



Tuatapere | Clifden | Orawia | Blackmount | Monowai | Colac Bay | Orepuki
 Cover Photo: Greenheart Reserve before the felling of the Douglas Fir Trees - with permission from Trevor Willetts

Issue 291
JULY 2026

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Every Week <i>Reminders</i> Bootcamp at Orepuki Hall - every Mon 6am / 5:30pm	Waiau Valley Preschool Music 63 Main Str 10:00 - 11:30am	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	
StoryTime @ Waiau Memorial Library 10am		1 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	2 Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den Book Club 10:30am Tui Base Camp	3 Term 2 Ends	4 School Holidays	5
6 Dr Elder Bursary Trust AGM 7pm	7	8 Waiau Smallbore Rifle Club Tuatapere OPEN NIGHT 7pm RSA Hall \$5	9  Tui Base Camp 11:30am	10  Quiz Night Tui Base Camp 7:30pm	11 Kids Craft restarts @The Den 1-4pm Mini Rock & Mineral Show - Whare Taupua Invercargill 10am - 4pm	12
13	14 PGG Wrightsons Annual In-Store Day 11:30am - 2pm	15 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den Waiau Smallbore Rifle Club Tuatapere OPEN NIGHT 7pm RSA Hall \$5	16 Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den	17	18	19
20 Term 3 Begins	21	22	23	24	25	26 Bingo WTCC 2pm
27	28 SDC Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre	29 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	30	31		
<i>Coming up ...</i>	Tui Base Camp Lambing & Calving Specials 1 August	Next Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Meeting 3:30pm WTCC 4th August	SDC Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre 25 August			

Want your event here? Let us know at 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 7575 983

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

1.9 / 2.5 old glasshouse to
give away for FREE!

If anyone wants it they can
come and pick it up.

Ring **Chris** for any questions
027 696 1179



SHOP HOURS UPDATE

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

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

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



WAI AU COMMUNITY THEATRE

BRINGS YOU

FRIDAY 4 JULY



POSTPONED

WAI AU AREA SCHOOL
HALL 7.30PM

Join us for our celebration
of 62 years!

TICKETS:

ADULTS \$30 | STUDENTS \$15

No need to bring anything - just your
ticket & yourself (& friends)!

We will provide refreshments:
wine/juice/tea/coffee, a delicious
supper ... and a GREAT show!

BOOKINGS: FROM MONDAY 6 JULY
phone/text Anne:

021 2169 808 9am-5pm

Come along for some
pre calving/lambing fun!



Crockery to break up for
mosaics please!

Phone 022 103 9327

Or deliver to The Den
on craft days

**Soup
'n Chat**



Tui Base Camp - 2nd Thursday of the month!
11.30-1.30pm

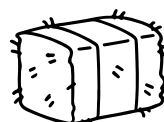
Please contact Community Support Worker
Tina on 027 7575 983

to book your spot no later than
the week before.

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

Pop up secondhand shop needs help if you would like to volunteer one Saturday a month please contact Helen 022 1039027

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

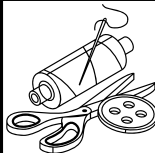
1st & 3rd Thursdays of each month

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
\$5/family

@ 'The Den' Erskine St, Tuatapere

Learn new craft skills and have fun!

This is a Christian group.

For information: Helen 0221039327



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**

Waiau Valley Preschool Music



Where: 63 Main Road, Tuatapere

When: Tuesdays

Time: 10:00 - 11:30

Donation: \$2 per family

Come along and enjoy some fun and music.

Bring some morning tea for the children to have after the session.

Hot drinks and biscuits will be provided for the adults.



For further information or to enrol contact Nette on **0274 407 517**

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**

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

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@extra.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

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual general meeting
(AGM) of the Dr Elder Bursary
trust will be held on:

6th July 2026
7pm

Venue: Ngarita Dixon's house -
15 Bridge Street, Tuatapere

**We are currently seeking new
trustees to join our Trust.**

Please contact
Dale Egerton 027 310 6199
for more information.

TUATAPERE RSA

It is now time to pay your subs
if you are already a member.

Subs are **\$25.00**

Pay into ANZ:

06 0958 0007999 00

Please put **your Name, sub26,**
in Reference



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



88.2 FM

Hits of the 80's, 90's & Today

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



TUATAPER 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

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 **4:30pm** 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: 021 580 610

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

TUATAPER 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/>

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

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

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 July (for AUGUST'S Issue) yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com

WESTERN SOUTHLAND HEALTH SHUTTLE SERVICE - CHANGES COMING

There are some changes coming about the present Health Shuttle.

With the support of Hato Hone St John, the Western Southland Health Shuttle is going to be managed and funded under a new umbrella, being the Otautau Community Health Trust & Otautau Medical Centre and be called Western Health Shuttle.

It will still cover the same area, being Otautau, Riverton, Tuatapere, Ohai and Nightcaps and provide the same service to all Western Southland residents. You do not need to be a registered patient at Otautau Medical Centre to use the health shuttle.

THINGS THAT WON'T CHANGE

- The wonderful volunteers behind the driver's wheel.
- The donation system currently in place – just change of bank account if your donation is paid by direct credit.

THINGS THAT WILL CHANGE

- Who you contact to make a booking: Contact the Otautau Medical Centre, **03 225 8099** between **10am and 3.30pm** as **from the 1st of June**. Please give us at least 24 hours' notice before your appointment.
- The vehicle that will transport you to your appointment will be different.
- A new co-ordinator, Marg

As of the 1st of June, contact the Otautau Medical Centre between 10.00am and 3.30pm Monday to Friday to book the shuttle. Outside of these times please contact Marg on 027 331 5290.

PLEASE NOTE: If you are needing to book the St John shuttle from Invercargill to Dunedin, you still contact the same number as before, being **0800 103 046**.

If you require the Western Health Shuttle to transport you to Invercargill to meet the Dunedin St John shuttle, follow the above. 7



Waiau Memorial Library

When: Mondays
10 - 10.30 am

Where: The Library

Who: Under 5's

If you're under 5 and love stories come long to the Library every Monday for Storytime. Bring along a little friend for Ratty to play with, he loves to play Hide and Seek.



MINI ROCK & MINERAL SHOW / OPEN DAY

FROM BEDROCK TO BRILLIANT!

DISCOVER. EXPLORE. BE AMAZED!
A fun day for the whole family!



ROCKS & MINERAL DISPLAYS
See amazing treasures up close!

HOW TO TUMBLE STONES
Watch, learn and get inspired!

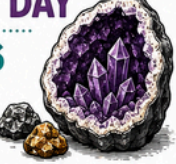
ROCK DISPLAYS
Explore the beauty and stories of Earth's natural wonders!

SHOP & SUPPORT
Club members selling rocks, minerals, fossils, tools & more!

KOHA ENTRY (GOLD COIN)

SOUTHLAND GEOLOGICAL & LAPIDARY CLUB
MINI ROCK & MINERAL SHOW / OPEN DAY

11 JULY 2026
10AM - 4PM
WHARE TAUPUA
34 FORTH STREET
INVERCARGILL



SEE IT. TOUCH IT. LOVE IT. ROCKS ARE AWESOME!

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



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INCLUDING DIRECT DRILL
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**Barrett Ag Ltd
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E: barrettagltd@gmail.com
FB: Barrett Ag**



TUATAPERE AMENITIES TRUST

Annual Distributions 2026-2027 year

The Tuatapere Amenities Trust meets each year to consider applications for funding submitted by local organisations for projects they are undertaking.

The Trustees wish to announce the successful applicants for the 2026-2027 year:

Tuatapere Senior Citizens Assn

Towards new crockery \$707.00

Waiau Smallbore Rifle Club

Towards additional equipment \$3,031.00

Tuatapere Bowling Club

Towards upgrade of the kitchen and pantry area \$14,623.00

Waiau Squash Racquets Club Inc

Towards replacing existing cladding and roof inside the court area \$25,000

The Orepuki Community Promotions Charitable Trust – Orepuki Community Fitness Collective – Tuatapere Branch

Towards additional fitness equipment \$6,000

PINK RIBBON BRUNCH OREPUKI

A very successful morning at Orepuki Tavern on June 7 raising \$4228.64 for Breast cancer. A heartfelt thank you to Melissa Horrell for sharing her journey.



Now to our wonderful sponsors A BIG THANK YOU

Real NZ	Flossie	Orepuki Tavern
Pankhurst Mill	Tuatapere Service Station	
Eileen & Mog	The Red Door	Thomas Family
Ninety Nine South	Riverton Pharmacy	
Raewyn Omerod	Four Square Tuatapere	
Waiau Shearing	McCracken Family	
Riverton Butchery	Little Red Caboose	
Invercargill Licensing Trust	PGG Tuatapere	
George & Annette Watkinson	Ocean Shell	

I must mention the worker bees who were essential to the running of this event:

Marg, Di, Tracy, Cathy, Willie, Kim & Bronwyn!

Thanks everyone! If I've forgotten anyone I'm sorry!

Cheers Coke

PASTURE METER READING THAT'S QUICKER AND EASIER, WITH AT THE GATE REPORTS

TROUGH CLEANING SERVICES

- Specialist in quality pasture meter reading with advanced sensor technology
- Provide 200 measurements per second or 18,500 readings over a single 500m pass
- Provides a fully integrated electronic support system
- Provides a secure web-based storage of information with easy access
- Prompt generated feed wedges for rapid decision making and seasonal comparisons
- Generate reports at the gate, supplying valuable pasture cover data and comparable results every time
- Improve heath & increase animal hydration
- Enhance production & improve water quality
- Reduce bacterial/algae contamination of trough water

CLEAN TROUGH WATER MEANS IMPROVED LIVESTOCK HEALTH

Now 2 bikes available for pasture metering

Brett George • P 027 351 3408
E platemeterservices@gmail.com

Deb's Sewing & Repair Service

mending to making
and everything in between

Got a tricky job? Just ask!

Call or text **021 030 5667**

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SUPERIOR

Customised Solid Fertiliser Solutions

Contact your local Superior Specialist - Tim Adcock 021 418224



TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE *Community Board*

Chairperson:
Anne Horrell

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

Well, here we are now officially in Winter! On a recent trip to Australia Nicol and I (mainly in Victoria) were marvelling at the fact that the temperatures were hardly exceeding those at home at the time. However, I do love our distinct seasons, each having a beauty of its own, especially in this majestic part of the world.

Whatever the season our communities continue to be hives of activity.

We have had:

- Wonderful, well attended ANZAC services at Orawia, Orepuki and Tuatapere. It was a delight to be able to again meet over a cuppa at the Orawia Community Centre following the Dawn Service. At that point the less damaged part of the Centre was prepared and tidied for the occasion. Repair work is continuing. Thank you to the committee and the Orawia folk for your forbearance in awaiting the total use of your great community facility.
- Wool and Craft Days (Wednesdays), Patchwork and Sewing Days (Thursdays) at The Den and Book Club at Tui Base Camp (1st Thurs).
- Meetings of the Orepuki Promotions Group and the AGM of the Monowai Village Services Society. Huge thanks to Neil Wohlers who has stepped out of the Chair role after a marvellous contribution to the smooth running of the village and congratulations to another great village member, Brent Youngman, who has taken over the role. Neil will continue to facilitate the installation project of fire-fighting water supply tanks.
- Pink breakfast fundraisers at Tuatapere (23 May) and at Orepuki (7 June).
- Lions Hay Drive (5 June), Archives Hub Book Sale (5/6 June), Community Market Days, Soup and Chat Sessions, Quiz Night WAS fundraiser.
- Great activities for pre-schoolers: storytelling at the library, movement to music at the Church and playcentre sessions.

- Continued great work by Tui Trails volunteers and the Pest Control group.
- Busy, fun times with winter sports.

The Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board acknowledges all the wonderful things happening that promote involvement, a sense of well-being and community spirit. **Welcome to those new to our community.** Please reach out to our friendly folk if you seek involvement.

The 'piece de resistance' of great activities of late was the Grand Opening of the Tuatapere Heritage Rail Precinct on 20 June. This included cutting of the official ribbon by Mayor Rob Scott informative speeches by Trust members Jason and Wayne and a beautiful presentation by the Waimatuku Pipe Band and local Highland Dancers.

At the same time delicious coffee and treats could be enjoyed prepared and served by Wendy, Sonia, Lily and James. Thank you to those who took the time out to celebrate with the Tuatapere Heritage Railway Trust and staff members of The Station.

We, as a Community Board, have huge admiration and respect for this team who have worked tirelessly, within a budget and committing countless voluntary hours, to bring this project to fruition. Congratulations to all the team! Thank You! Best wishes for a very successful future.

To quote Mayor Rob "It didn't need a match - it needed a spark!"

Other Community Board News:

- The Southland District Council Book bus service to Orepuki is going very well. Thank you to those who support this great facility and to Coke who attends with her coffee cart. Next visit: 28 July (1-1.30pm).
- Community Trust South members held their meeting at WTCC on 29 April. This was a good chance to connect with this funding body and to share information on local projects and activities.

- The Monowai Suspension Bridge deck will be replaced within the next year.
- Work will have begun in the removal of Douglas Fir trees in the Greenheart Reserve. We know that this site will not look pretty at first but please be reassured that we will ensure that the area will be restored to 'a thing of beauty' and an attractive central community space. We look forward to ongoing communication with you, our community.
- A formal meeting of the Tuatapere. Te Waewae Community Board was held on. 2 June at the Orawia Community Centre. The agenda included:
- Project Scope Confirmation to proceed with locally funded community facilities projects as budgeted in the Annual Plan (2026/2027) including exterior re-painting following structural repairs of the Orawia Community Centre, some exterior re-painting of the Tuatapere RSA Hall and equipment renewal at the Jack and Mattie Bennett Memorial Playground.
- The Community Board approved unbudgeted expenditure of up to \$20,000 for the Tuatapere RSA Hall chimney removal and a seismic report.
- The Community Board considered applications to the Community Partnership Fund. (Round: March 2026). The following allocations were approved:
 - Clifden Suspension Bridge Reserves Planting Group-\$1,200;
 - Tuatapere Reserve Pest Control Group - \$1,000;
 - Orepuki Community Promotions (Orepuki/Waiarau Fitness Project) - \$1,700;
 - Tuatapere & Districts Promotions (CWA Archives Colour laser Printer) - \$900
- A report was presented: an overview of the matters that have been considered at Council meetings (1 April 2026 - 13 May 2026).
- The Community Partnership Leader presented a report on community leadership, operational and council activities in the Board area and across the district. This included project updates on the Tuatapere Railway Station refurbishment and the Orawia Community Centre repair work.

Alex Reid CONTRACTING

**Paddock Cultivation from
Ploughing to Sowing
Dry Hire available
Aerating
Direct Drilling
Ridging
Mulching**



Dairy Lane Maintenance

Tip Trailers • Vibrating Roller • 2 Tip Trucks

Sheep Conveyor

Drenching, Vaccination etc • 3 way draft

Large Skid Steer for calf shed cleaning, loading Muck Spreaders etc

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



Rural Contractors
NEW ZEALAND

**PHONE ALEX
0212775308 CELL
03 2255377 HOME**

Tūātapere Branch Railway - Milestones In History:

With refurbishment now complete and the official re-opening of the old Tūātapere Railway Station on 20 June - containing a café, information and heritage displays, we are looking back at the history of the Station itself, plus the other buildings, as well as the Tūātapere Branch Railway Line.



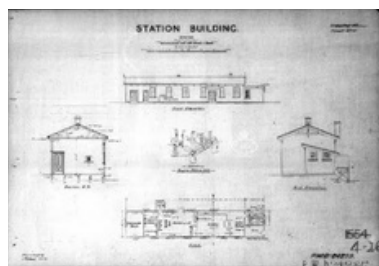
Official opening on 23 September 1909, the buildings were not yet finished! (above). The Branch Line opened to traffic on the 1 Oct 1909.

Garnet Hercules Mackley, CMG - is the first Stationmaster. Previously a Court Clerk at Orepuki, his railway career started in 1900 at Ōtautau. His illustrious career led him to later become General Manager of Railways!

FIRE!!

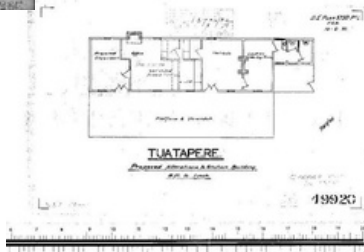
9 January 1915, the original Station (left), with Post & Telegraph Office, was lost in a blaze.

It was rebuilt smaller, only for the Railway (see plans below).



Left: Plans of the 1909 original Rail, P&T Station

Right: Plans of the rebuilt Rail Only Station.



20 October 1925 the Tūātapere Branch Line was opened out to Ōrawia, to further regional agricultural pursuits, including transporting Clifden Lime.

1954 - Passenger service between Invercargill to Tūātapere ceased 28 June.

1968 - by June, steam locomotives stopped as diesel took over. Tūātapere Town Board, asked Railways to remove the now disused steam buildings!

1 October 1970, Ōrawia extension closed. But on 25 September, there was a 'Last Train Ride' from Tūātapere to Ōrawia, with



all the district's school children, teachers and parents. There was a staged robbery 'hold up' too!



30 July 1976, the line to Tūātapere closed down.

The Historical Society advertised they had permission to open a museum here in 1979, but this did not eventuate. In 1998, Southland District Council compiled a report on the Station.

After repairs, the first commercial use of the old Railway Station was in 2003, but this venture did not last. Other local enterprises ran from here for a time.



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In 2008 Tūātapere Promotions group started repairs under Chair Jack Munro and by 2009, Colin Brown – the Fairfax rail enthusiast, was given the then unused building, left in a sorry state (seen below right), to repair it. These repairs did help, but again the station was to fall into disrepair, caused by more long periods of disuse. It has been ascertained that the Railway Station was repaired three times.



2019 – The Community Board considers restoring the station once more. In a town vote, not many responded, but most who did, wanted it retained.



2024 - Tūātapere Te Waewae Community Board gave custodianship to the Tūātapere Railway Heritage Trust, after the Station is made watertight. Then during 2025, the Railway Heritage Trust again renovates the Station. On 20 June 2026, The Station Café, Info Centre & Heritage displays officially open.





KIA ORA, KUMUSTA, AYUBOWAN
Western Wanderer Readers



Matai Class, including all Year 4 learners, joined Claire and Roger from Waiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust at Rakatu Wetlands. What a fantastic learning experience beyond the classroom. Students explored native flora and fauna, conservation, and participated in a discovery scavenger hunt. They asked thoughtful questions to deepen their understanding and clarify their learning. This was a wonderful opportunity to be environmentalists, scientists, explorers, and conservationists. Thank you!



Interschool, Western, and Southland Cross Country have been highlights of Term 2. Students competed in our combined interschool event with Thornbury Primary and Waiau Area School. For many, it was their first time running the trails through the Tuatapere Domain, and what a fantastic venue it was. This year, Waiau Area School hosted, with their PTA offering an amazing selection of food and drinks. The Tuatapere Domain was ideal for parking and gave spectators excellent views of both the start and finish. 21 HVP students qualified for the next round and continued training, arriving well prepared for the Western Southland Cross Country in Otautau. Nine then qualified to represent Western Southland at Waimumu. Congratulations to Ava (10 years), Lauren (11 years), Hadlee and Griffin (12 years), and Lola, Angus, Finley, Carter, and Flynn (13 years). In between these events, Angus D represented HVP at the South Island Cross Country at Oreti Sands, placing 7th—what an incredible achievement and experience!



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REAP Movement was held at HVP in our MPB, providing the perfect setup thanks to experts Maree and Naomi. The session, "Active Bodies, Curious Minds," enabled our youngest learners to choose play spaces that matched their energy levels, fostering resilience, self-regulation, confidence, and emotional awareness. Learners climbed, balanced, jumped, rolled, and swung, building strength, coordination, and the foundational skills needed to thrive in a learning environment.



Four teams of Hauroko Valley Primary students traveled to Winton to compete in the Young Einsteins Challenge. Students put their knowledge to the test across eight rounds. Our Year 5-6 teams, consisting of Nelly, Riley, Dara and Della, and Alex Ed, Memphis, Eve and Lauren, represented the school with enthusiasm and determination, working well together. The competition was closely contested in the Year 7-8 section, with only four points separating our two teams at one stage. Aydee, Finley, Jake, and Mason finished in an impressive 5th place. Congratulations to our team of Caitlin, Carter, Angus D, and Isaac, who achieved an outstanding 1st place overall. Until next time, ka kite!

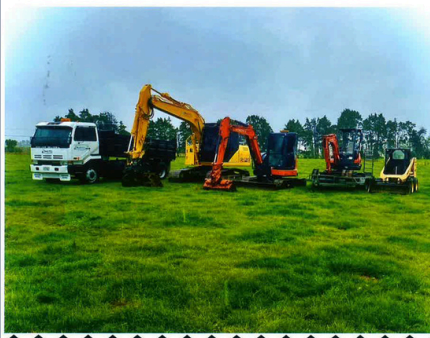


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TUATAPERE GOLF CLUB

Sent in by D Fowle

On Saturday we honoured one Doug Erskine.

Not because we had to, as Doug is already a Life Member of Tuatapere, but because we wanted to.

Doug and his wife Carol have played a huge part in our Tuatapere club over many decades. Doug always goes above and beyond for our club, and we truly appreciate it from the bottom of our hearts.

Doug, in the last few months, has hung his mower blades up, due to health issues. We, as a club, decided we wanted to honour Doug with something he, our members, visitors and future generations could see just how much we appreciate Doug's contribution to our Tuatapere Golf Club.

It only seemed fitting to place a plaque of recognition beside Allan and Nolene Campbell. Doug was truly humbled by this gesture - thanks once again Doug.

Little clubs like ours don't get by on grants, but by the generous donations of time by members. It is priceless and never really appreciated till it's gone. #volunteers



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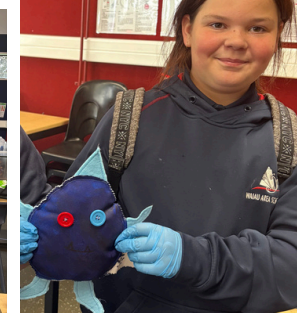
Kia Ora Western Wanderer Readers,

Art with Andrea Sexton

This term has been packed with activities relating to many things art.

- The Year 7&8 group spent some time designing and making fabric, 'Messy Monsters'.
- Room 2, Waiau River Landscapes.
- Wednesdays art Group, animal Portraits, and at Andrea's studio in Orepuki, working on fabulous seascapes.

Mrs Wilson and Andrea have also been working along staff and students to make a school wide Polyfest Art Entry, due week 11.



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FLIS - FREE LUNCHES IN SCHOOLS

The Free Lunches in Schools for WAS has been approved by the Ministry of Primary Industries for another year. This enables us to continue to provide healthy lunches for our students.

Although the students continue to eat their lunch in the school hall, we are trialling a new system where the whole school eats together rather than split into the same year levels.

This trial will continue until the end of this term to decide whether this will change permanently.

For our winter menu hot soup and a bread roll is always popular. We have added Beef Chow Mein and Toasted Sandwiches to the menu and continue to offer some of the favourites like Burgers and Pizza.



Jericho Wind Farm Community Fund

Pioneer Energy is proud to support local organisations and initiatives that make a positive impact in the communities around our Jericho Wind Farm through our two-yearly community fund.

Funding is available for not-for-profit groups and projects that align with one of the following focus areas:

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- Sport
- Volunteering Services
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Tūatapere Reserve Pest Control Group Charitable Trust

As we head through Autumn into Winter we remind you all to set those mouse traps & put some rat bait into your roof spaces. Rodents are seeking warmth for nesting up.

The Happenings:

Our Automated Traps are performing well in all blocks. Cleared out blocks are maintaining & perimeter traps are keeping new invasion at a minimum to the north in cemetery area. The reserve looks lush, with many seedlings evident in the forest floor.

Environment Southland has generously supplied us with 60 litres of bait for our automated traps.

Tui Reserve Trail Cam Project - 2x Thermal Trail Cams have arrived from 2040 Ltd. We are working with WAS to get the joint project up and running. Areas within the reserve have been identified.

We want to publicly acknowledge and thank our funders for this project:

- The Humpridge Track Charitable Trust
- Syd Slee Charitable Trust

Our Trust would like to acknowledge and thank all local trappers within the reserve prior to 2023.

The Reserve has benefited from these people over the decades & it certainly helped conserve this pristine patch.

Enjoy our local treasure.



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Colac Bay Progress League

Michelle Dallas, President

The Colac Bay Progress League never moves at a glacial pace. And the last couple of months are no exception!

Thank you to everyone that joined us for our Anzac Celebration Day “A Moment in Time.” What an amazing day had by all and what a turn out. Our celebration of local heroes George Tasman Dawson and John Hinton—including the renaming of two parks in their honour—went off with a BANG! Thanks to the booming volleys from the Kruger Cannon. Family and friends of George Tasman Dawson and John Hinton attended the day to help us celebrate and make it memorable. We were honoured to have them attend.

We also celebrated 125 years of our much-loved hall. It was a special moment for local families seeing loved ones recognised on new volunteer honours boards alongside other hall upgrades. Families enjoyed a fantastic line-up of activities, in brilliant sunshine, from a woodchopping display, Mr Whippy, rides in vintage cars and horse-drawn carts. An enormous thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success for our community.

We have purchased a new defibrillator for the community. This is located at the Colac Bay Fire Station Building. While we hope it never needs to be used, it may well be a lifeline for someone one day.

The surfer statue committee have been in full swing with the announcement of the successful tenderer. The announcement took place in front of the current statue with Mayor Rob Scott, Michael Weusten and the Southland District Council team, Robin McCall, and members of the Ōraka-Aparima Community Board in attendance.

Congratulations to Deow (Danny Owen). Danny has been awarded the contract to design, fabricate and install a predominantly Corten steel surfer statue. Danny has recently revived our bus shelters to give them a new lease on life so check those out while you are in the Bay.

The fundraising efforts have also been fabulous! Thank you to the Colac Bay Bakehouse and Bar for opening its doors not only for our Anzac Day celebration but also for our first quiz back at the pub! We appreciate your support. And yes you read that right. The Colac Bay Bakehouse and Bar (formally the Colac Bay Tavern) has re-branded and re-opened. So, if you are looking for a tasty snack to warm your soul this winter then you know the place to be!

We have also received funding from the Riverton Op Shop, Community Trust South and Aotearoa Gaming Trust. Amazing to receive this support from our community funders.

A generous local donated 50 cubic meters of firewood to us to sell. Followed by more generous locals purchasing said wood – along with a few townies coming out to support the cause. We also had a mega meat raffle with tickets flying out the door at pace. Congratulations to all the winners of the raffle and thank you all for your support.

I guess the underlying theme of our Western Wanderer piece this month is “thank you.” The Colac Bay Progress League are members of the community, working for the community. We are well aware we couldn’t achieve half of what we set out to do without your support.

Our next meeting is on 7 July at the Colac Bay Hall. If you find yourself at a loose end.... feel free to come along to our meeting.

Last but certainly not least - you may have heard by now that Deen McKay and Faye Brinsdon have stepped down from their roles as Chair and Secretary of the Progress League. Alas, this is true. They don’t get to step down without a special mention for all they have achieved for this League and their community. What an honour and a privilege it has been to serve with you both at the helm. Organising us may have sometimes felt like herding cats! But rest assured your leadership has held us steady and corralled us all back to where we are meant to be. Fortunately for us Mumma Deen and Auntie Faye don’t get off the hook that easy. They are still valued members of the Progress League and will continue to guide us on whatever shall come next!

Watch this space Mā te wā

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SUNDAY

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UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY 10 JULY

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