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## New lifestyle beckons

Words & Photo:

Cathy Dee

After nearly nine years of 3.30 am starts, rural delivery contractors Jill and John Hardy are putting their feet up for a well-earned break.

The busy couple officially hang up their mail bags on June 20. However, they will be 'staying around for a week or so' in order ease the new contractors into their new role.

"We were starting

to think about doing something different when the offer came in for the contract – it happened just at the right time," says John. The couple has enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many people on the route, and hope they achieved their goal of bringing the community closer together through good customer service, which also included setting up a community email list. Through the email locals could discover details of lost pets, fruit and vegies for sale, along with people looking for or offering work.

John says he has had a few amusing surprises with a variety of items found in letterboxes, including one memorable occasion when



**Time to hang up their mail bags:** Jill and John Hardy, pictured with their dog Abi, are looking forward to sleeping in and settling into a 'normal life' with their animals on their lifestyle block.

he discovered loaves of bread in every box on one road. He has also been joined en route by a piglet and numerous dogs that he delivered safely back to their homes.

Jill and John plan a few quiet weeks to rest and catch up on life before deciding what to do with all their new-found spare time.

They wish to thank everyone for their emails and phone calls, 'it is lovely that so many people have taken the time to thank us and wish us well'.

The new contractors, Graeme and Jenny, are local residents who are keen to continue 'doing things the way they have always been done'.

## Beautiful old things

For those who love fine china, linen of yesteryear, the lustre of crystal and other beautiful old things, the Oxford Union Parish is holding a special fundraiser sale on Saturday, July 29.

Organisers Elinor Percival and Anne Croft say the sale is for anyone interested in finding a bargain or matching something they may have at home, or they may find something that reminds them of Grandma. The church has already had donations of china, crystal, decorative wall plates, embroidered tablecloths and serviettes. "We've also been donated some modern children's quilts to sell as well."

Any items of value will be valued professionally.

Funds raised will go towards upgrading the facilities at the Union Church.

"We are aiming to raise \$1000 however anything we raise will be a blessing."

For more details of the sale and for items to donate please check out the church's ad on page 5...

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## Bargain hunters delight

The Great Oxford Garage Sale Trail is back again, and this year promises to be just as exciting for bargain hunters.

This is the eighth year of the trail being run. If you love to fossick around at garage sales looking for a bargain or a unique find, then it is all happening in Oxford on Sunday, August 6 from 9am to 2pm.

Organised by the Oxford Promotions Action Committee (OPAC) maps of the sites can be pre-ordered to receive by email or if you want to pick up one on the day they will be available at the Pearson Park Oval, off Dohrmans Road, from 9am to 11am and after 11am in front of the 'pine tree' in Main Street. A gold coin donation for the map to help with extensive advertising around Canterbury would be appreciated.

"Each year it has brought hundreds into our town and this year should be no different," says OPAC garage sale co-ordinator, Ron. "It brings people from all around Canterbury to our town".

Normally there are 30-35 sites around Oxford township, as well as business sales tables. To register your garage sale, go to the 'Great Oxford Garage Sale Trail 2017' Facebook page or email OxfordGarageSale2017@gmail.com.

## Talking rubbish in Cust

Rubbish was the main topic of conversation at the Cust Community Network AGM held recently at Cust School.

Kitty Waghorn from Waimakariri District Council first gave an outline of the requirements for setting up a recycling facility in Cust, similar to the one used at Oxford. While this idea has been raised before, the Cust Community Network decided to approach Council again considering the growth in population, particularly in regards to lifestyle block owners who currently dispose of their recycling at either Rangiora or Oxford.

Ms Waghorn advised that the first step "is there a need/would it be used?" has been completed with the Cust Community Network online survey, which showed strong support with over a 100 responses. "Issues such as location, funding and maintenance now need to be put into a report for the Rangiora Ashley Community Board before further discussion is held with Cust residents," she stated.

The Council is also proposing to consult shortly on a three bin system for urban residents, including Cust and Oxford villages. The difference between this and prior consultation is that residents can



### Recycle option:

The Cust Community Network is working towards setting up a recycling facility in Cust similar to the one at Oxford.

choose to opt out of having three bins and continue using rubbish bags. See page 11.

"This change came about after community feedback from smaller households and those on fixed incomes, who may not need the capacity offered by the extra bins and are worried about the additional cost," Ms Waghorn said.

In addition to the recycling proposal, the Cust Community Network is working on a local book exchange, a potential bus shelter for the village, and is starting preliminary discussions with Council and stakeholders on an upgraded reserve plan/facilities for the Jack Graham Reserve at the Cust Community Centre. The group, born out of the Cust Vision Cafes, was incorporated in 2013 and acts as an advocacy group to improve facilities in Cust and connect residents.

See the Cust Community Network Facebook page or website [www.custvillage.co.nz](http://www.custvillage.co.nz) for more information or phone the chairperson, Kirstyn, on 312 5150 or 021 312 230.

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## News

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## Wrestling siblings

**Words: Michelle Vernal**

On the wall of the old steward's room at Rangiora Racecourse, where the Rangiora Amateur Wrestling Club meets on a Wednesday night, is a verse that begins: 'Wrestling prepares a person to fight the game of life.'

For eight-year-old Charlotte Shelley and her brother, Manu (6), it is simply fun – both have been wrestling for two years. And they are good at it too – no other sport has had a look in since they gave wrestling a go.

Charlotte, who won a silver medal at the South Island Championship last year, recently came third in the unisex 36kg weight division at the Canterbury Championships held in Rangiora. Manu, who competes in the up to 10-year-old 22kg division, remains undefeated.

The children practice two nights a week leading up to a tournament. Manu says he doesn't get nervous before competing in tournaments like he does in other sports. He particularly enjoys the 'takedowns', a technique that involves off-balancing an opponent and bringing them to the ground. That, and the fact that "sometimes at tournaments you get trophies".

Charlotte, however, does get very nervous



**Competitive edge:** Siblings Charlotte (8) and Manu (6) Shelley are a wrestling force on the mat. Photo supplied.

before competing, but once she is on the mat, she is okay and enjoys tackling her opponents.

In the future, Manu would like to try boxing, but Charlotte says she would like to stay with wrestling. She was born on the same day as the opening of the Beijing Summer Olympics on August 8, 2008, and as such, her goal is to represent New Zealand in wrestling at the Olympics one day.

The children's mum, Rebekah, is happy to have them both in one place when it comes to sports practice for the time being. She is a passionate supporter of the sport and says that aside from a sense of enjoyment, kids get fitness and coordination from it as well as building self-esteem.

**KidsFest**

## School holiday boredom busters

An exciting lineup of Kidsfest activities and events, organised by Oxford Library, will be on offer in Oxford for children during the winter school holidays running from Sat 8 to Sat, July 22.

Activities and events include a detective game using hidden clues to solve a series of mystery trails; learning how to design a paper plane; a family quiz night; finding out how to make a video game; and

a dazzling display of circus mastery by MulletMan at the Oxford Town Hall on Friday 21, July.

To register for the activities and to book/purchase tickets to the Mulletman show, contact the library on 03 311 8901.

Check out their Facebook page for a week of giveaways leading up to the school holidays, where there will opportunities to win tickets to the Mulletman show, and also win other goodies.

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# Major parties confirm candidates

**Observer writer, Kirstyn Barnett, finds out who is standing for election in Waimakariri.**

**Two major parties have been the first to confirm Waimakariri electorate candidates, with incumbent National MP Matt Doocey reconfirmed to stand and newcomer Dan Rosewarne to stand for the Labour Party. Candidate nominations close August 29.**

**Dan Rosewarne** lives in the Belfast area with wife Sheree and their two young children. He is currently a serving soldier at Burnham Military Camp, has served overseas and was involved in the Defence Force response to the Kaikoura Earthquakes and the Port Hills fires.

"It is these experiences that have shaped my views on the importance of equality, social justice and providing opportunities for everyone to get ahead."

While new to politics, Dan says his personal experiences of a battle with leukaemia and trying to provide for a young family has made him aware of the challenges faced by many Kiwis.

"My family knows how hard it is to cover the cost of living even on two wages."

Dan sees a lack of mental health services as a major issue for Waimakariri, with a lack of funding for a community-based mental health service in North Canterbury and a lack of resources for the Rangiora Health Hub.

**Matt Doocey** became MP for Waimakariri in 2014 and lives in Rangiora with wife Viki and their two young children.

He met Viki in the UK while working for the British National Health Service and returned home "to the place that gave me the best start in life." Matt has a BSc (Hons) in Social Policy, an MA in Healthcare Management from Kingston University in London, and an MSc in Global Politics from Birkbeck College, University of London.

Matt believes being accessible as an MP is very important, and attends events regularly in the Waimakariri Electorate, including the reopening of the Oxford Town Hall. His caravan is parked monthly outside the Oxford Butcher Shop for people to drop in, and he holds regular evening meetings and an over 65s coffee meeting in Oxford. He also advocated with the CDHB for better after-hours medical services and was delighted when they confirmed an increase in North Canterbury services at his meeting on public health.

He says maintaining a strong rural economy as vital to the district. "When farming does well, the whole country does well. Similarly, when farming does well in Waimakariri, the whole district benefits. We need to remain focused on ensuring NZ is best placed to sell its products to overseas markets, thus

Waimakariri Labour  
Candidate  
Dan Rosewarne



"Labour will establish a two-year pilot programme of primary mental health teams at eight sites across the country to work with GPs, PHOs, DHBs, and mental health NGOs. These sites will be selected to meet high needs populations, including the Canterbury region, which has seen a surge in mental health needs. The programme is expected to help nearly 40,000 people get the assistance they need for each year of the pilot."

Dan's interests include spending time with family, the outdoors and "socialising with friends over a cold beer."

Waimakariri National  
Candidate  
Matt Doocey



ensuring more jobs and higher incomes for us here."

He plans to continue advocating for more infrastructure spend on transport, school classrooms, ultra-fast broadband, water management and affordable housing. "Waimakariri has benefited [from government infrastructure spending] with \$400m being spent on the Western Belfast Bypass Motorway opening later this year and the Northern Corridor Motorway opening in 2 years. Ten Waimakariri Schools are opening new Modern Learning Classrooms this year, including Oxford Area School."

In his spare time, Matt is an avid Crusaders supporter and likes taking his young family on outings in the great outdoors.

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## A chair with history

The quirky handcrafted chair on display at Marmalade Clothing & Curiosities is linked to Oxford's historical past.

The macrocarpa beam that makes up the back of the chair came out of the old Oxford supermarket, which was previously the Farmers Co-op building. Mount Thomas craftsman, Nigel Wilson, created the chair to help raise much-needed funds for Arts in Oxford gallery, which has recently had its funding cut.

The chair is being raffled, and tickets can be purchased at Marmalades.

Store owner Jessica Fearnley says the raffle is just \$5 for two tickets with all the proceeds going directly to Arts in Oxford.

"People can also take a selfie in the chair, and post it on Facebook to get a third entry free at marmaladeclothingNZ or redlionworkshop."



**Cool chair:** Jackson Riches poses on the chair being raffled to raise funds for Arts in Oxford.

## Adventurous rocks for kids

In conjunction with Oxford Rocks NZ, Marmalade is also running a fun competition for kids during the school holidays.

"Kids can collect a special rock from the shop during the holidays to take on an adventure," says Jessica Fearnley. "They can then post a photo or drawing of the adventurous rock on Marmalade or Oxford Rocks NZ's Facebook page." The most imaginative adventures will win a kids' goodie bag from Marmalade!



## Robin Hood revisited

**Words: Kirstyn Barnett**

The merry men of Nottingham are back in Rangiora this school holidays – or should that be merry women?

Sixteen-year-old Summerhill local Hannah Powell was delighted to be cast as "Little John" and says she likes her character a lot.

"She's a bit like me - not so reckless, more careful. Our director, Paul Johnson, let us play the character in our own gender, so none of the roles were gender locked. One of the best things about Little John is that she has a wicked quarterstaff weapon, meaning that I get to try a bit of fight combat in the show."

Those expecting the traditional show may be surprised, as the entire script is rewritten with rock music songs and rap dialogue. "The energy from everybody is electric," Hannah says.

Hannah started at Hartley School of Performing Arts six years ago, and before that enjoyed drama at Cust School. "My first show was Cinderella; I was a rapping maid. Since then, I've performed in The Snow Queen (2014), The Wizard of Oz (2015), Peter Pan (2016) and currently Robin Hood." She took her first Trinity Drama exam last year and is studying towards Level 8 for November. She also recently performed in "High School Musical" with Rangiora High School and is part of the senior theatre sports team.

Outside of theatre, Hannah loves writing and photography and has ambitions to go into film and theatre studies in Wellington. She hopes her theatre experience will give her a further advantage and more contacts in the industry.

"Being able to perform as Little John alongside my very talented friends in Robin Hood is a privilege in itself. We are a pretty tight community at HSPA." Hannah hopes all her friends will come to see the show, which is playing 12-15 July at the Rangiora Town Hall.



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## Fidget spinners – friend or foe?

**Words & Photo: Kirstyn Barnett**

Remember the days of knuckle bones and marbles?

Fidget spinners are the latest fad to hit primary schools, and they have created debate amongst educators as to whether they help or hinder children's learning.

Originally designed in the 1970s by Catherine Hettinger to entertain her daughter, there are claims that the device helps children with autism or ADHD to calm down, while others say the device is stopping children from concentrating on their studies. Some local schools have banned the device, so we asked schools in our area for their thoughts.

Swannanoa Principal Brian Price believes fidget spinners are sometimes useful. "Some teachers use them to help with learning, for example, set the figure spinner going and try to complete as many maths problems as you can before it stops." He acknowledges they can be a distraction, however, believes there are many distractions in class, and it is up to the teachers to set rules to manage this.

"Fads are nothing new, and these will come and go, but it is up to the school to turn these into learning opportunities, which is part of our craft - we had a Year 8 construct his own fidget spinner from his scooter and cable ties - what a legend!"

Mr Price finds the toughest issue to date with them is ownership and getting lost, so will monitor the situation.

"At least they are not as bad as the Chatter rings of the 2000s, please may they never return," he says.

Oxford Area School Principal Mike Hart has a similar opinion.



**Educational or a distraction:** Principals from local schools are keeping an open mind on the latest craze, fidget spinners, to hit the school scene.

"Fidget spinners are the latest craze. Unfortunately, they haven't been around long enough for solid research to be carried out on the effects it is having on children." His staff see fidget spinners in the same light as toys. "If they are a distraction in class students will be asked to put them away or confiscate them - no different to a student bringing a toy car to school and spinning the wheels on it."

"A blanket ban on fidget spinners may not solve the problem of distractions; they may only be replaced by the next fad. Our teaching staff are skilled enough to determine what is distracting and our students need to respect the decision as it is in their best interest."



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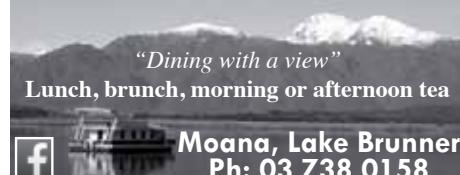
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#### FREE TICKETS TO GIVE AWAY

To go in the draw draw each month to win free tickets to the Oxford Wearable Arts on

**Saturday, August 26, 2017**

bring along bring in a picture of either Wearable Art, High Fashion.

It can be a drawing you have created, or a picture from a magazine, or a photograph. Make sure you put your name and a contact phone number on the back.

#### DESIGN ENTRY COMPETITION

Come up with a wearable art design for the Market Day category. The winning idea will receive their entry fee and a small contribution from the Oxford Farmer's Market. For more information, see Kathi at the market.

Proud Sponsors of Oxford Wearable Arts 2017

Email: [info@oxfordfarmersmarket.co.nz](mailto:info@oxfordfarmersmarket.co.nz)

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



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## Country Lifestyle horses

### Keeping your horse healthy

**Words & Photos: Cathy Dee**

With grazing becoming more and more restricted and intensive, the days of throwing a horse out into the paddock and expecting him to be healthy on grass alone are gone.

Horses evolved to eat the type of sparse vegetation growing in the arid, high desert biome (ecosystems) such as in the U.S. Great Basin, Kazakhstan and Mongolia.

Not only is the vegetation dried off and hard to find - requiring movement over many kilometres, but there is a multitude of species to pick and choose from.

For a short period, in spring and autumn, the growing vegetation is green and high in potassium while correspondingly low in sodium. It is at these times that horses and other herbivores seek out salt (Sodium Chloride) – found either in salt marshes or deep-rooted plants. Maintaining a sodium/potassium balance is vital for all mammals.

#### Problems that occur with our domestic horses

Although horses can excrete the excess potassium over the short bursts of spring and autumn growth, most New Zealand owners are grazing pastures that are growing rapidly all year round.

Add to this the excess nitrates from urea fertilisers, overgrazing, commercial feeds (equine fast food) packed with soy, molasses, lupins, Lucerne, etc. (all high in Potassium) and the horse's system soon becomes overloaded and unable to cope.

This imbalance affects the nerves and muscles of the horse resulting in an array of issues ranging from Laminitis (inflammation of the laminae in the hoof and extremely painful for the horse) to muscle tightness, head flicking, being over-spooky, and even colic.



#### So what can you do to help keep your horse healthy on grass?

Feed plenty of hay (clover-free), keep hard feeds plain and add salt to the feed along with a high spec mineral designed for NZ conditions.

Encourage your horse to move in order to get fed and watered.

### High Spec Minerals for Horses

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## For the love of animals Words & Photo: Cathy Dee

A true animal lover, Justine Woosnam is a talented artist.

Her drawings and paintings 'sing' with a crispness of colour and vibrancy that brings her subjects to life. She uses Faber Castel Polychromos coloured pencils, lead pencil or acrylic paint.

Born in Takapuna NZ, Justine moved with her family to Australia, where she studied graphic design, majoring in illustration at TAFE in Perth.

Justine's love of animals saw her become a zoo keeper—a job she did for

eight years. This work formed the basis of many of her paintings and drawings.

Initially, she worked at Orana Park, caring for a huge variety of animals along with NZ native birds. It was there while training in the carnivore section that she was offered a job at Auckland Zoo where she was involved with the Sumatran tiger breeding program. Justine was one of only two keepers to work closely with the female tiger after she gave birth to three critically endangered tiger cubs. She was also a primary cheetah handler and formed a very close bond with the two male cheetahs at the zoo.

While she was at Auckland Zoo, Justine organised an exhibition of her work, which raised \$5000 for conservation through the sale of her paintings and drawings.

Justine says "the days at the zoo were



**Passion for animals and art:** Justine Woosnam uses acrylic paint, coloured and lead pencils to bring her animal artwork to life.

amazing and although I miss the animals, I now have a lot of great photographs and pictures as references that I will be painting and drawing in the future. I try to capture their personalities in my images."

Justine works from home on commissions of (mostly) dogs, cats and horses, which she photographs first to use these images as a base for her paintings.

To view Justine's work, phone 021 0228 4897.

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## ARTS IN OXFORD

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### Panel Discussion on braided rivers and their migratory & river birds

A wide-ranging discussion including climate change and conservation tools to prevent extinction and enhance species recovery

**3 pm, Saturday 15th July  
in the Gallery**

Free admission

Panel:

Sonny Whitelaw, Braided River Aid

Sarah Ensor, Department of Conservation

Stephanie Galla & Tammy Steeves, School of Biological Sciences at the University of Canterbury.



Pied Stilts Flight Path, a print by K M Reilly



Arts in Oxford 72 Main Street Oxford  
artsinoxfordgallery@gmail.com  
03 312 1639

Waimakariri District  
**creative nz**  
COMMUNITIES

## Gallery News



### With Celia Wilson

First, we have had a wonderful response to the #TheFlockNZ workshops, with many colourful and amazing birds being made.

We are holding two more 'Flock' workshops on 11th and 12th of July in the gallery workshop if you missed the previous ones. There is a lot of inspiration to be gained by seeing the prints in "The Rivers from the Shore" and "Flyways Print Exchange" exhibitions finishing on July 18.

As part of the migratory theme at the gallery, we are hosting a panel discussion on Saturday 15, July at 3 pm. A great opportunity for you to learn more about the birds and our braided rivers. Come and quiz the experts! Free admission.

Our next exhibition, by Charlotte Davis and Jan Robertson, art teachers at Oxford and Rangiora schools respectively, is titled "I See Red" and will feature paintings and an installation. I am wondering what that will be about – but it should be good!



### I See Red

**22 July to 23 August**

Charlotte Davis and Jan Robertson

*Paintings and an Installation*

**Opening Talk at 3 pm Saturday  
22nd July**

72 Main Street Oxford www.artsinoxford.com Ph: (03)3121639

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## Firefighting team

**Words:** Kirstyn Barnett

“Wwwwroooooowww” The shrill sound of the fire siren sends Mike and Chris Neeson running.

The pair is the only husband and wife team to both be active volunteer firefighters in Canterbury.

Mike met Chris in Franz Josef, while she was working as a waitress on her OE and Mike was a ski-plane pilot. The couple lived in Mt Cook and Te Anau before moving to Canterbury in 1983.

Mike started as a fire service volunteer in 1976, while Chris joined the Cust fire service in 1994 when their two sons were older.

“They (the fire service) seem to be having fun, and I was available daytime,” she says.

Every Thursday night the pair gear up for practice, which can range from skill sessions to active scenarios.

Being a small team, the Cust Volunteer Fire Brigade know each other well, and while able to cover all situations, each member tends to have his/her own strengths.

“I can drive the truck, but others are more experienced,” Chris admits.

“Chris is great at first aid,” Mike chips in.

The Cust brigade has also had father/daughter and father/son combinations, and members who are third generation, with the



**Shared passion:** Mike and Chris Neeson, the only active volunteer husband and wife firefighting team in Canterbury, live their lives around the sound of the local Cust fire siren. Photo supplied.

fourth generation keen to start.

The couple admits that everything they do is planned around the fire alarm. “We have had guests over, and had to say ‘dinner’s in the oven – help yourself!’ Their friends are very understanding and know that emergencies come first.

In total, the pair has given 64 years of service to the NZ Fire Service with Chris close to her 25 year anniversary.

“When I reached 25 years’ service, Chris got a bunch of flowers,” Mike relates. “So Chris has to stay on for two more years, so I get my flowers!”

Want to join the Cust Volunteer Fire Brigade or donate to their fundraising? See their Facebook page or contact 312 5898.

Know someone in the community who has an interesting story to share? Email: news@oxfordobserver.co.nz

## Council Talks Rubbish and Seeks Feedback on Options

**Kitty Waghorn, Solid Waste Asset Manager**

The Waimakariri District Council has reviewed its Waste Management and Minimisation Plan and looked at ways our District could better manage rubbish in the future. One way we can reduce waste going to landfill, is by collecting compostable waste at kerbside.

Feedback is being sought on how many choices should be offered to people for a kerbside collection service.

- One standard service – the current service: yellow recycling bin for recycling (already included with rates), and black WDC rubbish bags (user pays).
- Two service choices – yellow recycling bin (included) with the choice of WDC bags or a red bin for rubbish.
- Four service choices – yellow recycling bin (included) with the choice WDC bags or a red bin for rubbish and/or a green bin for organic waste.

Of the 17,000 tonnes of rubbish sent to the Kate Valley Landfill from the Southbrook Resource Recovery Park in the last year, a total of 45% - or 7,650 tonnes – comes from the Districts kerbside collections, and a large percentage of that waste is compostable.

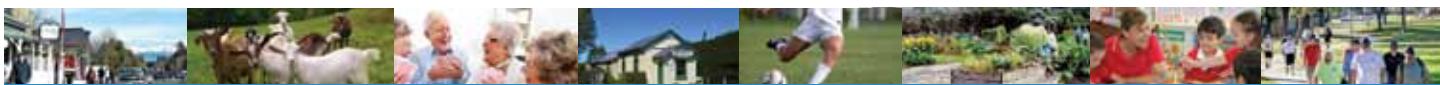
If the District doesn’t reduce waste going to landfill on a ‘per head’ basis, it will simply increase as its population grows.

Compostable organic waste (both garden waste and food waste) accounts for 61% of the rubbish collected at kerbside so removing organics from the waste stream is the logical next step to greatly reduce the amount of waste our District sends to the landfill. The simplest way to encourage households to separate their organic waste from rubbish at their homes, if they don’t already do this, is providing them with a bin for organic waste.

An online calculator can be used to estimate the cost of your preferred choice, and you can have your say at [waimakariri.govt.nz/rubbish](http://waimakariri.govt.nz/rubbish), or visit any Council Service Centre or Library for more info.



## Community Diary



## Coming Events

**8-22 JULY** Kidfest. For details, visit: [www.facebook.com/waimakarilibraries](http://www.facebook.com/waimakarilibraries).

**15/16 JULY** Kaiapoi Art Expo 10am-5pm at Kaiapoi Club.

**15 JULY** Panel discussion on river birds and braided rivers, 3pm at Arts in Oxford.

**29 JULY** Big Splash Fundraiser for the Rangiora Stroke Club, 1-3pm at WDC Council Lawn, High Street, Rangiora.

**29 JULY** Sale of Linen, Fine China & More, 10am at Oxford Union Parish.

**6 AUGUST** Great Oxford Garage Sale, 9am to 2pm at sites around Oxford township.

**26 AUGUST** Oxford Wearable Arts at Oxford Town Hall.

### Got a special one-off community event coming up?

To advertise your event free, contact us on Email: [news@oxfordobserver.co.nz](mailto:news@oxfordobserver.co.nz)

## Community Directory

**Monday Cafe** Come along for a chat and morning tea at the St James-on-the-Cust hall every 4th Monday 10-11.30am. All ages welcome, ph Sandra on 03 310 2074.

**Cust Craft Group** Meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesday 10am-3pm at the Cust Community Centre. All welcome.

**Waimakariri Bridge Club** Meets every Thursday 7.30pm at the Waimakariri Golf Club rooms.

**Cust Toy Library** Indoor and outdoor toys for borrow. Open Sat 10-11.30am & Mon 9.30-10.30am at Cust Community Centre.

## Community Directory

**Israeli Folk Dancing** Every Thursday in Oxford. Easy, enjoyable, suits all levels of fitness. Enquiries to Colleen, ph: 03 928 3733 or 027 428 5824.

**Oxford Spinning Group** Meets 10am-2pm alternate Wednesdays and one Monday/month. Social woolcrafting group, beginners welcome, ph: 312 3345.

**Oxford Women's Forum** Meets on the first Thursday of every second month, March-Nov with guest speakers, ph: Margaret on 03 312 4478.

**Craft Circle** Oxford Library every Monday 10.30am. All welcome.

**Oxford Community Men's Shed** The Oval, Pearson's Park. Open Tues 7-9pm, Thurs 10am-2pm and Sat 10am-2pm.

**Oxford Community Gardens** Meets every Thursday 10am beside the Men's Shed, Pearson Park. All welcome, ph: 312 1536.

**Women's Institute** 1st Thursday of the month 1.30pm at Oxford Workingmen's Club. All welcome, ph: Rena on 03 312 4270.

**Cust/Oxford St John** Cadet Group and Ambulance Supporters Scheme Committee, ph: 3125839 or 3125538.

**Waimakariri Gorge Golf Club** Men's Golf each Tuesday and Saturday groups Tee off at 12:30pm Ladies Golf each Thursday 10am tee off . All welcome.

**Oxford Cycle Group** Meets at Oxford Farmers Market carpark every Monday morning at 9.30, for a casual ride about 1 1/2 hours, then coffee. Ph Mary on 03 313 3259.

**Yummy Mummy's Oxford** A group that helps families with new babies with meals/baking. Volunteers always appreciated, ph: Amanda on 027 490 7052.

**Scottish Country Dancing** Great exercise no partners required Tuesdays, ph: Judi on 312 4291.

**Waimakariri Bridge Club** Meets every Thursday 7.30pm at the Waimakariri Golf Club rooms.

**Line Dancing** Come and join the fun! Oxford Club, 160 High St. For days and times, ph: Jan: 03 313 3893.

**New To Oxford?** Join us for coffee/tea and a chat at Cafe 51 on Main Street, 10am every 1st and 3rd Monday of the month.

**Cake Decorating Fondant Modeling Club.** Learn the art of cake decorating - any experience welcome, ph: Patsy on 0210 220 1656.

**Oxford Squash Club** Have Fun! Get Fit! For all ages, casual or competition. Club nights Wednesdays, 6pm, ph: Fran on 027 222 6753.

**Cust Bowling Club** Club days Saturday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 1.30pm. Come along and have a go, ph: 312 5892.

**Oxford Wednesday Walkers** 2-3 hour bush, farmland & road walks - start 9.30am, ph: Anne on 03 312 4375 or 027 298 7750.

**Oxford Senior Citizens** Meets every 2nd Weds 1.30pm at OWMC, ph: Carol on 312 3019. All welcome.

**Cancer Support Coffee Morning** Every 3rd Wednesday at Cafe 51 from 10am, ph: Wendy 312 1330 or Judy 312 4495.

## Health, Emergency & Local Services

For the following emergencies, please phone: 111

- Ambulance
- Police
- Fire Brigade
- Search & Rescue

### Oxford Police Station

Main Street, Oxford. Phone: 03 312 1050.

### Oxford Community Health Centre,

39 Park Avenue, Oxford Phone: 03 312 4195

### Search & Rescue - For Emergencies, please phone: 111

For other enquiries: contact Ron Ealam 027 2424 907



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## Pets

### Pet Corner



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(behind Baptist Church)

## Community News

### Environment Canterbury

With Councillor

**Claire McKay**



### Fire Report

With Fire Chief

**Trevor Ealam**



**The brigade was called four times in May.** One call was to assist the Rangiora fire brigade at the Natural New Zealand Honey fire, one house fire, which was extensively damaged, one chimney fire, and one controlled rubbish fire with owners in attendance. This brings the total calls for the year to 28.

**This month's safety message...**

**KEEP EVERYTHING  
A METRE  
FROM THE HEATER**

### Oxford Museum News

**A slim file in the Oxford Museum archives tells the story of a notorious confidence trickster who made his home in the district many years ago.**

Entitled 'Murray Beresford Roberts', it outlines the life of the self-styled 'King of the Con Men', who acted as a locum for the Oxford doctor, despite having been kicked out of medical school for cheating on examinations.

He managed to carry out the tasks required of him and was accommodated at a local private hotel, being treated 'like the king of Oxford'.

On a death certificate, Roberts forged the signature of the real doctor he pretended to be, then headed off to another locum appointment on the West Coast.

His deception was soon uncovered. 'Borrowing' the doctor's car, he hastily drove to Christchurch, then had it railed back to Greymouth. Roberts' career also included passing himself off as a leading light in legal and educational circles.

Come into the Museum and learn more about Oxford's interesting history.

**Open 11am to 4pm every Sunday.**

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## Church Notices & Beauty

### Baptist Church



**Sunday Service & Children's Church  
10am at 166 High Street**

#### COMMUNITY FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Phone 03 312 4499

[www.oxfordbaptistchurch.org.nz](http://www.oxfordbaptistchurch.org.nz)

email: [office@oxfordbaptist.org.nz](mailto:office@oxfordbaptist.org.nz)

#### YOUTH GROUP

Years 9 to 13 at 7.30pm on Fridays at the Auditorium.

#### ICONZ ADVENTURE FOR BOYS & GIRLS

Years 2 to 3 Boys,

Friday night: 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Years 4 to 6 Girls,

Monday night: 6.30pm - 8pm

Years 4 to 6 Boys,

Tuesday night: 6.30pm - 8pm

Years 7 to 8 Girls,

Monday night 6.30pm - 8pm

Years 7 to 9 Boys,

Wednesday 6.30pm - 8pm

#### MUSIC & MOVEMENT (0 TO 5YRS)

10am - Open Sessions for all ages

#### EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

Open 8.30am to 3.30pm for ages 6 months to 5yrs.

#### CLOTHING & CHRIST

Tuesdays at the Oxford Baptist Church,  
12.30pm - 3.30pm.

#### OXFORD MUMS

Every 2nd & 4th Wednesdays in the Church Lounge, 10am - 12 noon.

#### TWELVE BASKETS FOODBANK

We offer care packages for individuals and families who are going through a difficult time. We are always here to help anyone in need..

#### 'FOOD TOGETHER' Fruit & Vege Co-op

Tuesdays at Oxford Baptist Church,  
12.30pm-3.30pm Come on down for your fruit and veges.

10am - Volunteers packing - would you like to help?

11.45-12.30pm Free community lunch, all welcome

1.00pm - 1.30pm Alpha Express

For all enquiries contact the co-ordinator,  
Tamar on 027 303 4084.



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## Church Notices

#### St Peter Chanel Catholic Parish

Sacred Heart Church, Oxford

ENQUIRIES: Waimakariri Parish Ph: 03 313 6285

**SUNDAY MASS: 8.30am**

EVENING MASS Every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7pm

#### Small Prayer & Reflection Groups

Held every 2nd Monday July 10 & 24 at 7.30pm.

#### ALL WELCOME

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Woman's Prayer Group at two locations, call Josie 022 089 8331



Meeting Every Sunday, 10:00 am

Swannanoa School Hall, 1305 Tram Rd

Enquiries Ph 312 0973

[www.church360.nz](http://www.church360.nz)

#### OXFORD AND DISTRICT UNION PARISH

Serving Christ in our Community

UNION (METHODIST & PRESBYTERIAN)  
SERVICES FOR JUNE, 2017

**2 JULY ~ COMMUNION SERVICE**

9.30am at Oxford Union Church, 85 Main Street.

**9 JULY - COMBINED SERVICE**

9.30am at Oxford Union Church

**16 JULY ~ COMBINED SERVICE KIDZ FRIENDLY**

9.30am at St David's Church, Cust

Also Salvation Army Service 6pm at Oxford

**23 JULY ~ COMBINED SERVICE**

9.30am at Oxford Union Church

**30 JULY ~ COMBINED SERVICE**

9.30am at Horrellville Church, Poyntz Road

UNION PARISH MINISTER: Rev Laurence Ennor

Ph: 03 357 4475 (Home) or 021 233 4687 (Mob)

PARISH CLERK: Anne Croft Ph: 03 312 5513

**SUPPORT YOUR  
LOCAL  
COMMUNITY  
NEWSPAPER**



## Get a new lease on life!

Glenda and Donna, Rose and Bert are Oxford locals who took part in a Complete Health Improvement Program (C.H.I.P.) last year.

The C.H.I.P. program can produce amazing results for those who are willing to take charge of their

health. More than 70,000 graduates from four continents know how CHIP changes lives.

A few simple, painless, and deliberate lifestyle choices can make all the difference in the world. And it's done in a community program, so there is group support.

### So what are the results of adopting the CHIP lifestyle?

Glenda and the others that attended can tell you that it was a life changing event. Glenda's BP reduced from 190/90 to 152/80. She has lost almost 20kgs in weight over the last 12 months.

Donna really enjoyed getting to know the new recipes and demonstrations of tasty health promoting dishes. Rose just came along as a 'tag along Rosie' for her husband Bert and experienced amazing changes



**Life changing event:** Locals Glenda, Donna, Rose and Ben experienced great results from the Complete Health Improvement Program last year. Photo supplied.

herself! She has lost almost 30kgs over the last year, not a bad byproduct of being a support person!

All four of them have become great advocates of C.H.I.P and would highly recommend attending the up and coming program.

Local facilitators, Kerry Gosset and Katie Snyder, are looking forward to taking a new class through C.H.I.P starting in July. They are both passionate about health and wellbeing and love to see the folks who attend experience a new found lease of life. Yes, C.H.I.P really works, and Glenda, Donna, Rose and Bert are proof of the pudding! YOU could be the next success story for health and wellness in Oxford!

**(See the advertisement below for details of upcoming information sessions and contact numbers.)**

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