

*The Outram & Rural  
District Community  
Newsletter*

**NOVEMBER 2025**



*How do you like  
my babies????*

**Welcome to the third issue of  
West of the Taieri Community Newsletter, for 2025.  
ROLL ON SUMMER, GO AWAY WIND!!!!!!**

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## ***Last 'WEST of the TAIERI' issue as Editor for Pat Macaulay***

For more than 10 years Pat Macaulay KSM has messaged all the community organisations and businesses to request information, articles and general contributions to produce our community newsletter three times a year. Due to her dedication, patience, organisation and determination, this publication has been printed and distributed sharing the stories that involve our community.

As this is Pat's last issue as Editor, we owe a huge vote of thanks to her for the time, skills and energy that she has so freely given for us.

We hope that The West of the Taieri newsletter serves to provide a sense of community where there is a feeling of connection, fellowship through organisations, support for local businesses, understanding of our heritage and a sense of belonging.

The WOT team will have a new editor for 2026, and continue to count on you, our members, to contribute and continue this publication for the benefit of all.



***by Jenny McDonald***



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# SERVICE TIMETABLE for Trinity Community Church

## November 2025

23rd	10am	Outram
30th	10am	Outram <b>Breakfast @8.30am</b>

## December 2025

7th	10am	Outram
9th	4pm	Outram <b>Community Carol Service</b>
14th	10am	Outram Middlemarch
21st	10am	Outram <b>Communion</b>
25th	10am	Outram <b>Christmas Day</b>
28th	10am	Outram

## January 2026

4th	10am	Outram
11th	10am	Outram

**NB there will be no service in Middlemarch in January**

18th	10am	Old Berwick Church at Taieri Historical Park, followed by BBQ Picnic
25th	10am	Outram

## February 2026

1st	10am	Outram
18th	10am	Outram
	10am	Middlemarch
15th	10am	Outram <b>Communion</b>
22nd	10am	Outram

## March 2026

1st	10am	Outram
8th	10am	Outram & Middlemarch

## News from Trinity Community Church

A new venture for the church in the last few weeks has been a coffee morning, to which everyone is welcome. It has no purpose other than to be a time to enjoy seeing known and unknown people, and to chat to each other while we have a cup of coffee and a home baked muffin. Over six or seven weeks the number turning up about 10 a.m. has grown to a group of about a dozen; not always the same people, all locals, both men and women, some living in the district for their whole lives and some new to the area. Coffee on every Friday from 10 to 11.30, everyone is welcome, and Heather Hore, whose idea it was, is really pleased with how it's going.



The church is about to hold a second market day. For us, this issue of WOT is frustratingly time as it won't be out in time as it to advertise this, but it's also too early to report now on how successful it was. We're hoping lots of stall holders and people were there, and that it went well.

Our next group of activities are around Christmas. We shall be having our annual carol service in conjunction with the school choir, on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. There will be the usual Christmas Day service at 10 am, as well as the Sundays of December.

**Everyone is welcome to all of these.**



Article by  
**Fay McDonald**

Photos by  
**Jenny McDonald**

Hostess standing  
**Heather Hore**

## TAIERI LIONS CLUB

We are now nearing summer. For our Lions club this is a busy time with the run up to Christmas and the summer break.

Approximately 25 of our members and partners were involved once again on marshalling duties for the Dunedin Emersons Marathon in September. The popularity of this event continues to grow, with 3,778 participants this year.

In early December, a large contingent of our members will join the many volunteers for the annual food bank drive in Mosgiel and surrounding areas.

Our manure shed beside the Fire Station continues to do a roaring trade with many turnips also sold over the winter. We also have a container for aluminium cans for our Cash for Cans project situated beside the shed. At present we have good stocks of dry sheep manure, farmyard mix, oat husks and bagged lime. Thanks to Nick and Renee Roulston for sheep manure, Eddy and William Reid for turnips, Hyslop Rural for the Lime and Murry and Ross Magon for the oat husks. The manure shed is fast becoming one of our most consistent fundraisers with all profits returned to our community.

On the social side, our annual ten pin bowling night, followed by a meal at Cableways was once again enjoyed by all who participated. The fishing trip to Twizel is scheduled for early November. We have also enjoyed a wide variety of guest speakers at our monthly tea meetings.

Our involvement with Outram School continues to be strong. In August two of our members judged their annual speech competition. Once again, the quality of the children's speeches and poems was of a very high standard. The friends of Outram school continue to provide some of our tea meeting meals throughout the year. These meals are always of a very high standard and very much enjoyed. Many thanks to those involved. We look forward to having the school choir perform some Christmas items at our Christmas tea meeting in December.

Our club has recently purchased a self-contained covered BBQ trailer for use at our catering event fundraisers. Our old BBQs were pretty worn out after up to 50 years of use! We christened the new trailer BBQ at an open day we had for our club at the new track being built up at the Historic Park. →→→→→ Pg 7

It worked well and was also used at the Go Cart track at North Taieri.

You may have noticed the progress of the new shared pathway zig zagging up the hill to the Historic Park. This is stage 1 of an intended track to park, with Stage 2 returning under the bridge to Outram. Stage 1 is almost complete and just needs topped with a surface material. This project is fully funded by Taieri Lions and the Taieri Rotary Club as a joint project. We have been fortunate to access some other funding to help with stage 2, the return loop track.

*(more on the track elsewhere in this bulletin)*

Thanks to all our club members and our partners for what has been a busy but rewarding few months.

**Graeme Robertson**

**Taieri Lions meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month**

**at the Rugby Clubrooms for a tea meeting.**

**Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome.**

**President: Richard O'Neill 027 218 2120**

**Secretary: Peter O'Neill 027 434 7351**



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## ***Outram Pool Update***

Thank you to everyone who attended the public meeting held in July regarding the future of the pool. It was fantastic to see such a strong cross-section of our community represented. Following the discussion, the Pool Committee is confident that there is enough community support to keep the pool running and to move forward with replacing the roof. Many excellent fundraising ideas were shared, and we are already working on some of them. Watch this space for updates! The pool has been cleaned, painted and filled with water and is officially open.

- Existing Keyholders: If you have a pool fob from previous seasons, you can reactivate it for \$70. This can be arranged at the school office with Carolyn.
- New Keyholders: If you are new to the pool, the cost is \$90—this includes \$70 for the season and a one-off \$20 charge for the fob. Access can be organised at the school office.

*Please note: Each key is registered to **one family only**. You must be a keyholder to use the pool.*

### **Swimming Lessons**

Swimming lessons will run in Term 4 and Term 1, as well as during a block week from 26–30 January.

- Thursday afternoons: 3:00–4:45pm

Block week: 9:00–11:00am The pool will be unavailable to the public during lesson times.

### **Pool Bookings**

The pool is available for birthday party bookings at a cost of \$60 for two hours.

During bookings, the pool is closed to the public. To book, please contact us via the Outram Pool Facebook Messenger.

### **Thank You to Our Supporters**

We would like to sincerely thank the individuals and businesses who advertise at the pool—many of whom have supported us for years. Advertising income is vital to the pools operation. If you are interested in purchasing an advertising space and supporting this valuable community asset, **please contact Bernadette Hay on 027 479 3251.**

### **Stay Connected**

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with pool news and events—simply search for *Outram Pool* and click “Like.” We look forward to seeing you at the pool!

***The Pool Committee***

# OUTRAM POOL FUNDRAISER

We are fundraising to help cover the cost of replacing the roof covering the pool area.

We are aiming to raise \$40k

This is a great asset for the community and we need your support! We are looking for one-time individual, or joint, sponsors for sheets of roofing with a minimum contribution of \$300 per sheet.

Names of the sponsors will be displayed inside the pool building to publicly acknowledge their contribution.

Additional fundraising activities are planned. Smaller donations to support the fundraising effort are also welcome.



All enquiries to  
[outrampool@gmail.com](mailto:outrampool@gmail.com)

## Henley Rural Women

Recently, a committee of Henley Rural Women organised a 'High Tea' to celebrate 100 years of the volunteer work of the Women's Division of the Farmers Union, Women's Division Federated Farmers and Rural Women New Zealand.



The 'High Tea' was attended by about seventy past and present members and guests, some wearing their 'best hat'. The day also celebrated the 94<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Henley Branch Rural Women NZ.

Following the recital of the Creed, there was the lighting of four candles; two of remembrance, one for the present and one for the future. After the Prayer two cakes were cut, one for 100 years of Rural Women and the other for the Henley Branch 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.

The guest speaker was Irene Mosley, who reflected on her time with Rural Women and that of previous family members. A beautiful afternoon tea was served by the ladies of Mosgiel Presbyterian Church, where the function was held. Birthday cake was handed out followed by the drawing of raffles.



The day ended with the Women's Division Song. Guests left the celebration feeling they had renewed old friendships and with memories of

Judy Aitken

Secretary Henley RWNZ

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## Where are they now? contributed by Zelda Matheson



A recent visitor to the McDonald cottage at Heenan Road, Maungatua left in the donation box a \$20 American dollar (worth \$30 NZ). The visitor was Neville McDonald, who is a great, great, grandson of John McDonald who with his family lived on the site. When checking out the donation box recently Neil Gamble, chairman of the Taieri Historical Society, found in the American dollar. With the help of “Google” the family historian at the Park Zelda Matheson, sleuthed out the whereabouts of Neville in the USA.

### ←←←Neville McDonald at the Outram School jubilee celebrations 1958



Neville, is the son of Burnie & Dorothy McDonald, who many years ago owned the “Willowbank” apple orchard in Outram. Neville was a pupil at the Outram school where his mother Dorothy Farquhar had also been a teacher. He has a brother Geoffrey (now a retired lawyer) who practised in Hamilton for 30 years and now resides in Auckland).

Neville went to the Dental School at Otago and practiced in Dunedin for 6 years with Malcolm Farry. He then went to the University of Maryland at Baltimore to specialise in Endodontics (root canals).

He had no intention of staying in the US, but he met his wife Linda and was offered a job at Maryland to carry out research and teach. He was recruited by the University of Michigan 25 years ago and has been the Chair and Professor of Endodontics since that time. They live in a university town called Ann Arbor. Linda and Neville have one son who lives in Montana, and a 14 year old grand-daughter.



→→→→→Cont. on Pg 13

## McDonald Cottage in Heenan Road Maungatua

This is one of the last stone buildings left on the Taieri and is situated on the McIntyre Family farm at Maungatua. The building has been gifted to the Taieri Historical Society because of its historical significance and its colourful past. This will ensure its preservation.



The history dates back to the 1860s when McDonalds, the Scottish stone masons, developed the farm and buildings. However, this was in the time of the Prohibition so the family decided to develop a 'little sideline' which was soon in big demand. The whole house 100 yards down the

hill by the stream was given over to the brewing of illicit 108 proof whisky.

The authorities eventually caught up with the enterprise and in 1864 at the High Court in Dunedin, the McDonalds were convicted and fined 100 Pounds, with their equipment being confiscated.

As legend tells us, the family then became more cunning. The father established a still up a Maungatua stream in the bush. The fire chimney was a tunnel along the creek which concealed the smoke. The Hogs Head for the whisky was concealed in a hole under the roots of a large tree that had fallen over by the stream this was stood up to hide the barrel. A mountain storm and flash flood destroyed this enterprise and the barrel ended up jammed against the road bridge. Nobody claimed the barrel from the Police!!

The 'wee stone cottage' was the son's enterprise. This building appeared to be a two room dairy and bakery, but under the floorboards was an excavated room with a concealed fireplace and chimney in the back wall. This still was never discovered by the authorities, and no doubt quenched the thirst of many men working on the Taieri.

There are no plans to excavate the filled in lower section.

Underneath the floor remains a 'mystery'.

→→→→→

**Cont. on Pg 14**

## **INTERESTING!! PRESS, VOLUME V, ISSUE 526, 7 JULY 1864, PAGE 3**

MOUNTAIN DEW —Another important and extensive seizure of an illicit spirit manufactory has just been made by the police. From information received the suspicion of the police had been attracted to the vicinity of the premises of one John McDonald, at the West Taieri, where it was believed the illicit manufacture of whisky was being conducted on a large scale.

Accordingly, at 7 o'clock, on Wednesday night, the police proceeded to the neighbourhood indicated, and there lay in ambush, until half-past six in the morning. "When it was nearly daylight the officers commenced their investigations, and ultimately found four men busy at work making whisky. They also found 4 hogsheads, 1 keg, and 2 tubs of malt liquor, 2 casks grain malt, 1 keg and 6 bottles of whisky, a cooling trough and worm, a copper boiler, a quantity of sugar, 2 metal coolers, 8 bags barley, 6 bags malt, and about 20 bushels of barley on the floor of a kiln drying. The police at once took possession of the plant and materials, destroying some, and conveying the rest to the West Taieri Station, Subsequently the police proceeded to the Lower Waipori to search the premises of some suspected individuals, but after a careful examination no discovery of illicit distillation was made.

### **Elderly Citizens Coffee Morning at Blend**

The last Thursday of each month is set aside for the Outram Senior Citizen group to come together at our local Blend coffee shop at 1.30pm for a coffee and a chat. If you are new to the area come along and meet new people.

At one of our meets it was such a thrill for two of the members to have a ride around the block with our now favourite 94 year old Tom Grant. Tom also has a strong interest in building aeroplanes. A Stuff article on page 34 tells about how he has walked away from a crash in one of his planes .

**Pictured right is member Anne Warrington-Blair with Tom Grant**



## ***FANTASIC OPPORTUNITY***

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An interest in horticulture/ gardening and a can do attitude would be an asset.

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## ***Rebecca's Recipe Corner***

### **Double Choc Anzac Biscuits**

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

1 c wholegrain rolled oats  
1 c Flour  
1 cup thread Coconut  
1 packed c Brown Sugar  
1/4 c Golden syrup  
125g butter  
2 T boiling water  
1/2 tsp Baking soda  
30 gram white choc buttons (optional)  
100g dark choc to decorate  
Preheat oven to 160c

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Combine rolled oats, flour, coconut and brown sugar in a bowl.  
Heat together golden syrup, butter and boiling water until butter melts.  
Stir in baking soda then mix into dry ingredients until well combined.  
Roll mixture into balls and place on trays allowing room to spread.  
Lightly flatten and then press choc button into top if desired.  
Bake for 20-25 mins. Allow to cool on the trays.  
Melt the chocolate and drizzle over the top in patterns.  
Wait till set before putting in airtight container.

### **Sweet Hawaiian Crockpot Chicken**

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

2lb (1kg) Chicken tenderloin chunks  
1 cup Pineapple juice  
1/2 cup Brown sugar  
1/3 cup Soy sauce

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

Combine all together, cook on low in Crock pot 6-8 hours ....  
That's it! Done!

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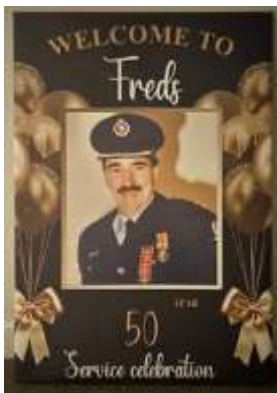
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## **Station Officer Fred Donaldson**

### **Outram Volunteer Fire Brigade**

### **50 years Service - Gold Star Award**

Fred started his service on the 12th May, 1975, as a young 21 year old, new to Outram. He recalls that his first call out was a false alarm. This was the first of over 3,000 musters, equating to an exceptional 88 % of all musters for the past 50 years. He was encouraged to join the brigade by Les Hyslop ( Lyn's uncle) who was the Fire Chief at that time, whom he regarded as a great mentor, and he still carries his advice to this day.

Over the years, the equipment and personal protective equipment has been consistently improved from the days of the old Landrover appliance with very basic equipment, to our very modern and well equipped Iveco appliance that we run at present. We now have the very latest, protective fire fighting uniform and modern breathing apparatus which has been a great leap forward from the plastic leggings, gumboots, plastic helmet, with no visor, and heavy woollen bunker coats, that we wore when I first started!!

Training has also changed dramatically. From, " putting the wet stuff on the hot stuff" to specifically targeted training. It begins with a seven day training recruitment course in Christchurch for our southern trainees, then weekly training with FENZ training officers and our own brigade training officer. This ranges from fire fighting technique, medical training with specialists, hazardous substance incidents, motor vehicle crashes and location familiar isolation. We are also first runners to assist Dunedin Airport Crash Rescue.

Technology has changed to give us electronic alerts, and information of the type of call and the location of the incidents. The siren only sounds during daylight hours.

**→→→→ cont. on page 19**

I have attended an extremely wide range of incidents, from cats up a tree to fatal house fires. Also have been some very interesting ones, to the horrible scrubbies, that can take hours and much hard physical work to get under control! During the 1980 flood, even our wives had to assist with feeding all the volunteers that helped with civil defence work in the area. We also, now have to assist the ambulance service for medical calls, often being the first on the scene, performing CPR and prepping the patient with the defibrillator. This is becoming more prevalent in our rural areas. We have a support person in our brigade to lead discussion to talk through any hardships that any of these calls may present. The Outram Volunteer Fire Brigade is a very strong, united group. We have an active social side to our brigade, which enables trust, and camaraderie amongst all members.

Volunteer Firefighters make a huge commitment to their community, involving many hours away from family and sometimes from work. I must acknowledge my own family and the families of fellow firefighters as well as employers for their understanding, of the many hours spent training and at call outs. It could be from half an hour, to all day and night! We miss out, or can be called away from many family occasions and events. I personally, have missed out on supporting Jolene and Glen at many sporting events, some birthdays and prize-givings.

However, it has been a great privilege and honour to serve our community and FENZ for these past 50 years. The legacy lives on with Stu Casey (Jolene's husband) being our fire chief, and Nick, our grandson, being the newest qualified brigade member. While I can still run to the fire station to the calls, I will continue to serve."



## Taieri Trails Group Progress Report

The Taieri Trails Group, along with the Dunedin Trails Network Trust, is pleased to share an update on the progress made over the past year toward the **Mosgiel–Outram shared-use trail**.

While development has taken longer than expected, due to the **Otago Regional Council's (ORC)** review of its floodbank construction specifications, the groundwork completed this year has positioned the project for strong progress in 2025/26.

### Community Fundraiser Success

In February, a combined **hiking and mountain biking event** on the Maungatua raised **\$9,600** in support of the trail.

A huge thank you to the **Taieri Rotary Club** and the **Otago Recreational 4WD Club** for their vital help and generosity — the event was a great example of community spirit.

### ORC Support and Funding

The **Otago Regional Council** granted *in principle approval* for a shared-use trail between **Mosgiel and Outram**, following the Silverstream and Taieri River floodbanks.

This support was a key factor in the Trust receiving a **\$50,000 grant** from the ORC, a major milestone in the project design and preparation, and design and planning progress

### Design and planning Progress

The Trust is working closely with the ORC to develop design principles for trails on flood control banks.

As of last week, we now have ORC Flood Defence Cycle Track Construction Guidelines. These guidelines will now enable us to proceed with the detailed design process.

***Cont. on page 21 →→→→***

Special thanks to **Tonkin & Taylor**, who have prepared designs for **cattle stops and structural features** to be included in the final ORC specification document.

## Landowner Agreements

We're currently working with all seven private landowners along the proposed Mosgiel–Outram trail route.

Their support and cooperation have been fantastic and are helping to keep the project moving forward — a big thank-you to each of them for being part of the journey.

## Outram Bridge Connection

A **clip-on attachment design** for the **SH87 bridge** over the Taieri River has been completed and submitted to **NZTA** for approval. Once approved, this will provide a key link and safe crossing for trail users.

## Expanding the Trail Network

A new **Outram–Waipori route**, passing near the airport, has been agreed in principle. While construction will follow the **Waipori–Waihola** section, this agreement ensures a future continuous network — connecting with the **Clutha Gold Trail** to the south and the **Tunnels Trail** to the east.

When complete, this will enable riders to travel **from Queenstown and Wānaka all the way to Dunedin**.

## Resource Consent Progress

Productive consultation with **Dunedin City Council (DCC)** staff and other stakeholders has paved the way for lodging the **Resource Consent**, which has now been formally submitted.

## Committee Update

This year, we farewelled **Jean Bonner** and **Nigel Smith**, whose efforts have been deeply appreciated. We also welcomed **Kevin Thompson**, an enthusiastic mountain biker, to the team. **Cont. on page 22→→→→**

## Current Committee Members:

Colin Brown • Sarah Davie-Nitis • Graeme Robertson • Dean McAlwee •  
Andrew Simms • Craig Bates • Kevin Thompson

## Looking Ahead to 2025/26

The year ahead promises to be a turning point for the project.

The **Resource Consent** has now been lodged with the DCC.

Final **NZTA approval** of the Outram Bridge clip-on design is expected soon.

Final **NZTA approval** of the Outram Bridge clip-on design is expected soon.

With these milestones approaching, the Trust anticipates **construction** could begin in early 2026, as funding allows.

***Dean McAlwee and Graeme Robertson***  
***on behalf of The Taieri Trails Group***



## OUTRAM NATIVES

Pittosporums, Cabbage Trees, Mini ToeToe, Green Flax, Karamu (Coprosma), Windgrass, Carex Commons grass, Silver Tussocks.

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***THE TRACK FROM MUSEUM TO THE  
TOWNSHIP***

**by Jenny McDonald**

**If you have a story,  
or article suggestion or  
maybe wish to advertise,  
please contact us a.s.a.p.  
We will be calling for ideas by  
early February, for the mid  
March 2026 issue.**

***CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS  
& ADVERTISERS.***



***From the Team at the  
West of the Taieri.***



## **Otago Regional Council Public meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September**

There was a good response in attendance for the presentation at Outram from the Otago Regional Council about the Lower Taieri Flood Protection scheme.

The three areas covered in the ORC presentation were:-

1. Work covered in the last year
2. Continuing and future projects
3. Rates review

Following the first part of works covered, various attendees raised issues or made comment on; raised silt levels in the Taieri River, slumps or holes appearing in flood circumstances on the Outram side of the flood bank, inadequate remedial work on rabbit holes, over engineered bridges on the contour, compensation for damage, insurance and rebuilding issues.

Residents would like information on emergency flood response plans eg which roads to use during floods, where the evacuation center for Outram is and communication methods.

2. The main projects currently started or ready to commence were;
  - \* The excavation of the Silver Stream. The first stage starts at the Taieri River end and will go to Gladfield Road.
  - \* Continuing the excavation of the Contour Channel which runs from Outram to Berwick.
3. Rates Review

This is to happen over the next two years.

This drew the most discussion with comments and questions.

A common concern was that rates had increased by 200% in the last 2 years.

Other points raised were; The ORC has no jurisdiction over the Outram Township drainage (DCC responsibility) Presently storm water ponds in the low old river bed areas but runs to three areas, the Oxbow at the south of Maungatua View, the pond at Willowfield or into the small stream →→ →

that runs along the base of the hill behind Anzac Court, under the small piped culvert at Highway 87 and into the Contour.

Outram benefits from the flood bank (ORC responsibility) which was first built in 1871 and heightened to 14m in 1965. However, with the exception of the fixing of the land area around the pipe outlet into the river just upstream of the sub station and planting of willows on the upstream at the Outram bridge, there has been no further obvious development affecting the township.

It has been calculated that 50% of the rates gathered from the lower Taieri comes from Outram residences. Information was not provided as to how much was contributed by Mosgiel residents as their storm water streams drain into the Taieri River.

ORC has stated no further work is needed on the flood bank which would be reflected in the rates review.

The question was asked as to why we paid rates for the Leith Stream. It was noted that the area has a low rate contribution due to the University (important to the whole of Otago) but so too is the Dunedin Airport covered by the Lower Taieri scheme.

There still seems to be as many questions as answers after this meeting.

Following the ORC presentation Simon Parks spoke about the role of **the Lower Taieri Flood Protection Liaison Group** newly set up this year.

The Lower Taieri Flood Protection Liaison Group has been set up to present the concerns from the residents of the area and to give advice to the Council from their local knowledge of what actually happens on the ground when floods occurred.

The group has 3 members on the Western side of the river, 3 members on the Eastern side, a Mosgiel/Taieri Community Board member and a Regional Council Board member.

If you have any concerns or information about the Lower Taieri Protection scheme please contact:-

**Simon Parks on 027 279 9513, or [simonparks40@gmail.com](mailto:simonparks40@gmail.com)**



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## ***Fresh Space, Same Passion at Warnock Architecture***

It's been an exciting year for Warnock Architecture Ltd, with the team moving into their newly redeveloped office on Holyhead Street, Outram. The move represents the next step for a practice that continues to grow across Otago and Southland, bringing thoughtful, buildable design to homes and commercial spaces alike.

The new space follows the studio's previous home in the award-winning restoration of the Old Blacksmith building, also in Outram. That project reflected the firm's respect for local heritage and its ability to breathe new life into historic structures.

Founded nearly 25 years ago by Reece Warnock, Warnock Architecture is a multi-award-winning practice known for clear communication, creative problem-solving, and strong technical delivery. "Our goal is to make good design accessible," says Reece. "Spaces that not only look great but work well for the way people live and build."

The building itself has deep local roots. Constructed around 1876–1877, it began life as the Outram Societies' Hall, one of the township's earliest public spaces. Over the next century it evolved through community and commercial uses, including a time under the local Presbyterian Church.

Reece and his brother Dean purchased the site to restore and re-energise it. The new design keeps the buildings simple form while introducing a contemporary black-fin façade and James Hardie ExoTec™ panels for texture and depth.



***Cont. on page 29→→→***

Inside, the fit-out blends character and modern finishes. Marrakesh plastered walls, acoustic timber slats, and V-Groove linings create a calm, tactile backdrop. Smart upgrades complete the transformation, with new insulation, efficient LED lighting, and integrated data and audio systems. “It’s our creative hub,” says Reece. “We wanted a space that reflects how we design, simple, efficient, and comfortable.”

The open-plan studio includes collaborative workstations, a client meeting area, and a materials display bench. Using Revit and Enscape, the team creates immersive VR walkthroughs that let clients explore projects before a single nail is driven.

The Warnock Architecture team is a close-knit group of designers and creatives. Nathan Swift and Terry Wilson, both Senior Architectural Technicians and Designers, bring experience and an eye for detail. Johann Hamman, our hard-working South African import, has been part of the team for eight years and brings energy and dedication to every project. Greg Samson, our longest-standing team member based in Hāwea, is approaching nineteen years with us, and when he is not resolving complex details he is usually out snowboarding. Tina Arthur, in between her work as a travel agent and organising lifestyle retreats, manages our social media. With a great eye for style and trends, Tina keeps our content sharp and, truth be told, keeps us lads in line.

For Reece, the move has personal meaning. Born and raised in Outram, he remembers attending Playcentre in this very hall as a child. Decades later, transforming the same building into the home of his practice feels like things coming full circle. “It’s pretty special to come back to a place that shaped my early memories and give it new life,” he says. “It’s a real circle-of-life moment, turning a piece of my past into a space for the future.”



**You’ll find Warnock Architecture Ltd at 16 Holyhead Street, Outram.**

**The door is open, the kettle is on,  
and there is always time for a chat about good design.**

**Term 3** has come and gone and is always full of events. From the sporting, to public performances, there is always an exciting challenge and opportunity for students at **Outram School** to strive towards.

We held our annual Outram Speech Night. Congratulations to all the finalists who performed so well on the night making the judges job extremely difficult.



Thank you to our judges Ad Bekker, Graeme Robertson and Emma Parks. Thank you to the Taieri Lions Club who sponsor our annual competition. Their support is appreciate

It was Outram's turn to host the South Taieri School's Haddon Trophy competition. The purpose was 'to entertain'. The Year 6, 7 & 8 students battled it out to convince the judges they were worthy of the coveted trophy. Congratulations to Lane from Outram School with his entertaining speech on his local Big Foot adventure.

Cross Country events were also run. At our school event senior students demonstrated wonderful tuakana (buddy) with the younger students (teina) to show them the way, give advice and encourage them through the challenge on the day. Outram hosted the South Taieri Schools Cross Country event, where students from across the Taieri rural schools ran their hearts out. We had students competing at the Otago Primary Schools Cross Country. Our top result for 2025 was Elsie placing 3rd in the Year 5 girls.

While the rain has been great for pastures, it was not welcome at our Pōwhiri. The usually reliable Outram weather let us down at just the wrong time. But we were able to adapt and welcome our 2025 cohort of students, new whānau and staff to Outram School with the fabulous Senior Kapa Haka group who represented the students of Outram so well. →→→→→

We planted a Feijoa Pounamu tree for this years values tree. Just like this tree, the 2025 cohort of tamariki will grow and develop over the next eight years. The tree will flourish in the sunshine and be strong in the wind, and it will eventually bear fruit. We will nurture our tamariki with care, and they will learn, grow, and develop their passions. We will watch with pride as they reach their potential.

***From Strong Roots We Grow  
Children Who Love Learning,  
Develop Passions and Reach  
Their Potential.***



2025 is Board election year,. We farewelled two long standing Board members. A big thank you to Anne-Marie Wells and Nathan Young, who stood down after two terms (6 years) on the board. Their mahi and support of the school has been much appreciated, and they both contributed greatly to the achievements of the school over their time. We had eight parents nominated to fill seats around the board table. Five were elected: Gus Martin, Kate Woodhouse and Kevin Marsh continue as board members, with Charlene Hunter-Deans and Todd Ford the newly elected members to join the team.

We have two fundraising projects underway. The Pool Committee has decided, after holding a public meeting to decide the future of the pool, that it has sufficient community support to proceed with the replacement of the aging roof over the pool. This is a major fundraising project which begins with a local Bingo Night on 7th November, and a swimathon at the beginning of the 2026 school year. To keep up-to-date with the committee's efforts and how you can contribute to events, follow the Outram Pool facebook page and the school newsletter.

The second fundraising project is the Year 7 & 8 students raising funds to build a Gaga Ball Pit for the school. Gaga Ball is like a →→→→→

game of dodge ball. It is very popular with students. 'Operation Gaga' (aka Room 5) organised and ran a rainbow day where students dressed in the colours of the rainbow. Next they are designing a 'Read-a-thon' as part of Book Week.

We are only a few short weeks away from having our Hall completed. We are very much looking forward to having this space back again. Outside of school hours the hall is available for hire by the community. Michelle is looking forward to getting the Zumba group back in Outram. Contact the school office if you would like to know more about using this space. Look out on local facebook pages for information about our 'Re-opening Day'. This will be a chance for members of the community to drop by and have a look at the refreshed Hall and it's facilities.



We are preparing for the end of year activities, and ready to farewell 10 Year 8 students who are well prepared to head off to their chosen secondary schools. Our final day will be Thursday, 18th December.

We begin 2026 on Monday, February 2nd. Thank you to the community for your on-going support of our local school.

Lastly, we want to express our gratitude to Pat Macaulay for her dedication and hard work as the editor and collator of *West Of the Taieri*.

Pat, your service has been invaluable to the publication, and your efforts have not gone unnoticed.

Your commitment to sharing stories and information from the community has helped foster a sense of community.

We appreciate all that you have done to make the publication a success.

***Kim Allan   Principal   Outram School***

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Thomas Grant at his workshop.

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The 94-year-old pilot who crashed into a paddock on Thursday has already walked away from several crashes involving his home built replica aircraft.



**Otago HFNZ Branch ·**

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We are thrilled to announce that we have presented Denis Aitken with Honorary Life Membership of the **Otago HFNZ Branch**.. Denis's achievements are too many to list here but his involvement with the Branch was first mentioned in minutes back in 1975! We are very grateful for his continued commitment to the **Holstein Friesian** Breed & to his wife Judy, who has supported him & the Branch.



<b>BUSINESS LISTINGS</b>	<b>INFORMATION</b>	<b>CONTACT DETAILS</b>
Advanced Stopping Ltd	<i>For all your gib stopping and fibrous Plastering needs. Ph 0800 333 118</i>	Rikki Ph: 021 225 3657
Blend Espresso Outram	<i>Hours—7am to 4.00pm 7 days a week</i>	Phone 03 425 0000 During working hours
Knox Podiatry	<i>For all your podiatry needs www.knoxpodiatry.co.nz or info@knoxpodiatry.co.nz</i>	Call now 03 478 1030
Cowley Electrical Dairy and Pumps	<i>Whether it is domestic, industrial or dairy the friendly Mosgiel team can help take care of your electrical, refrigeration, pumps and engineering list. Open 8am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday 25 Factory Road MOSGIEL</i>	Phone 03 425 9306 Dean—021 678 101 Email mosgiel@cowley.co.nz
Chimney Sweeping	<i>Quality sweeping. Open fires, solid fuel stoves and coal ranges. Nests removed and solid fuel appliance servicing</i>	Mark Ph: 021 026 50473 or 486 1333 A/H
I-JAB Balustrades	<i>For all your aluminium requirements. Balustrades, aluminum joinery. Double glaze existing windows. Email—ijabbalustrades@gmail.com</i>	Jo or Bill Ph: 486 1188 Bill Mobile:- 027 486 1186
Grant & Co (Roger Grant)	<i>We cover all your plumbing and drain laying needs</i>	Roger Grant Mobile 021 226 3840 roger@grantandco.net.nz
Outram Contracting	<i>Registered Weed Sprayer Boom spraying, automatic hose reel, broom &amp; gorse spraying, liquid fertiliser</i>	Ken & Barbara Cuthill Ph a/h 486 1730 or 027 486 1738

BUSINESS	INFORMATION	DETAILS
Outram Garage	<i>Petrol, WOF's and servicing. Opening Hours: Mon—Fri 8am—5.30pm Fuel 24/7</i>	Ph: 486 1708
Fred's Fencing	<i>For all your cattle and horse yard requirements <a href="http://www.fredfencing.co.nz">www.fredfencing.co.nz</a></i>	Fred Mobile 027 228 8190
Ready Lawn	<i>For all your lawn requirements</i>	Niven Ph—027 433 5156 Fred Ph— 027 228 8190
PGGWrightson Outram	<i>For all your farm supplies contact the friendly team at the Outram Store Website: <a href="http://www.ppgwrightson.co.nz">www.ppgwrightson.co.nz</a></i>	Ph: 486 2991 Store Manager Jaime Archer
Todd Ford Builder Limited	<i>New Builds, Extensions, Renovations, Kitchens, Bathrooms, Decks &amp; Outdoor</i>	Todd 027 863 3367 or Email <a href="mailto:todd@tfb.nz">todd@tfb.nz</a>
Vetlife Murrays	<i>Large &amp; small animal veterinary services K9 Chic dog groomers Open Clinics hours:- 9am-5pm Mon to Fridays, Appointments are by bookings only</i>	Phone: 03 489 5540 Email <a href="mailto:murrays@vetlife.co.nz">murrays@vetlife.co.nz</a>

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COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	INFORMATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Outram Bowling Club 8 Skerries Street	<p><i>COME AND HAVE A GO</i>  <i>We play late September to April</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Twilight Bowls</li> <li>• Club Bowls and Social Hour</li> <li>• Community Events</li> </ul>	Chris 022 426 1016 Dianne 027 481 1972
Outram Garden Club	<p><i>Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at the Outram Memorial Hall</i>  <i>Guest speakers and garden visits.</i>  <i>New members welcome.</i></p>	Lynette Ph: 486 1710 or 021 139 7093
Outram Medical Centre	<p>10 Beaumaris Street  <i>Hours: Monday to Friday</i>  <i>8.30am – 5.30pm</i></p>	Ph: 486 2150
Outram Public Library	<p><i>Opening Hours:</i>  <i>Wed— 7-8pm.</i>  <i>Fri—3.15-4.30pm.</i>  <i>Sat- - 10.30—11.45am</i></p>	Kay Mercer Secretary 021 122 3888
Outram Playcentre, 9 Beaumaris Street Outram	<p><i>Opening Hours:</i>  <i>Mon, Wed &amp; Fri - 9am to 1pm</i>  <i>Tues 0 – 2 years 9.15am to 12.15pm</i>  Email:- outram@playcentre.org.nz  Play centre contact 027 880 2645</p>	Marg Hay Contact number 020 413 4260
Outram School	<p><i>‘From strong roots we grow children who love learning, develop passions and reach their potential.’</i>  Email:- admin@outram.school.nz</p>	Ph: 486 1733
Outram School Pool	<p><i>Keys cost \$80</i>  <i>(includes refundable deposit \$10)</i></p>	Kerry Kakahi Ph: 027 373 0035 or School Office Ph: 486 1733
Outram Senior Citizens	<p><i>Outram Senior Citizens coffee at Blend Espresso, last Thursday of each month at 1.30pm</i>  <i>Steady as You Go Classes—Monday 11.am</i>  <i>West Taieri Memorial Hall</i>  Email—marj.latta@gmail.com</p>	Marj Latta Mobile 027 204 8666 Landline 486 1961
Otago Vintage Machinery Club & Taieri Historical Society	<p><i>Museum—Taieri Historical Park, Outram.</i>  <i>Open October to May, Sundays 2-4pm.</i>  Email—taierimuseum@gmail.com</p>	Neil Gamble Ph: 027 473 3035

COMMUNITY ORGANISATION	INFORMATION	CONTACT DETAILS
Outram Volunteer Fire Brigade	<b><i>New volunteers always welcome!</i></b>	Stu Casey Ph: 027 436 1012
Trinity Community Church 10 Holyhead Outram	<i>Services every Sunday at 10.00am 10 Holyhead Street Outram for Room Hire or information email:- maungatuaparish@gmail.com</i>	Pastoral: R Allison Ph 486 1141 Services: M Kerr Ph 03 489 6066
Mosgiel-Taieri Community Board	<i>Advocating for our communities on community &amp; council matters <b>Feel free to get in touch with me</b> rebecca.shepherdMTCB@outlook.com</i>	Rebecca Shepherd 021 234 5297
Plunket	<i>For Plunket Well Child Checks, please contact 0800 184 803 for bookings or check Otago Plunket face book page or Plunket Line 0800 933 922 Play Group Tues 10 to 12 at Mosgiel Plunket Rooms</i>	Otago Area Office 027 242 3729
Rural Women New Zealand	<i>Community focused organisation with monthly meetings and speakers. Website <a href="http://www.ruralwomennz.nz">www.ruralwomennz.nz</a> NEW MEMBERS WELCOME</i>	Henley Branch: Judy Aitken Ph:486 2786
Taieri Network	<i>Website—<a href="http://taierinetwork.co.nz">taierinetwork.co.nz</a> Email—<a href="mailto:hello@taierinetwork.co.nz">hello@taierinetwork.co.nz</a> 176 Gordon Road Mosgiel 9024</i>	Community Connector Teresa Christie 022 121 3325
Taieri Lions Service Club	<i>Meet 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at the West Taieri Rugby Clubrooms. 6.30pm Fellowship, followed by meal at 7pm. New and interested members from the West Taieri community are welcome. Graeme—027 445 8225</i>	Richard O'Neill Ph: 027 218 2120 Ken Spittle Ph: 027 510 8863
West Taieri Smallbore Rifle Club	<i>Meet Tuesday nights 7.30pm Outram Community Hall (next to dairy) Target shooting All equipment supplied NEW MEMBERS WELCOME</i>	Nigel Neehoff 027 471 0042

*There will be 3 issues of the **West of the Taieri Newsletter** for 2026  
mid-March, mid-July and mid-November.*

*We publish news from around the community and information from  
community groups and organisations in the distribution area.*

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### **Community Notice Board Section:-**

This is for community groups and local businesses.

Business listings cost \$20 per issue or \$60 for 3 issues

Community & Non-Profit Organisations \$12 per issue or \$36 for 3 issues

***Please contact the Collator/Editor: - Nicola Richards,  
Mobile 027 589 2277 or Email [Westtaieri@email.com](mailto:Westtaieri@email.com)***

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