



WESTERN *Wanderer*

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

Cover Photo: Taken from the Clifden Suspension bridge and sent in by John Moffatt

Issue 292

AUGUST 2026

Every Week *Reminders* in the grey area

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Bootcamp at Orepuki Hall - every Mon 6am / 5:30pm StoryTime @ Waiau Memorial Library 10am	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 OP SHOP @The Den open Fridays 2pm - 4:30pm		
					1 Tui Base Camp Lambing & Calving Specials til 30 Sept	2
3	4 Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Meeting 3:30pm WTCC	5 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den Tuatapere Community Pool AGM, 7pm Waiau Star Club Rooms	6 Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den Book Club 10:30am Tui Base Camp	7	8 Kids Craft @The Den 1-4pm	9
10	11	12	13  Tui Base Camp 11:30am Tuatapere Promotions AGM 7pm, WTCC	14 Waiau Community Theatre presents "A Night in Front of the Telly" Waiau Area School Hall - 7:30pm	15	16
17	18	19 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	20 Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den Tuatapere Amenities Trust AGM 3pm Fire Brigade Rooms	21	22	23
24	25 SDC Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre	26	27 Tuatapere Pēpi Playgroup 0-2yrs 10am - 12pm	28	29	30
31 Jerico Wind Farm Community Fund Applications close		<i>Coming up ...</i>	Blue Ribbon Poker Run Tui Base Camp 5 September	SDC Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre 22 September	Tuatapere Pēpi Playgroup 0-2yrs Gold coin donation 10am-12pm at Tuatapere Playcentre 24 September	

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

WESTERN SOUTHLAND HEALTH SHUTTLE
• OTAUTAU MEDICAL CENTRE (03) 225 8099

Soup 'n Chat 2nd Thursday of the month!
11.30-1.30pm

Contact Community Support Worker
Tina on 027 7575 983

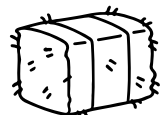
to book your spot no later than the week before



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



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 PROMOTIONS AGM

EVERYONE WELCOME!

HELD AT THE
WAI AU TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB

13TH OF AUGUST

7PM

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY • PROMOTING OUR TOWN

Let's continue to grow Tuatapere together!

Local Government Commission
Mana Kāwanatanga ā Rohe

HAVE YOUR SAY ON SOUTHLAND'S FUTURE

We are now engaging on two different options for Southland's reorganisation.

We are exploring different options, and we want to hear what matters most to you.

Come along, ask questions, share your thoughts, and help us understand what works best for your community

27 July – 06 August 2026

Scan for meeting dates
Or visit www.lgc.govt.nz

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

OP SHOP At The Den

Erskine St. Tuatapere

OPEN Fridays 2-4.30

WESTERN SOUTHLAND WOOL & CRAFT GROUP

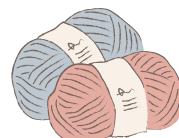
Spinning, Felt, Weaving,
Knitting, Crochet.

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.

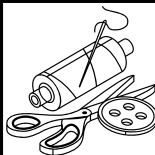
Bring your lunch and sewing machine (if you can)

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 AN EVENT NOTICE FOR THE COMMUNITY?

DROP US AN EMAIL AT
yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com
AND WE'LL ADD IT TO THE EVENTS
NOTICEBOARD FOR YOU!

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

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

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

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



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.

WAIAU MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Library Hours: Fridays



10:00am - 11:30am

2:30pm - 4:00pm

7:00pm - 8:00pm

We have free



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



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

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE

It is with sadness the Vestry
Committee of Western Southland
announces the
Final Service and Deconsecration
of St. Georges Church, at
43 Orawia Rd Tuatapere
will be held at **11am** on
Wednesday, September 2nd 2026.

This will be followed by a light lunch.

All members of the wider
Tuatapere community are invited,
particularly if you or your family have
had a connection to the church
at any time.

With thanks
Patrick Westenra 027 643 1693

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 on **Fridays, 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.

Father Hamish Wyatt
03 236 9084

WAIAU COMMUNITY THEATRE PRODUCTION 2026



★ **14 & 15 AUGUST 2026** ★

WAIAU 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
AND YOURSELF
(AND FRIENDS)!



WE WILL PROVIDE REFRESHMENTS:
WINE/JUICE, TEA/COFFEE,
A DELICIOUS SUPPER...
AND A GREAT SHOW!



BOOKINGS: FROM MONDAY 3 AUGUST
PHONE/TEXT ANNE: 021 2169808
9AM-5PM

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 August (for SEPTEMBER'S Issue) yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com

TUATAPERE AMENITIES TRUST NOTICE OF AGM

The 2026 AGM for the Tuatapere Amenities Trust will be held in the Tuatapere Fire Brigade Rooms, Tuatapere on
Thursday 20 August at 3pm.

Apologies to:

Elaine: 021 295 5404 OR

Kim: 03 214 797 or kimr@flintoffs.co.nz

SYD SLEE CHARITABLE TRUST

Applications are open from
1st October - 31st October 2026

For our Application Form and Information Guide Sheet please email ssctrust17@gmail.com

Nicky Baker, Secretary
Syd Slee Charitable Trust



This is a great opportunity to give back to your community. We are always on the look out for new members to keep the pool running. We would love some new faces.



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!

If you'd like to get involved, or just see what we're about, we'd love to hear from you. New faces are always welcome!

Get in touch:

President - Shirley Crack - 027 321 1564

Secretary - Maurice Green - 027 246 4857



TUATAPERE & DISTRICTS LIONS CLUB 2026 HAY BALEAGE & SILAGE COMPETITION

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

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AGPAC	Grafts By Floss	RD Petroleum
Alex Reid Contracting	Greenmachine	Ricky Egerton Dagging
Allied Fuels	H&T	Riverton No1 RD
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Briscoes	ILT	Southfuels
Brunel Peaks Cafe & Bar	Integrated Packaging	Southland Farm Machinery
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Caltex Oil Shop	Kings Rural	Superior Minerals
Carran-Scott Contracting	K J Logging	Tool Shed
Carrfield Wool	K J Sutherland Contracting	Tuatapere Rural RD
Class Harvest Centre	Live Stock Supplies	Tuatapere Service Station
Cooks Wire Rope	McCracken Firewood	Tui Base Camp
Crafts by Floss	McCulloch & Partners	Tyne Traders
Dagwood Dagging	M&M Logging	Waiau Area School
Deleaval	Munro Drainage	Waiau Health Trust
DT King & Co Ltd	Nutritech	Waiau Town & Country Club
Diacks Nurseries	NZ Wool	Waiau Valley Shearing
Donaghys Ltd	Orepuki Cafe	Waikiwi Vets
Dwayne Unahi Contracting	Orepuki Tavern	Wairauhiri Jets
Eamon Egerton Contracting	OSP	Watsons Farm Solutions
Farm Chief Farmguard	Otautau No 2 RD	Watsons Spraying
Farm Source	Otautau Tractors	Western Southland Scanning
Fern Energy	Otautau Vets	Western Wander
Findex	Palamountains	Wild South Honey
Fiordland Hire	PGG Wrightsons	Winders Shearing
FMG Insurance	Phillips Contracting	Winton Motorcycles

AND ALL THE FARMERS WHO SUPPORT THIS ANNUAL PROJECT

Shearing magazine

Des Williams (editor)

Tel 07 839 2891 : Mob 0274 833 465

Email : shearingmag@xtra.co.nz

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TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE *Community Board*

Chairperson:
Anne Horrell

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

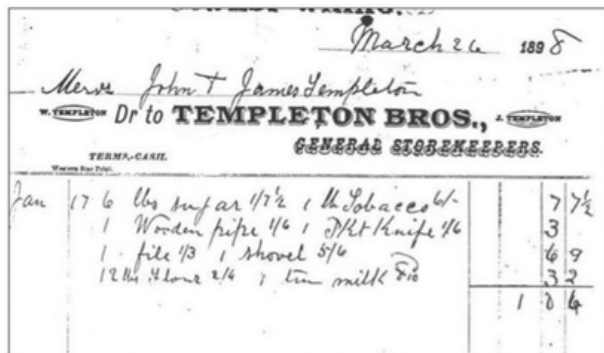
Thank you to those wonderful folk in our community who keep us busy and active in our winter months where community spirit and positive attitudes are alive and well. It's hard to believe that we are fast approaching the 8th month of the year and it's just over four months until Christmas (just saying)!

Huge congratulations to our local lad **Tom Slee** who recently won the NZ Young Farmer of the Year Award. Well done Tom! We are all very proud of your achievement!

Community Board News:

- The Southland District Council Book Bus service is scheduled to visit Orepuki on 28th July and 25th August 1-1.30pm. Thank you to the Orepuki locals who support this great facility. As we have a 6 month trial period I would like to encourage continued good use. Remember that the mobile library is also a facility for paying rates and other Southland District Council matters.
- The Greenheart Reserve felling of a stand of Douglas Fir trees has taken place and the Community Board are very pleased at the tidy state of the area following the activity. We hope that nearby residents are enjoying a sunnier, lighter perspective and a clearer view. As previously mentioned we will remain in contact with you, our community, in regard to the next steps.
- The Chairperson recently attended a Southland District Council meeting to update the Council on our Community Board area. Apart from the Community Board news of projects etc I was proud to present a report full of news of all the activities taking place regularly, as well as special events where our communities show initiative and commitment in doing the best they can for their own precious patch.
- The Local Government Commission consultation team will hold another community meeting regarding local government re-organisation in Southland. This will be held on Monday 3rd August 5.30-7pm at Waiau Town and Country Club. All welcome!
- In recent months I have been delighted to receive communication from a young local student who has expressed concern at the lack of signage at the Clifden Caves site. Due to the issue being raised some progress has taken place. I am very grateful for this obvious concern and constructive ideas. It's very heartening to see our young folk taking an interest in enhancing our special spots.
- It's good news that the Monowai Village Community Association has been granted resource consent for the installation of 4 above ground community fire- fighting water supply tanks within the Monowai Village. It has been quite a journey in getting to this stage.
- The other resource consent application which has been approved is for the refurbishment of the Monkey Island shelter. It will be satisfying to see both of these projects on the way to completion.
- The next formal meeting of the Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board will be held on Tuesday 4th August at 3.30pm at Waiau Town and Country Club. All welcome!

Waiau & Tūātapere, 1st Grocers – Templeton's General Store, near Boundary Creek:



March 26 1898		
Messe John & James Templeton		
Dr to TEMPLETON BROS.,		
GENERAL STOREKEEPERS		
TERMS - CASH		
Waiau For Cash		
Jan	17 6 lbs sugar 1/2 1 lb tobacco 6/-	7 7 1/2
	1 Wooden pipe 1/4 1 D/Kt knife 1/6	3
	1 file 1/3 1 shovel 5/6	6 9
	12 lbs flour 2/4 1 tin milk 2/-	3 2
		1 8 6

William & James Templeton were Waiau early storekeepers who also sold groceries. They were brothers, along with Andrew Templeton, and all sons of John Templeton, of Seaview.

FIRST GROCERY/GENERAL STORE

We have found evidence that this was Templeton's Store, West of the Waiau:

- About 1889 – Templeton Bros., James & William opened up their first store.
- The first one was a tent at Breakfast Creek, where they supplied Goldminers.
- Later their store moved to the Waiau Mouth, and they were here until c1902.
- The third store (on invoice above) was at west Waiau, the Half Mile side of Tūātapere.
- In 1901 they moved to east Waiau in "The Hole in the Bush", so founded Tūātapere.
- They sold to Charles Sneyd, both their east and west Waiau stores, in July 1903.
- This included Templeton Bro's later Store, right here in the middle of Tūātapere.

The two brothers, William and James, had operated early businesses independently of each other but there is proof that a later store, built in a bush clearing at a peg in West Waiau, which was along what is now Half Mile in Tūātapere, they were working together. It was recorded their East Waiau store was, "near Boundary Creek". With no evidence of when they started the store, the invoice date does not lie, but shows a date prior to the other early township business, on the west bank, of the West's "Angler's Rest Hotel". Allen Templeton author of many historical accounts, believes this means, Templeton Bros., business was the start of Tūātapere, not Charles Sneyd as is often claimed.

In 1909 Chas Sneyd was also to help lobby the Southland Education Board for a School at Tūātapere. It is of note that Sneyd is often credited as founding Tūātapere, and there is a street named after Sneyd, whereas the Templeton family were already here operating their store, some years earlier (see above). Is it time that the Templeton family has some local recognition of this fact?!



Charles Sneyd was first the Telegram Operator and then Post Master at the fledgling township of Tūātapere in the earliest days, before these services even had a dedicated building. When Chas Sneyd took over both of the earlier Templeton Bros. General & Grocery stores in 1903, he also started as the Telephonist. On 1 January 1904 when the Post Office was added to the Telegraph service, he also became the new Post Master. James C Templeton is recorded as having been instrumental in getting a petition signed by local residents, for this early Post Office. It is recorded that both the Telegram and Post services were being operated from Sneyd's General & Grocery Store, an old shed.

Sneyd had purchased a whole block of land on both sides of the new store he later built, at the corner of Ferry Road and Ōrawia Road, incorporating the later block of sections that now form Sneyd Street, which runs South off Ferry Road. This all transpired the same day that he bought the businesses off the Templeton's, on 22 July 1903. The land he purchased ran

between Boundary Creek and the Waiau River, and Ferry Road, which went down to the punt, now runs through this large section of land.

In 1908, after the Waiau Hotel was set to be moved across the river and the Rail was coming to town the following year (both opened in 1909), Sneyd rebuilt the town store on his block of land.

It is not clear when the Sneyd family moved here to the Waiau, but their children went to school both at Tūātapere and at Papatotara, where Charles and the family initially lived. Albert attended at Papatotara School and in 1910, Eva Sneyd was to be found as a first day pupil at Tūātapere School. Tūātapere Storekeeper and resident, Charles Frederick Sneyd and his wife Ellen were in Tūātapere township for about a decade, later moving to Kaiapoi, north of Christchurch. Albert Robert Sneyd, born 11 March 1894 according to his Military File but 1896 according to NZ Births/Deaths/Marriages, was to fight and lose his life in WW1 and although the family had already moved on. The family connection to Tūātapere remains, with Albert Sneyd remembered at our Waiau War Memorial library.

Charles Sneyd sold his business and new building to George snr. Charlton - in 1910 according to family, whereas legal land title records have a later 1911 date. So, it is quite possible Geo. Charlton leased the building and business to start with. His name is still proudly on a later building façade, in 2026.



OPEN Winter Hours,
Tues-Fri 1-4pm til 30th Sept;
Our 3rd Birthday - "Ore & OREPUKI"
opens in October 2026.
History Displays, Research Resources,
FREE Wi-Fi & more:
48 Main Rd, Tūātapere:
CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com or
Ph/Txt: 027-2114675

Central & Western Archives, Murihiku Southland. 3rd Birthday Display, 13th Oct: "Ore in Orepuki"



We will have models of the Shaleworks buildings

Orepuki – a town with three different sites, due to the discovery of gold... It started near Monkey Island, next it moved to Garfield & from there to Hirstfield, where the locals insisted on using the original Orepuki name. But not only gold was discovered there, it was also home to the Orepuki Coal & Shale Company, and the Platinum Smelting Works, as well as later Coal Mines. Hence, our "Ore in Orepuki" display, covering these discoveries and the many families and businesses that supported those seeking their fortune from various types of ore. And then there was the sawmilling...

Be part of our Interactive Display – bring in a piece of Orepuki History to add: can be written, drawn, a photo, even a video of Orepuki's past!



Do you have photos/records or items from your ancestors you can contribute to this new display? Please contact us to discuss us borrowing or digitised these for "Ore in Orepuki".

At our premises – (old Plunket Building), 48 Main Rd, Tūātapere
Email us at: CentralAndWesternArchive@gmail.com or Phone/Text us on: 027-2114675



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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. **Please ensure all of your contact details are up to date with both the Medical Centre and the Pharmacy.**

Practitioner Cover

Amanda is having a well-deserved break. During this time, Telehealth appointments are available, along with reduced in-clinic appointments. If you require an appointment, please phone ahead so our team can discuss your needs and arrange the most suitable option for you. We appreciate your understanding and look forward to assisting you.

Appointment Booking

We are committed to reducing patient wait times. To help us provide the appropriate amount of time for your appointment, please let our reception team know when booking if you think you will require longer than the standard 15-minute appointment or if you have more than one concern to discuss.

Standard appointments are 15 minutes in duration. If your consultation exceeds the allocated time, additional fees may apply. Your consultation time includes your assessment, examination, clinical documentation, prescriptions, referrals, and any other care required during your visit.

Flu Vaccines 2026:

We will continue to have flu vaccines available – please phone and book with a nurse.

In many cases it is free. The cost of an unsubsidised flu vaccine is \$40.00

We hope everyone is keeping well this winter. If you have any health concerns or need advice, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Kind Regards

Jo Sanford (Manager) 0272950429



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every weekday

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Fortnightly on Tuesdays

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Orepuki Promotions Group

Contact Trudy 027 6222 485

In April, the Orepuki community celebrated Allan Dudfield's 87th birthday while also farewelling Allan and Ruth as they prepared to leave Orepuki. On 19 July, members of the Orepuki Volunteer Fire Service gathered at the brigade rooms for a potluck luncheon to honour the couple and thank them for almost 60 years of dedicated volunteer service. Their generous contribution of time, skills and expertise has left a lasting legacy for both the brigade and the wider community. Allan and Ruth will be greatly missed, and we wish them every happiness in their retirement.

July also saw another successful Midwinter Potluck at the hall. It was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all, and it's pleasing to see this annual community event continue to grow in popularity each year.

The Promotions Group has successfully raised funds for new interpretive signage at Gemstone Beach and Monkey Island. The signs will provide valuable information for the many visitors, campers and tourists who enjoy these attractions throughout the year, so keep an eye out for them.

Another exciting addition is a Lilliput Library, soon to be installed on Mullans Road outside the Little Red Caboose, giving residents and visitors another way to share the joy of reading.

Finally, we're seeking expressions of interest in forming a Gardening Club and a community choir. If you'd like to join either group, or could help lead the choir, please contact Trudy on the number above.

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Year 1-13 Education

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Kia Ora Western Wanderer Readers,

Room 1 - Term 2 2026

Room 1 has had an exciting and action-packed Term 2 filled with learning, adventure, and new experiences! We challenged ourselves in the Waiau Area School Cross Country, showing determination, resilience, and fantastic sportsmanship.

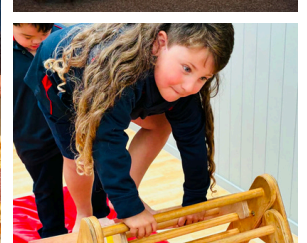
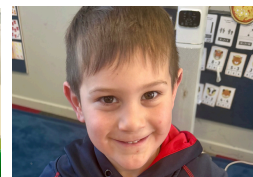
As part of our "Our World" inquiry, we travelled the globe by exploring England, France, Japan, Italy, and the United States. We discovered each country's culture, famous landmarks, traditions, and delicious foods. One of our favourite parts was becoming little chefs as we cooked and tasted foods from each country!

We had lots of fun developing our teamwork and ball skills during Invasion Games with Richie from Active Southland, while a Movement for Learning session with Southern REAP helped us strengthen our coordination, balance, and brain-body connections through engaging activities.

Safety and confidence on bikes were a big focus during the BikeReady Programme with Cycling Southland, where we practised important cycling skills and learnt how to stay safe on the road.

We also enjoyed some fantastic visiting experiences. We were entertained by the hilarious performance of Puss in Gumboots from New Zealand Playhouse, and we learnt valuable lessons about earthquake preparedness by experiencing the Shaky Trailer Earthquake Simulator.

It has been a wonderful term full of learning, laughter, challenges, and memorable experiences. We are incredibly proud of everything Room 1 has achieved and can't wait to see what Term 3 has in store!



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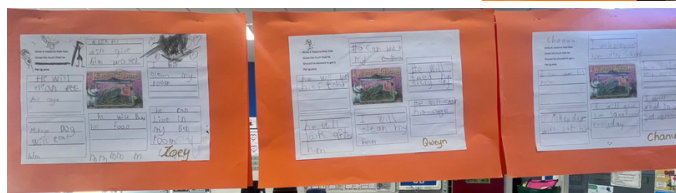
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03 226 6212**

Team Tui (Room 2) - Term 2 2026

Tuakana teina was in action when we celebrated Matariki with our big buddies in Room 4 at the end of term 2. We then shared Kai with our whole school.

We had a big focus on writing in term 2. Some topics we covered were; 'If I was a superhero' 'The Power of Yet' and Persuasive writing based around a story titled, 'I Wanna Iguana.'

Term 3 started off with a blast, with our first maths focus - Fractions!!!



Kia Ora from Room 3!

Room 3 has been on an out-of-this-world learning journey over the past few weeks!

Our Year 4 and 5 space explorers kicked off their learning by diving into NASA's exciting Artemis II moon mission. From there, we launched into group inquiry projects, where students teamed up to research and study different planets across our solar system, as well as investigate the changing phases of the moon.

To tie our astronomical studies together with Aotearoa's rich traditions, we finished our unit with Matariki. The students created magnificent collages and informative posters celebrating the cluster, researching the special meaning behind each star in the Matariki whānau.

Thank you to all our whānau for supporting our young astronomers as they reach for the stars!



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.

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The Hump Track Trust- Community Enhancement Grant- Funding Recipients

We are pleased to announce the successful recipients of the latest round of funding from the community enhancement grant.

- Waiau Area School- PTA
- Tuatapere Bowling Club
- Waiau A & P Show
- Tuatapere Playcentre
- Central & Western Archives
- Tuatapere Cemetery Trust
- Waiau Star Rugby Club
- Blackmount Pool Society

A total of \$43,985.58 has been awarded in this round of funding, supporting a range of projects and initiatives that make a positive difference in our community.

A big thank you to everyone who applied for funding, and congratulations to all the successful recipients.

Applications for the next round of funding will open on the 1st of November.

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KIA ORA, KUMUSTA, AYUBOWAN
 Western Wanderer Readers



It is hard to believe how quickly the year has flown by, with the halfway point of 2026 reached. Across our classrooms, students are building knowledge, confidence, and independence every day. We remain committed to delivering explicit, high-quality teaching in reading, writing, and mathematics, ensuring our programmes are aligned with the Refreshed New Zealand Curriculum. It has been wonderful to see our learners embracing challenges, celebrating success, and continuing to grow throughout the year. Our home and school partnerships remain key to our ongoing journey!



On the final day of Term 2, the Hauroko Valley School whānau came together to celebrate Matariki with a special hāngī. It was a wonderful way to remember the past, celebrate the present, and look forward with hope as we renewed together for the term ahead. Our tamariki were involved every step of the way, learning about the traditions and teamwork behind a hāngī. They helped prepare vegetables, make parāoa parai (fry bread) and stuffing, collect watercress, lined the baskets with cabbage, and watched the pit being prepared and the stones heated.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible whānau and friends whose generosity made the day possible. From donating food and equipment to digging the pit, tending the fire, preparing and cooking the hāngī, and serving the meal, your time, skills, and support were invaluable.

"He rau ringa, e oti ai" – Many hands make light work.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in making our Matariki hāngī such a memorable celebration.




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Our Year 7 students travelled to Adventure Southland for a day of leadership development, tackling low ropes, high ropes, the climbing wall, Flying Weka, and team challenges. By stepping outside their comfort zones, they built confidence, resilience, and leadership skills while learning the value of communication, trust, teamwork, and perseverance. Meanwhile, our Year 8 students put their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test at the Solve It and Escape Rooms, experienced velodrome cycling at Stadium Southland, learned the fast-growing sport of pickleball, and explored virtual reality at the Invercargill Public Library. Each activity encouraged students to embrace new experiences, work collaboratively, and develop skills that extend well beyond the classroom. Our Have A Go Programme continues to be a highlight of the Year 7 & 8 experience. A huge thank you to our wonderful parent helpers, whose time and support make these valuable opportunities possible.

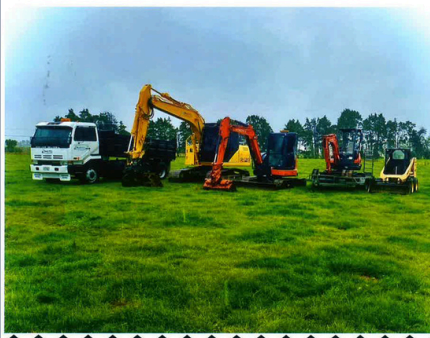




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Our Local Historic Notes

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. Mary McKay's Memories from Childhood are continued below.

The Queen

I have met the Queen 4 times. I mean the Queen of Scotland, Ireland and England. The first time I met the Queen I danced for her with the Pipe Band. Actually, it was a massed highland fling with all the dancers in Southland and the Tuatapere Pipe Band was part of the massed band display. It was at the Invercargill Showgrounds right in front of the grandstand where they usually had the prize bulls in the grand parade on Show Day.

The next day I sat at the Queen's feet in my best dress with my cousin Ann. We were outside the door of the Grand Hotel in the main street of Invercargill. We got our photo in the 'Weekly News'. My Dad said it was a good photo as I wasn't picking my nose and my pant's leg wasn't hanging down; the elastic was new. The Queen looked good too. Later that day the Queen and the Duke were going to Bluff to catch their boat back to England where they live. My Auntie Bunt and Uncle Bert lived at the corner of Woodhouse Street and Bluff Road. Uncly Bert had built a stand behind the fence so we could all wave to the Queen as they went past. Judy hadn't met the Queen like I had so she picked some flowers and daisies from the lawn and stood out in the road as the Queen came.

The Queen stopped so Judy gave her the flowers; she said "thank you, you are so kind" in a posh visitor's voice Judy said. Mum told her off; she could have been run over.

Robbie Burns

Robbie Burns lived in a square gold edged frame above our fireplace. Robbie was a resplendent numbered work of art in an oval setting of his head and shoulders. He had been brought back from Scotland by Campbell Nicol especially for Dad. When Mum got him framed she had not realised the significance of the numbers and cut them off. Campbell was devastated. Robbie held pride of place; master of all he surveyed.

Every year on St Patrick's Day we would sneak out before Dad got up and would cellotape an emerald green bow tie to the glass at Robbie's neck. Every year Dad would put his hands in the air and exclaim, "Oh my god, who did that to Robbie?" We would all laugh, jumping up and down saying "not us, not us". Over the years Robbie would preside over many gatherings both happy and sad as he watched us grow into our teenage years sharing Dad's fears and tribulations as we arrived at adulthood. Much to Dad's horror we learnt that there was actually poetry and music other than Robbie Burns. Dad and Robbie lived through Jerry Lee Lewis and The Beatles; even Val playing 'Tom Dooley' and 'Green Door' on the bagpipes. Val nearly didn't survive though as when Dad heard him he was banned from playing his pipes for a week.

Robbie moved from the farm in the Valley to Tuatapere with Mum and Dad. Here he lived beside the copper surrounded burner once again master of all he surveyed. When Mum and Dad died he moved up the road to Val and Helen's.

Sandy

Sandy was our brother Val's pony. We all learnt to ride on Sandy and assumed ownership when it suited us. Brown with a darker mane and tail, expressive large dark brown eyes, Sandy was all you could wish for in a pony. With a change of stance he could become a circus pony or an Indian or Cowboy's horse.

... to be continued

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