

POWA Community NEWS



PROGRESS OF THE WAIKOUAITI AREA

www.waikouaiti.co.nz

June 2025



Matariki is a time for remembrance, celebrating the present and looking to the future.

The three key principles for Matariki are:

Remembrance

Honouring those we have lost since the last rising of Matariki.

Celebrating the Present

Gathering together to give thanks for what we have.

Looking to the Future

Looking forward to the promise of a new year.

The nine whetu (stars) are;

Pōhutukawa helps us remember those who have passed since the last rising of Matariki. It is at this time that people want to call out the names of loved ones who have died in the past year.

Tipuānuku is the star associated with food grown in the earth.

Tipuārangi means to grow in the sky and affirms our connection to the forests and the birds.

Waitī is the star of lakes, rivers, streams and fresh water and acknowledges our strong connection to the bodies of fresh water.

Waitā is the star of salt water and acknowledges our strong connection to ocean.

Waipunarangi means 'water that pools in the sky'.

The star of the wind is **Ururangi**, and together with Waipunarangi, they are the stars connected to weather.

Hiwa-i-te-rangi is the Māori wishing star and speaks to our hopes and desires for the year.

Matariki is the main star in the cluster. It is connected to wellbeing and welcomes in the New Year.

There is a wonderful children's waiata to help you remember the names of the Matariki whetu on Youtube. 'The nine stars of Matariki'.

Mānawatia a Matariki!

Nikki Crossan

E : aitoko.nikki@puketeraki.nz



Going Bananas

See story page 5



AGM and General meeting
Thursday 12 June
6pm
St Johns Hall, Beach Street,
Waikouaiti

Contact:
onecoastotago@gmail.com
Ph: 021 130 7765

Come and join us for a cuppa, supper and a chat about the past, present, and future. OneCoast goals and aspirations for the Community Resource Recovery Centre.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



- ★ **Sunday 1 June**
Waikouaiti Artisan Market
9.30am - 1.30pm
East Otago Events Centre
- ★ **Monday 2 June**
Kings Birthday
- ★ **Friday 6 June**
First Aid for Parents
10-11.15am
Palmerston Community Centre
- ★ **Thursday 12 June**
One Coast AGM
6pm
St John's Hall, Beach Street
- ★ **Wednesday 18 June**
5pm
Magical Matariki Story Time
Waikouaiti Library
- ★ **Friday 20 June**
Matariki
- ★ **Friday 20 June**
POWA Community News
Deadline for contributions
- ★ **Saturday 21 June**
1pm
Plunket Display opening
Heritage Centre
- ★ **Friday 27 June**
7pm
Mid-winter Poetry and Music Open Mic Night
Waikouaiti Library
- ★ **Wednesday 9 July**
POWA AGM
7pm
Board Room, East Otago Events Centre

*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
and never miss a copy.*

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

Use it or lose it

There's funding available for projects in our area, courtesy of gaming activities at the Golden Fleece Hotel. If you belong to a registered charity, a not-for-profit organisation, a school or a group affiliated to a national body, you're eligible to apply for a grant. If you haven't already done so, check out www.grassrootstrust.co.nz and click on 'grants'. In general, funds are distributed in the area they are generated, so if we don't use them in the Waikouaiti area, we lose them to other projects in Dunedin. Contact the Golden Fleece for more details. Ph : 03 4657395



Water Quality Project

Since July last year, the students in three classes at Waikouaiti Primary School have been exploring the quality of the water at Waipaku/Post Office Creek/Awa, visiting the sites every month. During the project, they were guided by the East Otago Catchment Group, Jenny from Enviroschools, Nikki from the Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Pukiteraki, Curious Minds, and the OCC as well as their teachers. Throughout this integrated learning project, students experienced their local environment from the perspective of the scientist. But the historical and cultural element added another dimension to enhance their understanding of the complexity; this was not an easy project. On 5 May, they presented their findings to the community.

The presentation took place on a sunny afternoon in the school library and was well attended. Steph Scott of the EOCG co-ordinated the presentation. All the students from the project took part in the presentation, each giving details of the various stages of the project, what they were looking for, how they measured and gathered data, how they recorded their findings. They explored what the results might mean for the future. Their curiosity and enthusiasm was evident and each student spoke confidently and knowledgeably. A professional presentation. They were a credit to their whanau and their school.



The Palmerston Car Show and Autumn Equestrian Ribbon show were held on 26 and 27th April in perfect weather. Over 250 cars, bikes, stationary engines, tractors and even a magnificent combine harvester showed up to celebrate petrol power, beautiful paint and the transformation of the old into something new and wonderful. Hundreds of people came along to enjoy the day, buy some yummy food, check out the goodies on sale at the mini craft market and the swap meet.

The next day a good turnout of beautiful horses and ponies were put through their paces and many lovely ribbons commemorating 160 years of the Palmerston A&P Show were awarded.

Christine Leov-Lealand

E : loveleov93@gmail.com



Attention Dog Owners

Did you know that there have been some major changes to the Dog Control Bylaws and Policy which are now in effect? For example, 'Dogs must be leashed in all coastal dune areas, including access paths, to protect wildlife'.

www.dunedin.govt.nz/dogs-bylaw

Ph : 03 417 4000

POWA Community News June 2025

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC)

When Cyclone Gabrielle struck in February 2023, the connections that link cell towers and exchanges to the national network went down. Fibre optic cables running along main roads were knocked out by landslips and flooding. Even when cell sites had power, they couldn't connect anyone to anywhere. Enter the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) team who are trained to work with the emergency services.

If you want to become involved, where to start? Alan Walton, who lives in Dunedin is the President of Branch 30 NZART (NZ Association of Radio Transmitters) explains: 'Amateur radio, often called "ham radio" is a hobby which involves experimenting and communicating using radio.' Alan has a background with Telecom and his interest started with crystal sets then moved to advanced radio communication techniques. 'I acquired my Amateur Radio Operator's Certificate in 1977', he says. Do you need serious IT skills? 'Some IT skills are useful, but certainly not at a high level', he explains, 'and nowadays amateur radio includes the use of many technologies including satellites, the internet and even beams of light!'

What equipment do you need? Alan's advice is to join the Dunedin branch. 'You'll get advice on equipment which can be bought off the shelf or built and sometimes pre-loved equipment is available for purchasing at reduced prices.' What next?

You need an operating certificate, GAO (General Amateur Operator Certificate) and to get this, you attend a 'Ham Cram' Training Weekend. 'After that,' says Alan, 'you are issued with your own personal callsign and are able to operate on the frequency bands allocated by RSM.' In New Zealand hams are licensed by the Radio Spectrum Management (RSM). Once licensed, an amateur can operate two-way radio equipment from home, from vehicles and from anywhere in New Zealand and in many cases when overseas too. And, then if you are over 18, you can apply to join the AREC team.

Lindsey Ross is the AREC Regional Manager South (SI) and has been an amateur radio operator since 1993, involved



Lindsey Ross (left) and Alan Walton (right)

with CB radio and is a keen tramper which led to becoming involved with Search and Rescue. 'AREC formed in 1931 after the Napier earthquake', explains Lindsey, and today the function of AREC is to work alongside our partners. We provide radio communications to assist with missing person, at local events and during national emergencies.' Lindsey notes that since Gabrielle there has been an upsurge of interest in amateur radio.

Members of AREC are given training and participate in civil emergency exercises and operations. These skilled volunteers enable the essential communications which supports many NZ emergency services such as Land Search and Rescue, the NZ Police, Maritime NZ, coastguard etc. What sorts of events have Alan and Lindsey been involved with? They've assisted Search and Rescue, worked regularly with Police, taken part in many Missing Persons searches, set up means of communication for community events such as car rallies, multi sports events, Jamborees, the Otago Rally, the Kepler Challenge etc

By joining AREC you will help those in need during the next national emergency, help find the missing and give back to your community in a practical and worthwhile way. Are you ready for this exciting challenge?

Dunedin branch :

Alan Walton, President

E : t462603@xtra.co.nz M: 027 666 0949

W zl4aa.org.nz

E info@zl4aa.org.nz

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (AREC) :

Lindsey Ross, Regional Manager (SI)

E : rmsth@arec.nz M : 021 116 1686

W <https://AREC.co.nz> E enquiry@arec.nz

Check out:

Good Sorts : The amateur radio operator who reconnected communities.

Catherine Robinson

powa.editor@gmail.com

**Amateur Radio 'Ham Cram' Training Weekend
Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 July**

Details : Alan Walton E : t462603@xtra.co.nz

Letter to Waikouaiti residents

from McArthur & Symons Electrical

7 May 2025

What's happening at the Beach Road Motor Camp???

Well, I can tell you. We have been the successful tenderer to upgrade the electrical and water reticulation for the whole camp site. This is a huge undertaking by the Dunedin City Council to bring this local facility up to the latest electrical safety regulations. It is expected to be completed by the end of June.

This means for the short term the site is off limits to the public while this work is being carried out as it is now a construction site with multiple hazards through-out, including open trenches and vertical holes across the park.

So please don't walk your dog through our construction site or take a shortcut as hazards are not always obvious. We would appreciate your co-operation on this and feel free to contact me directly at any time on 027-222-0932 if you see anything untoward that needs addressing.

Evan Rees Managing Director

M : 027-222-0932

POWA Community News June 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!

Magical Matariki Story Time

Wednesday 18 June at 5.00pm: FREE

Join us for stories of Matariki with Flayme Wharerau, learn more about te Iwa o Matariki – the Nine Stars of Matariki, and enjoy beautiful lights and lanterns followed by hot chocolate & biscuits to celebrate Te Tau Hou Māori – the Māori New Year!

Mid-Winter Poetry & Music Open Mic Night

Friday 27 June at 7.00pm

Come along to listen, or share your poem, song or music. Supper to follow

Seed Library

We are happy to accept clean, labelled seeds for our Seed Library if you have any extra

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).

Eryn Makinson E : Eryn.Makinson@dcc.govt.nz



Heritage Centre

Visitors

We have recently hosted a group of gardeners from Milton and another group is scheduled for next month. The groups who visit our facility are often treated to morning (or afternoon) tea and leave telling us that their time with us was too short and they will have to come back. I know that most won't come back, but I have always thought that word-of-mouth is the best method of marketing for a business, and we do seem to be getting an increase in the number of groups visiting.

Waimate Museum : I met with officials from the Waimate museum, who tell me their museum complex includes 13 buildings which they manage and maintain. I am pleased we have only two buildings, one of which is modern, requiring minimal maintenance. The Waimate museum struggles with many of the same issues that we face, so it was great to be able to share ideas and knowledge and hopefully support each other. I intend to visit Waimate soon and encourage you to pay the museum a visit next time you head north. It sounds like a very interesting museum complex.

Gift Shop

We have just received new stock for the gift shop, which you may find interesting if you are looking for gifts or items for your home. If you are a local and have never visited, I think you would be pleasantly surprised.

Plant Sale : The bank building is still open for visitors. The scaffolding was actually intended for the old Post Office and will soon be removed. Our major fundraiser for the restoration project is the annual plant sale held at Labour weekend. I am looking for medium sized plastic plant pots and any perennials you may be dividing (with its name). just leave outside the Heritage Centre. Contributions much appreciated

Plunket display

Our major Plunket display will open on Saturday 21 June, at 1pm. There is no charge, but a donation would be appreciated. The guest speaker will be Elyse Childs who is the great-great-granddaughter of Joanna Mackinnon, the first Plunket Nurse employed by Sir Truby King.

Our AGM will be held on Saturday 30th August with a guest speaker to be confirmed.

Shirley McKewen

E: ts.mckewen@gmail.com

Waikouaiti Transfer Station

140 Edinburgh Street, Waikouaiti

Hours : Wednesday 12 noon - 5pm
Saturdays and Sundays 10am - 5pm



FOOD BANK

**EAST OTAGO FOOD
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TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT



We accept any new or unexpired
non-perishable food items



SUPPORT



The "Golden Fleece Hotel" contributes over \$100,000 annually via the Grassroots Trust from our Gaming Machines revenue.

These funds are allocated to our local area... Waikouaiti, however if no claims are submitted they default to Dunedin.

We encourage Organisations, Charities, Clubs & Schools to apply for these funds, this process is simple via "Grassroots" website, they will assist you!

Your support of our Facilities helps Your local Community.

www.grassrootstrust.co.nz Please contact us for further information. Thank You.

www.goldenfleecehotel.nz Email: goldenfleecehotel@outlook.co.nz Phone: 03 4657395

SELLOUT SEASON FOR MAMMA MIA!

East Otago Musical Theatre's 2025 production of MAMMA MIA! is onstage at the East Otago Events Centre from 10 – 14 June 2025. There has been an amazing response to ticket sales with Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights already sold out. There are still very limited seats available for Tuesday and Wednesday. Check on our website eastotagomusicaltheatre.com for ticket availability or email eomt.tickets@gmail.com

We would like to thank our sponsors and encourage you to use their services :

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Waitati Merchant

Garden Gems

Members of the Waikouaiti Garden Club tell us what's special about their garden

Going Bananas

Rachel Caswell

Bananas found on our shelves are imported from several countries, but mostly from Ecuador. New Zealanders are one of the highest consumers of this fruit, eating around 18 kg of bananas per person annually. I enjoy bananas, though growing them here in Karitane is a crazy idea.

I purchased a Misi Luki variety from a large homeware store in Dunedin late 2021. This variety grows well up north and the Bay of Plenty, where there are now plantations growing for local markets. When one starts delving into the banana plant species, there are many other varieties, showing differences in height, ease of growing conditions, fruit variations and tolerance to temperature and soils.

My glasshouse is an essential item for my sanity, and my aim is to create a lush tropical look. I'm working on self-sufficiency which entails growing as diverse a planting as possible as I'm aware of avoiding boredom within food choices, having sailed in the open seas.

My banana plant has managed to keep growing through the winters in the glasshouse, then in late spring I place it outside in a warm sheltered spot. The wind whips the leaves into ribbons but if left inside the new leaves can be picked and used as a wrapping around cooking food, a good substitute instead of tinfoil. The fresh leaves also look good when used as a table setting.

The large plastic tub I have the little monster in, needs my husband to assist me with moving it, as it's heavy. This plant was re-potted two years ago after the pups, or plantlets, formed around the base were removed to stop overcrowding the pot. I left these pups outside, as I potted them in an even larger plastic tub, which wouldn't be moved. They survived the spring, with late frosts, and then probably became too dry as I kept forgetting to water them in late summer. Oh dear, the trials of gardening.

The plant has again produced more pups, so late in spring I will divide again, and work harder at keeping these alive or the mother plant could probably die off due to the pups slowly draining her of nutrients. They like moisture, and lots of composting material around the trunk.

I'm not really expecting any fruit from my plant as this takes nearly a year from when the fruiting stems form to when you can pick them to eat. However, I really enjoy the look of the plant, and it does make the glasshouse have that tropical feel. It is a great conversation piece when shared with others as they wander through my rather eclectic and ever-growing collection.

If you're interested in joining the Waikouaiti Garden Club, see page 15 for details.



POWA AGM NOTICE


Let your voice be heard,
join our great team

**WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY 2025
AT 7.00PM
EAST OTAGO EVENTS CENTRE,
BOARDROOM**

New members welcome

Nomination forms available from the POWA office. To be submitted up to 5 days prior to AGM meeting.

JOIN NOW

027 253 9205 

COMMUNITY.POWA@GMAIL.COM



Let's develop the story of our town

It is time to decide how we want to celebrate the historical, cultural and environmental identity of Waikouaiti and East Otago. This was the outcome of the POWA Main Street hui held on Sunday 18th May 2025 attended by about 60 residents, Mandy Mayhem-Bullock (DCC Councillor), Andy Barratt (Waikouaiti Community Coast Board) and Andrew Noone (ORC).

Presentations from speakers (Roy Johnston, New Zealand Transport Authority – in absence; Mark Mawdsley and Maria Callaū, DCC; Alayna Rā and Nikki Crossan, Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki) gave us information to inform our discussion, examples of what other towns on SH 1 have done and ideas about how we might improve the safety and attractiveness of and access to our Main Street, it's businesses and facilities.

The parameters within which we must work include:

- no plans for a by-pass in the next 30 years
- reduction in the speed limit would be difficult to achieve and require solid evidence of 2500 pedestrian/cyclist crossings a day
- locating a pedestrian crossing would be challenging, because of visibility, the hill to the south and the corner to the north, and would take out car parks
- trees can be put on the road shoulder but they would also take out car parks



Bringing life to vacant shopfronts

Are there creatives in the community who can bring life to vacant shopfronts?



The way forward:

- work with NZTA, DCC, Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki, Waikouaiti Community Coast Board, the business community and the neighbourhood
- develop a coherent plan beginning with amenity improvements, such as strategic, thematic use of colour and signage, landscaping, street furniture and urban architectural features – a design consultant could help us with this
- enhance the entrances to the town with signage, colour and plantings
- advocate for being one of the three urban centres to be redeveloped by the DCC over the next 9 years and thereafter into the future
- include bike parks for locals and future visitors on the Coastal Communities Cycle Connection
- take inspiration from other towns such as Port Chalmers, Milton, Balclutha, Reefton . . .

POWA is happy to hear further constructive suggestions for the next steps and from anyone who would like to be involved with the project. Please contact our Community Engagement Manager, Sonya Billyard (community.powa@gmail.com), or drop into the POWA Office on a Tuesday or Thursday.



Activating existing shopfronts

Are there ways to activate existing shopfronts to improve visual connection with the street?

Whenua Outdoor Services

Native restoration & ongoing maintenance
Silviculture services
Spot spraying / release spraying
Tree planting
Drill and fill

Damian mallinson
whenuaoutdoor@outlook.co.nz
0273300339



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East Otago



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PEWS NEWS

St John's Anglican Church

Sunday June 8 at 10 am, an ecumenical service with Rev Joy Hamilton-Jones.

Sunday June 29 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

June 1 - 10am shared Communion Service, at Karitane Church led by Rev Hilary Oxford-Smith

June 8 - 10am combined Service at St John's Anglican Church, Waikouaiti

June 17 - 10am Service at Karitane Church led by the Robertson Family

June 22 - 10am Parish led Service at Waikouaiti Church

June 29 - 10am Ecumenical Service at St John's Anglican Church, Waikouaiti

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

Hui Te Rangiora Church services

June 29 - 10.30am held by Rev Father Thomas

July 6 - 10am held by Father Tony Curtis assisted by Hinerangi Ferrall-Heath, visiting preacher Rev Sueanne Wallace Te Waipounamu.

E : ferrallheath@gmail.com

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Local Legend Jenny Rowley

Jenny Rowley has always been interested in the Hawksbury Lagoon environment. Over the years she has personally removed exotics and developed native plantings along the Inverary St entrance to the Lagoon. She's done this on her own using locally sourced native plants. 'The local Runanga have been a great source of plants,' she says. The main issue is the weeds spreading before our slow-growing native trees and plants become established. Over the years, students from the Waikouaiti Primary School have helped with weeding and planting as well as the Runanga. Now, she has a different band of helpers.

Jenny's current helpers are offenders who are doing unpaid work to pay something back for the offence they have committed. Community work gives offenders an opportunity to learn new skills and work habits.

'Four or five come every week with a supervisor,' explains Jenny, 'and they are great at cutting out weeds and pruning.' They lay pieces of carpet to suppress the weeds, and they are clearing overgrown paths through Jenny's bush. 'Now you can see distinct pathways,' she says. One of the band of helpers is "Anna" who must complete 200 hours of community service which includes work and education courses. Anna has a timeframe for completion and currently does 3 days a week. 'I also have a job and children,' she says. How does she feel about working on Jenny's project?

'I love it here,' she says, 'and when I finish my sentence, I plan to come back and help Jenny.' Anna says that she's interested in nature and has learned a lot about plants and how to care for them. 'We had a visit from a Māori lady who taught us about flax and how to trim it so that it grows tall and straight.'

Anna says she felt scared at the beginning of her community work because she didn't know what to expect but now believes that community work makes a difference to offenders and to the communities they help. Anna and Jenny share a passion for the lagoon wildlife. "We've heard what we think are whistling tree frogs," Anna says, 'so we're keeping an eye out for them'. Jenny thinks these frogs



which inhabit swamps and creeks used to live around the lagoon.

For Jenny, working with her band of helpers is a positive experience. 'If you're an organisation, a school, a marae where work needs to be done, I'd recommend getting in touch with Corrections. Your project may be suitable for community work.'

However once the community workers complete their work and move on, weeding and pruning still needs to be done. 'I'd appreciate it if anyone who was interested would get in touch,' she says, 'so that I can build up another band of helpers, local volunteers this time, who enjoy exercise and fresh air.' Your hard work might encourage those whistling tree frogs to return to the Lagoon.

Catherine Robinson

Tell us about your project : powa.editor@gmail.com

More information :

www.Communitywork.govt.nz | Department of Corrections

Inverary Street Lagoon Project

Jenny Rowley M: 027 936 0314

Volunteers needed for planting, pruning
and weeding

Native plants, seeds and cuttings appreciated

If you have old carpet get in touch

We also need a regular source of wood chips



The Main Street Hui held on 18 May was well attended by members of the community who enjoyed a shared lunch. Speakers from the DCC, NZTA and the Runaka presented a diverse range of options for us to consider.



Jackie goes Prima Diva

Jackie Clarke fully deserved the standing ovation given by the appreciative audience of around 100, at the East Otago Events Centre on 15 May. Jackie belted out songs by her favourite women artists and between songs reached out to the audience through jokes, laughter and her quick wit – a polished, dazzling performance. Jackie was accompanied by the talented Karl Benton on the piano and they filled the auditorium with magic. During the interval, the audience enjoyed supper and BYO wine. The show was brought to Waikouaiti by Creative New Zealand and the Arts on Tour NZ Trust. Big thank you to Steph and her team for bringing our community together by organising this wonderful show.

Pink Ribbon Breakfast Fundraiser

The 13th Annual Palmerston Pink Ribbon Breakfast fundraiser was held on Friday 2nd May 2025 at the Palmerston Sports Hall.

The crowd were entertained by Pip Milford-Hughs, known as Pippity Pop – Balloonologist. Participants created balloon dogs with five outstanding creators partaking in a balloon-off. Pip constructed an amazing balloon statue of a pink woman to add to the theme of the room. The 120 guests, dressed in pink, enjoyed the interaction and purchased lucky pink bags, raffle tickets and auction items that were donated.

On the same night Marie Perica held her annual Line-dancing Social, donating the funds raised. Heather and Sonya are grateful to the community, sponsors, local schools for their continued support. The amount raised this year was \$13,381.53 - bringing the accumulated total to \$83,938.76.

Sonya Watson M : 027 2560201

E : rob.watson@xtra.co.nz



Are rabbits a problem on your property?

It's time to act.

Winter is an ideal time to tackle rabbits — limited food supply means they're more likely to take bait and burrows are easier to find.

For more information, visit:
orc.govt.nz/rabbitmanagement

0800 474 082



Otago
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Council

ANZAC Day remembered

The Waikouaiti ANZAC Day Remembrance Service was held at the RSA in Pratt Street on a beautiful Otago blue-sky day. It was well attended by members of the community of all ages, including many families with young children. The Rev Juan Kinnear conducted the service.



Identifying the core values that she believes we should carry forward, Addisyn said: 'Courage, loyalty, sacrifice and looking out for each other ... it is about sticking and standing together even in the toughest times. Remembering those who gave back to our country inspires me to do my part and contribute to the community and support those around me.'

Catherine Robinson

powa.editor@gmail.com



Later, everyone was invited in the RSA Hall for lunch and to listen to the keynote speaker, Addisyn Lawrence. Addisyn is a year 13 student at East Otago High School and one of the Head Students. She noted that it was an honour to be invited to speak and she spoke with confidence, describing how the younger generation relate to ANZAC Day.

Addisyn had researched her own family connections to WW1 and WW2 and recalled how her great-uncle, Private James Oliver Francis Bryson (37369) died at the age of 23 during the Western Desert Campaign in Egypt on 27 June 1942. He was killed instantly by a landmine. Only 24 years earlier, James's uncle Sergeant James Oliver Francis Wigzell (2805555) had been killed in WW1.

Addisyn reflected on what this must have meant to the family at that time and continued: 'There are many things that I will never understand as a teenager in the 21st century ... I will never understand the torture, pain and sacrifice that the men went through.... The sacrifice and courage that the Kiwi soldiers had was truly remarkable. I personally would not want to fake my age to fight for New Zealand with the uncertainty of whether I will ever come back.'

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AGM

This month the OneCoast AGM is being held on 12 June, at the St John's Church Hall, Beach Street, starting with a light meal at 6pm. As our poster says, anyone is welcome to join us and talk about the past, present and future of OneCoast. Nominations are open for committee positions and we are always keen to get new members joining us. So if you are interested please get in touch through the contact details given. You will join a really great group of people who make even committee meetings fun!

How we started

The following comment is from a recent social media post that reminds us how we got started. "Seven years ago, we didn't have a name or a space or any funds, just a promise from the Dunedin City Council that they would develop the site and allow us to set up a resource recovery centre on it. And a small group of waste-hating, sustainably minded people who were keen to see it happen. Special thanks to the DCC Waste and Environment team, to POWA, to the Transfer Station staff for their support, and to all of you since then who have built us up to where we are today."

Where we're going

Since 2018, we have gone from an undeveloped platform to four containers, an enclosed shelter roof for taking, storing and passing on surplus goods, with the old Rural Rummage Shed set up for bike repairs and rescue. The projects we want to undertake next include creating a proper parking area, more hanging shelves for clothing and working out how to make best use of our platform to create more space for throughput of goods. We also want to examine our resources to see if we can open for longer hours and provide more services, both at the Hub and further afield. Come and join us on Thursday 12th to help us with our plans.

Judy Martin M : 021 130 7765 E : chair@onecoast.org

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Lagoon Creature of the Month:

Rāpeti, European Rabbit, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*



Men at their campsite displaying their catch of rabbits and fish (1909). Image credit: National Library (via Wikimedia Commons)

Rabbits were one of the first introduced pests to Aotearoa. They were often carried on sailing ships, presumably as a fresh food source, and arrived here with the whalers in the south between 1820's-1830's. They continued to be imported from the 1840's to provide meat, sport, pelts for the fur trade and no doubt as a reminder of 'home' for the early European immigrants. With a lack of predators and with their phenomenal reproductive rates (one doe can produce up to 50 offspring each year starting at 5 months of age) by the 1880's they were a recognised pest. When predators were introduced, the mustelids (stoats, ferrets, weasels) created another problem and serious threat to indigenous wildlife. Rabbits are a major threat to agriculture and a significant conservation threat. They will eat vulnerable native plant species and as a food source for predators of native birds, reptiles, snails etc keep these predator populations high.

According to the Otago Regional Council (reference below), land owners have a responsibility to keep rabbit populations under a particular level. They have recommendations on how to keep populations in check and what to do if a neighbouring property is unchecked. Visiting the DOC reserve on Stewart Street recently, hearing of the rabbit problem then seeing a squished rabbit on the road, it may be time to follow up with DOC.

"One story, about the introduction of rabbits to Southland in 1863, describes the occasion when four rabbits, brought to Bluff on the immigrant ship *Helenslea* from Scotland, were liberated in the sandhills near Invercargill. There was a liberation ceremony with speeches and toasts drunk in champagne. But ... an old Highlander named Mitchell ... stood on a sandhill and cursed the rabbits in Gaelic, saying they would ruin the country." Carolyn King, Waikato University

Why didn't they listen to Mr Mitchell and why do we still have bunnies at Easter?

For further information:

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/rabbits/page-1>

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/nature/pests-and-threats/animal-pests-and-threats/rabbits/>

ORC regulations and recommendation around rabbit control

<https://www.orc.govt.nz/environment/biosecurity-and-pests/animal-pests/rabbits/>

Ruth Ferguson

E : risabelfe@gmail.com

POWA Community News June 2025



Kia ora koutou. We're back from holidays and straight into learning with a few fun things to brighten our days!

During the holidays, teachers had some full-on planning days at school and we came to grips with the revised Mathematics curriculum and our topics for the term - Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Matariki. Teachers are consciously trying to transfer what we have learnt about explicit instruction in Literacy into our Mathematics teaching and learning. So, teaching practices such as 'everyone does everything' with a gradual release of responsibility: "I do, we do, you do" and the importance of frequent review of learning are finding their way into our maths more intentionally and.....it's making a difference!

On the fun (but still educational) front, we LOVED our first performance at The Kidsing last week. It was a great experience to sing with 900 other children and to see and hear Norma the Town Hall Organ being played. The sound of 900 children singing the national anthem with the organ was spine-tingling!

Netball season has opened with a Festival Day last week. This was a brilliant opportunity for some of our Senior students to go into Dunedin and enjoy playing netball prior to the round-robin competition starting. Thank you so much Nikki for organising this and to our parent helpers for transporting and helping on the day.

Looking ahead, we have Hui Akō and our Matariki celebration Hāngi coming up. Tamariki have been hard at work practising their item for Hui Akō and we are hoping to present a little something at our Matariki Hāngi about Te Tiriti o Waitangi which is developing from our whole class authentic text reading lessons. Watch this space...

Nic Philip, Principal

E : principal@karitaneschool.co.nz



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Hawksbury Lagoon

The flooding risk from high water levels in the seaward lagoon and waterways which feed into the lagoon, has remained a local concern, especially since the flood in October 2024. Several houses and their occupants suffered water damage but the number of properties affected appears to be unknown (certainly by the people I have asked).

The flooding problem was raised with the Waikouaiti Coast Community Board in February 2025 and the Community Board Minutes April 2025 reported that Tom Dyer (General Manager Science and Resilience at the Otago Regional Council [ORC]) and Josh von Pein (Consultant Civil Engineer) had spoken to the Board. It looked like something was happening.

I am grateful to ORC Counsellor Andrew Noone for passing on correspondence to Shirley McKewen and myself regarding the ORC plans. These early plans involve adding an additional 4 culverts above the current one at the Stewart Street end of the Causeway, to carry flood waters into Waipaku/Post Office Creek. The consultation process is anticipated to take 4-5 months and the site work for this first phase will take about 2 weeks to complete.

A second phase to add a manual gate on the lower culvert to prevent sea water surges entering the lagoon, excess water from Waipaku/Post Office Creek entering the lagoon and to maintain minimum water levels, is predicted to take more time as they are expecting more community and stakeholder feedback.

After further information gathering from expert advisers for the lagoon, Shirley and I are likely to accept Andrew's offer of a meeting with Tom Dyer. The ecological impact of the work needs to be carefully considered along with the need to manage flooding risk. It is likely to be a delicate balancing exercise.

Ruth Ferguson

E : risabelfe@gmail.com

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Reports

Community Engagement Manager

Look out for rooks. The Otago Regional Council have asked our community to look out for Rooks. Rooks were brought to New Zealand between 1862 and 1873 to control insect pests, but like many other introduced species, their populations flourished and spread in some areas.

A large flock of rooks could inflict thousands of dollars' worth of damage to Otago's grain and new grass crops.

Rooks are part of the crow family and are large birds with glossy, purplish-black feathers. There are no native crows in New Zealand, so if you see something that looks like a crow, it might be a rook. Two have been seen in Waikouaiti mid-May around Edinburgh Street.



If you see a rook Please report to the Otago Regional Council (0800 474 082).

Sonya Billyard

E : community.powa@gmail.com

Hikaroroa / Mt. Watkin Conservation Group

We are thrilled to announce that the DOC Community Fund has awarded us \$412,820 to support the continuation and expansion of the Hikaroroa / Mt. Watkin Conservation Project! This significant funding boost will allow us to expand our efforts and deepen our conservation work across the Hikaroroa / Mt. Watkin Area.

This funding will enable us to continue critical pest control already under way, expand into feral cat control, expand our biodiversity monitoring efforts, paid time for project coordination, and really focus on community education and engagement initiatives. We are excited to work alongside all of you to see Hikaroroa thrive in this next chapter of the project.

We are currently finalising the funding agreement with DOC and the project is set to begin by the end of June. We will host another community workshop in the coming months that all are welcome to attend to hear more about the details of the project.

If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to get in touch about the upcoming events, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Community Possum Trapping Trip

June 6th–8th (weather permitting)

Open to all volunteers who have had advanced trapping training or relevant experience

Please let us know if you'd like to join -- event on Facebook

Community Workshop:

Date TBC — July

A chance to hear about the expanded DOC-funded projects and learn how you can get involved

Jamie Hickling E : HMWconservationgroup@gmail.com

POWA Community News June 2025

Palmerston Lions Club

We were pleased to welcome two potential members at our May meeting which is encouraging. But we are still looking for community minded men and women, especially those with administrative skills as the club is struggling to fill board positions. The leadership is currently shared by Ron Sheat and Bruce Lee but this is not an ideal situation

The Lions Club organization is the largest of its kind in the world and is known for being quick to respond to major disasters such as floods, earthquakes, tsunamis etc in NZ and internationally. Lions clubs are an important part of the community. We help to fund charitable and local projects. Our local club supports such organizations as the Hospice, St Johns, the Fire Brigade, Pink Ribbon Fundraising Events and the Blind Foundation, among others. We also provide fellowship and personal support for members and some good social contacts. So, we invite you to get in touch and find out more.

Norman Edwards

E : nsedwards@rivernet.co.nz

East Otago Plunket Round

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.

The next First Aid Course aimed specifically at parents / caregivers is to be held in the Plunket Clinic rooms in the Palmerston Community Centre on Friday 6 June at 10.00. For the small fee of \$15 you get a 1.5 hour session covering all the basics such as primary assessment, CPR, choking, burns RSV, meningitis, poisoning and more. Children are welcome to attend! Please email annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz to register.

Plunket appointment or clinical enquiries: 0800 184 803

Annabel Kuzma M : 027 2291 608

E : Annabel.kuzma@plunket.org.nz

Waikouaiti Crop Swap

What makes a group of Crop Swappers smile? It could be swapping piles of veges, fruit or herbs. Perhaps it's the seeds, bulbs and cuttings or all those bags of walnuts. Or is it the two large bags of goat's poo, that they shared to sprinkle on their vege gardens? Simple pleasures.

It's been a busy season, but we'll spend the winter months studying seed catalogues and drinking wine by the fire. Crop Swap will be back in September, and we encourage you to join us.

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





POWA IN THE PAST:

From the POWA Community News archive

June 2003: 22 Years ago

POWA is holding a community dance on July 26 with local dance Rough Diamonds playing. So dust off your glad rags, polish off your dancing shoes, get a group of friends together and pencil in the date on your calendar – tickets will go on sale this month

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

Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre *presents*

A tribute to the creation of the Plunket Society at KARITANE

This exhibition will open at 1pm on Saturday



21st June at the Waikouaiti Coast Heritage Centre

It will be opened by Elyse Childs the great-great-grand daughter of Joanna Mackinnon the first ever Plunket Nurse.

Following the opening, the exhibition will be available to view during regular opening hours.

No admission charge, but donations are always welcome.

Regent Theatre Music Sale

Saturday 26 July 10am – 6pm

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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

Have you lost part or all of your TV reception?

As a fund raiser, Dave from the East Otago Blokes Shed is currently selling and installing DISH –TV satellite boxes in the Palmerston, Waikouaiti, Karitane areas.

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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

Social Board games

First Saturday of the month, 2-4pm
St John's Hall, Beach St
Jenny Stein jenny.k.stein@gmail.com

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
Christine McFarland 021 235 883.

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

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Eastern Rugby Club

Abby Lynch 027885 5105
easternrugbyclub@gmail.com

East Otago High School parkrun

Saturday 9am
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, Advanced
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
Waihemo 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

Hikaroroa/Mt Watkin Conservation Group

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

Riding for the Disabled

Tania 027 394 6003

OneCoast Hub

Judy Martin 021 130 776
chair@onecoast.org

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