



Positively

JULY 2026

FREE

MĀNIATOTO!



Your Calendar
Pages 14 & 15

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

From Nana's Horse to a Hoverboard

As we move through July and celebrate Matariki, it is a time to reflect on the past, appreciate the present, and look ahead. It is also a reminder that while many things change, the connections that bind communities together remain important.

Over the years, we notice changes. A favourite shop closes, a trusted product disappears, or a familiar service is no longer available. We adapt, find alternatives, and carry on.

The way children travel to and from school has changed too. My nana rode her horse from the family farm in Weston to school each day - quite a journey by today's standards. When I was growing up, school finished with a race home against my brother, on foot or by bike. Once home, we'd head for the fallen macrocarpa trees, where tree trunks became spaceships until teatime.

This week, while waiting outside our daughter's school, I watched a student glide out the gate on a hoverboard, followed by impressed classmates. It immediately reminded me of Back to the Future, with Marty McFly in a red puffer vest on a hoverboard. What seemed like science fiction is now everyday life.

It also reminded me of the famous video from 2015 when Mike Tyson attempted to ride his daughter's hoverboard and wiped out. Even one of the world's toughest sportsmen discovered that mastering a hoverboard requires balance.

Perhaps the biggest change is not the technology itself, but how society has evolved. In earlier generations, children often headed off to school independently. Today, families make different choices. None of these are right or wrong, simply a reflection of changing times.

Matariki encourages us to pause and reflect on where we have come from, celebrate where we are, and think about the future. It is a chance to share stories and experiences that keep our communities connected.

As always, if you have a story, photograph, community update, event, or piece of local history to share, we'd love to hear from you. This magazine is at its best when it reflects the people and places that make the Mānīatoto special. Happy Matariki. Erica and James.

Front cover image:

Misty winter conditions gave Blue Lake at St Bathans a softer look in mid-June, muting the old white mining cliffs and their reflection on the still water. Once a gold mining site, the lake remains one of Central Otago's most striking landmarks. Photo: Bridget Auchmuty, July Out and About winner. See story page 26 and Out and About photos page 28.

Acknowledgment



The Hawkins whānau would like to extend our deepest gratitude for the aroha shown through flowers, cards, koha, messages, mahi, and those who were able to be present as we farewelled Stewart, our much-loved husband, father, Papa, brother, uncle and friend to many.

A special message of gratitude to the wonderful support from Dr Verne Smith and the staff at Ranfurly Medical Centre, Maniototo Hospital, Maniototo Pharmacy, the Hospice staff and the En Hakkore Community.

He will leave a huge gap in our lives, and indeed in the lives of many, as he truly loved people and expressed that, not only to his family, but to the wider community too. Stew had a great sense of humour, and that is often how he approached some of the more challenging roles as he did what he was best at - helping families in need. He would be the first to admit, though, that he could not achieve what he did without the help of God, whom he drew his strength from.

The Samoan phrase spoken over him sums this up well:

"O le ala i le pule o le tautua."

"The pathway to leadership is through service."

And another whakataukī:

"He aha te mea nui o te ao? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata."

"What is the most important thing in the world? It is the people, it is the people, it is the people."

As we work through our grief and loss, we are comforted by God's words in Psalm 93:4:

"But mightier than the violent raging of the seas,
Mightier than the breakers on the shore -
The Lord above is mightier than these!"



END OF AN ERA FOR MANIOTOTO KINDERGARTEN

Written by: Debbie Dowling

At the end of this term, we farewell our Head Teacher, Deb McNally, who is retiring after almost eleven years at Maniototo Kindergarten. This was Deb's first role as a head teacher after teaching at Cromwell Kindergarten, where she had worked for five years after completing her Early Childhood Education Diploma in 2009.



Deb started working at our Kindy in August 2015, initially travelling over from Galloway and, more recently, from the Chatto Creek area after she and her husband Charlie built a new house on their farm.

The Kindy roll has fluctuated between twenty and thirty children over the years, but one thing has remained constant, and that has been Deb's unwavering dedication to the children and families in her care. She has welcomed new children and their families, quickly establishing a rapport and guiding parents through the enrolment process, while supporting children on their visits before beginning full days.

During Deb's time at Kindy, hundreds of children have passed through our centre, most of them starting at two years of age and staying for three years before starting school. Deb's passion for the care and education of our young children means that she has had a real influence on them and their families. Establishing strong relationships with parents, Deb quickly identified the strengths and interests of each child and supported their learning environment and opportunities for learning through play.

Deb has always had a very good understanding of the

Maniototo community and the effort it takes for parents to bring their children to Kindy from all corners of the plain. She has shown huge support for our families from other parts of the world who have chosen to live and work in the Maniototo.

Another of Deb's strengths has been her willingness to access support for children who have needed specialist teachers and professionals. She has advocated strongly for these children and ensured they and their families received support in their learning and development.

Deb has been a great leader and colleague, and we wish her all the very best in her retirement. She's looking forward to having time to spend with friends, travelling with Charlie, and pursuing new interests and hobbies.

Our new Head Teacher is Claire Aukett, who comes to us from Nelson and begins in Term Three.



ADAMSONS HONEY JOB VACANCY WEDDERBURN

Adamsons Honey, the local beekeepers in Wedderburn, are looking for a full-time team member for the upcoming beekeeping season, which starts around September.

The job involves all aspects of beekeeping, from working with bees in the field to processing honey in the plant. While experience would be great, training can also be provided.

The ideal person will be interested in bees or keen to learn, have a driver's licence, and be capable of heavy lifting.

If this sounds like something you might be interested in, give Walter or Debbie a buzz on 027 3131 963 or email adamsonshoney@gmail.com.



**ADAMSONS HONEY,
WEDDERBURN**

Correction

In last month's edition, June 2026, in the article "Angus Sales Reflect Strength of Local Farming" on page 16, we incorrectly referred to Cole and Emma Hagen at Puketoi Angus. This should have read Kyle Hagen and Emma Crutchley. We apologise for the error.

THIS IS YOUR LIFE GLENIS CRUTCHLEY

Last month, a 'This is Your Life' event was held in Naseby Town Hall for Glenis Crutchley. We share the words put together for a woman whose commitment to our community, her family, and St John spans nearly four decades.



Glenis finding out about the happenings of the afternoon, with Scott Weatherall explaining "The Book" - a record of her time in the service.

Below photo: Attendance at the Naseby Hall.



Glenis's journey began 38 years ago at the scene of a serious car accident near the Kyeburn end of the Pigroot. Before any formal title or uniform, she stepped forward, delivered first aid, organised the scene, and ensured help was called. It was there that she was invited to join the Ranfurly Ambulance as

a Volunteer Ambulance Officer. What followed was not just a role, but a lifelong calling. Over the next 37 years, Glenis became a cornerstone of Maniototo St John, including 28 years as Station Manager. In the early days, she gave her nights and weekends - often the most

difficult and demanding shifts - responding to serious accidents, many involving people she knew. That reality, so common in rural communities, never lessened her commitment. Looking at Glenis's contributions to the uniform, administration, mentoring, training, and support, she has given more than 70,000 hours - the equivalent of more than eight years of continuous, 24/7 service. She can recall multiple cardiac arrest patients she helped bring back, along with countless others who faced critical moments with Glenis and her team by their side.

Her service extended beyond emergency response. Glenis has supported families through Victim Support, often caring for patients in the ambulance and then returning later to support grieving loved ones. She has also spent over a decade working in palliative care - offering comfort, dignity, and compassion at the most vulnerable times in people's lives.

Witnessing her own mother's illness from a young age shaped her sense of purpose - a lifelong commitment to care for others. Glenis has witnessed significant changes over the years - from advancements like the Otago Rescue Helicopter improving patient outcomes, to the increasing demands placed on volunteers. Her service has been acknowledged over the years. In 2011, Glenis was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for Community Service, following in the footsteps of her father, also a recipient of a QSM. Her contributions extend across many areas - as a district nurse and Victim Support volunteer. One of the most difficult moments came when she responded, in uniform, to an accident involving her own daughter. Even then, she demonstrated professionalism and strength.

The event included invited guests such as Grahame Gale from Otago Rescue Helicopters, Dame of St John



Glenis embracing Dr Mike Hunter, who served as Southern DHB Trauma Medical Director, an invited guest.

Pauline Buchanan, Critical Care Paramedic Doug Flett, and Duncan Helm (on behalf of the Ranfurly Crew).

Duncan shared, "There's a story of Glenis going into Ranfurly to do her shift - probably on a rostered day - after the Kyeburn River had washed out the approach to one of the bridges near their place. She had to climb up a ladder to get onto the bridge, then reach another vehicle to continue to Ranfurly."



Hato Hone St John Group Manager, Carol Harding, acknowledged Glenis' family.

"Behind 38 years of service is a family who have supported, encouraged, and shared in this journey. Your understanding and support have made this commitment possible, and you deserve recognition and thanks as well."

Through decades of service, Glenis has seen many volunteers come and go, has faced the hardest of callouts, and has supported many through tragedy, crisis, and recovery.

Glenis and her husband David have recently moved to Mosgiel, and we wish them the best in their retirement.

Written by: Amie Pont



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❄️ SATURDAY 11 JULY, 10AM-5PM
❄️ SUNDAY 12 JULY, 10AM-5PM

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♥ Purchased artwork remains on display until 5pm Sunday 12 July.

FROM THE HEART OF MANIOTOTO HEALTH

CEO UPDATE

World Fish and Chip Day

World Fish & Chip Day was held on Friday, 5 June. Alex and Alina from Balmoral Takeaways rustled up individual packets for our residents to enjoy at their midday meal. Our residents really enjoyed their Fish and Chip experience, a great big thank you to Alex and Alina for making it a special day.

Photo below: Alex Cai with Emily Kernot, Activities Coordinator MHSL



Indoor Bowls

Does anyone happen to have a set of 3 bowls they are not using? The residents are passionate about their game and are finding the current mixed size of bowls that we have a bit challenging, so if anyone has a set hidden away not being used, we would love to have them.

Community Support Request – Transport Assistance for Residents

Recently, we were advised that the Waka Ora (Hato Hone St John) Health Shuttle will no longer transport residents from Maniototo Health Services Ltd unless a support person accompanies them.

We have formally raised our concerns regarding this decision, particularly as we have a number of residents who are independent and capable of travelling safely without the need for a support person.

In the meantime, we are reaching out to our local community to seek support.

We are looking for individuals who may be willing to assist by accompanying residents to their health appointments, or by helping with transport where needed. These residents do not require ambulatory assistance but do not have family or friends available to support them.

MHSL would be happy to provide the use of a hospital vehicle for this purpose - we are simply seeking volunteers who are able to offer their time.

If you are interested in supporting our residents to maintain access to essential health services, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact us on 03 444 9420

Part Time Reception / Administrator – Ranfurly Medical Centre

Ranfurly Medical Centre is looking for a friendly and reliable Reception / Administrator to join our small team.

This is a varied role at the front desk of our busy medical practice, supporting patients, clinicians, and day-to-day operations.

About the role:

- Greeting patients and managing enquiries
- Booking appointments and handling phone calls
- General administration and record keeping
- Processing payments and supporting clinic workflow

What we're looking for:

- At least 5 years' reception/administration experience
- Previous General Practice experience preferred
- Strong communication and organisational skills
- A positive, patient-focused approach
- Ability to work well in a small team

This is a great opportunity to be part of a supportive local

service making a real difference in the Maniototo community.

To apply or find out more:

Please contact: Jill.parkinson@southernhnb.govt.nz

Applications close: 24 July unless a successful candidate is identified sooner

Ranfurly Medical After-hours Care

We would like to remind everyone of the process around out-of-hours care.

Please call 111 for emergencies or life-threatening conditions.

Alternatively, contact Healthline 0800 611 116 or Ka Ora Rural Telehealth 0800 252 672.

If medications are indicated and held at the hospital, you will be directed to the RN on duty.

Tracey Kubala, CEO

HEALTHCARE DIRECTORY

IN AN EMERGENCY, CALL 111

SERVICE	PHONE
Ranfurly Medical Centre	(03) 444 1073
Maniototo Health Services	(03) 444 9420
MHS Physio extn 53121	(03) 444 9420
Maniototo Pharmacy	(03) 444 9111
Peter Dick Optometrist	(03) 444 9111
Alice Lindemann Hearing	0800 727 484
Central Dental	(03) 448 8159
Lisa Denny Physiotherapist	(03) 448 6688
Podiatrist Deb Cookson	022 419 9011
Healthline	0800 611 116
Wax Out (ear wax removal)	027 419 6463
Rural Support Trust	0800 787 254
Ka Ora Health (after hours telehealth service – charges may apply)	0800 252 672
Counsellor (Free call or text any time to talk to a trained counsellor)	1737

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MAGGOTS SHOW SPIRIT THROUGH SEASON

Written by: Erica

The Maniototo Maggots have had a challenging but spirited season in the 2026 Rhythm & Alps Central Otago Senior Men's competition.

By late June, the side had recorded two wins, including a strong 34–11 result over Matakanui Combined at Maniototo Park, followed later in the season by a hard-fought 37–24 win over Arrowtown, also at home in Ranfurly.

That Arrowtown match was a special one for Sam Jopp, who celebrated 50 games in the Maggots jersey. A loyal local player, Sam marked the milestone in style by crossing for a try in the win.

While the season has also brought some tough results, including matches against Upper Clutha, Cromwell, Wakatipu and Alexandra, Maniototo have continued to compete and put points on the board.

Their latest confirmed match before this edition went to print was against Cromwell, with the Goats taking the win 21–12. Maniototo's points came through tries to Sean Michael Hopkins and Sam Jopp, with Benjamin Maxwell adding a conversion.

There have been other strong individual moments across the season too, with players including Becker, Horne, Huddleston, Adam, Wild, Morton, Elliot, Sangster and Maxwell all featuring on the scoresheet in different matches.

With the season moving through its later regular-season stages, the Maggots have a home game coming up in July, taking on Wakatipu at Maniototo Park on Saturday, 4 July, with kick-off at 2.30pm.

Locals are encouraged to head along, support the team, and cheer on the Maggots at home.

A SPUD-TACULAR EFFORT IN MANIOTOTO



The Maniototo Lions' third annual spud competition dug up some impressive results, with two categories judged. Sally Forman won Heaviest Shaws with 7.78kg from one



plant, ahead of Natalie Bruhns on 7.70kg and John McMillan on 6.72kg. Sally also claimed Heaviest Individual Spud, weighing 0.74kg.

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Photo Credit: Richard Jones.

The Maniototo Maggots after their match against Cromwell on Saturday, 20 June 2026. Muddy conditions made for classic winter rugby, with the team showing plenty of determination and pride on the field.



MATARIKI WEEKEND AT THE MOA

TWO NIGHTS • TWO SPECIAL EVENTS



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Dog Registration

1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027

Keep up to date with the process...

25 May

Dog registration is open, please remember to check all your details and let CODC know if there are any changes you need to make.

\$72

pet dog

\$12

working dog

31 July

Payments must be made today to avoid penalty

3 August

50% penalties will be applied from today

3 September

Infringements issued for unregistered dogs from today at \$300 per dog

30 October

Infringements go to court if they remain unpaid and additional \$55 court lodgement fee applies



TIAKI MANIOTOTO WINTER ROADSHOW

Winter is here and that means our planting programme winds down for a bit; however, that's a great time for us to reflect on the gains made and to show these off to our community.



Our winter roadshow is underway on Friday 14 August, 10am - 4pm. We'd love to see you for a trip around our nursery, planting sites and to view the amazing native shelterbelts we have helped install across the Maniototo scroll plain. Refreshments will follow, courtesy of our beloved Waipiata Pies.

Tiaki Maniototo is now reaching the final stage of its initial funding, and we've been hard at work plotting the next stage of our existence. The nursery has proved a real asset to the community and to the project, and orders for our hardy native plants have been going through the roof.

We've made a huge start in restoring native vegetation and biodiversity to the scroll plain, but the work has really only just begun. What do you, our community, want Tiaki Maniototo to achieve in the years and decades to come? Come and join our roadshow to be part of the conversation.

Details of the roadshow are on our website and Facebook page.



Above photo: From left. Janine Smith, Margot Hall, Caitlin Daley and Sarah Mukai. Trees that count.



MEN'S CATCH-UP TO HELP BUILD LOCAL CONNECTIONS

With International Day of Friendship marked later this month on 30 July, a new local catch-up is being planned to help men in the Maniototo connect over coffee and conversation.

The first Maniototo Men's Catch-up will be held at 10am on Wednesday 8 July at the Black Forest Cafe in Naseby. All men are welcome to come along, whether they are long-time locals, new to the district, retired, working, or simply keen for a chat.

Organiser George Lindsay said the idea is to create a relaxed opportunity for men to get together, have a coffee, and enjoy a yarn about anything. If there is enough interest, the catch-up could become a monthly gathering, possibly moving around different cafes and venues in the district to support local businesses.

Strong social connections play an important role in wellbeing, and the catch-up is a simple way to help build friendship, confidence, and community spirit across Maniototo this winter.



UFBA NATIONAL ROAD CRASH RESCUE CHALLENGE

The 2026 UFBA National Road Crash Rescue Challenge, held in Feilding, has wrapped up, with the Ranfurly Road Crash Rescue Team finishing 12th out of 17 teams from around New Zealand.

On the final day of competition, the team competed in the Entrapped Rescue Challenge. While they were unable to remove the patient within the 30-minute time limit, the crew performed strongly and were close to completing the rescue when time was called.

As a brand-new team competing at its first national event, the result was a pleasing one. The team is also one of the youngest in the competition, with a relatively new group of firefighters coming together to build a Road Crash Rescue Team from the ground up.

A special mention goes to Team Leader Isaac, who also assisted the East Otago Road Crash Rescue Team during the competition. East Otago went on to finish an impressive fifth overall.

The team also acknowledged the support of the Wānaka Road Crash Rescue Team, which helped them establish the team and provided valuable opportunities to gain competition experience over the past year.

Members say the challenge provided valuable learning opportunities and highlighted areas for continued improvement. The team is now looking forward to building on the experience gained and returning stronger next year.



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SCAN ME to head to our website

\$105,000 RAISED

The recent Maniototo Lions Winter Crop Competition has been an outstanding success and has raised just over \$105,000.



The competition was well supported again, with 80-plus crop entries, of which the winners were announced at a recent Awards and Auction Evening. This was a fun night which started with an inspiring presentation by Graham Gale on the Rescue Helicopter operation and, after a delicious two-course meal prepared by club members, was followed by an entertaining and enjoyable speech from guest speaker Jane Smith of North Otago. This was then followed by the presentation of the winning crops and the auction of many donated goods and services, which attracted much spirited bidding and humorous banter at the hands of well-known local auctioneer Dennis Mullally.

"It was a fantastic result. Much of the money was raised at our Auction Night, so we are extremely grateful for the awesome support we have received from all the sponsors and the generous bidding of everyone on the night," Lions spokesperson John Mulholland said.

"It is a great fundraiser for our Lions Club, and we are really pleased with how it went. It has blown us away, to be honest."

This year, the main recipients will be the Otago Southland Rescue Helicopter Trust (\$50,000) and the Otago Community Hospice, with funds also put aside to help support the local Medical Centre and St John to purchase specific equipment. The Lions Scholarship Fund, which is used for local students to attend either Lincoln, Massey or Telford colleges, will also be topped up, and funds will also be put aside for other community projects and local causes.

This is the fifth year the competition has been run by the Club, and members have put in many hours to organise the event. They plan to continue to make it a bi-annual event, with the proceeds always going to worthy local causes.



Graham Gale gives his presentation on Rescue Helicopter operations.

MANIOTOTO LIONS CLUB WINTER CROP COMPETITION 2026

WINNING RESULTS:

Irrigated Fodder Beet:

First Place John & Sally Andrews
Second Place Rotherwood Farming, Nina Winmill

Dryland Fodder Beet:

First Place Simon & Erin Elworthy
Second Place David & Belinda Scott

Irrigated Swedes:

First Place Robert & Anna McSkimming
Second Place Nick & Gabby Love

Dryland Swedes:

First Place Tom and Julia Waldron
Second Place Tim & Sarah Kensington

Irrigated Kale:

First Place David & Dawn Sangster
Second Place Phil & Jo Dowling

Dryland Kale:

First Place Stringer Farms
Second Place Phil & Jo Dowling

Irrigated Rape:

First Place Nick and Gabby Love
Second Place Chris & Dale Mulholland

Dryland Rape:

First Place Stringer Farms
Second Place Greg & Tina Becker

Overall Winning Irrigated Crop: John and Sally Andrews

Overall Winning Dryland Crop: Stringer Farms, Eric & Pauline Stringer



Lucy Bell, PGG Wrightson Seeds representative, presents John Andrews with the award for Best Overall Irrigated Crop, with MC Mark Harris in the background.

2026 MANIOTOTO LIONS

WINTER CROP COMPETITION & CHARITY AUCTION FUNDRAISER



*The Maniototo Lions Club
would like to acknowledge the
support of everyone involved
in another successful event*

**\$105,000
RAISED**

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- Otago Community Hospice
- Rural Study Scholarships
- Local Maniototo Community & Health Projects

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Otago Airspread
AWS Legal
Te Pari Products
Hawkdun Lodge
Waipiata Pie Co
Andrew Blue Electrician
Vitapower Ltd (Paolo Mountain)
Landpower/Claas
Checketts McKay Law
Mighty Mix Dogfood
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Ian Day Farm & Lifestyle
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Lohi Linen
Polson Higgs Wealth Management
Maniototo Pharmacy
E-Central
Floral & Feast

The Hair Studio
Fiordland Lakeview Motel
Ranfurly Supermarket
Patearoa Honey Company
Laura Scott Handcrafted Jewellery

Becky Bruhns Massage
Maniototo Four Square
Millbrook Country Club
Dennis Mullally (Auctioneer)
Ewan Mason (Sound System)
Zentera Wool Company

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THE GENEROUS SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS OF THIS EVENT.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Positively</i> MĀNIATOTO!			1 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am <i>Maniototo Young Farmers Club, Wedderburn Tavern, 7.30pm</i> INTERNATIONAL JOKE DAY	2 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, NZ Men & Women's National Indoor Curling Comp, MAP	3 END OF TERM 2 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm NZ Men & Women's National Indoor Curling Comp, MAP	4 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm -Rugby: Maniototo Premier Men vs Wakatipu Premier Men, 2.30pm, Maniototo Park Stadium 1 NZ Men & Women's National Indoor Curling Comp, MAP
5 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Anglican Parish, 10.30am -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm -Toy Library, 11am-12pm NZ Men & Women's National Indoor Curling Comp, MAP	6 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am Maniototo Library Book Chat 2pm-3pm Outdoor Ice Camp, MAP	7 -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm WORLD CHOCOLATE DAY Outdoor Ice Camp, MAP	8 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am Maniototo Men's Catch-up, Black Forest Café, 10am Outdoor Ice Camp, MAP	9 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturhehua Hall, 7pm Outdoor Ice Camp, MAP	10 MATARIKI Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturhehua Hall, 10am-5pm Love Island Night, The Thirsty Moa, 7pm-10pm Outdoor Ice Camp, MAP	11 -Rugby: Alexandra Armadillos Premier Men vs Maniototo Premier Men, 2.30pm, Molyneux Park 1 Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturhehua Hall, 10am-5pm Ice Dance/Costume Party, Maniototo Adventure Park, 6pm-8.30pm Lohi Linen Matariki Fashion Show, 5pm-10pm
12 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm Ida Valley Winter Art Show, Oturhehua Hall, 10am-5pm	13 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am Luge Camp, MAP	14 -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm Luge Camp, MAP	15 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am Luge Camp, MAP Deadline for Positively Maniatoto Submissions - for August edition.	16 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, Luge Camp, MAP	17 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm WORLD EMOJI DAY Luge Camp, MAP	18 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm LIVE MUSIC – WITH BRENT MCGILLEN, WAPIATA COUNTRY HOTEL, 7.30PM-11.30PM
19 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm	20 START OF TERM 3 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am -Crafternoon, Maniototo Library, 1pm-3pm	21 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm -Combined Church Service, Hospital, 2pm	22 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	23 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	24 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	25 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm
26 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 5pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm	27 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm	28 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm	29 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	30 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, <i>Maniototo Community Support Hub, Ranfurly Medical Centre, 10am-1pm</i>	31 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	

August 2026						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Anglican Parish, 10.30am -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm -Toy Library, 11am-12pm	3 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am Mānīatoto Library Book Chat 2pm-3pm	4 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm	5 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	6  -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	7 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	1 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm Lights on ice, Maniototo Adventure Park, 6pm-8.30pm
9 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm	10 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm	11 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm	12 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am	13  -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	14 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm Tiaki Maniototo Roadshow, 10am-4pm, Tiaki Maniototo Nursery	15 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm Deadline for Positively Mānīatoto Submissions - for September edition
16 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm	17 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am -Crafternoon, Maniototo Library, 1pm-3pm	18 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 2pm	19 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY	20  -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm,	21 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm	22 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm
23 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm	24 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm	25 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 6am -Steady As You Go, Stadium rugby rooms 10.30am -Maniototo Golf, Ladies, 11am & 9 hole 12.30pm -Scrabble & cards, Hospital 1.30pm CODC Rates Review Information session, 6pm-7pm, Maniototo Rugby Club Room	26 -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Tai chi, Arts Centre, 10am -Embroidery Guild, Arts Centre, 10am Great Naseby Water Race, Naseby Forest INTERNATIONAL DOG DAY	27  -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Ballet, Arts Centre 3pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 7pm -Indoor Team Bowls, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm, Maniototo Community Support Hub, Ranfurly Medical Centre, 10am-1pm Great Naseby Water Race, Naseby Forest	28 -Ranfurly Playcentre, 10am-12pm -Kids Art Club, 3.10pm-4.30pm -Op Shop, 10.30am-4.30pm -Indoor Bowls Social, Ranfurly Bowling Club, 1.30pm Great Naseby Water Race, Naseby Forest  Daffodil Day, New Zealand	29 -Maniototo Golf, 12.45pm Great Naseby Water Race, Naseby Forest
30 -Presbyterian Church, 10am -Catholic Mass, 4pm -Naseby Golf, 12.30pm -Barre Fit Class, Arts Centre, 2.15pm	31 -Pilates, Masonic Lodge, 4.30-5.30pm -Scrap booking & card making, Arts Centre 10.30am -Spinners, Weavers, Knitting Group, Arts Centre 10am -Dance Classes, Arts Centre, 3pm					

COMMUNITY CONTACTS:

Ballet, Contemporary Dance, Barre Fit Classes

Melissa 021 220 8655

Catholic Women's Fellowship - Opportunity Shop

Francie (03) 444 9243

Embroidery Guild

Diane (03) 444 9831

Jazz & Contemporary Dance

Brit 021 239 7345

Kids' Art Club

Rowena 027 259 2320

Maniototo Golf Club

Mark 027 423 911

Naseby Golf Club

Jacqui 021 220 0310

Patearoa Golf Club

Suzy 027 201 4054

Ranfurly Bowling Club

Maureen 027 506 7375

Patearoa Bowling Club

Doreen 027 490 5970

Pilates:

Barb 021 165 4872

Scrap booking and cardmaking

Sandra 027 847 5643

Scrabble & Cards

Helen 027 333 1267

Spinning, Knitting & Weaving

Lyn 027 557 1638

The Pottery Club Māniatoto

Nina 027 271 3399

Steady As You Go

Joan (03) 444 9629

Tai Chi (03) 444 9831

Maniototo Garden Club

Denise 021 0252 0116

Indoor Bowls (03) 444 9756

Your Contributions

We welcome your submissions for consideration in Positively Māniatoto! Send in short articles (200–300 words), milestones, events, history, recipes, poems, photos, ads, or anything of local interest. **Deadline: 15th of each month.**

Classified Advertising

Submit classified ads, calendar entries, or articles with photos for consideration to positivelymaniototo@gmail.com by the 15th. Contact us for ad sizes and costs.

Contact Us

Radio Charity, trading as Burn 729AM, produces Positively Māniatoto and provides live on-air communication. Donations are welcome - get in touch!

Email: positivelymaniototo@gmail.com

Positively
MĀNIATOTO!

Winter Driving Tips

Tune to Burn Radio 92.3FM & 729AM



Check before you drive

Check weather and road conditions before leaving.



Slow down

Drive to the conditions, especially in ice or snow.



Use your headlights

Turn them on in rain, ice, snow, fog, or dark conditions.



Leave more space

Increase your following distance on slippery roads.



Brake gently

Avoid sudden braking or sharp turning.



Do not drive tired

Rest, take breaks, and share the driving if you can.



Expect delays

Roads may be closed when conditions become too dangerous.



Travel prepared

If possible, travel by day and carry warm clothes, water, and food.



Fuel or charge up

Have enough battery range or at least half a tank of petrol.



Never ignore a road closure

Driving on a closed road is illegal and dangerous.



Before you go, check NZTA Journey Planner, NZTA regional Facebook pages, and MetService.

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JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

George Barroga	Ranfurly	021 029 95030
Jill Binnie	Ranfurly	022 186 3772
Rowena Kinney	Hyde	027 259 2320
Murray McKnight	Ida Valley	021 252 4355
Val McSkimming	Ranfurly	021 278 1055
Janice Remnant	Naseby	027 597 8454
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HISTORIC HOTEL TO REMAIN OPEN



The future of one of Central Otago's historic hotels has been secured, with the Otarehwa Railway Hotel sold to Wedderburn Tavern owner Angela Stockdale.

The 136-year-old hotel was purchased by Grahame and Liz Jones in 2009. After deciding to retire, the couple placed the property on the market and earlier this year announced they were prepared to close the hotel if a buyer could not be found by June 1.

Fortunately, a sale was completed before that deadline.

Angela, who has owned the Wedderburn Tavern since 2021, said she could not stand by and watch the historic hotel close. She said the hotel was important for the local community, the Otago Central Rail Trail, tourism in the area, and other hospitality operators in Otarehwa.

She also noted the important role rural hotels play as meeting places for residents.

The Otarehwa Railway Hotel property includes a three-bedroom home, guest accommodation, and an acre of freehold land.

Angela will take over the hotel at the beginning of September. She said the main focus would be to get it open regularly and consistently, so people can enjoy good hospitality and a warm, inviting place to visit.

Written by: Erica



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CENTRAL OTAGO REAP EXPANDS COMMUNITY SUPPORT AS DEMAND RISES

As winter sets in and pressures increase for many rural households, the Rural Education Activities Programme (REAP) is expanding its support to help communities stay connected, skilled, and supported.

With growing demand across the region, REAP continues to deliver practical programmes through its delivery network, bringing education and support directly into local communities. From driver licensing assistance to digital learning and life skills, the organisation provides practical, people-focused education to help individuals navigate everyday challenges.

Local initiatives are already delivering real impact. In Ophir, the Make and Mend sewing group provides a welcoming space for people to learn practical skills, share knowledge, and build meaningful social connections. Alongside this, upcoming child development workshops will support families to grow in confidence, strengthen parenting skills, and better understand their children's needs. These initiatives not only support healthy child development but also foster stronger family bonds,

greater resilience, and more connected, thriving communities.

"Our programmes are about creating connection as much as learning, helping people support each other, develop independence, and ensure everyone has access to opportunities that make a real difference in daily life," said Kellie Weatherston, General Manager.

Looking ahead, REAP hopes to expand its popular SuperGrans/SuperSkills programme into the area. Community involvement is essential, and locals are encouraged to get involved.

"We'd love to hear from Grans and Pops willing to volunteer and support families in the area," said Ann Conder, SuperSkills Coordinator.

REAP is also seeking new team members, with current vacancies for a Digital Tutor and Life Skills Tutor. These positions play a vital role in empowering learners and strengthening community connections through education.

Have a look at our website for vacancies and what's on: www.coreap.org.nz

REAP continues to strengthen communities; one skill, one connection at a time.



Friday 3 July, 9.30am-2.30pm
The Cellar Door, Alexandra

Take time off the farm and invest in you.

What you'll gain:

- Fresh perspective & confidence
- Practical resilience tools
- Insight on finance & succession
- Connection with other rural women

Register now! Numbers are limited for this exciting event. To register please visit: beeflambnz.com/events and search for this event.

0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352)

Water rates update

Over the next few months, water rates are increasing from \$1.60 to \$2.40 per 1,000 litres, as part of our 2025-2034 Long-term Plan.

Checking for hidden leaks and adjusting your water habits are simple ways to help manage this change.

What can you do with one unit of water (1m³ or 1000L)?

4000



cups of tea

6



full bathtubs

11



loads of washing

20



5 min showers

100



toilet flushes



Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more.



RATES REVIEW

Have your say

We're reviewing how rates are shared across the district and exploring options for change.



Save the dates

Information Session:

Tuesday, 25 August 6pm - 7pm

Maniototo Rugby Club Rooms

Drop-in:

Thursday, 27 August 3pm - 4pm

Māniatoto Library

Learn more



Consultation opens August 2026



SOLAR PROPOSALS SPARK INTEREST ACROSS THE DISTRICT

Residents may have noticed increasing discussion around solar developments in the wider Mānīatoto and Poolburn



areas. While these projects are sometimes spoken about together, there are currently three separate solar farm proposals at different stages of development.

The longest-running proposal is the Helios Mānīatoto Solar Farm, located on the Mānīatoto Plain between Ranfurly and Naseby. The project has been through consultation and the resource consent process, with consent granted for a solar farm capable of generating up to 300 megawatts.

A second proposal is the Poolburn Solar Farm, developed by Metlen near Moa Creek Road, Poolburn. The project covers approximately 412 hectares and includes plans for solar generation and battery storage. According to project information released to date, it remains in the feasibility and resource consent study stage.

A third project, the Moa Creek Solar Farm, is being developed by Lightsource bp in partnership with Contact Energy. Proposed for land near Poolburn, the development would cover around 630 hectares and generate up to 300 megawatts. It is also being designed to allow for battery storage, with resource consent applications expected during the second half of 2026.

As these projects progress, communities across Central Otago are likely to see further information sessions, consultation opportunities and updates from the various developers involved.

Written by: Erica

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WINTER NEWS FROM THE TOY LIBRARY

Greetings from the Toy Library!

We hope everyone is keeping warm and cosy as we head into the winter months. We've been busy behind the scenes and are excited to share that we have a bunch of fantastic new toys ready to be borrowed - perfect for keeping little ones



entertained, learning, and having fun while the chilly weather keeps us indoors.

We also have our awesome range of baby hire items available, including baths, prams, highchairs and more - perfect for when friends or family come to visit and you need a few extra bits and pieces to make life easier.

We're thrilled to announce the arrival of our brand-new pop-up gazebo! Measuring 3m x 6m, it's available to hire and is a great option for parties, family gatherings, community events, or any occasion where you need a little extra shelter and space. Get in touch with us to enquire about hiring.

A huge thank you to the Maniototo Community Board for their generous grant, which will allow us to upgrade and replace some of our older toys. Their support helps us continue providing a fun, affordable, and ever-growing range of toys for our local families. We appreciate our amazing community and look forward to seeing you at the Toy Library soon!

Winter Opening Hours

During July, August and September, we will be open on the first Sunday of each month from 1pm – 2pm.

Upcoming opening dates:

Sunday 5 July

Sunday 2 August

Sunday 6 September

As always, we are also available by prior arrangement - don't be shy, get in touch and we'll be happy to help!

maniototo.toylibrary25@gmail.com

BURN RADIO UPDATE

Winter on Burn Radio

As winter settles into the Mānīatoto, we'd like to thank everyone who continues to support Burn Radio. Whether you're listening on 92.3 FM, 729 AM, or via iHeartRadio, we're here to help keep you informed and connected.

During the winter months, be sure to tune in for our regular road reports on the hour throughout the morning. If snow, ice, or other significant weather events affect the district, we'll provide additional updates as needed to help keep our community informed and travelling safely.

Our thoughts remain with Stew's family and loved ones following his recent passing. Many listeners will remember Stew through the Choices programme and his involvement with Burn Radio over the years. We are grateful for the contribution he made to the station and the community. Stew will always be remembered as part of the Burn Radio family.

Written by: James



MAS EARNs NATIONAL RECOGNITION



Maniototo Area School has earned national recognition after being named one of the top three schools in the Education Excellence Awards for Attendance and Engagement. As Positively Mānīatoto goes to print before the ceremony on 24 June, the final result was not known.

Regardless of the outcome, it is a significant achievement for staff, Board of Trustees, students and community. We hope to share their awards experience next month.

Mastering Your Farm Financials Workshops

Monday 17 August | 9:00am - 3:00pm

Cellar Door, 143 Centennial Avenue, Alexandra

Tuesday 18 August | 9:00am - 3:00pm

Middlemarch Golf Club, 65 Garthmyl Road

This workshop is open to all farming businesses utilising farm accounting software. It doesn't matter if you use Farm Focus, Fiqured or Xero.

What you will learn

- Learn tools to complete a business health check.
- Gain the skills and understanding of why and how to build an effective budget and identify opportunities.
- Acquire skills in using financial reports to assess the current financial health of the farm.
- Learn how to identify key performance indicators for benchmarking within the overall farm business.

Morning tea and lunch will be provided.

Registrations are essential. Please register at:
www.beeflambnz.com/events



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HERITAGE ORCHARD PROJECT CONTINUES TO GROW

Whatever way you slice it, we are absolutely delighted to be a recipient of a grant from the Maniototo Community Board. This funding will help us purchase



rootstock, potting mix, and planter bags, enabling our group to graft close to 300 heritage fruit trees this year. A big thank you to the Central Otago District Council and the Maniototo Community Board for helping us grow.

Plans for the Naseby Heritage Community Orchard continue to blossom, with the tree selection confirmed - a wonderful variety of heritage apples, pears, cherries, plums, and quince. These trees will form the foundation of the orchard and help preserve locally significant fruit trees for future generations to enjoy.

At the end of June, members wrapped up warmly and headed out on a couple of scion wood collection days, braving the chilly Mānīatoto weather to harvest cuttings from dormant trees. These scions will be grafted onto rootstock over the coming months, creating new trees that carry on the genetics and stories of some of our region's treasured heritage fruit varieties.

There are still a handful of spaces available in our upcoming grafting workshops happening on Saturday, 3 October. These hands-on sessions are a great opportunity to learn about grafting, and you will leave with your own apple tree that you have grafted yourself. There is a link to the sign-up sheet on our Facebook page - search for Mānīatoto Heritage Orchards.

For more information, visit our Facebook page or email maniatotoorchards@gmail.com.



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Your Local Supporters.

KRAFTY KNITTERS' GROUP

We are a small group of knitters and crocheters who create blankets, jerseys, hats, scarves, slippers, and other warm items for Operation Cover Up.

For the past 25 years, Operation Cover Up has collected blankets and clothing from throughout New Zealand to support children, families, and elderly people living in desperate circumstances in Eastern Europe. These items are gathered each June, shipped to Romania, and distributed from there, with many currently going to Ukraine.

This year, our group has produced 23 large blankets and four small blankets, along with numerous hats, scarves, slippers, and jerseys. This is a wonderful achievement for such a small group of dedicated volunteers.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Maniototo Lions Club for their generous financial support over the year. Their donations towards the purchase of wool have been greatly appreciated and help ensure our knitters can continue this valuable work.

We have also been fortunate to receive donations of beautifully knitted children's jerseys, hats, and balaclavas, as well as brand-new soft toys that will bring comfort and joy to the children who receive them.

If you have any spare knitting wool (8 ply) that you no longer need and would like to donate to our cause, please contact:

Margaret 0274 707 341
or Jocelyn 0279 298 065

We will arrange collection.

Thank you for your support.



PHOTO ABOVE: "Recipients of blankets in Ukraine"

PHOTO BESIDE:

Round the table from left: Pat Inder, Billie Masters, Ngaire Murray, Jan Duffy, Judy Elder, Doris Gibson, Hazel Harrison, Margaret Steele (Convenor), Lorraine Lobb, Francie Morrow and Jocelyn Fordham.

Absent: Ruth Smith, Judy McIntosh, Ann Garthwaite, Shirley Hunter and Noeline O'Malley.



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FROM GOLD MINE TO BLUE LAKE

Just beyond the western edge of the Mānīatoto lies one of Central Otago's most remarkable landmarks - Blue Lake at St Bathans.



Despite its natural appearance, Blue Lake is entirely man-made. The lake was created through decades of gold mining that began in the 1860s. Miners used hydraulic sluicing and elevating techniques to remove vast quantities of gold-bearing gravels from Kildare Hill, gradually transforming a 120-metre-high hill into a huge excavation. When mining eventually ceased in the early 1930s, the pit filled naturally with water from the surrounding hills, creating the lake seen today.

The lake is famous for its vivid turquoise-blue colour, caused by minerals suspended in the water and the surrounding white quartz gravels left behind by the mining operations. The contrast between the blue water, white cliffs and rugged Central Otago landscape creates a scene unlike anywhere else in New Zealand.

Today, Blue Lake is a popular destination for swimming, kayaking, photography and walking. A well-formed 2-kilometre loop track takes visitors past historic sluicing's, mining relics and spectacular viewpoints overlooking the lake and township.

More than just a beautiful place to visit, Blue Lake stands as a lasting reminder of the gold rush that helped shape Central Otago and the communities that call the region home.

Written by: Erica

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LOCAL STORE SHINES

BuildLink Maniototo Hardware & Garden is celebrating national recognition after being named Store of the Year in Category 3 at the BuildLink Awards.

The award follows another major achievement last year, when Derek won the Spirit of BuildLink Award. That award recognised the person who best reflected what BuildLink stands for, including strong customer service, supporting local people, and operating as a solid independent hardware store and garden centre.

This year's Store of the Year win came as a surprise, with BuildLink Maniototo Hardware & Garden taking out the Category 3 award for stores with turnover of \$3 million and under. Derek said the result was a real thrill for the team and for the Maniototo community.

He said the store's success was made possible by local support, with customers choosing to shop locally instead of travelling further afield.

Several developments have helped the store grow, including the addition of a new plumbing division. This was introduced after Foley's closed its yard, meaning many customers otherwise had to travel to Alexandra for plumbing supplies. The store has also increased the range of building lines available for builders and DIY customers, and has now taken the next step into sheds, selling its first one in June.

Derek said he was proud of the tidy operation run by himself, Lindsey and Karen. Lindsey brings strong hardware knowledge, while Karen has strong plant knowledge.

The store's motto is that if they do not have something, they will do their best to get it.

Derek thanked customers and the wider Maniototo community for their support, saying the award showed the value of buying local and supporting local businesses.





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Positively MĀNIATOTO! OUT AND ABOUT



This misty Taieri paddle on 17 May shows river fog holding the hoarfrost in place, creating a quiet winter scene before the sun finally broke through and cleared the frost by journey's end. Captured by Nick and Kamila from Ranfurly Hostel.



Blue Lake looking not so blue in mid-June, with still water reflecting the pale winter cliffs and low cloud. Captured by Bridget Auchmuty.



Archie the cat may have slightly overestimated his hiding skills behind the post, but he still seems convinced the mouse can't see him. Photo captured by Fleur.

John Levido is pictured with Ranfurly Bowling Club President Dolina Manson after being made the club's newest life member. John first started playing bowls in 1974 and has given more than 50 years of loyal service to the club, including time as president, executive committee member and green committee member.



Ben Smith and Jessica Michels celebrate after being crowned the 2026 New Zealand Mixed Doubles Curling Champions at Maniototo Adventure Park. The pair claimed the title after an exciting best-of-three final over the weekend of 20 June.



Congratulations to (from left) Stu Greer and Don Manson, winners of the DB Pairs Darts Trophy 2026, pictured with Waipiata Dart Club President Vahni Stringer. Tuesday 23 June. Source: Waipiata Dart Club.

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Show Off Your Slice of Māniatoto Life! 🐾 🌿

Got a curious kitten, a laughing magpie, a blooming garden, or a DIY project you're proud of? Maybe a great snap of friends or whānau out and about in the Māniatoto? We'd love to see it! Send us your best pics - pets, gardens, projects, or local moments. Each month, our favourite photo wins a **\$50 voucher** to spend at **your local BuildLink Maniototo Hardware & Garden Store**.

Let's celebrate the people, pets, and projects that make the Māniatoto special.



Tell us who is in the picture, plus any other relevant details. Photos need to be sent as high resolution jpegs via email.

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