



WESTERN Wanderer

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

Cover Photo: Mike Goodwin, Advento Photography

Issue 283
OCTOBER 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 Bootcamp @ WAS Hall 6am Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	2 Sewing & Patchwork. 10-3pm The Den	3 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm	4 C&W Archives Open Day, 10-4pm Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	5 T&C Club Club Bing Eyes Down 2pm
6 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm School Term Starts Story Time @ Library	7	8 Bootcamp @ WAS Hall 6am	9 Meridian Drop In Funding Session 12-3pm WAS Library	10 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm Community Theatre Waiau Area School Hall 7.30pm	11 Community Market 11-2pm. Last Light Kids Craft Group 1-4pm @ Den Community Theatre Waiau Area School Hall 7.30pm	12
13 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm Story Time @ Library Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	14 Predator Control Meeting 7pm @ the Den	15 Bootcamp @ WAS Hall 6am Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	16 Sewing & Patchwork. 10-3pm The Den	17 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm	18 Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	19 Meridian Power Up Fund applications close
20 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm Content for next months WW due Bowls T&C Club 7.30pm	21	22 Bootcamp @ WAS Hall 6am	23	24 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm	25 Pop Up 2 nd Hand Shop 10-1pm @ Den	26
27 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm Labour Day	28 Waiau Health Trust & Tuatapere Medical Centre Services AGM 7pm. Day activities room Tuatapere Medical Centre	29 Bootcamp @ WAS Hall 6am	30	31 Bootcamp @ Orepuki 6am & 6pm Syd Slee Grant Applications Close		
		Coming up ...	Tui Pest Control AGM Monday 18 November, 7 pm, at the Den			

Special thanks to



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



WHITEBAIT SEASON RETURNS TO THE WAIAU

By Mike Goodwin/Advento Photography

September marks the start of one of Tuatapere's most cherished traditions – whitebait season. From 1 September to 30 October, locals and visitors alike will line the Waiau River and surrounding streams with nets in hand, hoping to catch a feed of these tiny but highly prized fish.

For many, whitebaiting is more than fishing. It's a chance to reconnect with the outdoors, enjoy the company of friends and family, and be part of a tradition that stretches back generations.

Season Rules and Fishing Times

Fishing is only permitted between 5:00am and 8:00pm, or 6:00am to 9:00pm when daylight saving begins. Each person is limited to one net, which must be attended at all times, and fishing near bridges, culverts, and river junctions is not allowed. Taking whitebait outside of permitted hours is illegal – and last year's night stings proved that enforcement is taken seriously.

DOC and NZ Police continue to run Operation Inaka, targeting illegal fishing and anti-social behaviour along the Waiau. Those caught risk losing their catch, their nets, and facing fines up to \$400 or prosecution. As DOC officer Alan Christie said last season, "We'd rather catch no one." The message is clear: follow the rules and keep it fair for everyone.

Whitebait Stands in Southland

Environment Southland reminds stand owners to keep their platforms safe, labelled, and in good repair. Compliance checks will begin mid-September.

Key rules for stand holders:

- Only existing consented sites are permitted.
- Stands must be structurally sound and not obstruct river flow.
- Owner's name must be displayed.
- All gear must be removed from the water at the end of the day.

Southland currently has around 680 stands, most on the Mataura, Titiroa, and Aparima Rivers. New stand sites are tightly controlled to protect the environment.

Te Waewae Lagoon: A Whitebait Haven

At the mouth of the Waiau, Te Waewae Lagoon continues to play a vital role in sustaining the fishery. Since 1998, more than 20 hectares of wetlands have been created, providing spawning and rearing grounds not only for whitebait but also for short and long-finned eels, wading birds, and other wildlife.

Inanga (*Galaxias maculatus*), the main species caught as whitebait, spawn in tidal vegetation during February–April. Their larvae are washed out to sea, only to return months later as the shoals of juveniles that enter our rivers in spring. Protecting wetlands like Te Waewae is crucial to keeping this life cycle alive.

Future plans for the lagoon include improved public access, walking tracks, and ongoing ecological monitoring. When completed, it will be both a community asset and a lasting safeguard for the fishery.

Looking Ahead

Whitebaiting brings excitement to spring in Tuatapere. But it also comes with responsibility. By respecting the rules, maintaining stands, and supporting habitat protection, we can ensure that this tradition thrives for generations to come.

So grab your nets, head down to the Waiau, and enjoy the season. Whether your bucket is full or empty, the real catch is being part of a community tradition that runs as deep as the river itself.



“Tūātapere 100 Years Ago” – Our town was a Tourist Mecca once before!

You may have seen our posters up around town, we are having our 2nd Birthday Event Display opening during 10-12 October, showcasing 100 Years of Tūātapere. But did you know that before Tūātapere was a Timber Town, it was a Tourist Town?! We discovered this while researching the last 100 years & more, of our Tūātapere Township. Now, once again, the township relies on Tourist trade to keep it afloat, so we've come full-circle...

It was back in 1901 when William (Bill) Dugald Newsham West applied for a licence to build himself an accommodation house with six rooms available to Guests, on the west or Papatotara side of the Waiau. Known as the 'Anglers Rest Hotel', by November 1901, guests were describing it as charming, picturesque and scrupulously clean. The meals were said to be excellent as was the fishing, which drew many tourists. Even back then, tourism was starting to grow and one pursuit of the 'gentlemen' of the day, was angling, especially for trout. Yes, once upon a time the Waiau was renowned for its trout fishing.

But the timber trade was encroaching, as the bushmen crews worked up the coast from Aparima Riverton towards what is now Tūātapere. At that time this place was literally and in name also,

“The Hole In The Bush”. Bill West employed Bob Drummond to run the Ferry Punt across the Waiau, so the settlement got referred to as Drummond's Ferry. As the railway was built, Bill West moved his hotel to the east side of the Waiau, across the road from the Railway Station, advertising Tūātapere as the, Tourist Mecca of the West!

Looking back at our village's beginnings, the land the town now sits on, was originally farmed by the Stuck Bro's (brothers) of Te Tua. In 1909, they sold off 2 acres of land for the original Township, but this was only three, yes, 3 sections! The earlier Store of the Templeton's, which was purchased by Charles Sneyd in 1903, was not in the original Township. Instead, it was on the later land purchased by Sneyd, who bought the block on the west and northwest of Boundary Creek. It was only when the Telephone Office opened here at his store in 1903, that the name Tūātapere was given to the town. Sneyd sold to Charlton in 1911, their later store still stands, just back from the Ferry Rd corner.



LEFT: map of Sneyd's subdivision from Boundary Creek to northwest and west to Ferry Rd & River, he also owned north of Ferry Rd, 1918.

BELOW: front to back – McGregor's Drapery; behind this, Roger's Boarding House; Mason's Garage & Cymric Hall, pre 1922



For some time, there were only 3 buildings in the original township, according to early schoolteacher Hugh McFeely, who has a street named after him. The above subdivision made by Sneyd, who also has a street named after him, was broken up in 1918.

It is a sad fact that the Templeton's, who were the townships first General Store owners, have no street named after them at all, an oversight that surely ought to be rectified by now.

We have been gifted a large collection of early Tūātapere Township photographs, by our first Patron, the much missed and recently passed Margaret Thomas, which show many of the early residents' businesses and living quarters. We have another early photo, of what is now Greenheart Reserve - filled with permanent, framed canvas tents, below:



ABOVE: West's Hotel & Railway Buildings, 1909



ABOVE: Worker Tents (now Greenheart Reserve), 1921

There were no houses in town for a long time, they were not a priority. Businesses were much fancier than their owners' homes, many lived in simple shacks or plain cottages, their workers often in tents, especially those who were timber workers - although the Butcher's, built in 1916, had their staff living in tents too.

The best housed for many years were the Railway workers. Some people working in town, like Hugh McFeely the Schoolteacher, lived at West's Hotel temporarily, or later on, at the Boarding House.

We found when researching the original township: 3 Drapers buildings, 2 Bootmakers, 5 General Stores/Grocers buildings, 2 Public Halls, 2 Billiard halls, a Barber/Hairdresser, the old National Bank site, the old post office site, a Blacksmith, a Motor Garage, West's Waiau Hotel and the Boarding House, all on the Main Road. This does not even start to cover the buildings that were also erected, along what is now Ōrawia Road. This fits in with the claim that in 1912, there were at least a dozen stores in existence on the street.

To find out more about the earlier days, come and check out our new display, opening soon. We are also looking for more old photos and items from different businesses that used to be in the township, if you can help.

We would like to have items we can borrow for display, or things we can copy to keep a record of at the Community & Archives Hub.

From 1 Oct, we're back to Summer Hours, which are 10-4pm Tues-Fri and first Saturday. Come in, or Email us: CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com ph/txt: 027-211-4675

Tūātapere 100 Years Ago – upcoming opening, 10-12 Oct, CWA Archives



Neat Cut

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

SYD SLEE CHARITABLE TRUST

Applications are open from 1st October - 31st October 2025. For our Application Form and Information Guide Sheet please email ssctrust17@gmail.com
 Nicky Baker, Secretary, Syd Slee Charitable Trust



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Live Turkeys for Sale



We have live turkeys available. These are older birds – not ideal for meat, but great for eggs or as farmyard companions.

Details:

- Healthy, locally raised turkeys
 - Price: eight dollars each
 - Pick-up only from [your location]
- If you are interested or would like more information, please contact
tgerzabeknz@gmail.com

TUI PEST CONTROL GROUP

Hello from us.

It has been a busy month.

We welcome two new members, Bruce Edlin and Steven Gibbs, both experienced trappers. We are pleased to have them on board.

Following successful perimeter trapping of the cemetery block and Nicol Horrell's lead-in pine block on Alton Road, we have recorded more than 170 possums removed.

Next steps

- We will carry out a short period of leg-hold trapping within the cemetery block to:
 - a. quickly reduce numbers, and
 - b. identify hotspots for future placement of automated traps.

Safety

- Locations on Lillian's Loop are marked with pink tape; traps will be at least 10 metres off the track.
- Signage will be installed at all entrances and exits to Lillian's Loop.
- Please supervise children at all times and keep dogs on leads.

The Happenings

- ES Awards Evening: Thursday 3 October – we will attend with a table of ten.
- AGM: Monday 18 November, 7 pm, at the Den (by the playground). All interested groups and members of the public are welcome. Please mark your calendars.

The reserve is rejuvenating and flourishing; birdlife is increasingly abundant, with definite kākā sightings.

We have also raised with DOC and SDC our concerns about exotic tree and creeper invasion. Please enjoy and respect our beautiful reserve so close to town.
 Cheers, Glenys



41 King Street, Tuatapere
Telephone 03 226 6489

WAI AU TOWN AND COUNTRY CLUB

6TH December 2025

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE

40th ANNIVERSARY

Let's get together and celebrate, share a meal, music and memories till late.

More information coming
For all enquiries contact

Keri Potter

Mob 0275263137

Email; waiawwtcc@gmail.com

If emailing please put Keri in the Subject line.

DR ERIC ELDER BURSARY FUND

Applications for the above Bursary open on the 1st of October 2025.

The Dr. Elder Bursary is valued at \$2000.00 and is open to all persons wishing to undertake Tertiary

Studies for 2026.

For an application form email Dale Egerton at dreldertrust@gmail.com

Completed application forms can either be emailed to dreldertrust@gmail.com or posted to

Mrs. Dale Egerton
58 Half Mile Road
Tuatapere. 9620

Applications close on the 8th of December 2025.

Any enquiries phone 027 3106 199

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

Tuatapere community market

SECOND Saturday
of the month

Summer hours: 10am - 1pm



Stalls or boot sales \$5 Fresh bread, veg,
coffee, muffins, scones. Nice lunch menu.

Plants, cards, cheese rolls, woodwork,
diamond art, jewellery, cloths and more. Ph

Christine 0275255538 or just turn up

◆ GEMSTONE BEAUTY ◆

Luxury Beauty Services Menu

EYES

Eyelash Tint: \$30

Eyebrow Tint: \$25

Eyebrow Shape: \$25

Eyebrow Shape & Tint: \$40

Lash & Brow Tint: \$40

Lash Tint, Brow Tint, & Brow Shape: \$50

WAXING

Upper Lip Wax: \$25

Chin Wax: \$25

Sides of the Face: \$25

Half Leg Wax: \$45

Underarm Wax: \$30

HANDS

Gel Manicure: \$50

Gel Manicure with Gel Removal: \$60

Gel Removal: \$25

FACE

Relaxation Facial Treatment: \$70

TO BOOK CONTACT ROCHELLE

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Waiau Community Theatre

Friday 10th and Saturday 11th October 2025

Waiau Area School Hall 7.30pm

Join us for our celebration of 61 years!

Tickets: Adults-\$30.00 and Students-\$15.00

No need to bring anything! Just your ticket and
yourself (and friends)!

We will provide refreshments- wine/juice,
tea/coffee, a delicious supper...

AND A GREAT SHOW!

Bookings: Until 6th October phone Anne:

0212169808 9am-5pm

From 6th October: Waiau Area School Office 9am-
10.30am; 11.30am-1pm;

2pm-3.30pm.

Come along for some post lambing/calving fun!



Tuatapere Community Worker Support Trust

Community Christmas Lunch

Christmas Day, 25th December

at

Tui Base Camp

Time: 12 pm – 2 pm

To register your attendance, there will be a fee of \$20.00 per person

Please contact Keri Potter 027 7575 983.

Transport available.



Its October and its time for a reminder about the Christmas Parade for 2025!!

As always it will be Dec 23rd at the Tuatapere Domain, there will be Music, singing, Food trucks, Coffee!

Its an AWESOME parade and of course Santa!!!

This year there will also be prizes for Floats and parade entrants.

All enquiries to John Munro 027 412 2925



RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND





CLIFDEN BRANCH

SUNDAY 2ND NOVEMBER 2025

We warmly invite you all to join us to celebrate the 100 years of Rural Women and 95 years of the Clifden Branch

Opening Ceremony
2:00pm | Clifden Bridge, Clifden

Centennial Dinner
5:30pm | Waiau Town & Country Club, Tuatapere
Buffet Dinner - \$57.00 per person

Please register prior to Friday 17th October 2025
by going to
<https://events.humanitix.com/rwnzclifden100>

For more information contact Lynley Whyte
Phone 021 211 5553 or email whyte.5@farmside.co.nz



TERM 4 LEARNING PLAN

Date	Theme	Activity
10th October	Lamb Finger Painting	
17th October	Egg Carton Trucks	 Turning recycled egg cartons into a dump truck! This will be cool!
24th October	Sandcastle Building	Who can build the biggest sandcastle? We can have fun smashing them too.
31st October	Halloween Party	 Come along to playgroup in your favourite costume, join in making some creepy crafts and enjoy some spooky treats!
7th November	Guy Fawkes Artwork	 How much glitter should we use today to make the best firework art?
14th November	Outside Painting Fun	We will get the big roll of paper out and go crazy with the paints for some outside fun.
21st November	Christmas Decorations	Let's get in the festive mood by creating some Christmas decorations for our Christmas tree.
28th November	REAP Visit	 Maree from REAP will provide some exploration themed activities for the children.
5th December	Christmas Doors Trip to Riverton	Today we are going on a trip to Riverton to take a walk to see the Christmas Doors.
12th December	Christmas Party	Come along to our annual Christmas Party and receive a gift from the big man himself.

RURAL WOMEN - CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS at our CWA Community Archives Hub Sat/Sun -1 & 2 Nov



**We are celebrating 100 Years of
WDFU/WDFF & Rural Women of
the Western Provincial District
Focus on our local Clifden Rural
Women Branch, now 95 yrs old**

COMPETITIONS/DISPLAYS - Various art & craft forms practiced by WDFF and early Rural Women:
"100 Years Ago Art & Craft", which is any type of art or craft that was around 100 years ago, and it must also be created in the same way, so hand or treadle sewing only please! Get a Competition Entry Form

"100 Years Ago to Today Essay Competition", to recognize/celebrate the WDFF 'Cora Wilding' Essay Competition, a 1,000-2,000 word essay on something that has affected women for the last 100 Years, that you feel is still not resolved, with ideas how to do this. NOTE: can also be in the form of a 200-500 word poem, and if anyone would like to do a reading of their poem please feel free to arrange this for 1st or 2nd November. Items submitted for competition are displayed until Xmas & can also be for sale.

We'd love more photos of Women's Division groups in our districts from days past. Can anyone please provide more photos from earlier days of various WDFF groups in our district?? Or information about people in these and what kind of events/help they gave locally. Please contact us or call in when open.

OPEN to public Tues-Fri & First Sat of Month, 10-4pm from 1 Oct, then Every Saturday from 1 Nov
Contact us on: CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com or Ph/Txt: 027-2114675 – Manager, Suzie
OUR WDFU/WDFF/Rural Women 100th DISPLAY, OPENS FROM Saturday 1st Nov 2025, we are also
opening on Sunday 2nd November, as part of the Murihiku Arts Trail. See at: 48 Main St, Tūātapere

TUATAPERE SERVICE STATION

20 ORAWIA ROAD

PHONE: 03 2266475

HYDRAULIC FITTINGS

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

**BOOK YOUR WOF,
SERVICE OR REPAIRS IN
TODAY**

OFFICE HOURS 8am to 5pm

REMINDER!!

Our preferred way of sending accounts is now by email. We will be charging a postage and handling fee of \$4.00 on each account that is printed and posted. If you would like to change over to emailed accounts please send us your email to

tuataperess@xtra.co.nz



HARDWARE IN STOCK

Metric bolts & nuts
Imperial Bolts & Nuts
Gutter Bots
Dyna Bolts
Coach Bolts
Tek Screws
Wood Screws
Self-tapping screws
Hinges, brackets, catches
etc

IN STOCK NOW WHITEBAIT GEAR!!

WHITEBAITING
PLEASE LET US KNOW IF
YOU NEED A NEW
WHITEBAIT NET OR
WADERS IF WE DON'T
HAVE IT IN STOCK WE CAN
ORDER THIS FOR YOU!!

CLOSED LABOUR DAY MONDAY OCT 27TH

WAIKATO HEALTH TRUST – OCTOBER 2025

Waikato Health Trust & Tuatapere Medical Services Community Trust Annual General Meetings:

Date: Tuesday 28th October 25 at 7.00 pm

Venue: Day Activities Room-Old Maternity End of Building

Everyone is welcome, any enquiries to Jo Sanford

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 Pfeifer– 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

Homebased Maternity Care:

If you are expecting a baby over the next few months and you are interested to know more about our in home services please contact me to discuss.

Meal on Wheels:

Available for people who require a tasty nutritious meal delivered to their home, these can be for anything from 1 to 5 days per week. Interested to know more? Please contact me and I will arrange for the District Nurse to come and visit you. She will assess your needs, if you meet the required criteria meals can be partially funded.

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



Waikato 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.



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
functions/birthdays!**

Keep an eye on
our Facebook Page
for more details
on upcoming
events ...

We can cater!
Call us to discuss
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
Clearance * Cartage * Graveling * Lane Maintenance * General Earthworks

For all enquiries and bookings please contact Lance or Alice Harris

Lance: 027 304 3714

Alice: 027 270 0363

Email: lanceharris533@gmail.com

Check us out on facebook- Harry's Machines



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**SOUTHLIFE
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!

**MISSIONS
"BRIDGE CHRISTIAN
MINISTRIES UGANDA"**

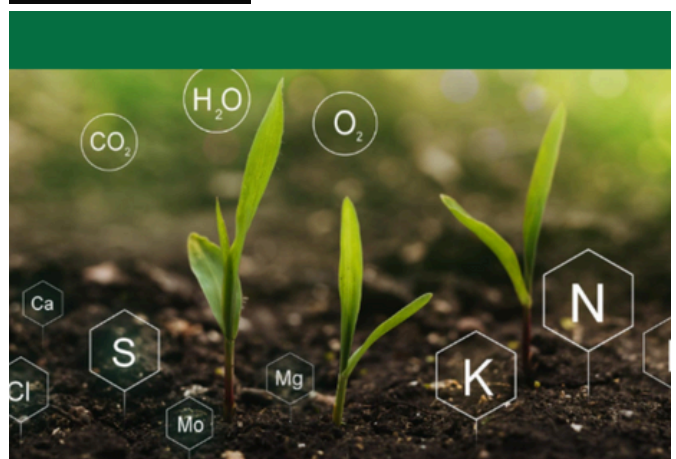


We warmly
invite you to
come along to
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to see you

Sunday Service
10am Truro St, Orepuki

Steve & Sharon Calder
027 321-1108



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- Based in Western Southland

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Dairy Conversions
Rural Fencing
Post & Rail



H Gill Fencing,

Eastern Bush

Phone 021 225 5489

After Hours 03 225 5488

Email hamish@gillfencing.co.nz



CWA

**Central &
Western
Archive**

Summer Hours

Tues to Fri 10-4 & First Sat of month from 10-4.

Available for group bookings outside Public Open hours/Weekends. If you and your family, or history group or society would like to visit over winter, just let us know in advance.

Email: CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com
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Hauroko
VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Miharo Murihiku Polyfest

Our performance package for Miharo Murihiku Polyfest was an achievement we are incredibly proud of. It was the result of a true collaboration, with the teaching staff leading the way and the involvement of the entire school. For the very first time, we had students accompany our waiata on guitar, a miharo/amazing milestone! Congratulations to Jack, Fergal, Mason, and Boe for stepping up to this new challenge. Thank you to Devin from KSOM for supporting us with our performance. Leadership also shone through our student performers: Jonty led with confidence in our school song, Jack brought energy to our haka, Lauren and Della guided the action waiata Te Taukaea e te Aroha, and Lola and Tori beautifully led Purea Nei, our poi waiata. Louie was on point as our main caller, while Boe's contribution was outstanding. He led several items through both singing and playing. The pride, teamwork, and talent displayed on stage truly reflected the spirit of Hauroko Valley Primary.



HAUROKO HAPPENINGS

EIS Challenge at Waianiwa School

The EIS Challenge was hosted by Waianiwa School, with teams of four students who are given a scenario, a set of equipment, and a limited time to problem-solve, design, and present their solution. Our Year 5 & 6 team of (Nelly, Jack M, Jack R) was tasked with designing and building a shelter in the aftermath of an earthquake—strong enough to hold both the whole team and a weight. Meanwhile, our Year 7 & 8 team, including Alfred, Aydee, Mac, and Jonty) faced an impressive engineering test: constructing a life-sized robotic hand capable of picking up and holding everyday items. Well done to our Year 7 & 8 team, who were placed 1st, having been the only successful collab in one of the challenges!



EIS

TECH



Term Highlights at Hauroko Valley Primary

It has been a busy and rewarding term. Our students have continued to engage in literacy and numeracy programmes alongside rich inquiry learning, building both knowledge and confidence. Classrooms have felt settled and focused, while the warmer weather has encouraged plenty of outdoor play and active learning in the fresh air. A highlight for many of our younger learners has been Discovery Time on Wednesday afternoons—a chance to explore, create, and learn through hands-on experiences. To wrap up the term, our learners came together for an evening disco in the multipurpose space. It was a fantastic way to celebrate the hard work and achievements of our students, and a reminder of the strong sense of fun and whanaungatanga that thrives at our school.



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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.

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COMMUNITY OUTLOOK ARTICLES

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<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.

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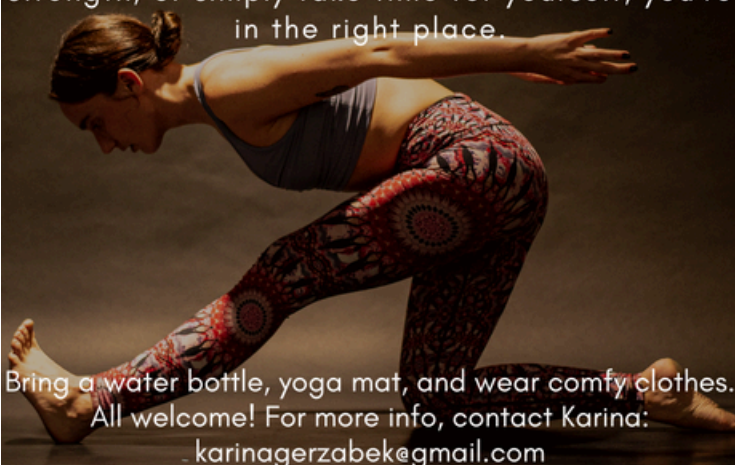
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Meridian Energy's Power Up Fund Community - Drop In Session

**Community Groups and Not for Profit
Organisations**

**Thursday, 9th October 2025
12:00 PM – 3:00 PM**

Waiau Ara School Library - Tuatapere

Come along and find out about the Meridian Power Up fund, available to community led projects and initiatives across Te Anau and Manapōuri. The Meridian Manapōuri Community Fund provides grants for projects in Te Anau, Manapōuri, Clifden and Tuatapere that support sustainable community development. Our Community Engagement Manager Mel Schauer will be there to answer questions about the fund and provide advice on how to apply. Pop along for a cup of tea and a chat about the Power Up Fund.

Contact : community@MeridianEnergy.co.nz

For more information please visit:

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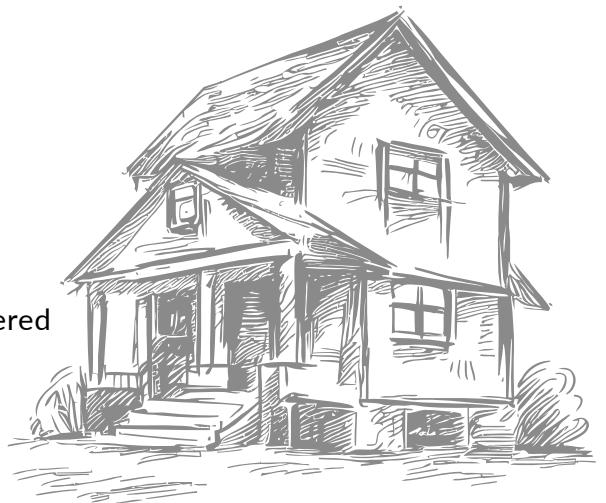
Contributed by George Charlton

George has been a regular contributor to the Western Wanderer over several years. He has a long association with the Tuatapere district and a great knowledge of our local history. The following article is an extract from a booklet written by George's cousin Mary Bunting (nee McKay) called 'Dancing in the Shadows'; An ABC of Tales from Childhood. Mary was one of the children of George (Geordie) and Amy McKay who farmed and raised their family in the Happy Valley. George Charlton's mother Betty was George McKay's sister. The playing of bagpipes and Highland Dancing has been a huge part of the McKay family.

The beginning of Mary's recollections starts with a song that her mother Amy and Joseph Lock would sing to the children when they were young. Apparently Amy had a beautiful singing voice. It is called 'The Old House'. The song was originally recorded by Sydney Macewan in 1917.

THE OLD HOUSE

Lonely I wander through scenes of my childhood
They call back to memory the happy days of yore.
Gone are the old folk, the house stands deserted
No light in the window, no welcome at the door.
Here's where the children played games on the hillside
Here's where they sailed their wee boats on the morn.
Where are they now? Some are dead, some have wandered
No more to their home shall these children return.
Lone is the house now and lonely the farmland
The children are scattered, the old folk are gone.
Whilst I stand I can hear like a ghost and a shadow
Tis time I was moving, tis time I was gone.



ARMS AKIMBO By Mary Bunting (McKay)

The darkness is pierced by the bright light of the car headlights as we crunch along the gravel road towards the White Bridge. It is 7.30 on a Saturday morning and we are off to our Highland Dancing lessons. The H & H bus with Mr Ritchie at the wheel pulls up beside the car. Judy, Jacqueline and I climb into the warm bus for the hour long journey to Invercargill. We travel along the coast road towards Auntie Jean and Uncle Sandy's as daylight breaks in shafts of light far out to sea in Te Waewae Bay. Then on past the knarly wind-blown old macrocarpas at Round Hill where the Chinese miners lived in the Gold Rush days. Past the sweeping sands of Colac Bay up the Longwoods and through the narrow bridge into Riverton. We reach the Invercargill bus depot and walk along Esk Street to where Jennifer and Margaret McLeod, our dancing teachers, have their lessons above the RSA workshop. We put on our dancing pumps and line up with arms akimbo and begin our dancing practice.

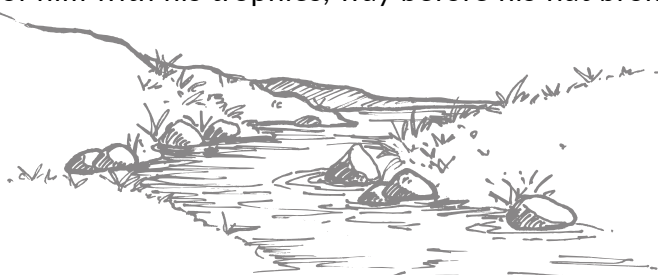
Around 12 O'clock we would walk back down Esk Street to the water tower street (Leet Street) to our Nana Linton's for "dinner", not called Lunch in the 50's, where she would be waiting at the gate. We would walk up the gate to her little house that had a front door with a window each side, she shared with Miss? Cameron. In her bed-sit it seemed she always made Irish stew with the potatoes in big chunks, we loved it!!!! (Give it to me today and that would be a different story). After dinner if it was fine we would go and play in Queen's Park, if was wet we made rats tails out of cotton reels with tacks on them and brightly coloured wool till it was time to catch the bus home at 4pm. Nana always walked us to the bus and Mum would meet us at the White Bridge.

BOXING

Our dad was a boxer. In fact he was quite a good boxer. He even went to Wellington to the trials for the Empire Games before we were born. Being a country boy he didn't tell anyone he had the flu so he lost his fight, he always said that at least he had got to go on the train and the ferry to Wellington. Dad used to have a Boxing Gym at Tuatapere, we were all adept with boxing gloves and would spar with Dad and each other on the front lawn. Dad's training schedule used to be good at keeping us fit for highland dancing and basketball. We managed a skipping rope at a very early age therefore we had a distinct advantage when we learnt the skipping rope dance. When on a training diet Dad would crack open a raw duck's egg and drink it down from the shell. We drew the line at this. We had our very own private trainer and Gym before they became trendy like they are today.

In our dad's 'Gym' he had boxing gloves of all sizes and punch bags both big and small, the little round tawny brown leather one was screwed to the roof with a big hook that dropped it down to head height, the harder you hit it the faster it would whip around and hit the roof then spin back singing its own tune towards you as quick as a flash. The big cream canvas punch bag was a different story. It was far harder to move and required a punch of some force and then it would swing back, if you weren't concentrating it could knock you for the proverbial six. The smell of oil of wintergreen liniment and sweat lingered long after Dad had returned home.

Before the days of TV Dad would listen to boxing matches on the valve radio often in the wee small hours of the morning and we would wake to the crackle of some way off overseas station with the announcer shouting the odds and Dad shouting even louder, his fists flying through the air as he helped Rocky Marciano win his fight. One night Dad boxed the radio completely off the mantelpiece. It fell onto the hearth and smashed to smithereens then he had to run down the lawn and wake up Nana to listen to hers. Dad had lots of silver cups for his boxing. He looked so young in the only photo we have of him with his trophies, way before his flat broken nose was splattered across his face.



THE CREEK

Bright shiny yellow and gold stones glisten through the clear sparkling water as we rush towards the creek.

'Our creek' as children was home to swimming, games, dams with Dad, eels, spiders and fresh water crawlies. With Dad's help when younger and then with cousins when we were older we would spend hours digging the sides off the creek with a spade and shovel. We would then place the sods row on row across the creek till our earth dam reached all the way to the other side damming the water behind it to make a fantastic summer swimming hole. As we dug into the bank the water spiders fascinated us. They lived in small round holes and would bustle out across the top of the water then dive down underneath, popping up shiny brown with water globules glistening in the sun across their tiny backs as they ran back into their homes.

Behind the dam in the shallow water we would then go eeling, stabbing the eels with nails on the ends of manuka sticks and flicking them onto the bank. Mum and Nana used to like the eels to manure their roses and would bury them in the ground around the roses. We did try to eat the eels by boiling them and also cooking them on a stick in the embers of a fire but none of us was ever partial to the taste. We preferred the sweet white meat of the fresh water crawlie which when boiled in a kerosene tin and eaten beside the creek had a taste all of its own. Our earth dam could last for days with us frantically banking up the sides before each night came. Inevitably the day would come when we would get up in the morning and the creek would be itself again.

Bright shiny yellow and gold stones winking through the clear sparkling water of our creek.

(Mary McKay's Memories from Childhood will be continued in the next Western Wanderer)

Western Wool and Craft

Western Wool and Craft members have been busy with needles and wool. Our group exists to share skills, cheer each other on, and keep traditional handcrafts alive in Western Southland.

On 3 September we hosted a Willow Basket Weaving class with tutor Sandra Wundsam. Over a relaxed morning, we shaped lengths of willow into sturdy, good-looking baskets. For many, it was a first attempt. With guidance on preparing materials, forming the base, and finishing a neat rim, confidence grew. The best part was seeing a pile of willow rods become something you can use at home. Photos below show a sample of the beautiful results. A big thank you to Sandra for her clear teaching and encouragement; everyone left with new techniques and pride in their handiwork.

On 17 September tutor Kate Mahoney lead a demonstration for our "Beginners Spinners" group. If you have ever wondered how fleece becomes yarn, this is the place to start. Kate covered the basics of wheel set-up, drafting, adding twist, and getting a smooth, even strand, you never know, spinning might be your next craft to learn.

Handcrafts are a great way to connect people. They slow the pace, invite conversation, and help us make useful things from local materials.

Western Wool and Craft meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month at the Den on Erskine Street. Some of us knit, some stitch, and others bring small projects to mend or finish. The rhythms of making are a good excuse to sit together, swap ideas, and learn from one another. You will hear patterns discussed, materials compared, and the occasional tale of a project that did not go to plan but taught a helpful lesson.

If you have been thinking about joining, here is your invitation. Bring your current work or simply bring yourself. Stay for a full session or drop in for a quick hello. We are a welcoming group and happy to share what we know. Thank you to our tutors and to everyone who helps set up, put the jug on, and tidy away. Your quiet efforts make our gatherings run smoothly.

For more information, or to connect before you visit, please reach out through Western Wool and Craft. We look forward to seeing you at the Den.

Ann Sutherland



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Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund

We're proud to back local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund. With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities. Power Up Manapōuri provides grants for projects in Te Anau, Manapōuri, Clifden and Tuatapere.

How to apply

Applications are open until midnight on Sun 19th October 2025.

For more information and to apply:

- visit meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund
- email community@meridianenergy.co.nz
- call 021 733 931

