



# WESTERN Wanderer

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

Cover Photo: The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Tuatapere Duck Races 2026. Photo by Nathalie Pahl.

Issue 289

## MAY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Every Week <i>Reminders</i> Bootcamp at Orepuki Hall - every Mon 6am / 5:30pm StoryTime @ Waiau Memorial Library 10am		Bootcamp at WAS Gym every Wed 6am / 5:30pm  Target Shooting 7pm, RSA Hall		Bootcamp at Orepuki Hall every Fri 6am / 5:30pm	Pop Up 2ndhand Shop @The Den every Sat 10am-1pm  PLEASE NOTE: POP UP SHOP WILL BE CLOSED ON THE 9 <sup>TH</sup> OF MAY	
				1	2	3
					DUCK SHOOTING - OPENING WEEKEND  45° Fibre Deep South Fibre Festival Gore TCC	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Southland District Council Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre	Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	Book Club 10:30am Tui Base Camp All Welcome! Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den Orepuki Promotions 7pm Orepuki Hall		Community Market 10-1pm. Last Light (LAST ONE TIL SEPT)	Happy Mother's Day
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Syd Slee Charitable Trust AGM Te Anau 7:30pm			Waiau Area School PTA AGM 3:15pm in the School Staffroom		 Celebration of Helen McKay's Life WTCC - 2pm Please join us!	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	Tuatapere Reserve Pest Control Group Meeting @ The Den 7pm	Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den		Pink Ribbon Breakfast Waiau TCC 9am	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
						Tuatapere Hump Track Trust Community Enhancement Grant Funding Applications close
<i>Coming up ...</i>	King's Birthday Public Holiday Monday 1 June	Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Meeting - 3:30pm Tuesday 2 June Location: TBA	 Tuatapere Lions 34 <sup>th</sup> Annual Hay Drive Friday 5 June	CWA BookSale 2026 5/6 June Pipe Band Hall Main Rd, Tuatapere	Orepuki Pink Ribbon Brunch Sunday 7 June	

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

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### 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

### Orepuki Community Promotions Meeting

7<sup>th</sup> May - 7pm  
Orepuki Community Hall  
All welcome!

## COMMUNITY MARKET

*(our last one until September ...)*

Saturday 9 May  
10am - 1pm

at **Last Light Lodge**

Cnr of Half Mile Road & Clifden Highway

Hoping to have the fish van there!

All welcome!

Stalls and Boot Stalls \$5

Call Christine 027 5255 538



### SYD SLEE CHARITABLE TRUST

The Trust AGM will be held on  
**May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 7.30pm** at  
54 Charles Nairn Road, Te Anau.  
All welcome to attend.  
Please phone Nicky Baker on  
**027 643 5880** for more details.



### SHOP HOURS UPDATE

**Tues - Sun  
11am - 8pm**

**WE WILL BE CLOSED ON  
MONDAYS UNTIL THE  
END OF AUGUST**

### PINK RIBBON BRUNCH OREPUKI



Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
Ring Coke 021 351 181  
or Marg 027 749 9456

### Tuatapere & DISTRICTS LIONS CLUB PROJECT

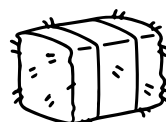


**SUPER DIRT**  
Bags@\$8.00 ready for your garden  
Super Dirt can be collected from  
Rabco's Yard, Groveburn Road

Phone Shirley or Stephen  
(03) 226 6817

### Tuatapere Lions Club Annual Peastraw Drive

\$12 per bale - self-carted  
\$15 per bale - delivered



**Ph/Text**

Nigel 021 2266 156  
Sammy 027 4382 248

## Join the Orepuki Community Fitness Collective!

### Get Fit and Ready for Winter Sports!

Are you looking to boost your fitness this winter? The **Orepuki Community Fitness Collective** is here to support you! We offer affordable, low-cost fitness classes tailored for all ages and abilities. Whether you're an experienced athlete or just starting your fitness journey, we've got something for you!



#### Why Join Us?

- **Affordable Access to Fitness:** Enjoy low-cost \$5.00 a class that makes fitness more accessible for everyone in Western Southland.
- **Structured Group Exercise:** Our organised fitness classes focus on your own individual fitness journey, while building connections and friendships.
- **Personalised Support:** Receive tailored guidance to help you set and achieve your own fitness goals. Our supportive environment celebrates individuals achievements.

#### Winter Sports Benefits

Get ready for winter sports by improving your strength, endurance, mobility - movement for life.

#### Class Schedule - Every Week

- **Mon & Fri:** 6am at Orepuki Community Centre
- **Tues, Wed & Thurs:** 6am at W.A.S Gym

Join our vibrant classes where you can engage with friendly faces and enjoy a welcoming atmosphere.

#### Progress to Date

We've seen fantastic growth, increasing from 7 to 14 regular participants!

#### Get involved today!

Help us expand our community and enjoy the numerous benefits of movement.

### INDOOR BOWLS - MONDAY NIGHTS

7.30pm, Waiau Town & Country Club  
Ph: Christine 0275498720



### LINE DANCING - MONDAY NIGHTS

7:30pm, RSA Hall  
Main Street, Tuatapere



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### Second Hand Pop Up Shop

Every Saturday 10am-1pm

'The Den' Erskine St, Tuatapere

Ph: Helen 022 1039327



**Important note:** The Pop Up Shop will be closed Saturday 9 May 2026

### WESTERN SOUTHLAND WOOL & CRAFT GROUP

Spinning, Felt, Weaving, Knitting, Crochet.

Other crafts welcome!

Held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month, in months that have 5 Wednesdays, at 'The Den', Erskine St

10am-3pm. \$5. BYO Lunch.

Any queries please contact  
Helen Todd 022 103 9327



### SEWING & PATCHWORK GROUP

Come and learn to sew or share your skills OR just get on with your project.

Bring your lunch and sewing machine (if you can)

Meet at 'The Den' Erskine St, Tuatapere

1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month

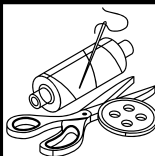
Cost \$5 per day. 10am-3pm. Coffee & Tea provided

Contact: Helen Todd 022 103 9327



### KIDS CRAFT GROUP

2nd Saturday of the month 1-4pm



@ 'The Den' Erskine St, Tuatapere

Join us and have fun!

For more information contact the Christian group.

For more information: Helen 0221039327

**POSTPONED UNTIL JULY**



Erskine Street  
Tuatapere

To enquire, call  
Helen Todd  
022 1039 327

### THE DEN

The Den is AVAILABLE for Community Groups to book - right next to the playground, with plenty of parking.

### KEEN TO GIVE SQUASH A GO?

Enquires please contact:

Rebecca Robertson  
027 424 6129



## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

### 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 027 551 5591.**



### 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 **Kenzie Johnston on 020 4191 7357**

### 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 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.



## DO YOU HAVE A NOTICE FOR THE COMMUNITY?

DROP US AN EMAIL AT  
[yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com](mailto:yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com)

AND WE'LL ADD IT TO THE  
NOTICEBOARD FOR YOU!

## TUATAPERE COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKER

A free and confidential service.

Contact if you:

- Want help with filling forms
- Need advice on who to contact
- Require financial or food assistance
- Know someone that requires assistance or are concerned about someone's well being
- Want to suggest a community related course or activity

Monday - Thurs 10am-3pm

Cellphone: 027 757 5983

E-mail: [tcworker@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tcworker@xtra.co.nz)

Call in to the office at the Medical Centre just inside front door 69a Orawia Road, Tuatapere

## 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



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!

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



## TUATAPERE LIONS CLUB



Come join us!

Are you keen to lend a hand and have a good yarn while you're at it?

The Tuatapere Lions are a friendly bunch who like helping out around the community & having a bit of a social get-together along the way.

From local projects to lending a hand where needed, we're all about neighbours helping neighbours.

You don't need any special skills - just a willing attitude and a bit of community spirit!

New faces are always welcome!

If you'd like to get involved, or just see what we're about, we'd love to hear from you.

### Get in touch:

**President**

Shirley Crack - 027 321 1564

**Secretary**

Maurice Green - 027 246 4857

## NEED A JP?

The following Justices are available by appointment:



### Tuatapere:

Karen Hammond 027 885 6381  
Mon- Fri by Appointment Only

Keri Potter 027 526 3137

### Blackmount:

Nicky Baker 027 643 5880



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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Helen McKay**  
**28.11.38 - 26.03.26**

The McKay Family warmly invites you all to join us in celebrating Helen's life.

Venue: Waiau Town & Country Club  
Date: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May  
Time: 2pm

Please stay and join us for afternoon tea as we share stories and memories.

Feel free to wear a touch of tartan.



## 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

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

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

## TARGET SHOOTING SOUTHLAND

Have you thought of small bore rifle shooting which is known in Southland as target shooting?



Tuatapere meet on a Wednesday nights  
7:30pm, in the RSA Hall.

**Contact:** Kevin Daly (03) 234 5162 or  
Quinton Erskine (03) 226 6969

## 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

## WAIAU MEMORIAL LIBRARY

**Library Hours: Fridays**



10:00am - 11:30am

2:30pm - 4:00pm

7:00pm - 8:00pm

*We have free*



## 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

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



# Tui Laundrette

5 Orawia Rd, Tuatapere

8am - 9pm  
daily

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Luke, Francine and Winnie Wikstrom

**027 2773 925**

## Tūatapere Book Sale 2026 supported by Tūatapere Lions Club



### Central & Western Archives **BOOK SALE GALORE**

**5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> June, 10am-2pm**

FUNDRAISER - on "Hay Day" Friday & Saturday  
Pipe Band Hall, 50 Main Rd, Tūatapere  
Next to CWA - Archives Heritage Hub  
+ Soup & Savoury or Cuppa & Cupcake \$3

If you have donations of books, puzzles, board games, console games, CD's, DVD's, or Art, just give us a call to get drop-off details.

**\*text or ph: 027-2114675, pickups if reqd\***

PLEASE don't bring items to the Archives, we have pest free premises!

Your Community = Your Archive Preserving our Local History

Having a weekly meeting, gathering or even just for a coffee call?  
Ring Coke 021 351 181



### Hens for Sale \$13 each

18 month old Brown Shavers  
Ex-commercial layers from Te Waewae Eggs  
True Southland Free-range



The next lot of chickens available will be available at the beginning of June, and every two months after that.

**Ph Rob 03 226 6805 or 022 044 2086**

### WANTED TO BUY

Possum Fur / Deer Velvet  
Hard Deer Antler

Phone Leith  
027 496 3721



### Loretta's House Cleaning Services

Available for cleaning services whenever needed.

Please contact Loretta  
**027 462 9527**





# TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE Community Board

Chairperson:  
Anne Horrell

Contact: 021 2169 808  
or email:  
altonlea.horrells@xtra.co.nz

## Exciting happenings continue in Tuatapere and our wider community including:

- The Blackmount Trail Ride on the 14<sup>th</sup> March - a wonderful well attended annual event and fundraiser for Hauroko Valley Primary School.
- The Southern Scooter Challenge on 21<sup>st</sup> March. On the journey from Invercargill to Te Anau it was great that the riders were treated to a wonderful morning tea at Orepuki (well done Orepuki Promotions) and a stop for lunch at Tuatapere. It was good to see our Mayor Rob Scott amongst the riding team in a very distinctive costume!
- The Shear, Eat, Drink Event at the Waiau Town & Country Club on 21<sup>st</sup> March.
- The Great Tuatapere Rubber Duck Race held on 28<sup>th</sup> March was another successful and enjoyable fundraiser for the Tuatapere Toy Library.
- The Riverton Harvest Festival on the 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> March.
- A community gathering at Orepuki was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> April to farewell long-time residents Allan and Ruth Dudfield. Best wishes and thank you Allan and Ruth for your wonderful community spirit and your contribution to life in Orepuki, Tuatapere and beyond over many years.
- JINGO at the Waiau Town and Country Club on 18<sup>th</sup> April - a fun, well-supported event with proceeds to the Waiau Area School PTA.

It's great to see a new business operating in Tuatapere. Best wishes to Luke, Francine and Winnie Wikstrom for a successful future with your laundrette business.

## Community Board News Update includes:

- The SDC Book Bus will next visit Orepuki on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1.00-1.30pm.
- Meetings were held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March with members of the Orawia Community (3:30pm Tuatapere) and the

Orepuki community (5.30pm Orepuki) to update the groups on progress re the repair work to the Orawia Community Centre and the refurbishment of the Monkey Island shelter. Both meetings were very well attended and positive. For the after service cuppa at Orawia on ANZAC Day the undamaged half of the community centre will be partitioned so that those in attendance can again enjoy mingling on this special morning.

- The carpet mentioned in the last WW report at RSA hall has been delivered to the Tuatapere Presbyterian Church for use with pre-school music sessions.
- The PD team have been doing some great work about town. Thank you to Malcolm and Errol for facilitating this.
- For those who may be interested in completing an application for the community housing please contact Lynette Chambers: **027 2282 399**.
- Trees of concern were identified on Elder Drive and have since been removed on 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> April. Thank you Gary Templeton for your advice!
- At the formal meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> April the following took place:
- A proposal was presented to the CB for the refurbishment of the shelter at Monkey Island. This proposal follows good consultation with the Orepuki community including a survey and two public meetings. The Community Board really appreciates the very constructive, positive contribution and feedback from the community. The CB passed the recommendation of this proposal for Council. The cost is estimated at \$112,000.
- Information was provided to the CB in regard to the lease of 50 Main Rd (Pipe Band Hall) to the

Tuatapere Lions Club. This follows a request to SDC by the Lions Club. The Community Board supported the issue of a deed of lease to the The Lions Club.

- A financial review of the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board (ending 28<sup>th</sup> February 2026) was presented as information to the CB.
- Cr Don Byars updated the CB on matters from recent SDC meetings.
- Our Community Partnership Leader Stella presented a newsy report on community leadership, operational and Council activities in the board area and across the district. A significant item was related to the Greenheart Reserve in Tuatapere. "Thank you again to everyone who took part in the Greenheart Reserve survey late last year. Your feedback has been shared and discussed, and it was noted that there was strong support for continuing with the original vision for the reserve. Based on the feedback received, the Community Board has given feedback to move to the next stage including planning for the removal of the Douglas Fir (pine) trees and preparing the site for future re-development. It's important to understand that once the pine trees are removed, the area will look very bare and heavily cleared for a period of time. All vegetation and tracks in that area will be removed and the site will be left with a layer of chipped material. This change may be quite shocking for some people at first, but it is a necessary step before new planting, tracks, and features can be developed. Once the area has been cleared, it will provide a clearer picture of the space available and help inform what the community would like to see the area redeveloped into, including planting, paths, open spaces, and other future features. The Community Board is looking forward to considering concepts once the site is ready and thanks you for your ongoing interest in Greenheart Reserve."
- The Chairperson provided an update of activities she has been involved with since the previous meeting. This was followed by Board members providing an update on their various portfolios.
- The next formal meeting of the TTWCB will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 3.30pm. Location to be advised. All welcome!

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**Duties include (but are not limited to):**

- Tractor driving and basic machinery operation;
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We require you to have a valid driver's license and reliable transport with a good work ethic, punctuality, and ability to follow instructions.

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**Alister Sanford: 027 438 2248**

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# WAI AU HEALTH TRUST – May 2026

## 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

Alternate-Tuesday's- Virtual GP Danuta Amelung – 9.00am-1.00pm

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

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

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

Phoning early helps us fit in urgent patients, plan our day, provide timely care, and manage our team's workload. Our reception hours are 8:30am–12.30pm & 1.30pm-5:00pm. Staff are unavailable outside these times- thank you for helping us provide the best possible healthcare

## Flu Vaccines 2026

Flu vaccines are now available at our practice. Please book via ManageMyHealth or phone us to make an appointment. In many cases, the vaccine is free. The cost of an unsubsidised flu vaccine is \$40.00.

## Heidi AI Technology

To support and enhance the care we provide, our medical centre uses an AI-assisted clinical documentation tool called Heidi. Heidi helps clinicians by securely recording and summarising consultations, allowing them to focus more on listening to you and less on note-taking. Your consultation may be transcribed using Heidi, and this information is used solely to create accurate clinical notes. Your privacy and confidentiality remain our highest priority. Heidi operates in accordance with strict privacy and security standards, and your information is handled with care at all times. If you have any questions, or if you would prefer not to have Heidi used during your consultation, please let our team know.

## Day Activities Programme

We offer a day programme for people aged 65 and over. This provides an opportunity to spend time with others in a friendly and supportive environment. Participants enjoy morning tea and lunch, play games, share stories, and simply enjoy each other's company. Many find these days a valuable way to get out and about, particularly if they are feeling isolated or would like some time away from home. If you would like more information, please contact us.

## Financial Support

If you are experiencing financial difficulties that may be preventing you from accessing healthcare, please speak with a member of our team. We have a range of funding options available and can help determine what support you may be eligible for.

Our focus is always to provide the best possible care to everyone in our community.

## Kind Regards

**Jo Sanford (Manager) 0272950429**



**Wai au 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*

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

*Physiotherapist*  
*Monday*  
*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*

## ARTS CONTRACTING LTD

### FREIGHT TUATAPERE

Tuatapere to Invercargill and Return Daily  
for all your freight requirements.

Phone Brendon Diack 027 231 9708



**Summer Hours**  
**10am-4pm**  
**Tues-Sat**  
(except Stat. Hols)

Available for group bookings outside  
Public open hours / Weekends. If you and  
your family, or history group or society would  
like to visit, just let us know in advance.  
E: [CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com](mailto:CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com) or  
Ph/Txt: 027-2114-675



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*Western Wanderer Readers*



To WW readers, here is our end-of-Term 1 wrap-up. We're all set for Term 2 and look forward to sharing more updates with you soon. If you'd like to stay connected, you can follow along on our Facebook page.



Our Year 5 and 6 team travelled to Rugby Park, to compete in the Rippa Rugby Festival. They demonstrated great teamwork and showed growth in their skills as the games progressed. The team achieved a mix of wins, a draw, and a loss, and represented the school with enthusiasm and determination. Thank you to our whānau for supporting the team. We also had 15 swimmers represent Hauroko Valley at the Western Swimming Sports in Aparima. Every member of the team displayed fabulous swimming, sportsmanship, and team spirit. Thank you to the families who supported us in hosting this event, making it a success!



To end Term 1, we held a House Day led by our Year 7 & 8 House Leaders. A variety of activities encouraged students to work together, strengthening our sense of mana whānau. This was showcased throughout the day, with tuakana-teina relationships in action. Outstanding chants & wearing of house colours demonstrated.





The Blackmount Trail Ride, Lillburn Chapter II, was a fantastic day, with 635 riders taking part. As our school's major annual fundraiser, it represents a significant commitment of time and effort. Our Home & School team starts planning early to secure sponsorship and coordinate the many moving parts needed to bring the event together. To our Home and School team—thank you for your dedication and hard work; you truly are outstanding. On the day itself, the event is a real team effort. We are incredibly grateful to our families, friends, land owners, and wider school community who generously give their time and energy to support the smooth running of the day. The trail ride is a highlight for our students; many enjoy participating on their motorbikes across the various trails. On behalf of Hauroko Valley, thank you to our valued sponsors, committed supporters, and enthusiastic riders. We look forward to welcoming you back in 2027.



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## In Honour Of Our First Patron - Margaret Thomas

It's now a year since the CWA and our whole community and district lost Margaret Thomas. We miss her. She was so involved in the Community & Heritage Hub from the beginning.

She supported our formation and her very generous donations of historical materials have made us what we are today.

Not a day goes by where we don't get items she donated out to help the many locals and visitors to our facility. Margaret's legacy lives on for all.

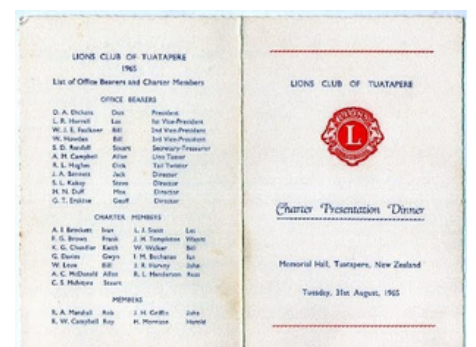
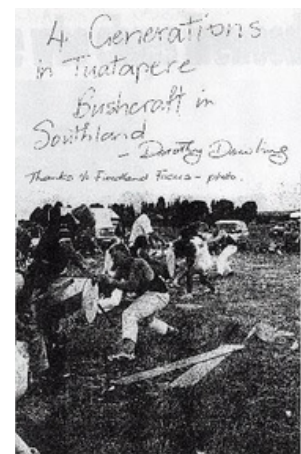
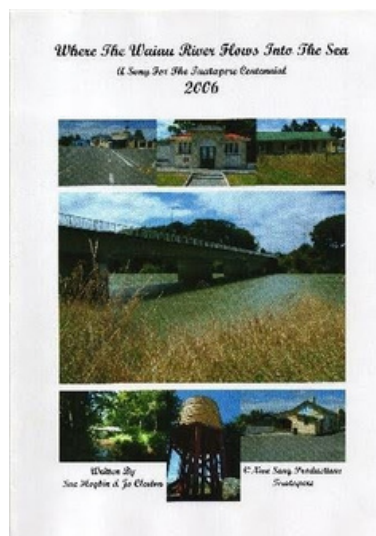


Margaret (middle) at the CWA opening in 2023, and being appointed as Patron



Margaret loved the CWA hub her family visiting her there, seen left & right

Some of the wonderful archives & records Margaret donated, shown below:



# Kokay Family History

Margaret Thomas saw collecting and caring for our history as so important.



Steve & Connie Kokay, with their children (l-r) Verona, Margaret, Leslie, Ilona

Her father, Steve Kokay's family came from Csongrād, Hungary in 1911, but other relations had immigrated to the Tūātapere district earlier. A seat now standing outside Greenheart Reserve commemorates them all.

Steve and his wife Connie were to live at 'Arpad' down at Papatotara.



Connie & Steve Kokay later in life

Steve created a roading business with a homemade Gravel Crushing plant. Designed and built by Steve & Syd Harvey, a well-known local engineer, this was to travel around the district on jobs.



Steve Kokay Jnr's, Gravel Crushing Plant (on the truck) & machinery

Retiring in 1956, Steve & Connie returned to his homeland for a visit, getting caught in the Hungarian Revolution there, and they had to be extracted. Steve was also to represent the Wallace County.

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# Colac Bay & District Progress League Inc.

Submitted by Deen McKay

The hard work and planning for our Anzac Celebration Day will have come to fruition for this issue, so a full coverage will be covered for your next edition.

It has been an extremely busy period for our committee of 21 planning our 'moment in time', committing to investigating the purchase of a community defibrillator and of course the Surf Statue replacement with the following update:

## Things are tracking really well with the surfer statue rebuild!

We've now got just \$28,000 left to raise of our \$140,000 target – and with funding applications in the pipeline and more fundraising plans underway, we're on the home stretch.

Next up is a mega meat raffle, made possible thanks to some awesome local support – including a prime Hereford-cross cattle beast from Oraka Farms. Keep an eye out for that one ... it's going to be a biggie.

We're also closing in on choosing the artist for the new statue. Working alongside SDC through the process has been a great experience, and we've stayed firm on what matters most: wave, surfer, board – and a design that'll last 30+ years with minimal upkeep.

From there, we've given artists the freedom to get creative – and we've been seriously impressed with what's come through.

We're nearly there and can't wait to share who's been selected. Watch this space!



Colac Bay community members Lana Winders, left, and Deen McKay, part of the Colac Bay Progress League that are raising funds to have the surfing statue replaced.

Robyn Edie / Southland Times

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## PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST UPDATE

This year, we're encouraging the community to come together in support of the Waiau Town and Country Club's Pink Ribbon Breakfast.

To help ensure strong support for this important cause - especially with the rising cost of living - Tui Base Camp will not be hosting a separate event.

Thank you for your understanding, and we warmly encourage everyone to support the WTCC breakfast.

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## WEEKLY HAPPENINGS

### THURSDAY

Free Pool  
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Happy Hour  
Meat Raffles  
from 5.30pm

### SUNDAY

Pool Competition  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY MAY 10  
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# THANK YOU TO OUR AMAZING *Community!*



The PTA of Waiau Area School wishes to extend a heartfelt **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our recent Jingo Event – a fun-filled evening that brought our community together for a great cause.

Thanks to your generosity, we are one step closer to our goal of raising funds for new playground equipment for our tamariki. Your support makes a real difference!



We are incredibly grateful to Tuatapere Lions Club for their extremely generous donation of

## \$5,000.00

towards our fundraiser. Your kindness and commitment to our school and community is truly inspiring.

Every donation, raffle ticket, sponsored prize and helping hand made our Jingo Event a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many local businesses, whānau and friends getting behind our school.

We are so grateful to be part of such a supportive and caring community.

**Together, we're building something bright for the future of our children.**



## THANK YOU

*from the PTA*  
Waiau Area School

**PTA & Whānau**  
**WAIIAU AREA SCHOOL PTA**  
**AGM MEETING**  
**THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 3:15PM**  
**A GENERAL MEETING WILL FOLLOW**  
**All are WELCOME!**

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**Kia Ora Western Wanderer Readers,**

**Year 9**

The Yr 9's have had lots of fun during Term 1. They got to create lots of magic in the Foods Room that they have shared with their whānau, community and little friends down at the Tuatapere Playgroup. There was also a cross curricular study on 'The Power of Protest' where they studied the film Uproar and then looked at the impact of the Springbok Tour on New Zealand and South Africa.

**Year 10**

The Year 10's have been spending a lot of time understanding and preparing for the CAA's (Common Assessment Activities) which is all part of their preparation for NCEA in Literacy and Numeracy. The first round of assessments are being sat in May followed by another opportunity in September.



**Year 13**

Another busy year has started at WAS for our senior students. Our Year 11-13 students of course have a focus on their academic work, and are trying to work towards gaining their NCEA Levels. At the same time our students are working hard to be positive role-models for other students in the school.

We have several students that travel into SIT one day per week (either for the whole year or for one term) to complete courses. We hope these students take the opportunity to enjoy some time learning in another environment. Also we have students that learn online where subjects are not available to be taught at WAS. This can be a challenging way to learn, and we appreciate the efforts that our students put into their learning.

Some of our students are not too far away from transitioning into the workplace at some point. These students may have the opportunity to complete Gateway. This is work experience with an employer and the chance to gain credits while doing so. This can be a great learning opportunity for our students and we appreciate the opportunities that are being offered by the employers.

## SENIOR MATHS

This year Waiau Area School has three mathematics classes from Years 11 to 13.

The NCEA Level One class for Year 11 has just finished a standard on Statistics and Data, and have started another standard on Mathematical Methods. Some students are working towards the numeracy assessment in May that allows students to gain an NCEA Level.

In Year 12 the Level 2 class has covered topics on Trigonometry and Networks, and is now learning about sequences and series. Some students have also started learning about coordinate geometry.

In Y13 the Level 3 class has studied standards on Critical Path Analysis, Simultaneous Equations and Linear Programming. They are now looking at a topic on Trigonometry.

## SENIOR HEALTH & PE

The Senior Health & PE class have been investigating safety in the outdoors through a range of activities such as caving and tramping with the Juniors in the local area. They have also been sharing their knowledge and expertise with other kura, teaching Year 7&8 students from Fiordland College how to surf during their camp at Colac Bay.

Congratulations to this year's PALs (Physical Activity Leaders) who are trained and ready to deliver fun and safe sessions for our Juniors at breaktimes.

A special mention goes to James Miller who qualified from Southland Athletics to compete at the South Island Secondary Schools Athletics Championships in Timaru. James finished 4th in his age group for U16 Boys Javelin at the South Island meet. Ka pai!




Good luck to all our students as they compete their year, and we look forward to success and further progress.

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

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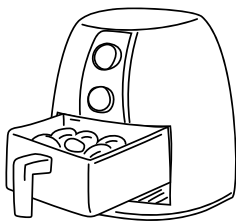


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# Budget-Friendly Recipes



## AirFryer Series - Part 2

Hope you enjoyed last month's two easy air-fryer dinners that you can make in about 20 minutes, using ingredients commonly available in supermarkets. Here's two more simple, budget-friendly recipes that are great for weeknights.

### Air-Fryer Pork & Kumara Bowl

#### Ingredients

- 2 kumara, diced
- 250g pork mince or sliced pork
- 1 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tsp honey
- 1 tsp garlic
- 1 tbsp oil

#### Method

- Toss kumara with oil and cook at 200°C for 10 minutes.
- Add pork mixed with soy sauce, honey, and garlic.
- Cook another 8-10 minutes, stirring once.
- Serve over rice or with salad.

#### **A Little Oil Goes a Long Way!**

Even though it's an "air" fryer, a light spray or teaspoon of oil helps food crisp up nicely—especially veggies, chips, and crumbed items. Too much oil = soggy food, so keep it light.



### Crispy Fish Fillets & Chips

#### Ingredients

- 2 white fish fillets (hoki, tarakihi, or warehou)
- 1 cup frozen chips
- ½ cup flour
- 1 egg
- ¾ cup panko breadcrumbs
- Lemon wedges

#### Method

- Coat fish in flour → egg → breadcrumbs.
- Add chips to the basket.
- Air fry at 200°C for 12-15 minutes.
- Serve with lemon and tartare sauce.

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## *Our Local Historic Notes*

by George Charlton

In recent editions of the Western Wanderer George has contributed articles which are extracts 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. Sadly Helen McKay (wife of Val and daughter in law of Geordie and Amy McKay) died in Blenheim on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

A separate tribute will be included in the next edition of the Western Wanderer.

Mary McKay's Memories from Childhood are continued below.

### **Pheasants**

by Mary Bunting (McKay)

Our mother was an early Greenie! Mum loved nature, birds and plants; hence her big adventure! Mum heard that the Acclimatization Society or its equivalent in the 50s was encouraging the breeding and release of pheasants. Armed with newly acquired knowledge gleaned from library books off she went. Arriving home with pheasants' eggs she encouraged a broody hen to adopt them as her own. Dad and Val built a pen under the plum tree over near the hen run. A work of art enclosure that had wire netting sides and top with a little house for the broody hens to sit in till the eggs hatched. Tufts of grass were left unmowed so that when the pheasant chicks hatched they could play and hide there.

The broody hen sat and sat and some of the eggs were lost to stoats and weasels. Finally the day arrived and out popped the pheasant chicks. Cute wee yellow chicks that quickly developed their hard feathers to become

shades of black and tan. The stoats and weasels were also partial to these chicks so Dad had to set rabbit traps to catch them. The chicks began fending for themselves, outgrowing their adoptive mother; the broody hen was returned to the hen house. The chicks grew and were encouraged to eat food they would find in the wild. To vary their diet Dad would kill a sheep and hang part of it in the plum tree above the pen. When the flies blew the carcass the maggots would drop into the pheasant pen. Sometimes we would have to hit the carcass with a stick to increase the amount of maggots the pheasants had to eat.

Mum had mixed success hatching out eggs over the years. I can't remember if any pheasants actually got released into the bush. One male pheasant stayed around the house and became the bane of our lives attaching himself to friend and foe alike. Resplendent in fine red-brown feathers with his long tail behind him he would prowl about hiding in the hedge, then lash out with beak and feet attaching himself to shoulders, arms, backs, or anywhere he landed and dug in his claws, shrieking in his shrill voice crowing with glee. Norman McNay and Mervin Hourston, who delivered our groceries from their store at Orepuki, would not come past the drive. They had been attacked too many times! Visitors began to ask where the pheasant would be. Then he began attacking the family, particularly Nana who would be creeping up the lawn as fast as her legs would carry her and out he would fly, his wee beady eyes glistening as he landed on her back or head, his claws breaking her skin. He went from being a proud magnificent brightly coloured bird to a feared feathered dangerous monster.

Dad shot him and Mum never hatched another pheasant!



(Mary McKay's Memories from Childhood to be continued in upcoming issues ...

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## 34th ANNUAL HAY DRIVE



### TUATAPERE DISTRICTS LIONS

Hay and Baleage Competition

**Friday 5th June 2026**

**Rabco Contracting at 134 Grove Burn Road**

*The Hay and Baleage will be auctioned at 3pm on the afternoon.*

*The recipients of the day's profits are*

*Hospice Southland, Tuatapere Free Ambulance - Upgrade,  
& Education Fund within the Community.*

Those entering the competition will have a chance of winning the very generous major prizes, AS WELL AS an almost guarantee of collecting a spot prize on the 5th of June **so long as they are present on the day**. FARMERS WHO DONATE 3 OR MORE ENTRIES WILL HAVE AN EARLY CHANCE AT THE PRIZE BOARD.

One entry comprises of:

- 8 small bales per entry or
- 1 large hay bale or
- 1 bale of baleage

- Donations of straw will be gratefully received.
- A Lions Member will contact farmers approximately 1 week prior to the competition.
- The auction of entries will be at 3pm.
- We hope to sell 200 bales baleage, 200 conventional bales and 50 large bales of hay.

This year we have several new sponsors as well as more demonstrations of ALL the new motorbikes and some new 4 x 4 utes. Farm machinery items will be on display.

Several competitions during the day include:

- The Best Swede )
- Best Fodder Beet ) Generous prizes for each event
- The Best Turnip ) PLEASE HAVE ENTRIES IN BY 1PM
- The Best Chou ) FOR JUDGING

**3PM** Main Auction of Hay,Baleage,Straw and Larger sundry items.

**4PM** Prize presentation for competition entries and spot prizes

The judging will be done during the morning of the 5th of June.

The Lions Club will be providing food and refreshments at a very reasonable cost.

You are all invited to turn up early and participate in the scrumptious light meal that will be available at lunch time.

**We will acknowledge the generosity of our sponsors prior, during and after the competition.**

With over 100 sponsors for our competition day we have a fantastic prize list.

We remind people that they **MUST be present at prize giving to participate in the "spot" prizes** at the conclusion of the major presentations.

***Over the years the patronage from farmers has increased to almost 100% support,  
So let's try to make our 34<sup>th</sup> competition the best ever!***

For any further information please contact the Committee:

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 Charlie Copeland 027 669 1529      Quinton Donald 027 438 8281

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The grant supports local projects that strengthen our community and improve the wellbeing of residents.

We invite individuals, groups and organisations with great ideas to apply.

Together, we can make the wider Tuatapere community an even better place to live, work and connect.

APPLICATIONS  
CLOSE  
31 MAY 2026

FOR AN APPLICATION FORM & GUIDE SHEET PLEASE CONTACT:  
Dale Egerton 027 3106 199 or email [humptracktrust@gmail.com](mailto:humptracktrust@gmail.com)