



WESTERN Wanderer

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

Cover Photo: Waiau River - taken and sent in by Nicholas Erskine

Issue 293

SEPTEMBER 2026

Every Week Reminders in the grey area						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
StoryTime @ Waiau Memorial Library 10am	Waiau Valley Preschool Music 63 Main Str 10:00 - 11:30am Walking Group 10am Cnr Half Mile/Erskine St	Bootcamp at WAS Gym Mon-Fri 6am Tuatapere PlayGroup 9:30am-12:30pm		Tuatapere PlayGroup 9:30am - 12.30pm OP SHOP open @The Den 2pm - 4:30pm		
	1 SDC Community Partnership Fund Applications are open	2 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den Final Service and Deconsecration of St.Georges Church 43 Orawia Rd Tuatapere 11am	3 Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den	4 Waiau Area School Open Day for Potential Year 9s for 2027 8:45am - 3pm	5	6 Father's Day
7	8	9	10 Book Club 10:30am Tui Base Camp	11	12 Tuatapere Community Market is BACK! Last Light Lodge 10am - 1pm Kids Craft @The Den 1-4pm	13
14	15	16 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den	17 Sewing & Patchwork 10-3pm The Den Tui Base Camp 11:30am	18	19	20
21	22 SDC Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre Tuatapere Pest Control Group Meeting @The Den 7pm	23	24 Tuatapere Pēpi Playgroup 0-2yrs 10am - 12pm Tuatapere Playcentre Woman's Group Orepuki Cafe 10:30am	25	26 School Holidays begin	27 Blue Ribbon Poker Run Tui Base Camp
28	29	30 Wool & Craft 10-3pm The Den			Tui Base Camp Lambing & Calving Specials end	
Coming up ...	Tuatapere Domain Committee AGM Sunday 4 October 11.00am Domain Rooms at The Domain	Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board Meeting 3:30pm WTCC Tuesday 6 October	SDC Book Bus 1-1:30pm Orepuki Community Centre 20 October	Community Enhancement Grant Funding Applications open 1 November		

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



Welcome POTENTIAL YEAR 9's FOR 2027 OPEN DAY!

Come for a day of **FUN, DISCOVERY & CONNECTION!**

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER 2026 **8.45AM - 3PM** **MEET IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY** **MEET NEW PEOPLE, EXPLORE OUR SCHOOL & HAVE FUN!**

PLEASE REGISTER YOUR INTEREST WITH OUR ADMIN STAFF
☎ 03 2266 285
✉ admin@was.school.nz
BEFORE MONDAY THE 31ST AUGUST.

Lunch will be provided!






Do you want to fit a little more movement into your week?

Green Prescription Walking Group Tuatapere

We're starting a weekly walking group designed to help you:

- Stretch your legs
- Clear your head
- Boost your energy for the afternoon
- Connect with others in the community

This isn't about speed or fitness levels. It's about getting outside, moving your body, and feeling good.

🕒 From 7 July, Tuesday's at 10am

📍 Meet on the corner of Half Mile Road and Erskine street. In front of the playground

For more information, contact Active Southlands Green Prescription team on:
grx@activesouthland.co.nz
0800 228 483

No booking required, just turn up!





Tuatapere Domain Committee AGM

11am, Sunday 4th October 2026
in the Domain Rooms at The Domain

Please attend and help keep our
Domain beautiful!

Apologies to Sammy 027 4382 248

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

OP SHOP At The Den

Erskine St. Tuatapere

OPEN Fridays 2-4.30

WESTERN HEALTH SHUTTLE

Managed and funded under Otautau Community
Health Trust & Otautau Medical Centre

To Make a Booking

Contact the Otautau Medical Centre,
03 225 8099 between 10am and 3.30pm.

*Please give at least 24 hours' notice
before your appointment.*

PLEASE NOTE

If you are needing to book the St John shuttle
from Invercargill to Dunedin,
contact **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.

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**

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.



INDOOR BOWLS - MONDAY NIGHTS

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

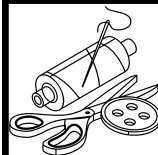


LINE DANCING - MONDAY NIGHTS



7:30pm, RSA Hall
Main Street, Tuatapere

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**

Wed & Fri 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**

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

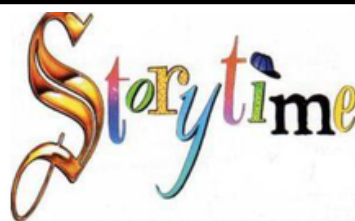
ENQUIRIES

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.

WAIU 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

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

THANK
YOU!

FROM
WAIAU COMMUNITY
THEATRE!

PRODUCTION 2026

Waiau Community Theatre committee and
members would like to say a huge
THANK YOU to you, our amazing community,
for your support of our 2026 production.

We had wonderful audiences for both nights
(14th & 15th) and we all had a lot of fun
bringing the show together.

This year we had a large cast of adults and
school children entertaining on stage!

We continue to welcome newcomers ...
please make contact if you feel the urge
to express yourself on stage
(or to help behind the scenes).

The most important message to all our
members is to have fun! In the process we
become good friends and members of the
Waiau Community Theatre family,
which has been existence now for 62 years!

We are very grateful to our early members
who established this fantastic facility
in our community.

Again, thank you to our loyal audiences who
give us the inspiration to come up
with something to entertain our community
every year. We look forward to more fun
and frivolity in 2027!

Anne (021 2169 808)

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

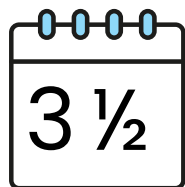
Alison Bennett 027 224 2724



SAVE THE DATE

Here we go again everyone ...

Christmas is on its way and



*there is only
months until the
big day again!*

Time to put your thinking caps on.
We need more floats, vehicles,
trucks, tractors, even a military
troop carrier!

There is going to be awesome
food vendors, music, singing,
games, merry go round,
awesome Big-Trike rides

AND

this year we are hoping to bring
back the

"Decorate your Bike" competition.

So please put this very important
date in your calendar

December 23rd

starting at 6pm til late at the
Tuatapere Domain.

**All enquiries to
John Munro 027 412 2925**



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



Deb's Sewing & Repair Service

mending to making
and everything in between

Got a tricky job? Just ask!

Call or text **021 030 5667**



GOOD - CHEAP - FAST but you can only pick two



TUATAPERE & DISTRICTS LIONS CLUB 2026 HAY BALEAGE & SILAGE COMPETITION

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

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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

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

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

WANTED TO BUY

Possum Fur/Deer Velvet/
Hard Deer Antler

Phone Leith 027 496 3721



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

Shearing magazine

Des Williams (editor)

Tel 07 839 2891 : Mob 0274 833 465

Email : shearingmag@xtra.co.nz

Member NZ Guild of Agricultural Journalists and Communicators (Inc)

LAST SIDE PUBLISHING LTD

PO Box 102, Hamilton 3240, New Zealand

People in Southland don't generally wake up
wanting to do burpees or power cleans. They
want to keep doing the things they love for as
long as they can.

What do you want to stay strong for?

The Orepuki Fitness Collective is offering a:

**"STRONG FOR SOUTHLAND SEPTEMBER
TASTER MONTH"**

September

Learn the Movements

Throughout September we're inviting anyone
interested in improving their strength, balance
and mobility to come along and experience
what the Orepuki Fitness Collective is all about.

Learn how to safely use:

- Barbells
- Plyometric boxes
- Squat racks
- Sleds
- Functional strength equipment

No previous gym experience is needed.

Every movement is coached and adapted to suit
your ability.

Whether you're 18 or 80, we'll help you build
confidence at your own pace.

Then ...

October

STRONG FOR SOUTHLAND

6-Week Challenge

Starts Monday 5 October

Week One

- ✓ Complete a simple benchmark.
- ✓ Measure your strength.
- ✓ Measure your fitness.
- ✓ Measure your mobility.

Over six weeks we'll coach you through
progressive strength and conditioning sessions
designed to improve everyday movement,
confidence and overall fitness.

At the end of six weeks we'll repeat the
benchmark so you can see exactly how far
you've come.

The goal isn't to compete against anyone else.
The goal is to become stronger than you were
six weeks ago.

Everyone Welcome

No matter your age. No matter your fitness.
No matter your experience. Come along.

Learn. Move. Get stronger.

Sessions

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

📍 **Tuatapere - Waiau Area School Gym - 6am**

8 Contact Kath **021 081 16603** for more info!

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TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE *Community Board*

Chairperson:
Anne Horrell

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

Congratulations to all of those who have had a good season of winter sports. Congratulations are also in order to our wonderful students from Waiau Area School and Hauroko Valley Primary who have received outstanding awards at the Miharo Murihiku Art Competition and the Southland Social Sciences Fair. It's been a busy time, as usual, with regular fitness sessions and other activities, as well as the Waiau Community Theatre Production.

Tuatapere Te Waewae Community Board News:

The last formal meeting of the Community Board was held on Tuesday 4 August at the Waiau Town and Country Club. Some students from Hauroko Valley Primary presented in the Public Participation part of the agenda. The students had each been awarded placings in the recent Southland Social Sciences Fair. The Board members and Southland District Council staff members present were delighted to look closely at each of the projects which were beautifully presented and showed thorough research and good knowledge. The students were able to speak with the adults and to answer questions directed at them about their particular project. Other topics on the agenda included:

- A report was prepared and presented by Active Southland team members, which incorporates the Tuatapere community and local schools' strategic direction. The Active Southland team have been busy in recent months engaging with the community and local schools to prioritise a community voice in regard to decision making and actions; in particular encouraging a 'student voice'.
- The Community Board reviewed the current CB Community Partnership Funding criteria confirming that:
 - Funding requests must not be for profit purposes.
 - Groups do not need to be a legal entity to apply; individuals will be considered on a case by case basis.
 - Preference will be given to projects directly of benefit to the CB area.
 - There is no cap on the amount applied for.
 - Funding requests should show demonstration of some degree of self-fundraising towards their project.
 - For capital works two quotes are required.
 - Applicants are welcome to speak to the CB about their request.
 - The criteria may be reviewed by the CB as and when required.
 - Only one approved application from the applicant within a 24 month period.
- Councillor Michael Weusten reported to the Community Board on matters arising around the Council table.
- The Community Partnership Leader, Stella O'Connor, presented the Community Board report. This included:
 - An update on the felling of the douglas fir trees project in the Tuatapere Greenheart Reserve.
 - An update on Active Southland's engagement with the Tuatapere community and local schools.
 - Orawia Hall. "The documentation has been prepared for the consent application to be submitted. Staff are also working on the procurement documents."
 - A report on the very successful Grand Opening of the Tuatapere Heritage Rail Precinct which took place on 20 June.
 - Flood Protection Planning. "Environment Southland provided an update to the CB on ongoing work to better understand river silt build up around the Waiau Bridge on SH99." Data will be collected to ascertain the impact of gravel and silt build up and its effect on flood capacity and bridge resilience. If the results show that this is so

“New Zealand Transit Agency has indicated it is prepared to remove the accumulated gravel.” “Discussions also highlighted the need for long term funding and clarity around flood protection asset ownership, along with opportunities through central government resilience funding. The next step is gathering the survey data, progressing the modelling, and bringing key stakeholders together to review findings and plan future action.”

- Community Partnership Fund successful applications (as decided at the 2 June meeting and reported in the July edition of the Western Wanderer). NB: The next round of funding for the community partnership fund is 31 August 2026. Applications can be made on the Southland District Council website via the SmartyGrants link.
- An ongoing tracker indicated the progress to date with our CB projects and activities.
- The Chairperson reported on activities she has been involved with since the last formal meeting and CB members reported on their own individual portfolios.

Other Community Board News includes:

- The SDC mobile book bus will next visit Orepuki on Tuesday 25 August and Tuesday 22 September 1pm-1.30pm.
- Rochelle Prime, who has been the custodian of the Orepuki Hall has now relinquished the position and the role has been filled by Jeanette Sellwood. Huge thanks are extended to Rochelle who has done a wonderful job and to Jeanette for stepping into this position. For Orepuki Hall queries please contact Jeanette: **027 4502957**.
- Community Board members met recently with some members of the Orepuki community to discuss urgent maintenance required at the hall and future plans. It's always really productive, and fun, to meet with members in our wider community. We welcome any community groups to make contact for an informal chat about specific issues or to just share what your group is busy with.
- Thank you to those members of our community who were able to make it to the consultation session run by the Local Government Commission (on local government reform) on 3 August and thank you to those who were able to attend either of the Spatial Planning drop in sessions held on 11 August. There was some very worthwhile feedback given at these sessions which we will share with you in future reports.

Best wishes to all of those busy with lambing and calving and to you all for a lovely Spring!

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

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Now 2 bikes available for pasture metering

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E platemeterservices@gmail.com

TUATAPERE COMMUNITY MARKET 2026-2027

LAST LIGHT LODGE MARKET DAY IS BACK

Saturday the 12th September.
10am-1pm
Last light lodge 2 Clifden Highway Tuatapere

STALLS & Boot Sales

ALL welcome
Great Food, coffee
Frest Bread, vegetables
Crafts, Jewellery, woodwork
Cheese, Rolls, Essential oils, Plants, Baking
Cards & more
See you Then.

Text Christine
027 525538



Neat Cut

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

KIA ORA, KUMUSTA, AYUBOWAN
 Western Wanderer Readers

Hauroko
 VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We are incredibly proud of our students who represented Hauroko Valley School in this year's Miharo Murihiku Art Exhibition. The theme for this year's exhibition, "Legends of Our Lands – Our people, our places, our stories," inspired students to explore and celebrate the unique stories and connections that shape our community. Congratulations to Beau, who designed this year's Polyfest T-shirt. 224 entries were received, but Beau's design stood out to the judges for its beautiful detail and kōrero about kaitiakitanga. "My design is a turtle because turtles are strong, caring, and always keep going. The turtle represents helping others and looking after our people, our land and our sea. The patterns inside the turtle show the many cultures of Murihiku coming together. Each pattern is different, just like the people in the community, but together they make something beautiful and strong." by Beau.



Sadie's entry, "Guardians of Murihiku," featured four intricately designed guardians representing the Southern region. A great deal of thought and work went into it, earning Sadie 1st place in the Primary Culture & Heritage! Nethuki, Dusty, Ilyssa, Finley, Lola, Angus D and Tori carefully illustrated kete, sharing narratives local to our land. They were awarded First = in the Primary Culture and Heritage section. Miharo mahi for creativity, skill, and hard work, which was celebrated alongside artists from across Murihiku.



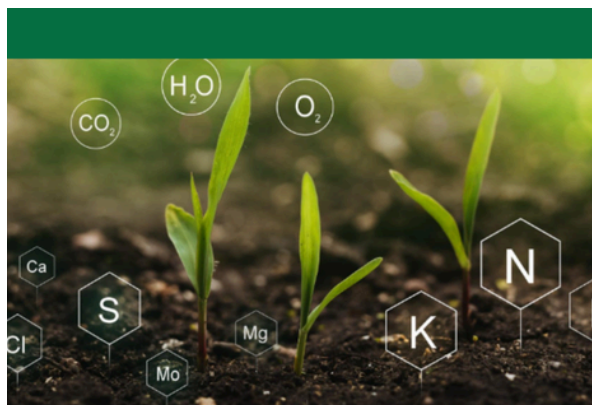

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This Term has been surprisingly busy with in & out of class action including - weekly Discovery for our Year 0-3 & 4 year olds, Year 7&8 girls rugby in Southland Competition, Science with Sue, First Aid, Poetry Recitals Years 0-3, School Speeches Years 4-8, CSNC Netty Festival Years 5-8, Southland Science & Technology Fair and H.V.P. Ski trip! Valuable opportunities on offer to discover new interests, develop confidence, build relationships, and apply their learning beyond the classroom.



Our Term 3 programme continues to provide a balanced mix of academic, social, physical and cultural learning experiences. We also greatly value the ongoing support of our families and wider community, whose encouragement, involvement and contribution enrich the learning experiences we are able to provide for our learners. We look forward to sharing more of what has been happening at Hauroko Valley Primary School soon! Catch you again in Term 4. Ka kite ano/See you again. 13

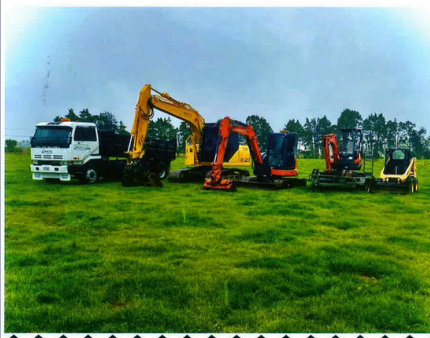


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Boundary Creek Gallery to Open in September

LOCALS INVITED TO BE PART OF THE HIGH COUNTRY HUNDY JOURNEY

After months of painting, renovating and preparing, Boundary Creek Gallery in Tuatapere will open its doors in September—and artist and gallery owner Karen Friend wants local people to be the first to know.

Rather than holding a formal gallery opening, Karen is choosing a quieter and more welcoming beginning, inviting members of the local community to call in, explore the gallery and see the collection as it begins to grow.

At the heart of the gallery is Karen's **High Country Hundy**—an ambitious personal project to create 100 original paintings celebrating New Zealand's high country.



“The Hundy is about much more than painting one hundred mountain scenes,” Karen says. “I want to capture the animals, people, working lives, weather and small moments that give the high country its character.”

The collection includes sweeping valleys and braided rivers, stockmen and stockwomen, horses, working dogs, wildlife, huts and stations. Each painting is accompanied by a short story, giving visitors a glimpse into the place, moment or memory behind the work.

The High Country Hundy will not arrive as a completed exhibition. Instead, it will unfold gradually, one painting and one story at a time. Visitors will be able to follow its progress, return to see new works and watch the gallery walls change as the collection grows.

Karen hopes local people will feel that Boundary Creek Gallery is somewhere they can comfortably call into—not somewhere they need a special invitation to enter.

“There is absolutely no expectation that people must come in to buy a painting,” she says.

“

I would simply love locals to visit, have a look and become part of the journey from the beginning. Tell me which places you recognise, which stories bring back memories and which paintings speak to you.

”

Boundary Creek Gallery has undergone a complete interior transformation in preparation for its September opening. Its character walls are now waiting to be filled with paintings created here in the south and inspired by the landscapes and lives of the wider high-country community. Opening dates and regular gallery hours will be announced closer to September.

“The doors will soon be open, the walls are beginning to fill, and the High Country Hundy is underway. I would love our local community to be the first to see it.”

Orepuki Promotions Group

Contact Trudy 027 6222 485

There's plenty happening in Orepuki, with some exciting improvements underway and a strong focus on keeping our beautiful corner of Southland looking its best.

In August, the Orepuki Promotions Group met with the Community Board and District Council to discuss local projects. The result was immediate and welcome news – Arapaki Reserve Road was freshly graded, making it easier for locals and visitors to enjoy the spectacular views across Te Waewae Bay and the windows and doors at the hall will be replaced this financial year. A big thank you to Rochelle for her time as hall custodian, and welcome back to Jeanette, who has taken on the role again.

The Orepuki Volunteer Fire Service had two call outs as backup support for the Tuatapere Fire Service recently. Certainly the bowling club call out was a major event and a devastating blow for the community. Orepuki would welcome more volunteers so if anyone is interested please turn up at their club rooms on a Monday evening about 7pm.

There is a Women's group that meets at the Orepuki cafe on the last Thursday of the month at 10.30am. Everyone is welcome to come along for a chat over a drink.

Interest is growing in a gardening club and a choir, with both hoped to get underway in October. If you're interested, please get in touch using the contact details above.

Finally, please help keep our stunning beaches and scenery free of rubbish by using the bins provided at all lookouts, beaches and in Orepuki itself.



View from Arapaki Terrace. Photo by Natalie Auld

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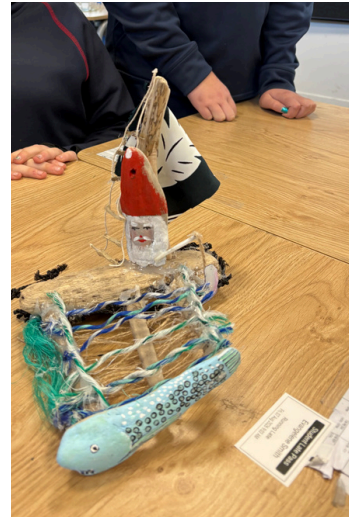
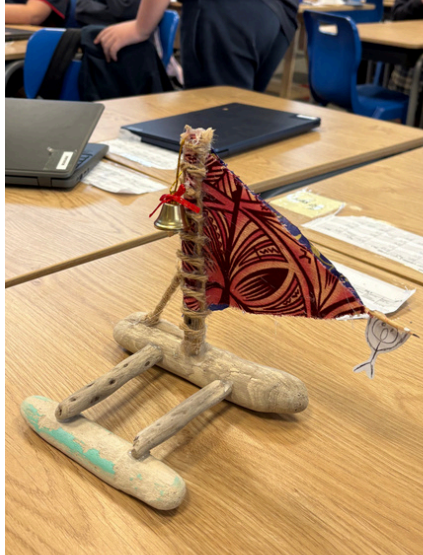
Year 1-13 Education

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Kia Ora Western Wanderer Readers,

YEAR 7 & 8

Year 7 & 8 had a great day with Mrs Sexton and the Waka Challenge!



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SENIOR MATHS @WAS

Our senior mathematics students are working hard at WAS as we move towards the end of the school year and head towards external exams.

In **Level 3** Mathematics and Statistics, we have been studying Conic Sections, Probability Distributions and Probability Concepts.

In **Level 2** Mathematics, we are now working hard towards external exams. Our students have all been studying some combination of Probability, Algebra and Calculus.

In **Level 1** Mathematics we have been finishing off our work on Mathematical Concepts, and are working towards Mathematical Reasoning and Interpreting Statistical Reports.

Good luck to all our students in their exams, and keep working hard!

Tuatapere Reserve Pest Control Group

Hi all, there's a bit to report to our community about the progress made to keep our beautiful Reserve lush and healthy. Our trapping programme is going well with our 77x AT220 Automated Traps, working well in three of our four blocks. They are proving to be very efficient and effective machines, dealing with all predators from possums to rats, mice & various other bird killers.

We are happy to share that Environment Southland has approved funding to our group of \$2,000.00 for the annual 2026/27 funding round. We have decided to purchase more traps with these monies. The Southland District Council (Community Funding) has recently given us \$1000.00 which we will be using to stock up on lure bait for our automated traps in the near future.

Recently cats have been added to the predator list and changes have been made to enable groups like ours to trap feral cats. Our reserve unfortunately has resident feral cats and this is a huge problem for our bird life within the reserve. There is much evidence of cat destruction sighted by our trappers. Presently we are not actively targeting cats as the automated traps have a mayonnaise bait and this does not really attract the cats, however we are currently discussing a way forward regarding this issue.

Our group would like to stress to cat owners bounding the town side of the reserve that family pet cats should be encouraged to stay indoors at night, for their own safety and also the safety of our native birds within the reserve. We would also like to stress that unwanted domestic cats and kittens should never be dropped off near or within the reserve. It may seem like a kind way of disposal, however the long-term repercussions to both the animals and the environment is devastating.

On a happier note ... we welcomed two new recruits to our last Meeting. Roger Caughly and Tim Vanderpile are on board and happy to help. A huge thanks to them both for their interest and willingness. They will both be shown the ropes by our current trappers and given an area to look after. Volunteers now run everything that Govt bodies can't pick up and are so important to our small communities.

A reminder from our group to get your mouse and rat traps out and throw some bait up into your ceiling spaces. The winter invasion is still on and looks like there's plenty of food around this year so we could be looking at an explosion in numbers again. Cheers and enjoy our beautiful Reserve - all 160 hectares of it!



Photo: our President Dave Todd, out and about in the reserve. He's got two new hips now so there will be no stopping him. Thanks Dave for building the new Rat/Stoat traps which our trappers are starting to place and monitor in our blocks.

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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.

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.

No bridle or saddle and riding bare back we could clear fences and gates. He would stand still for ages when we were acrobats at the circus and then canter sedately while we stood up on his back and rode round and round the lawn. Bridle on and saddled up Sandy could perform all the tricks in the book, good and bad.

Sandy had a mind of his own and could at times be stubborn. He would blow out his stomach so that the girth would not reach around and slip the bit from the bridle behind his tongue in his mouth.

We all at times saw the top of the trees or landed with a thud on the ground at his feet to have Sandy standing, waiting, as much to say, not my fault. Once Jacqui rode him home from out the back; she got all the way home only to be tipped off in the ditch.

A friend to us all Sandy was a part of our childhood.





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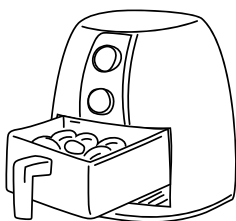
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Budget-Friendly Recipes

AirFryer Series - Part 3



Following on from Part 2 (May's Issue) we are finally back with Part 3 of our easy air-fryer dinners that you can make in 20-40 minutes, using ingredients commonly available in supermarkets. Here's two more simple, budget-friendly recipes that are great for weeknights.

Fried Rice (Air Fryer Version)

Ingredients

- Cooked rice
- Frozen mixed vegetables
- Egg
- Soy sauce

Method

- Mix everything in a small dish.
- Air fry at **180°C** for **8-10 min**, stirring halfway.

Shake or Flip for Even Cooking

Halfway through cooking, shake the basket or flip your food (chips, nuggets, veggies, etc.).

👉 This prevents uneven browning and gives you that golden, crispy finish.



Loaded Baked Potatoes

Ingredients

- Large potatoes
- Grated cheese
- Baked beans
- Sour cream or yoghurt (optional)

Method

- Air fry potatoes **200°C** for **35-40 min**.
- Split open and top with heated beans and cheese.

Do you have an easy "go to" Air Fryer favourite that doesn't break the bank? Send it to us and we'll give you credit - email: yourwesternwanderer@gmail.com

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Early Tūātapere, had many settlers who had been pioneers in Orepuki/Longwoods (Pt 1):



L CROSS (LEONARD) - GENERAL DRAPERS:

Len Cross, Draper of Orepuki was one of first to bring his business up to the new settlement of Tūātapere, where he operated out of John (Jack) Davies Cymric Hall, built 1909. Len was to operate here from at least Oct 1910. In 1911, Davies sold his whole building to EE Booth, a storekeeper, also of Orepuki. Then Booth sold to Hugh Mason in 1912, who rebuilt it as a Motor Garage. This burned down and it is now bare land.

ADAMSON & SON'S - GROCERY & GENERAL STORE KEEPERS:

James Allan Adamson, Orepuki Draper, started a business with his son, Adam Lawrence Adamson, who moved to Tūātapere in 1914. Their Drapery was in the store built for Stout's Grocers. They sold out to the Prentice's and left town in 1919. The last use for this store was the McClymont's Chemist, prior to their move to where the Four Square is.



CHARLTON'S GENERAL STORE (pictured in prior CWA article in Western Wanderer):

George snr. Charlton came up from Orepuki where he had a store, to buy Sneyd's business - in 1910 according to family, whereas legal land title records say in 1911, so he may have leased the business first. Charlton's became a family name in our town, where 'young' George Charlton still lives today.



CO McKEOWN & Co Ltd - STOREKEEPER & BAKER:

Later on, we have got Charles Oliver McKeown who was a baker at Orepuki from at least 1928. In 1943 he bought out the building Nairn's had run a grocer's in and ran a store from there. It was this building that later became Charlton's shop with Icecream! This was rebuilt and is now 'Hungry Hippo'. In 1944, McKeown then took over McLeod's Bakery on Ferry & Ōrawia Road corner.

*More Orepuki connected Tūātapere businesses and families
will be featured in next months edition*

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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



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”.

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