

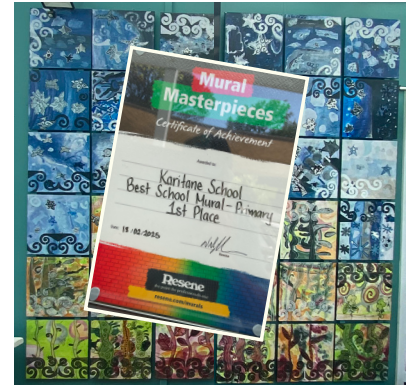
# POWA Community NEWS



PROGRESS OF THE WAIKOUAITI AREA

[www.waikouaiti.co.nz](http://www.waikouaiti.co.nz)

April 2025



**PLEASE GIVE  
GENEROUSLY  
TO THE RSA  
THIS APRIL**

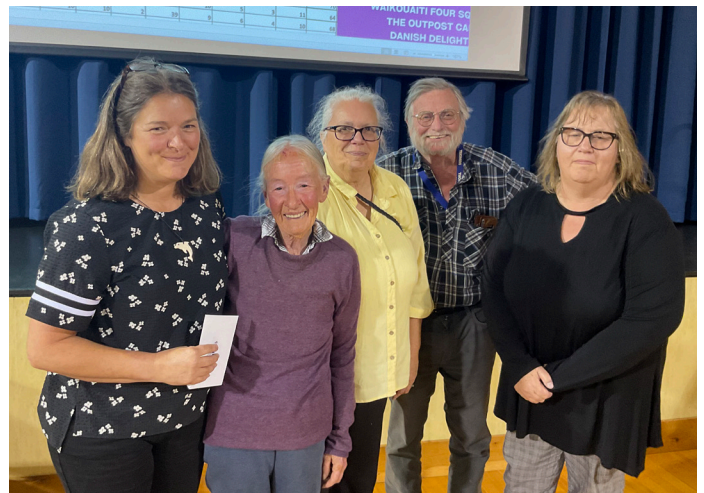
**RSA**

**Poppy Day  
Friday 11 April**



## First in New Zealand!

Congratulations to art teacher Helen Carter and her team of 29 artists from Karitane School, who won first prize in the Primary School section of the national Resene Mural Competition. The mural comprises a series of panels, depicting the separation of Papatuanuku and Rakinui, and each artist worked on a separate panel.



There were 26 teams competing in our recent Quiz Night but only one winner. Congratulations to The Scrabblers team who were pleased to receive their prize - a \$100 voucher from the Golden Fleece.



The Waikouaiti beach was the place to be on Saturday 15 March. The BP South Island IRB Surf Rescue Championships took place on a stunning day, with sunshine, big crowds and lots of action.

## COMMUNITY HUI

**SUNDAY, 18TH MAY 2025**

**12PM - 2PM**

**EAST OTAGO EVENTS CENTRE, WAIKOUAITI**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



- ★ **Wednesday 2 April**  
7pm-9pm  
Indoor Bowling Season starts  
East Otago Events Centre
- ★ **Sunday 6 April**  
Blueskin Show  
Bland Park. Waitati
- ★ **Sunday 6 April**  
9.30am-1.30pm  
Waikouaiti Artisans Market  
East Otago Events Centre
- ★ **Friday 11 April**  
from 10.am  
Poppy Street Appeal  
Outside The Waikouaiti Food Centre
- ★ **Wednesday 16 April**  
2.20pm  
Make an insect fossil  
Waikouaiti Library
- ★ **Saturday 19 April**  
10am-2pm  
Open Day  
Heritage Centre
- ★ **Sunday 20 April**  
POWA Community News  
Deadline for contributions
- ★ **Wednesday 23 April**  
11.15am  
Fossils, skulls and other curiosities  
Waikouaiti Library
- ★ **Friday 25 April**  
10.45am  
ANZAC Day Remembrance Service  
Outside RSA Hall, Pratt Street, Waikouaiti
- ★ **Saturday 26 April**  
10am – 11am  
Waikouaiti Crop Swap  
Presbyterian Hall, Kildare Street
- ★ **Tuesday 29 April**  
9.30am-11.30am  
East Otago Poets  
Waikouaiti Library
- ★ **Friday 2 May**  
10am  
Palmerston Sports Hall  
Pink Ribbon Breakfast

If you wish to advertise or contribute to the POWA Community News email your copy to:  
powa.editor@gmail.com

or drop it into the POWA office, Events Centre,  
Waikouaiti by the 20th of the month

POWA Office, Events Centre,  
203 Main Road, Waikouaiti  
Hours : 10am - 3pm  
Tuesday and Thursday

PO Box 21, Waikouaiti 9510

E : community.powa@gmail.com

facebook.com/POWA



## POWA Updates

### Sounds of the South

Ross (Golden Fleece Hotel) and Lawrence (Happy Days Radio) have joined forces in a new and exciting radio project that is full of promise. The old Happy Days frequency on 88.3 FM is now carrying Sounds of the South, music catering for the 30+ age group and a second Channel is being considered for the 50+ age group. When this channel goes ahead, it will be the only station catering for both age groups. Stay tuned for more information but in the meantime, check out soundsofthesouth.nz



### Line Dancing

A new evening class has started at St John's Hall, in Beach Street. It's on every Monday, 6.30pm – 7.30pm and costs \$5 per session. The good news is that its free for school age children. Marie M : 021 180 1756



### Palmerston Events

#### Motor Show

There will be an automotive Swap Meet on Saturday 26 April at the Palmerston Show Grounds, Gilligan Street, Palmerston. Cars, Bikes, Tractors, Vintage engines \$10 – driver and vehicle, \$5 per extra vehicle or machine, \$5 entry adults, children under 16 free). Automotive Swap Meet \$20 per site. Entry on <https://showday.online/> or register at the Main Gate on the day.

#### Equestrian Autumn Show

Following the Motor Show at the Palmerston Show Grounds, Gilligan Street, Palmerston on 27 April. Sashes, rosettes and sponsors prizes up for grabs. For both these events, there will be food vendors and ice creams available. Set up is at 8.30am, and public entry 10am-2.30pm.

Enquires: Christine Leov Lealand, Secretary, Palmerston Waihemo A&P Assn Inc

E : secretary.palmerstonshow@gmail.com



### Pink Ribbon Breakfast

Sonya Watson and Heather McGregor are planning to turn the town pink again. This year's Pink Ribbon breakfast will be held on Friday 2 May at 10am at the Palmerston Sports Hall. Last year there was a record crowd of 130 attendees so get there early if you want a seat at the table and wear pink. Last year the breakfast and other activities raised an amazing \$11,165.30 for Breast Cancer research so the challenge is to beat this in 2025. Bring lots of cash for raffles and the auction. The accumulated total raised by these two amazing Palmerston women since 2013 is \$70,557.23.

Heather M : 027 343 8731

Sonya M : 027 256 0201

## Community Emergency Hub

*Your go-to in an emergency:*

Waikouaiti - East Otago Events Centre  
Karitane - Puketeraki Marae

## RSA Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance at the Waikouaiti RSA is a unique and precious record of the names of those men and women of the district who lost their lives in various wars and conflicts.

It was put together soon after 2014 by the late Ian Taylor, past president of the Waikouaiti RSA with help from his daughter Margret Anne. They took over 90 of the names from a book written by Waikouaiti genealogist, Allan Steel and listing those who came from Waikouaiti, Merton, Flag Swamp, Seacliffe, Goodwood, Karitane and Puketeraki. The Book of Remembrance covers the South African War (1899-1902), World War 1 (1914-18) and World War 2 (1939-45).

Every Friday night at the start of the RSA social gathering in Waikouaiti the lights are lowered, and a Committee member reads out the fourth verse from the famous poem For the Fallen by Lawrence Binyon, 'They shall not grow old ...'. Then, the Committee member reads five names in order from the Book of Remembrance. Along with each name is the occupation before serving, rank, age and date and place of death. Some have 'no known grave'. This moving ceremony is followed by a one-minute silence to enable members to reflect on the lives behind those names



and what might have been. The ceremony is repeated every week, with five different names, ensuring that those who gave their lives are not forgotten.

If you are interested in finding out more or joining the RSA see page 15 for the RSA contact details.

Catherine Robinson

E : [powa.editor@gmail.com](mailto:powa.editor@gmail.com)

**ANZAC Day  
Remembrance Service**

**Friday 25 April**  
**Start time: 10.45am**

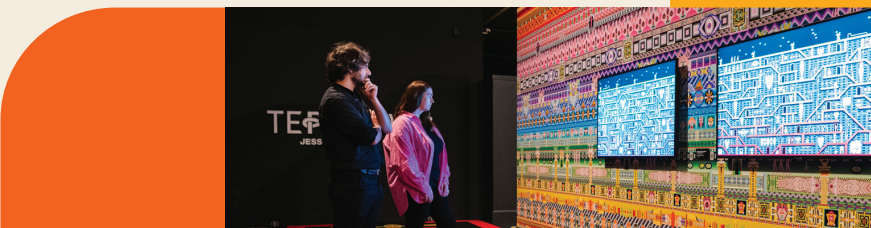
Outside RSA Hall, Pratt Street, Waikouaiti  
then inside the RSA for a cuppa.

Guest Speaker from the NZ Police Force

A collection will be taken



## DRAFT 9 year plan Have your say



 **DUNEDIN** | kaunihera  
CITY COUNCIL | a-rohe o  
ōtepoti

**We've put together  
our plans and  
budgets for the  
next 9 years and  
want to know what  
is important to you.  
Your feedback will  
help us finalise the  
2025-34 plan.**

Come and talk with Councillors and staff at our community meet-ups/sessions.

Visit [dunedin.govt.nz/9yp](https://dunedin.govt.nz/9yp)  
to find out more and have your say.

**Feedback closes at noon on  
Wednesday, 30 April 2025.**

## WAIKOUAITI LIBRARY

192 Main Road, Waikouaiti ph 465 9110

### Waikouaiti Library Hours

Monday – Friday: 11am – 5pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

### DCC Service Centre

Monday – Friday: 11am – 5pm:

Get your Bee Cards and top-ups, pay your rates, register your dog, pay parking fines, get your 75+ parking permit,  
You can do it all at Waikouaiti Library – where parking is free!

### Easter School Holidays (all activities are free!)

Easter craft

Monday 14 April – Thursday 17 April – come in any time

### Trapped in amber: Make an insect fossil

We will recreate what happens when an insect gets trapped in resin (BYO insect)

Wednesday 16 April 2.30pm

### Fossils, skulls & other curiosities

Show & tell with Bruce Mahalski from the Museum of Natural Mystery

Wednesday 23 April 11.15am

### East Otago Poets

Tuesday 29 April at 9.30am

### Seed Library

If you have left over seed from your summer planting drop it in to us for our Seed Library (clean, labelled seed only please)

### Digital Library

<https://www.dunedinlibraries.govt.nz/digital-library>

Read e-books, listen to e-audio, read e-mags (BorrowBox), read world newspapers (Press Reader), watch free movies (Beamafilm), enjoy a graphic novel (Comics Plus), do an online jigsaw (Jigsaw Explorer), get a craft lesson or idea (Creative Bug)



### Waikouaiti Transfer Station

140 Edinburgh Street, Waikouaiti

Hours : Wednesday 12 noon - 5pm

Saturdays and Sundays 10am - 5pm



### New! Social Boardgames

Bring your favourite game to play or join in someone else's. Enjoy time away from your screens, exercise your brain, and make new friends.

**First Saturday of the month, 2-4pm at St John's Church Hall** (Beach St, Waikouaiti).

Please consider a gold coin donation to help cover Hall hire.

Jenny Stein E : [jenny.k.stein@gmail.com](mailto:jenny.k.stein@gmail.com)

## Palmerston Lions Club Under Pressure

Lions are ordinary men and women from all walks of life who enjoy getting together and doing good things for our communities. We work on projects to improve our communities and protect the environment. We get great satisfaction from the knowledge that what we do really does make a difference.

Several years ago, the Palmerston Lions Club amalgamated with the Waikouaiti Lions and more recently the East Otago Club. The club's catchment includes much of East Otago, from Karitane to Katiki and inland.

But - we need more members so that we can continue with helping where help is needed. As our members age, it's become more difficult to maintain the clubs' activities. Co-president Ronald Sheat says 'There's a need for new members and the club would welcome interested men and women. Recently retired people and those new to the area with an interest in the community are what we need,' he adds, 'and younger people are especially welcome.'

Members are often involved as charity collectors for various groups, we manage the gates at some events like Kellys Canter and we recently acted as marshals for the Silver Fern Rally, among other events. The women members of Lion's do invaluable work on many projects and in administration.

As you already know, bagging and selling sheep manure is the Lion's main fundraiser and this enables us to support local and charitable organisations. So, in addition to new members, the club is looking for suitable sheds to work in because our current shed is unsuitable. Ideally the shed would be high enough to walk under, or one that has been vacuumed out so the manure can be easily bagged

'We are interested in hearing from any farmers who have a suitable shed and any club member would be happy to hear from them,' Mr Sheat said.

Potential members are welcome to attend any of the clubs' regular meetings on the second Monday of each month (excluding December and January), or to contact any club member. We are aware that some people may be happy to help with projects but for many reasons are not yet able to commit to membership. We welcome your help and encourage you to get in touch.

Ronald Sheat M : 027 431 535

Bruce Lee M : 027 212 7075

W: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) and search 'Palmerston Otago'

FB: Lions Club of Palmerston Otago

*If you don't receive the POWA Community News in your Mail box, we can deliver it to your In-box each month.  
Get in touch: [powa.editor@gmail.com](mailto:powa.editor@gmail.com)  
and never miss a copy.*



# Be alert . . . there are scams everywhere

## From the Community Engagement Manager

No one is immune from financial scams. Fraudsters and con artists tend to go after older adults because they believe this population has plenty of money in the bank. But it's not just wealthy older who are targeted. Older adults with low income are also at risk for fraud. Sometimes they leave people with no way to recoup their losses. Below are the most common scams targeting older adults:

1 The grandparent scam This is effective because it exploits people's emotions. First, a caller gains trust by tricking their target into volunteering information, like a grandchild's name. They may say something like, "Hi Gram, do you know who this is?" Then, with that name at the ready, they impersonate the grandchild. In this scam, fake grandchildren ask for help with car repairs, late rent, a medical or other emergency.

2 Financial services scam These cons work because they appear to come from a legitimate source: a bank, a mortgage company, or a debt collection agency. Scammers call, text, or send email messages that look and sound perfectly legitimate. They may claim that a cheque or savings account has been compromised and ask for personal information, such as a password. They may promise better rates on a home loan. Scammers know how to be convincing. They fake the information on Caller ID and know how to make email addresses and links look real.

3 Tech support scams When it comes to fraud committed against older adults, tech support scams top the list because of the doubts and discomforts that many people have around computers. Typically, a person's computer or phone screen will freeze or go blank. A pop-up message will appear with a phone number to dial for help. When the user calls it, the scammer on the other end will ask for permission to log on to the device remotely.

4 Romance scams As more people turn to online dating, con artists are seizing the opportunity. Romance scammers create fake social media profiles and use them to gain trust and steal money. In some cases, these scammers may be (or pretend to be) overseas. They ask their victims to pay for visas, medical emergencies, and travel expenses.

5 Investment scams This scam involves the illegal or alleged sale of financial investments that typically offer low risk and guaranteed returns. The use of cryptocurrency (digital assets, such as Bitcoin) is common in investment scams.

6 Internet and email fraud These scams include pop-up windows that look like anti-virus software; in reality, these windows install computer viruses when clicked on. These viruses can expose personal information or even disable the computer until a person pays a lot of money to have it fixed. (Sometimes this is called "ransomware.") Internet firewalls, built-in virus protection, and other safety precautions can help prevent this type of fraud. However, users must know about these tools—and it can be hard to keep up with the latest ones.

Scams are specifically designed to catch us off guard, and they can happen to anyone. There's nothing to be ashamed of if you think it's happened to you. Keep important phone numbers handy, including the local police and your bank. Let's look out for one another—get to know your elderly neighbours, check in on them, and lend a hand when needed.

Sonya Billyard

E : community.powa@gmail.com

## Scam text

Recently I received this text. How do I know this is a scam text?

- 1 My family live overseas so they wouldn't use a New Zealand mobile phone with a 64 prefix.
- 2 They can put a new mobile number on What's App, and don't need anyone else to do this.
- 3 None of my family is up at 5.52am!



Scam texts usually have an urgent sounding message with a request for you to do something now and it's easy to follow the instructions without thinking about it. If you feel vulnerable, work out a simple code with your family, especially if you share private information. Always use this code when you send a message. For example, you (and they) could use MumK, rather than just 'mum'.

There's a lot of information about scams on the internet. Check the following websites for information before you get scammed:

Netsafe: <https://www.netsafe.org.nz>

Own Your Online: <https://www.ownyouronline.govt.nz>

If you receive a scam message or phone call, tell us about it so that we can keep our community informed.

Catherine Robinson

powa.editor@gmail.com



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Welcomes children and their families/whanau from zero to six years for education and care.

- Our opening hours are 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday
- We provide government funded 20 hours for three and four year olds, WINZ subsidies are also available.
- You and your family/whanau are very welcome to visit our centre to meet staff and have a look around.

**5 McGregor Street, Waikouaiti**  
**Ph 03 4657 319 - [bigsteps@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bigsteps@xtra.co.nz)**

# PEWS NEWS

## St John's Anglican Church

**Sunday April 13** at 10 am, an ecumenical service with Rev Joy Hamilton-Jones.

**Morning tea to follow.**

Everyone Welcome.

Any queries regarding St John's please contact Bev Medlin 027 307 9100

## Presbyterian Parish of Waikouaiti - Karitane

**April 6** - 10am shared Communion Service at Karitane Church, led by Rev Hilary Oxford-Smith

**April 13** - 10am shared Service at St John's Anglican Church, Waikouaiti

**April 18** - 10am Good Friday Service at Waikouaiti Church, Kildare Street

**April 20** - 10am Easter Service at Karitane Church led by the Robertson Family

**April 27** - 10am Parish led Service at Waikouaiti Church, Kildare Street

## Hawksbury Christian Fellowship

Services at 10am every Sunday at Hawksbury Village Chapel.

Also weekly bible study groups, ladies' group, and monthly men's breakfast. All welcome.

For more information contact:

Rodger and Ruth Mangai 021 126 5775

or Peter and Thelma Arnott 027 235 8397

## St Anne's Catholic Church

Waikouaiti Mass every Sunday at 12 noon; Hampden Mass at 1.30pm on 1st and 2nd Sunday each month.

**Easter Sunday Service**  
**at Hui te Rangiora Church**  
**Nau mai haere mai, all welcome**  
**1pm**  
**Easter Sunday, 20 April**  
**Held by Father Tony Curtis**  
**assisted by Hinerangi Ferrall Heath**

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*What's going on?*

## East Otago High School parkrun

This is a free, fun and friendly weekly 5k community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. There's no time limit and it's not a race so no-one comes last. Seven weeks ago, on the 1 February 2025 we started our first official East Otago High School parkrun.

On that first event we had 83 participants, 17 volunteers, 3 or 4 dogs and a few spectators. We were amazed that so many people turned up from all over New Zealand - Christchurch, Palmerston North, Alexandra, Invercargill, Trentham, Queenstown, Balclutha, Tauranga, Lower Hutt. There were people from the UK-Buckingham, Woodhouse Moor, South Africa, Australia (Launceston and several other parts of Australia). They had all heard on the grape vine, the internet, from friends and family that there was a new parkrun starting in Palmerston, Otago.

Plans were made, tickets were purchased, leave was applied for.

So, on Saturday 1 February, the end of the journey that had brought us to our first parkrun had finally arrived. It was still dark when I arrived to set up the course for our Inaugural East Otago High School parkrun on the sports field of the school here in Palmerston. People were already turning up and the carpark was filling up. Wow what a turn out! I was so relieved. It was a wonderful morning, and the event went off well and a course time was set at 19.03 minutes. This has since been beaten and is currently 19.02 minutes.

On that first day some of us met at the local Coffee Cup Cafe. I phoned Kelly to say there would be about 20 or 30 people turning up. I was the last person to arrive and there were still 50 people sitting around enjoying the pleasure of this thing called the East Otago High School parkrun. What a great day!

Since that first day, we have welcomed parkrun participants from many parts of New Zealand, Australia, UK, South Africa and other parts of the world where parkruns take place (23 counties). We have had 7 events with a total of 265 participants who have walked, run, jogged or been pushed in baby buggies with about 8 or 12 different dogs who have been very well behaved on our course. There have been 159 first timers, mostly from out of town, 81 volunteers, many also from out of town.

Thirty-two of our participants have set Personal Best (PB) times. Our oldest participant is 87 years young while our youngest participant is still beating Mum as she pushes him across the finish line in his buggy. Our lowest number during this time has been 11 on a rain-threatening morning while our average turnout is 37 every parkrun day.

How are we doing? East Otago High School parkrun is well and truly established and, as we move into the cooler months, it's still thriving. It's on every Saturday morning at 8am (NZ summer time) or 9am (NZ winter time). Arrive 15 minutes earlier for the briefing. You are all welcome to participate and it "FREE for Everyone for Ever"

### Venue:

East Otago High School, 3 Stour Street, Palmerston.

Chris Wells

M : 027 481 1755

E : [chriswells57@gmail.com](mailto:chriswells57@gmail.com)

W : <https://www.parkrun.co.nz/eastotagohighschool>

## Postcard Exhibition

### "No Place Like Home"

"No Place Like Home" is an exhibition of postcard-sized artworks held at the Community Art Hub, Palmerston.

Open Thurs-Sat, 10am-2pm, April 2025  
34 Buraness Street (closed Public Holidays)

This event is made with the support from Palmerston Local Community News & Creative New Zealand



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parkrun has arrived and is thriving!

**East Otago High School parkrun, Palmerston**  
(3 Stour St, Palmerston)

### What is parkrun?

parkrun is a free community event where you can walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate.

parkrun is positive, welcoming, and all inclusive, there is no time limit, and no one finishes last.

parkrun is 5km and takes place every Saturday morning.

Starting at 8.00am (daylight savings) and 9.00am (non-daylight savings) at East Otago High School, arrive 15mins early for briefing.

(parkrun New Zealand <http://www.parkrun.co.nz>)

### Everyone is welcome to come along

If you are interested in walking, jogging, running, volunteering and would like to know more about parkrun in Palmerston, visit our website

<https://www.parkrun.co.nz/eastotagohighschool/> or contact

Chris Wells 027 481 1755, [chrisjwells57@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjwells57@gmail.com)

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## 2025 PINK RIBBON BREAKFAST

**FRIDAY 2ND MAY  
10.00AM**

**PALMERSTON SPORTS HALL**

Guest Artist  
Pippity-Pop  
Balloonologist

PINK BAGS - RAFFLES  
AUCTION - BCFNZ MERCH  
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Contacts | Heather 027 343 8731  
Sonya 027 256 0201

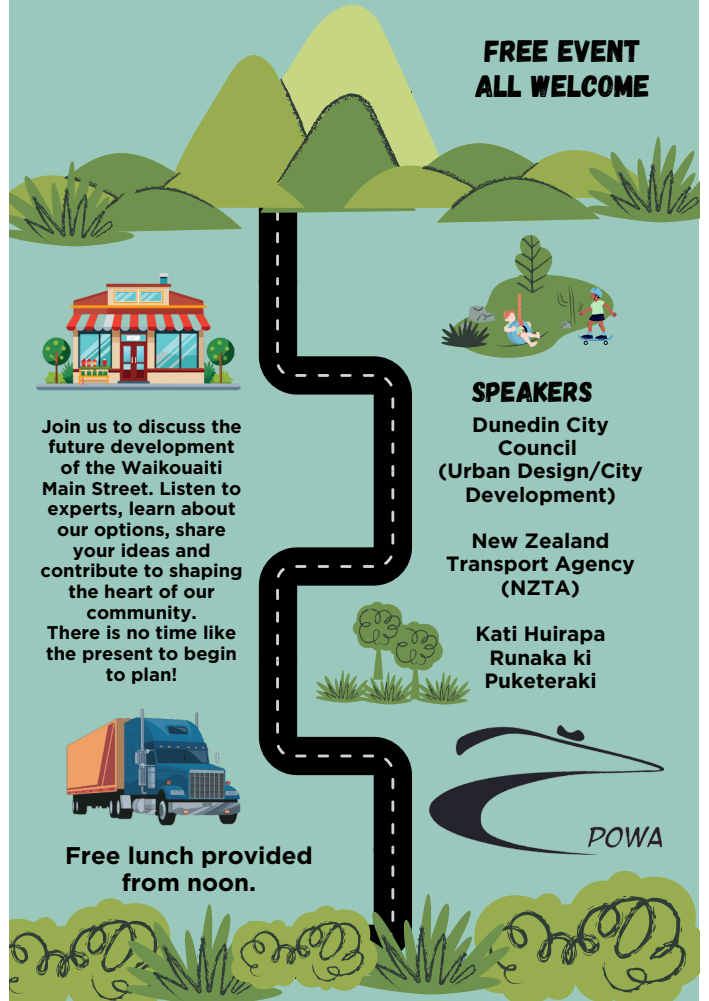
# COMMUNITY HUI

**SUNDAY, 18TH MAY 2025**

**12PM - 2PM**

**EAST OTAGO EVENTS CENTRE, WAIKOUAITI**

**FREE EVENT  
ALL WELCOME**



Join us to discuss the future development of the Waikouaiti Main Street. Listen to experts, learn about our options, share your ideas and contribute to shaping the heart of our community. There is no time like the present to begin to plan!

### SPEAKERS

Dunedin City Council  
(Urban Design/City Development)

New Zealand Transport Agency  
(NZTA)

Kati Huirapa  
Runaka ki Puketeraki

**Free lunch provided  
from noon.**

POWA

## A stronger future for Otago Annual Plan 2025/26

**Otago Regional Council's work remains focused on building a stronger future for Otago.** In developing our Draft Annual Plan, we've focused on value for money while still doing important work for our communities and the environment.

We're making some changes to planned work, including Queenstown bus services; transport proposals for Dunedin, Ōamaru, Balclutha, Central Otago and Wānaka; and river management and flood protection work.

A new environmental fund is set to support communities from this year.

To do the work we do, an overall rates increase of 7.8% is planned. You can use the rates estimator on our website to see what it means for your property.

Changes to fees and charges are also proposed.

**Have your  
say!**



**We value your voice — tell us what you think to help shape Otago's future.**

[orc.govt.nz/ap2025](https://orc.govt.nz/ap2025)

**Feedback closes 15 April**



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## Support Local: Mosgiel Computers

Has your computer seized up recently? Or, click but nothing happens? You've read about Windows 11 coming in, but so what? Are you anxious about hackers, confused about security systems? Relax. We have a computer expert living locally who's willing to visit your home to explain, fix, and advise.

Athol Bayne, owner of Mosgiel Computers is based in Hawksbury Village and with his consultant Aaron Keen visits customers on-site. Now semi-retired, Athol was brought up on a farm at Akatore. His varied career includes 4 years in the RNZAF and working for the Post Office as a mail sorter. 'This was a good learning experience', says Athol, 'because I developed management skills and through the unions, learned how to treat staff.' Athol's first computer was a Windows 95 which he taught himself to use and, 'I developed an ability to help others with their computer issues', he adds. Later Athol did a Be your Own Boss course, run by WINZ and was given \$1,600 which he used to start the business in Mosgiel. A sound investment – the business operated for over 26 years and employed six staff.

Current issues? Athol explains: 'Microsoft stop supporting the Windows 10 operating system after the 14 October, the day after my birthday'. Does this matter? 'Well, says Athol, 'If your laptop or computer is more than 4 years old, there might be problems in successfully operating Windows 11. This is a big issue because your computer might have to be replaced'.

Athol has a lot to say about anti-virus and security systems. 'These are not a luxury but a necessity,' he explains, 'and if you have only the free version of a security system and you're hacked, you will have problems getting reimbursement from the banks.' 'But,' he adds, 'if you've installed paid anti-virus protection, it shows that you've taken reasonable care'. Athol warns that it's extremely important for small businesses to be protected because if you lose your data, the IRD can prosecute for inadequate record keeping, so a back-up system is essential. 'It's not a question of if you'll be hacked', he warns, but when'. For Microsoft users he recommends One Drive as the cheapest option and 'probably the wisest as it can come bundled with MS Office 365'.

Mosgiel Computers offers a variety of services. Athol will visit your home to carry out a 15 minute check on your computer/laptop. He will advise on whether you can upgrade to Windows 11 and give advice on your current security system. The cost of this peace of mind is \$45. Athol: 'If I identify a problem, or you want more done, I'll give a quote and we can make a day and time for me, or Aaron to come back.' Aaron can do data copying from an old machine to a new one, deliver and set up a new machine and deal with a multitude of computer problems – in your home. If neither of them can fix the problem, they can recommend a reputable dealer who will. 'And, if the labour cost is more than \$100, we give a \$10 Gold Card discount,' Athol adds.

With all this tech stuff in his head, how does Athol relax? 'When I was a small boy I fell in love with the stars,' he smiles, 'I borrowed my brothers shooting telescope and mapped out part of the moon's 'straight wall' and produced a map that, in my opinion, was only surpassed by satellites.' He confesses that he's been addicted to 'aperture fever' ever since. 'My current telescope is smaller than average, an electronically assisted Seestar 50mm with built in camera and wifi to my tablet. I'm planning a tourist observatory in Hawksbury to be called Cherry Farm Observatory. 'Athol sells telescopes, binoculars as well as cameras and microscopes including special astronomy dedicated units. 'The night skies around here are darker than the night skies around Tekapo', he says. But we knew that, didn't we?

Mosgiel Computers E : office@mosgielcomputers.co.nz  
Ph : 03 489 7699 M : 021 0829 8781



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**Saturday** 12.30pm to 2.30pm  
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OneCoast's Fabric and Fibrecraft sale at the Events Centre last month was a great success, with sewers and crafters searching through the tables for that perfect patterned piece of fabric or coloured thread, while our display of some of our special clothes was a draw card for others. About half of the many boxes of fabric we had collected were sold. You can search through the other boxes at the OneCoast Hub in front of the Waikouaiti Transfer Station. Through the success of this sale, we feel encouraged to bring a few other pop up sales to the Main Street at the Events Centre. The next will be a winter clothing sale in May.



Judy Martin and Rachel Casswell working hard at the Fabric and Fibrecraft sale

How many of you have visited our Hub in the last year? We welcome many regulars who visit every week, sometimes more than once! And we still get the occasional visitor who is coming for the first time, to drop off donations, or have a look around, or both. But we know there are many more who may have never visited, or not for some time. If you haven't popped in over the last year you will be amazed at the changes. We now have four containers and one of them is a 40 footer filled mostly with clothing! The two dollar bags of clothes are one of our biggest drawcards, but equally popular are the free books and bedding in the free container, not to mention our shelf of donated electrical appliances (no computers or printers though!). What our regulars enjoy most is the satisfaction of rummaging and finding just the thing they were looking for. Or, didn't even know they were looking for. We are especially pleased when we have saved someone a trip to town or a visit to an online store. Come and see us, Wednesday, 12 to 3 or Saturday or Sunday 1 to 3 and say hi!

Judy Martin  
E: chair@onecoast.org

M : 021 130 7765

POWA Community News April 2025

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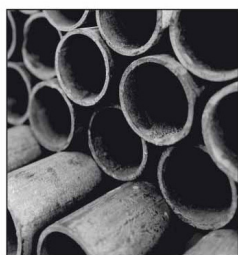
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## Waipaku/Post Office Creek Water Quality Project

The senior classes at Waikouaiti Primary School have been working on a project in Post Office/Waipaku Creek to try to understand what the water quality is like. The project is a collaboration between the Primary School working with the East Otago Catchment Group, Kāti Huirapa ki Rūnaka Puketeraki and Otago Enviroschools and has been running since July last year. The students have been doing monthly temperature and clarity testing at 3 sites as well as bi-monthly chemical testing, eDNA work and have even set fish and eel nets to see what is living in the water.

In addition to all of this science work they have been creating art work, singing waiata and learning a specific karakia specially written by Nikki from the Rūnaka for this project.

The students are now working hard to analyse this information to make their conclusions as to what the water quality is like in the Post Office/Waipaku Creek catchment.

On Monday the 5th May they are going to present the project and their findings to the community, Rūnaka and anyone interested and we would love you to come along. The time is still to be confirmed but location will be at Waikouaiti Primary School.

If you are interested in coming to this presentation please contact Steph Scott on 0274 387 875, or [eocatchmentgroup@gmail.com](mailto:eocatchmentgroup@gmail.com).



Here we are - week SEVEN already! The term is just rocketing by...

Our senior students attended the recent Three Peaks swimming event held at East Otago High School pool. We were thrilled that all of those who elected to swim, represented themselves and the school so well and that four of our tamariki qualified for the Otago swimming Championships - we think that's not too bad when you consider this was a third of our competitors. A huge thankyou to all our supporters and helpers - it was fantastic to see so many of you at the event cheering proudly for the children.

Last week we sent off 15 of our girls to play at the Spirit Sisters Rippa Rugby round robin. This was an excellent day out for our girls and they thoroughly enjoyed themselves. A massive thankyou to Leah, Alice, Ivan and Airini who organised the teams, practices and games on the day. Again, it was wonderful to see so many parents, caregivers and family members taking part and helping. Thankyou!

In the classrooms, we have been exploring career options as part of our mahi around Ngā Tākata (People). This has involved lots of reading, talking and writing about people and the jobs they do. This learning brings authentic texts about interesting subjects into the classroom structured literacy programme. Guided whole class reading sessions introduce specific vocabulary and unpacks how words are spelt, what they mean and where they come from (etymology), as they read and engage with text together. Then, we write about what we are reading - and this is where the magic happens as writing, reading and thinking are indelibly linked.

As we work towards the end of term one (only three weeks to go!) we are looking forward to a more settled and consistent time in the classroom with fewer interruptions. Hopefully we will manage to squeeze in one of Ben's pizza nights at the end of term with our school whānau - a delicious and social way to end the term!

Nic Philip, Principal  
E : [principal@karitaneschool.co.nz](mailto:principal@karitaneschool.co.nz)



local scientists Amelia, Carter and Teresa at work on their project.



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## Reports

### Heritage Centre

Have I mentioned before that we would welcome anyone considering joining our band of volunteers? Just call in and speak to the volunteer on duty. We encourage new (younger than me) people to become engaged in the Heritage Centre to ensure our future sustainability. It's not a major time commitment.

### Major Display

Work is progressing on our major display about the beginnings of the Plunket Organisation (which occurred here) and its impact on infant health. John (Curator) and Ian (Chair) hope to have the launch ready for May. A lot of behind-the-scenes research and collection of relevant photos and items has been occurring. We hope that you will call in during the following months to view the display. There will be no charge.

### Old Bank Project

The project to restore the old bank is making progress. Consent applications are underway as well as preparation to replace damaged roof tiles. As you know, we raise some of the funding for this work from our Labour Weekend plant sale. Many plants have already been potted up in anticipation and again I thank the volunteers for their work. If you are dividing perennials and have some to spare, we will be pleased to acquire them (make sure they are labelled). Leave them at the Heritage Centre.

Your donation or sponsorship for this important restoration project would be greatly appreciated. Our bank acc is 03 1726 0718649 001. We are GST registered so you can claim 1/3rd back from the IRD.

We have contacted the Head of Film at the DCC who has since visited us to view our 1869 bank as a possible venue for future films etc. If successful, this will not only add to our finances but will be a great promotional opportunity.

### Open Day

A reminder that our Open Day is on **Easter Saturday 19th April from 10am -2pm**. We will be closed on Good Friday.

Shirley McKewen, Treasurer  
E : ts.mckewen@gmail.com

### Palmerston Seniors Club

It was a busy month for our club. Tania from St John's came to talk about her busy job and explained some of the new technology that helps St John's do their job. One of the things she described was an air mattress that helps get people off the floor instead of waiting for fire service to come to lift people. She discussed alarms and told our members who have them to use them. If it turns out to be a false alarm St John's would rather come than find out later that you didn't use it. They are always looking for more volunteers. Our members laughingly told her she was at the wrong club if she was looking for volunteers!

Our next speaker was Catherine Robinson who shares the editorship with Stuart Brown of the POWA Community News which is similar to our Palmerston Local. She told us something about herself and how she came to be involved

*POWA Community News April 2025*



in editor duties. She also interviewed me to show our members how she chooses what part of an interview to put into an article.

We had our AGM on the 14th March. We would love more members to come to our club. The only criteria is that you are 55+ but we are easy going about rules. If you have no transport, please let us know as we have people who will pick you up. Our meetings are fortnightly at the Palmerston Community Centre.

*Ursula Sinclair (Sherry)*, President M: 0272972083

## Hawksbury Lagoon

This month has been dominated by the outbreak of avian botulism at the local sewerage ponds and bird deaths being spread to the lagoon and beach areas. The Waikouaiti community has been responsive which has helped control the spread of this major threat to the bird life at the Hawksbury Lagoon. People living at the edge of the lagoon were asked to report any dead birds they spotted through the MPI Hotline. I understand this service received a significant response. Thank you.

Steve Dixon and the Fish and Game staff are our real heroes. Steve kept a check on the areas outside the sewerage ponds. He removed the bird carcasses so maggots wouldn't be able to pass on the disease to other birds, and euthanised sick birds to prevent them from suffering the progressive paralysis and then spreading the infection after they had died. This was surely a most unpleasant but necessary task. The checks took several hours and were very thorough. The Waikouaiti River area, Hawksbury Lagoon and racetrack centre were visited over a 7 week period.

As far as I have been able to identify, at least 1,700 birds died at the sewerage ponds with about another 50 outside. Dead birds were also reported at the beach but these were not included in the counts. The range of species included paradise ducks, mallards, grey teal, black swans, Canada geese, pied stilts, black backed and red billed gulls. This does not include those found outside the ponds and or on the beach. The last dead birds likely to have died from avian botulism were seen at the lagoon on March 10th. The following day Steve Dixon reported finding no dead birds and Fish and Game have now ceased their surveillance. For future management, there is an agreement of joint management between the Department of Conservation and Fish and Game, I have yet to find out what this means in practice.

In future years the sewerage ponds will remain a potential site for outbreaks of avian botulism. While some management measures may reduce the risk, the ponds remain an attractive place for birds to congregate and for disease to be spread. The current Dunedin City Council Waikouaiti Sewerage Plant is consented by the Otago Regional Council (ORC) until 2027. Planning is underway for a replacement land-based treatment plant which will avoid the use of ponds. According to the ORC Future Development Strategy 2024-2054 this is planned for the next 1-10 years but no doubt it will take several more years to implement. The recent avian botulism outbreak is another significant reason why this project needs to be prioritised.

*Ruth Ferguson* E : risabelfe@gmail.com

POWA Community News April 2025

## East Otago Health

Flu vaccinations will be available from the 1st April 2025. We book our immune compromised patients first and the over 65's. Please phone for details.

Dr Kevin Moginie will be with us for just two short weeks from 31st March. He has come from Wanaka and Geraldine and could be a potential GP for the future. Watch this space.

*Jane Roberts* Practice Manager- East Otago Health

M : 021 415500

P : 03 465 7599

E : jane.roberts@southlinkgp.co.nz

## East Otago Plunket Round Up

The East Otago Playgroup in Waikouaiti runs weekly during school term time on Wednesdays between 10.00 and 12.00 at the Plunket Rooms in the East Otago Events Centre, providing the opportunity to connect with other parents and caregivers and to give your child a chance to socialise, play and build connections with other children.

We're going to be heading to the Blueskin Show in Bland Park, Waitati on 6 April! Come and say hello as we'll be providing a family friendly area with shelter, baby changing and breastfeeding facilities, some toys for your children to play with and will have a selection of good quality second-hand knitwear available to purchase with your small change.

Plunket appointment or clinical enquiries: 0800 184 803

*Annabel Kuzma*

M: 027 2291 608

E : Annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz

## Waikouaiti Crop Swap

This is the season of abundance. Generous gardeners are giving away so much of their produce and picking up something different to take home. No need to bring anything this time as there's always plenty to go round. Drop in and find out what it's all about.

Saturday 26 April, 10am-11.am. Gold Coin Donation

Presbyterian Hall, Kildare Street

E : wcropswap@gmail.com FB : Waikouaiti Crop Swap





## POWA IN THE PAST:

From the POWA Community News archive

April 2007: 18 years ago

Its ID Fashion Week in Dunedin this week, and we think they got the idea from us! We remember when our local models strutted their stuff! If you were involved or enjoyed the show, tell us about it.

E : powa.editor@gmail.com



Do you remember this? If so, we would love to hear from you: powa.editor@gmail.com

## POWA Business Directory

We are currently developing an up-to-date POWA Business Directory which will be available throughout East Otago. We offer FREE listings to all local businesses and organisations. Don't miss out!

For a free listing, contact us with the following information:

- 1 Name of the business
- 2 Type of business
- 3 Name of contact person/owner
- 4 Email address
- 5 Contact phone number

Contact us: powa.directory@gmail.com

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## TRY SOMETHING NEW

### Book Passion (Book Club)

Tuesday, alternate months  
6.30pm-8.30pm  
Waikouaiti Library  
Library 03 474 3690  
Eryn.makinson@dcc.govt.nz

### East Otago Creative Fibre

(Spinners and Weavers)  
1st Thursday of the month: 10am-2pm  
St John's Hall, Beach Street  
Lorraine McLean 027 288 6081  
Laurel Caddick 021 269 0288

### East Otago Art Group

St John's Hall, Beach Street  
Reywa Brown 022 254 7620

### Eastern Boating Fishing Club

Kerrie Boock 027 358 8769  
Eric Broock 027 686 9939  
easternbfclub@gmail.com

### East Otago Artisans

Reywa Brown 022 254 7620

### East Otago Musical Theatre

Sharleen Snoeck 021 0825-5735  
Eomtproductions@gmail.com

### East Otago Social Bridge Club

Wednesday 6.50pm  
RSA Hall, Pratt Street  
Susan Daly 022 0214 722  
EOBridge@outlook.com

### East Otago Wood Turners

Thursdays 1pm-3pm, 6pm-8pm-8pm  
Lou Tonkin 020 4037 9635

### East Otago Camera Club

2nd Monday of the month  
7.30pm – 9.30pm  
St Mary's Church Hall, Stromness St,  
Palmerston  
eastotagocameraclub@gmail.com

### East Otago Poets

Tuesday alternate months 9.30am-  
11.30am  
Waikouaiti Library 03 474 3690  
Eryn.makinson@dcc.govt.nz

### Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki

Monday 9am-4pm  
03 465 7300

### Palmerston Fibre Arts Collective

Sunday 11am-2pm  
Palmerston Community Hall, Ronaldsay  
St, Palmerston  
Christine Leov-Lealand 021 061 4485

### Waitaki Writers Group

2nd Monday of the month 1.30-3.30  
St John's Hall, Exe St, Oamaru  
Bruce Costello 027 451 4149  
waitakiwriters@yahoo.co.nz

### Waikouaiti Garden Club

Last Monday of the month 7pm  
John Brown Room, Events Centre  
Barb 021 180 7366  
Alison 021 652811

### Waikouaiti Golf Club

Tues 10am, Fri 12.45pm, Sat 12.noon  
M: 021 663 641  
waikouaitigolf@gmail.com

### Waikouaiti Creative Crafts

2nd and 4th Wednesday 9.30am-2pm  
Hawksbury Village Coffee Lounge,  
beside the Church  
Cathy 027 201 1463  
Christine 021 235 1883

### Waikouaiti Rodeo Club

Logan Rowland 021 025 76513  
waikouaitirodeo@gmail.com

## FITNESS AND FUN

### Eastern Rugby Club

Abby Lynch 027885 5105  
easternrugbyclub@gmail.com

### East Otago High School parkrun

Saturday 8am  
Chris Wells M : 027 4811755  
E : eastotagohighschool@parkrun.com

### Hydrotherapy & Aquacise

Thursday 9.30am-10.30am  
Moana Gow Pool, Hawksbury  
Bev 021 055 8501

### Karitane Bowling Club

Oct-March Thursday 4pm  
Bob 021 055 8501

### Karitane Indoor Bowling Club

April-Sept Tuesday 1pm  
Karitane Hall  
Neil 027 220 3033

### Karitane Hall Yoga

Saturdays 9am - 10am  
Nicola IYTA NZ & IYA 021 0862 0140

### Kyokushin Karate

Mon & Thurs 6pm-8pm  
Presbyterian Hall, Kildare Street  
Noah Heath 027 283 5043  
Noah.heath@slingshot.co.nz

### Line Dancing

Monday 4pm; Beginners 3.30pm  
Presbyterian Hall, Kildare Street  
Marie Perica 021 180 1756

### Moana Gow Pool

Hawksbury Village  
Jane 027 474 5263  
moanagowpooltrust@gmail.com

### Pétanque

Wednesday & Sunday 1.15pm  
Anthony Nally 027 465 7633

### Steady as You Go

Wednesday 10am  
East Otago Events Centre

### Tai Chi

Mon 10am, Intermediate; 2pm Beginners  
Tuesday 7pm, Friday 10am  
St John's Church Hall, Beach St  
Judy Martin ratasouthern@gmail.com

### Twilight Tennis

Thursday 6.30pm  
Sarah McMillan 021 207 2486

### Waikouaiti Indoor Bowling Club

Wednesday 7pm-9pm  
EO Events Centre  
Eva Hammond 03 465 7790

### Waikouaiti Outdoor Bowling Club

Thursday 2pm  
Karen Kelly 027 244 3646  
Colleen 03 465 7558

### Yoga

Sunday 6.30pm-7.30pm  
East Otago Events Centre  
Elena hello@kmfitnessandnutritionnz.com

## MEET NEW PEOPLE

### Lions Club, Palmerston

2nd Monday of the month, 6pm  
Waihem Lodge  
Bruce 027 212 7075  
Ronald 027 431 1535

### East Otago Blokes Shed

Hawksbury Village  
Neil Kennedy kennedy.rjneil@gmail.com

### Returned Services Association (RSA)

Friday 4.30pm  
RSA Hall, Pratt Street  
Wendy Macleod 021 167 6334

### Waikouaiti/Karitane Living Alone Group

3rd Wednesday of the month, 12. noon  
The Outpost Café  
Lois 03 465 7492

## FOR FAMILIES

### Waikouaiti-Palmerston Toy Library

Saturday 12 noon – 1.30pm  
Clackmannan St, Waikouaiti Racecourse  
E: wptoylibrary@yahoo.co.nz

### East Otago Buddy Programme

For children 5-12 years  
Jo Scott 021 268 478p

### Palmerston Playgroup

Thursday during school term 10.15 – 11.45  
Waikouaiti Plunket Rooms, EOEC  
Annabel Kuzma 027 229 1608

### Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

Wednesday and Thursday 1pm - 4pm  
Friday, Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4pm.  
E: admin@wchc.org.nz,  
Ian 027 7675411

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

### Volunteer South

www.volunteersouth.org.nz  
E: info@volunteersouth.org.nz

### Waikouaiti Community Garden

Robin 027 440 4844

### Waikouaiti Volunteer Fire Brigade

David McLeod  
david.mcleod@fireandemergency.nz

### Hawksbury Lagoon Projects

Ruth Ferguson 021 1130 719

### Hikarorua/Mt Watkin Conservation Group

Jamie Hickling, Volunteer Coordinator  
M: 020 409 39311 E: jamie@mcu.kiwi.nz

### Riding for the Disabled

waikouaitirda@gmail.com.

### OneCoast Hub

Judy Martin 021 130 776  
chair@onecoast.org

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