular sausages. Still, as we all know, a good sausage and a bottle store alone don't make a great pub. The Western Wanderer could benefit from including a regular Police Report and a Councillor's Report; these updates are sorely missed. And bring back George—his presence in the community and paper is missed. Adding a couple of pages for public opinion would also give locals a valuable voice. As for the Hump Ridge Track, it feels increasingly like a pastime for the wealthy. There appears to be a significant amount of money going into it, but little seems to be making its way back into the township.

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At the Central & Western Murihiku Southland Archive & Community Heritage Hub, we have a lot of records and photos, also maps, books, film and fabric items of heritage. We thought that as the local Dairy industry ramps up this month, it would be good to feature how our early Dairy Factory came about and what happened to it in the end. You can also look this information and the photos up online, in our eHive Collections. You don't have to join anything, just type in the link, or search us out, and it is FREE! <https://ehive.com/collections/202139/objects/1651149/tuatapere-history-business-industry-tuatapere-dairy-factory-1911-1967>

Tūātapere Dairy Factory, 1911-1967

Below, is the history and some photos of the Tūātapere Dairy Factory on the Half- Mile Road, with details of Dairy Factory Managers over the years of its operation, 1911-1967:



The Tūātapere Dairy Factory was situated (and the building still exists today), on the west bank of the Waiau River, on the Half Mile. It sits opposite to the Tūātapere Domain entrance. In the past, West's first hotel, Traveller's Rest, was said to have sat just behind this factory and this appears verified from early photos which include both buildings.

EARLY HISTORY:

Prior to the opening of the Tūātapere Dairy Factory, Te Tua Dairy Factory, established in 1897 and sometimes called Te Waewae, started to process the local Waiau farmers' milk. From 1904 the Papatotara dairy farmers also started to supply the Te Tua factory.

NOTE: This earlier factory can be seen in entry CWA.193.028.002

As the suppliers on the west side of the Waiau were steadily increasing, the idea to build another factory on that side of the river started to be discussed. It is recorded that Papatotara's Bill Arthur was the first to survey support for a new factory more easily accessible to them. This was in 1910 and nothing came of it. But not to be put off, he tried yet again a year later. This time there was more interest and the idea was a success, so the west side farmers got their new factory, as below. A meeting was held Saturday 11th February 1911 with the purpose being the formation of the Tūātapere Dairy Factory Company Ltd. The provisional directors of the company were appointed, Mr. William Arthur, (Chairman) Mr. J Coughlan, (Company Secretary) Mr. A McEwan, H Norman, W Young, H Stuck, J McLean.

Mr. Hamilton of the National Bank at Riverton stated that a list of Guarantors had been submitted and 240 cows had been promised for supply with the promise of more. He assured the suppliers there would be no difficulty with finance. The National Bank was appointed as Bankers, the firm of Armstead, Hunter and Tait, (Solicitors) were instructed to register the Company. The contract to build the Tūātapere Dairy Factory was given out in June the same year, with the directors choosing the tender of W Blue for the factory building and the plant was to be supplied by Messrs Wilkins. The current Te Tua factory manager, Robert Windleburn was appointed as manager of the new Tūātapere factory, which was registered in August. The details of the registration were as follows: £2,000 capital in 2,000 shares of £1 each.

Shareholders list includes:

- JH McLean - JH Coughlan
- W Young - HD Norman, 20 shares
- A McEwan - W Arthur, 25 shares
- HS Stuck, 30 shares

The factory will produce butter and other products made from cow milk. Names and events connected to the Factory that are recorded in history are: the Secretary in 1911, who was JH Coughlan. He was to write to the WCC or Wallace County Council to request that they gravel the 4 chains of road in front of the new proposed factory, to keep the dust out of the building. The news of the day carried much excitement about the new factory being built along the half mile, not far from the Waiau River. To quote Hugh McFeely, the first teacher, when he arrived in 1910, the Half Mile Road was dense bush to the edge of the road. So much clearing had to be done before building. The reported intake of daily milk into the factory in 1914 was as much as 678 gallons of milk at the highest point of the season. By February, this had dropped to just 460 gallons per day. Also in 1914, the largest supplier to the factory was reported as being W Norman, who was said to have regularly carted 100 gallons of milk to the factory, which was said to have been about 20% of the entire average intake of 540 gallons a day. Other Papatotara farmers also supplied the factory.

As can be seen by early photographs above, horse and cart was the most common method of taking milk to the factory. In 1915, reports are that the factory was to consign its output and the resulting return was around 1s 7d per 1 lb or pound of butter fat, about \$29.00 today! There is an interesting item recorded in the news of the day from 1916 that tells us when Archibald Wakefield left the Factory to join up to fight with the 15th Reinforcements in WW1, he was gifted a fine safety razor from his employers and workmates.

In 1924, W Norman again hit the Tūātapere Dairy Factory news, with the highest grade test for his milk of all the factory suppliers! It is noted at the same time, that the current intake of the factory was 1300 gallons per day, which was an increase of 100 gallons a day on last season. At this point the factory had installed a pasteuriser plant and all of the product produced from the milk was now in cheese. The 1927 Annual Report declared that the payout for the season was £1 - 1 1/2 per pound of butter fat with a further bonus expected later.

There had been 2,510.324 lbs of milk delivered to the factory in the current season, which translates to 89,647 lbs of butter fat. The Tūātapere Dairy Factory output for the season was 107 tons 14 cwt 2 qrs 20 lbs, which was all for cheese, which was shipped by the factory. Then, in 1928, the local factory reported such a deluge of milk being delivered that they were having to work an extra shift to process it! In 1930, the Tūātapere Dairy Factory board reported that the cheese market had been very depressed. They still had 682 crates of cheese left to sell. They had produced 144 tons 5 cwt of cheese that year from 3,124,113 lbs of milk, which had yielded 117,708.61 lbs of butter fat. The report continued to say that all factories that had sold all their cheese on consignment this year did not do so well, and it had been prudent on the part of the local factory not to do this that season. In 1933, the Tūātapere Dairy Factory staff put on their second-ever Annual Ball at Lawson's Hall, but it is not clear when the first one was. Des Williams' book - The Hole In The Bush notes that during the 1950s was the height of the dairy factory, as farmers at this time would milk cows while working on developing their pasture to take sheep. In 1935, it is noted that A M Lemon had been appointed as first assistant at the Tūātapere Dairy Factory, while W D Rodger was put in as the new second assistant. Notably, there were 36 applications.

The managers of the Tūātapere Dairy Factory over the years that we know of are listed as below, and please note that we have a lot of more information on each of these men and their families in the online version of this historical entry, and we'd like to give huge appreciation to our researcher Pam for doing this. Can anyone else help fill in the gaps?

1. 1911-1927, 1930-1935 - Robert John Windelburn (or Windleburn), 1st factory manager
2. 1935 1 st Assistant, then in 1936 Manager, up to 1943 - Robert (Bob) Charles Walker
3. 1943 to 1949? (still listed as living at Tūātapere in 1946) - James Spencer Morrison
4. 1946 to 1953 (possibly to 1955), Manager at Tūātapere - James (Jim) Stirling
5. 1957 to 1960 (possibly to 1963), Cheesemaker and Manager - Ashley Sydney Kidd
6. 1963 to 1966, Cheesemaker/Manager - either Harry Swain snr. Or Harry Swain jnr. (we are uncertain which was the manager, as both of them are Tūātapere Cheesemakers!)

LATER HISTORY:

In 1961, the Tūātapere Dairy Factory 50th Jubilee was held in the township, but by 1967 it was closed down. We have been told, and Linsey Bennett has confirmed, that after the local Dairy factory closure, the Tūātapere milk was transported to Ōtautau for a few years for processing, before it too was closed down. Their comments are as follows: "Yes, it is true, when the Tuatapere Dairy Factory closed down and amalgamated with the Otautau Dairy Factory, all milk was processed at Otautau. I can remember going through the milk Factory and seeing the vats filled with milk and getting processed into cheese as a child. It was where Kings have their depot at Otautau. Then they amalgamated with Edendale Dairy factory. Thank you Linsey for confirming this story.

The closures of all these small factories mentioned, and others across Murihiku Southland, was due to the centralising and amalgamation of all the local dairy factories over at the new Edendale plant, which still operates today. When the factory closed in 1967 the building and surrounding site was taken over by Zephyr Contracting. Other than their truck being shown in the photo above at the closing, we have not really been able to find out anything about them, so if you can help fill in the blanks, please let us know. The factory is now under the ownership of DT Kings Co Ltd and is used as the Tūātapere Depot for this locally based district wide trucking company. The building is now covered in iron and this is most likely due to deterioration of the original wood planks.



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