

Published at the beginning of each month and delivered to Oxford, Cust, Bennets, Coopers Creek, West Eyreton, Eyrewell, Swannanoa, Fernside, Summerhill, Ashley Gorge, Okuku, Glentui, Lees Valley, Carleton, Horrellville, Springbank, View Hill. Copies are available at Oxford Library, Village Foods & Cust Service Centre.

U-Drive a jumpstart for young drivers

Words & Photo:
Shaz Davis

Pictured from left: Associate Minister of Transport Craig Foss, Oxford Community Trust Youth Recreation Worker Julia Ealam, 2 Drive Safe Instructor Duncan Seed and MP Matt Doocoy.



The Oxford Community Trust's new U-Drive Youth Driving Programme, which helps students progress from their learner to their restricted licence, was applauded by the Associate Minister of Transport, Craig Foss, at an information meeting at the Town Hall on 17 Aug.

Impressed by Oxford's display of community spirit and investment in road safety, the minister said he hoped the success of the Trust's U-Drive programme would provide the impetus for it to be seeded elsewhere.

Over one-third of young drivers are involved in fatal or near-fatal accidents according to Chris Neason, Road Safety Coordinator for the Waimakariri Council. This, combined with the lack of public transport from Oxford, highlights a big need for a programme like U-Drive.

Oxford Community Trust Recreation Youth Worker Julia Ealam identified the need to help students obtain their restricted licence and proposed the U-Drive programme.

The Trust now has a Toyota Yaris for driver training, and nine community members have been trained as driving mentors under the guidance of an NZTA-qualified driving instructor, Duncan Seed from 2 Drive Safe.

The mentors take the students out on 12 driving lessons (at a nominal cost of \$10 per lesson) to help prepare them for their restricted licence. A total of seven students took part in the first round of training. Julia says of these, five now have their restricted licence, and two still need to sit their test. A further six students have enrolled in the second round of training, and the third round is expected to start in four weeks. Students interested in taking part in the U-Drive programme can pop in to see Julia at the community rooms, or send her an email outlining why they would like to take part. The programme also has local police support. Not only does it help improve road safety, but with Constable Aaron Campbell volunteering as one of the mentors, it also provides an opportunity for him to interact with Oxford's youth.

Oxford Area School Deputy Principal Jason Laverock said the U-Drive programme offered an invaluable service for young people and the community as it develops safe and competent drivers and opens up opportunities for them.

Father's Day see page 13



Creative duo: Spending quality time with his dad, Andy, on a Saturday morning at the Oxford Mens Shed is Keegan Bremner (10). Keegan, with the help of his dad, designed and made the bobcat (pictured) and a motorbike over several mornings at the shed.

Salad in a jar - the healthy lunch that you really must try see page 7

Plucky the Plover

Read Plucky's story of love and courage on page 17...



Deadline for October Issue Advertising 20 Sept 2015



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Local Community Gallery

Coming Events

22 Aug-16 Sept
Shimmer by Wayne Seyb Exhibition
at Arts in Oxford

12 September
Quiz Night Fundraiser Japan/ChCh
Student Exchange 7pm at
Waimakariri Golf Club

12 September
Community Concert & Tale of
Benny the Beagle

19 September
Shadow Puppets at OWMC

20 September
Oxford Country Classic Half
Marathon

20 September
Oxford Football Club Market Day
10am-3pm at Oxford Town Hall

4 Oct
Spring into Oxford at the Oval
Pearson Park

1 Nov
Cust Craft Group Quilt Show

1 Nov
Oxford Country Garden Fete

The Oxford Observer About Us

Published by Madco Publishing Ltd

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The Oxford Observer Policy

The Oxford Observer reserves the right to edit any contribution submitted for print and acknowledge that all opinions expressed by contributing columnists are not necessarily those of the opinions of the Oxford Observer, its publisher or its staff.

A touch of Asia

The Asian Fusion Banquet, organised by members of the Oxford Baptist Church, became the talk of the town after a successful evening catering to a group of 61 hungry guests. The diners were taken on a journey of South East Asian cuisine with a six-course banquet taste sensation from Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore. The evening was a fundraiser for the group attending the feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.

"We expected a great meal, but what we got far exceeded our expectations. Each dish was delicious in its own right."



Pictured helping on the day are: From left, Julie Philpott, Theresa Baard, Averill Brown and Alice Wang



Happy birthday

Twenty five people took part in a Chi Kung session followed by supper to celebrate the first year of Oxford classes run by Shaz and Bob Davis of the Wu-shin Chi-dao Foundation for Self-Development.

Celebrating 150 years



Above: Attending the St James-on-the-Cust 150th celebrations: Rev Malcolm (previous vicar) and Pamela May



Above: Planting a variegated elm in memory of the occasion are The Venerable Carole Graham with Bernard Kingsbury and a descendant of the first vicar, Arthur O'Callaghan.



Left: Elizabeth Dalefield of Rangiora visited the church as a three-year-old when her uncle, (see inset) Rev James Hay was vicar. She says she was given some salt on the palm of her hand and sent outside to catch rabbits while the adults chatted inside.

Photos taken by The Oxford Observer are available for purchase in 5 x7 full colour prints for \$12 each. To order, phone: 03 312 3587 Email: fiona@oxfordobserver.co.nz

Community Concert

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Get your your jogging shoes on and run for fun...

The Oxford Country Classic Fun Run is back again! Organised by the Oxford Squash Club as a major fundraiser, the event is an annual attraction to the area. Touted as a social event rather than competitive, the fun run attracts people in all shapes and sizes and levels of fitness from around the Canterbury region.



To enter, contact Marlene - ph: 03 312 4381 or email: mkfox@ihug.co.nz

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News



"bringing the community together..."

Mini Bus Drivers

Mini-Bus drivers wanted to drive our shoppers mini bus on a Tuesday either to Rangiora or Christchurch. If you are interested, please phone Donna McGregor on 312 3006 or email: donna@oxfordtrust.co.nz

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.

Oxford Budget Boutique

Support the Oxford Budget Boutique

All proceeds directly benefit members of our community.

Open 1-4 Tuesday – Friday
Union Church, Main Street, Oxford

U Drive Mentors Wanted

We need mentors to assist with driving practice for young people. Training is provided. Please contact Julia on 312 3006 or Julia@oxfordtrust.co.nz

Oxbox Youth

For events in Oxford or trips away for years 7-13. Phone Julia 312 3006 or check out Oxbox Youth on Facebook for more details.

Medical Appointments

Drivers available to get you to appointments in Christchurch.

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Oxford Community Trust

is responsive to the physical, social, emotional, and financial needs of individuals, families and groups of people within the community of Oxford and Districts.

Got a community activity that brings people together?

Call the Oxford Community Trust to list your activity here...

(03) 312 3006

37 Main St, Oxford

Calling all lovers of roses

Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal

Oxford resident and Canterbury Rose Society committee member David Taylor's interest in roses began when he bought a property that came with 300 of them.

"The society has 90 members from all over Canterbury, but we are keen for some young blood to join," says David.

Monthly meetings are held in Hoon Hay's Downing Street, Presbyterian Church in the city.

The society also holds the coveted Ranfurly Shield for Roses, competing against 10 other South Island groups to win. They displayed it at the Oxford A&P Show this year, where it generated a lot of interest. It resulted in the president, Peter Bamber, holding successful rose pruning demonstrations for the Sheffield Gardeners Club as well as Querky Style and Roses at Cust.

Yvonne from Querky Style says of this demonstration, "We have had lots of good feedback and plan on doing it annually."



Sharing a passion: Peter Bamber discusses the art of pruning with Yvonne and Alisa of Querky Style and Roses at Cust.

The Canterbury Rose Society is keen to work in with Yvonne in the future, with Peter Bamber saying, "It is a fabulous nursery." Membership to the Society, which has been going for 70 years, is \$35.00 annually. It includes a monthly newsletter, a Rose Annual, and the nationwide Rose Review. The society has a wealth of knowledge amongst its members that they are keen to share, "We are a social bunch who enjoy getting together for meals and to hear guest speakers," says Peter. He thinks roses are great value, giving colour from October through to the first frost and says some of the newer roses are highly disease resistant. His tip for lots of blooms is to start watering from September onward. Roses should be fed well with the initial feed being hoed into the soil, then followed by mulching and more feeding.

For more information on The Canterbury Rose Society phone Peter on (03) 326 5174.

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Still giving it a twirl 50 years on

People of all ages turned out for the 50th anniversary of the Oxford Scottish Country Dance Club held at the Oxford Town Hall recently.

As expected, some even dressed for the occasion in full traditional Scottish attire.

Founded in 1965, the club was originally started by Maisie and Morrie Flanagan after advertising in the Bulletin to find out who was interested in forming a club. The pair then hosted the first dances on the lawn at their Main Street homestead, then known as 'Redwood'.

Members of the early club included Maisie, Melva Monk, Alma Johnstone, Charlie Gough, Judith and Glenn Evans, Betty Bignell, and Betty Pickering. New members were often



A great occasion: Cutting the anniversary cake, made by Elinor Percival, are club members Elizabeth Anderson (president) and Alma Johnstone. Photo: Glenn Evans

attracted to the club after hearing the music from their homes across the neighbourhood. The music was originally provided with 45s and LPs on a turntable.

Fifty years on, the club still enjoys a strong membership but welcomes anyone who is interested in learning the art of Scottish dancing. The emphasis is on having fun and meeting new people. Dances, taught by Audrey Mattinson, are held each week on Tuesdays at the Oxford Anglican Church from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. Dancing partners are always available, so come along and give it a fling!

For more information, call club president Elizabeth Anderson on 312 3133.

New supermarket open for business

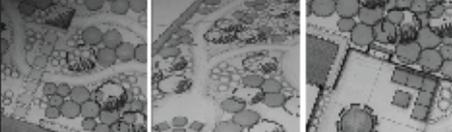
Oxford's residents have been waiting with anticipation for it to happen.

The exciting new FreshChoice opened its doors for the first time to public on Monday 24 August. The next stage, a new carpark in front of the supermarket, will be completed in October.



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At Home With Christine Rivers Interiors Guru



Finding the perfect solution for window coverings

Window shapes, sizes and finishings can be so different in our homes today. An older home that has had numerous extensions over the years, or perhaps a shed conversion, is at the extreme end of the variances found. A brand new home may have many windows the same in the bedrooms while the living areas will possibly have a mixture of shaped glass doors and windows to maximise the light, air, and access but which are not in harmony with the room.

Modern, architecturally designed homes are built for views or to create special spaces. The windows are all part of the professional design skill demonstrated. When it comes to completing the interiors, angled windows, knee high windows, and full wall floor to ceiling windows can be difficult to dress because of a lack of stack space and bracket fixings.

Often we are challenged to provide curtaining solutions for clients that are struggling to identify what will work best for them.

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Privacy, sun and light reduction/elimination can all be addressed with the right window furnishing, and correcting 'odd' window proportions can be done successfully with the width and height the curtains are positioned at.

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News/Food

A Home Away From Home



Lasting friendships: Homestay student Rumi Kawabe has enjoyed her time in Oxford and is pictured with host family member Alex Stewart.

Rumi Kawabe heads back to Japan in a few days, after 20 days spent as a homestay student in Oxford. It is the longest the 17-year-old has ever been away from home, and she says, "I was very nervous when I came."

Rumi soon settled in with the Church Street based, Stewart family. Susan Stewart says, "I treat Rumi as though she is one of my daughters. Normal house rules apply."

For Rumi's part, she reckons Susan is a good cook, and she has developed a taste for Kiwi kai as well as our honey! Rumi has enjoyed the rural experience and thinks Oxford is beautiful. School for her here has been very different. In Japan, Rumi attends from 8.10am and gets home at 7.00pm. She would like to come back to New Zealand to live one day and says that the highlight of her trip has been her time with the Stewart family. Susan's daughter Alex is 14, and of having homestay students she says, "It's fun to have them." She enjoys hearing about their way of life, and the experience of meeting the overseas students, who have stayed with her family, is giving her itchy feet. She is saving hard to go on a school trip to Japan in 2017. Alex keeps in touch on Facebook with all the students who have stayed at her home.

Mike Hart, Principal of Oxford Area School, says, "The school enjoys hosting visiting International Schools. The cultural experience our students get from this helps them to prepare for a culturally diverse world. The recent group from Junten High School in Japan have thoroughly enjoyed their stay despite a change from summer to winter overnight. We value these visits and will continue to strengthen our relationship with them."

Helpful aids



Aspire Canterbury mobile services co ordinator Shannon Morris was at Karadean Court Lifecare in Oxford recently demonstrating a number of useful aids to help make people's lives easier.

Shannon is pictured with Anne Pynneburge checking out a special foot brush complete with suction caps for use in the shower.



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Salad in a Jar

A salad in a jar is a great way to eat healthy during the working week. What is great about this concept, that is taking off in kitchens and workplaces around the world, is that you can prepare your salads two to three days in advance so there is no reason to get to lunch time and despair at what to have.

You will need to be organised by choosing and purchasing your ingredients in advance.

So what do you need and how does it work? You might ask how will my ingredients not be soggy by the time I come to eat my salad.

Well, the secret is in how you layer your food in the jar. So this is what you will do:

1. Choose medium sized jars with screw lids (ours were bought at the Warehouse for less than \$2 each)
2. Put your dressing in the jar first so it sits on the bottom
3. Next put in the non-absorbent ingredients i.e chopped apple and/or raw vegetables – carrots, cucumbers, red and green peppers, etc

4. Layer up with the lighter ingredients i.e. pasta, chickpeas, cooked rice, diced cheese, hard boiled egg slices, etc
5. Next layer with softer chopped vegetables, fruits, sultanas, tomatoes, avocados, etc.

Finally add your salad greens i.e., lettuce, mesclun, etc

You could also add nuts and seeds on the day you plan to eat your salad

Store your salad jars in the fridge until ready to eat. Then just unscrew the lid and toss your salad into a bowl. Give it an added toss with your fork and you are ready to eat. Enjoy!



Check out the Internet for new and exciting ideas and dressing recipes for your next salad in a jar...

BUCKY the mechanical bull & PIGGLES the slippery pig

Saturday 17th October 7.30pm

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- Prizes for the best rider of Bucky the mechanical bull
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News

New theme for annual Spring event



What do spring flowers, classic and vintage cars, an art exhibition, spring bonnets, and men's shed plus loads of fun entertainment with live music all have in common?

The answer is the annual Spring into Oxford event, taking place on Sunday 4 October at Pearson Park Oval.

This year the event has more spring to it, says Oxford Promotions Action Committee vice chair Shirley Farrell, with two new activities planned. A Spring Flower Show, organised by the Oxford Garden Club, will complement a Spring Bonnet Competition, organised by the Keep Oxford Beautiful Committee. Also included is an art exhibition by students from Art with Mark (Adams).

Entry is free for both. Flowers for the Spring Flower Show are to be in the Oxford Pavilion by 9.30am; judging will take place before the Pavilion opens at 10.00am. Judging for the Spring Bonnet will take place at 1.30pm in the Oval.

As usual the 100 plus classic and vintage cars will take over the Sports Oval at Pearson Park from approximately 10.30am. Along with the car display, a fun, family atmosphere from 9am – 2pm is guaranteed with live music, market stalls and children's entertainment, including bouncy castle, Adam Allsorts clown and other fun activities including games.

The annual event is a fundraiser for the McIver's Oxford Community Men's Shed Trust and organised by the Oxford Promotions Action Committee (OPAC).

Schedules for the Flower Show can be obtained by emailing: secretary@oxfordnewzealand.co.nz or ph: 03 312 4382

Festival brings schools together

Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal



A powhiri, performed by Oxford Area School, welcomed Akaroa, Amuri, Cheviot and Rangiora Area schools to the Canterbury Area Schools Association Kapa Haka Festival in August.

The event, held at Oxford Area School, was a coming together of the region's area schools to share in Maori culture.

Following morning tea, each school gave a Kapa Haka presentation. Akaroa Area School shared the pertinent Ngai Tahu haka, something the school felt was important for other students to learn. In the afternoon, a variety of workshops was held with poi, waiata and the haka on the agenda. Year one to two students participated in string games and learnt about Maori myths and legends. The day was considered an all round success and finished with a poporaki at 2 pm.

For the love of Magnolia

With Sis Johnston

The Magnolia is a stunning tree to add to your garden, bringing endless joy with their beautiful and unique flowers. There are many to choose from including deciduous or evergreen, trees or shrubs. When it comes to selecting the right Magnolia for your garden, we can help. Below is a selection currently available from our nursery:

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- **Denudata** with creamy white flowers, goblet-shaped before opening out into a flared bowl shape
- **Genie** with pink/red flowers goblet shaped
- **Kobin Dori** with yellow cupped shaped blooms flowering with foliage
- **Kobus** with flowers lightly scented with white strap-like petals, cold and wind hardy
- **Stellata 'Water Lilly'** a densely branched shrub with semi-double white petals emerging from pale pink buds
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Spring into Oxford

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For the love of art

Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal

Pottery was artist June Inch's first love. She is passionate about the whole process, that back in the days when she and her husband lived in Whitecliffs, involved digging her clay. She made glazes from whatever natural rock or soil matter caught her eye and fired her wares in ashes from old bonfires around the property.

In 1975, the Inch family moved to their Oxford farm and her daughter Mel recalls, "Mum always had some form of artwork on the go.

"Sketching too, was something June had always enjoyed right from her childhood spent growing up in Cust. It was 20 odd years ago that she decided to take her hobby to the next level by enrolling at Oxford Area School as an adult art student.

Under Brent Firkin's tutelage, she sat fifth and sixth form art. Of that period in her life, June says, "At times I wondered what I was doing in with all the kids but I settled in." It was a juggle too with her work on the farm but a worthwhile one as it culminated in her achieving a B Bursary. Art for June is an ever evolving process and these days



An inspiration: June Inch with one of her latest paintings. June studied art as an adult student at Oxford Area School

she paints in all mediums but is especially fond of watercolour. Her work has been displayed but she sells mostly through word of mouth. She volunteers at the Oxford Art Gallery and says the gallery has had a lot of positive overseas feedback and her work there has introduced her to people from all over the world. She is constantly learning new techniques through the artists who display their work at the gallery too.

A keen knitter, June also spins and dyes her wool and has kept all her grandchildren toasty over the years in her hand knitted woollies.

Go in the Draw to Win a copy of The Traveller's Daughter

Michelle Vernal's latest novel is a tale to lose yourself in. Her fourth book, it is a story of redemption and love told with Michelle's trademark warmth and humour.

Below is just a little taste of The Traveller's Daughter...

Kitty shook her head. "Just listen, this French photographer called Christian something or other French-sounding says that he took a photograph that became quite famous of my mother with her boyfriend. Who, by the way, was not my dad but some guy called Michael, in a French town back in 1965. He reckons Tres Belle, you know the fashion magazine –" There was a loud squeal from her friend Yasmin, and Kitty held the phone away from her ear. "Oh, I love Tres Belle! Watch this space because one day my designs are going to be all through its pages."

"I don't doubt it but for now the magazine has commissioned this Christian fella to recreate the same scene in the photo he took back in 1965. It was called Midsummer Lovers, which is kind of a gross title for a photograph with my mum in it. He wants me to pose for it along with the nephew of mum's old boyfriend this

Michael, whoever he was, to mark the 50th anniversary of the original being taken." "What? Repeat all that and slower this time? Much slower."

Kitty repeated what she had just said, and there was a moment's silence as processed Yasmin what her friend had just told her. Lots of questions were forming in her mind, and she needed to put them in order. "Okay, so firstly I'm thinking how did this French guy find you and what was your mum doing in France in 1965? I thought she was Irish."

Excerpted from *The Traveller's Daughter* by Michelle Vernal. Copyright © 2015 by Michelle Vernal. Available from Emma's At Oxford from 1 October or order from Michelle, phone 312 3170.



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With Rachel McRobb

One of the most common questions we are asked about our workshops is "Do I need experience?" The answer is most definitely "No!" All of our workshops are geared towards novices as well as those with experience. There is lots on offer over the next few months, so why not come along and discover your creative side?

Arts in Oxford Workshop Calendar for 2015

ABSTRACT PAINTING WORKSHOP with Wayne Seyb

- Sun 30 August 10am-4pm \$90 (+ \$50 materials)

This workshop will give you new ways to express yourself through your art.

CERAMIC GARDEN SPEAR WORKSHOP with

Renate Galetzka - Sun 27 & Sun 4th October 10am-

4pm Sun 18 October 11am-12 noon

\$120 (+ \$47.50 materials)

Over three sessions students will make their very own ceramic garden spear, by creating ceramic beads and spear tops and assembling on a steel rod.

2 DAY WEEKEND WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP with

Ivan Button Sat 10 & Sun 11 October 10am - 4pm

\$160 (+ \$25 materials)

A two-day watercolour class with Rangiora artist and experienced tutor Ivan Button.

ABSTRACTING A NATURAL FORM with Zoe Wiseman

- Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th October

10am-4pm \$160 (+ \$35 materials)

Students will select a natural object and explore its qualities and characteristics in a series of exploratory drawings using line, shape, tone, pattern and colour.

PAINT MAKING FROM LOCAL PIGMENTS with

Celia Wilson - Sun 1st November 10am-3pm

\$45 (+ \$40 materials)

Oxford artist Celia Wilson will show how local natural pigments (sourced from rocks, clays and plants) can be made into artists paint.

BOX MAKING with Tess Warburton - Sun 8 November

10am - 4pm \$80 (+ \$30 materials)

Under the guidance of professional bookbinder Tess Warburton students will learn how to make a box in the style of a bookbinder.

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Feature

Trail Ride Event Needs

Your Help Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal

"Oxford Area School's PTA is on the lookout for farmland that is rolling and steep with a bonus being forestry for a planned PTA fundraising Trail Ride event," says Michelle Maginess, organiser of the event in conjunction with Adventure Trailrides.

The courses are usually between 40-50 kilometres long, and an entry fee of \$50.00 for single riders or \$60.00 for a family will apply. Riders are to supply their bikes. Michelle and her family are keen trail riders themselves. "The day will be lots of fun with a BBQ, coffee and tea along with other refreshments supplied."



Funds raised from the planned event are to be allocated toward the new Oxford Area School Year 7 & 8 playground. If you would like to put your land forward for this event, Michelle love to hear from you and can be contacted on: 027 2297351.

Trail bike fun: Elizabeth Cooper on her mini quad bike

Get your lifestyle back on track

Words & Photo: Shaz Davis

Alan Davies understands the need to have more time to relax and enjoy life.

Alan's goal is to help people claim their lifestyle back. He says a lot of people spend their weekends working in the garden, or on their home, instead of relaxing and having quality family time, playing rugby with the kids, and that sort of thing. And in summer, home or garden work often extends to weekday evenings as well.

This, he explains, is where Al-Mows can make the difference, tackling those time-consuming projects and giving people more free time.

After 36 years in engineering, Alan decided it was time to combine his love of working outdoors with his handyman skills. So he started his own business offering property maintenance for lifestyle block and home owners.

Al-Mows offers a range of garden and home maintenance services from mowing lawns to weed treatments, garden makeovers, and more.



Alan is happy to spray weeds, seed lawns, undertake home maintenance and the odd handyman job, repair fences and gates, and also offers machinery and engineering repairs.

Since setting up his one-stop-shop for home and property maintenance in February, Alan, who is based in Ohoka, has had many customers in the Cust and Oxford areas. He says that happy customers are his main source of new business.

"I enjoy being outside and helping people – and the wow factor when you've finished turning an overrun weed patch back into a garden. It makes the job very rewarding," says Alan, who does both one-off projects and on-going maintenance.

"No project is too big, or too small," says Alan. He will travel to your property to provide a free quote based on your requirements. If you are looking for assistance with on-going garden or property maintenance, or for help with a one-off project, large or small, give Alan at Al-Mows a call.

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Garden museum a visit to the past

Words & Photo:
Michelle Vernall

A New Zealand Century Farm and Station plaque hangs beside the front door of Robert and Joanne Judson's property, Glencoe, on Ashley Gorge Road.

Their home, built next door to the original homestead, has a magnificent view across to the surrounding hills.

Robert, being the fourth generation to farm it, has a deep connection with the land.

His great-Grandfather bought the 800 acres in 1900 from monies earned working at Oxford sawmill. He farmed sheep and beef, and these days the Judsons lease the original homestead along with 400 acres. On the other 400 acres, Robert says he and his wife, Joanne, potter around on with Hereford cows.

The property was also home to a tumbledown shed built in 1940 which, in Robert's words, was filled with four generations worth of stuff.

"Once you get rid of it all, it's gone forever."

Using timber salvaged from that old shed, Ron Ealam came on board to build Robert a museum to display and store his



'stuff'. It stands on the site that was once home to Joanne's aviary. She relinquished it after the design, inspired by a picture in an English magazine she had ripped out and saved 20 years ago, was agreed upon.

Joanne is a keen gardener and opens Glencoe's grounds to garden tours. The museum has been a point of interest on these tours, and it is not hard to see why. Inside there is an eclectic collection of memorabilia with everything from the homestead's original telephone, tins, toys, tools, a restored wool weighing machine, and photos amongst many other treasures.

The sixth generation are getting pleasure from the museum too, says Robert. "The grandkids love it and pretend to ring each other on the old telephones."

Property Market



Report With Vicki Driver Support local...

Choosing your agent is a private choice, yet imperative to your successful sale. It is critical when choosing a real estate agent that you choose the right agent for you and your property, particularly given we live in a village and/or rural outskirts out of the Oxford area.

Lately, I have noticed there are a few city-based real estate agent signs popping up here and there.

This is likely to be the result of a "subject to sale" purchase in the city resulting in the agent, you are purchasing your home through, offering to sell your home in Oxford. Let me tell you why you should consider if this is the best option for you. Local real estate agents, particularly agents that sell a lot of property in Oxford, and surrounding areas are aware of recently sold properties. Armed with that knowledge, it makes it far easier to educate buyers on comparative homes and the exact price properties are being sold for if they try and negotiate a lower offer price.

An agent with local knowledge can also address, what I call, "resistance questions and answers". Knowing what's going on locally can be used to their advantage to upsell the Oxford experience and tell buyers what's happening now and into the future!

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News

Legal Corner



With Jeanette Mehrtens
LL.B. Partner, Helmore Stewart

Engaging in the 'In Court Process'

Kate and William have attended mediation through the Family Dispute Resolution Service (FDR) and were not able to reach an agreement. Kate wants to know what further options are available.

Engaging in the 'In Court Process'

Kate can file an application for Parenting Order in the Family Court. She will need to provide confirmation that she has participated in FDR and that no agreement was reached. Kate may be eligible for a government grant, known as "Family Legal Advice Service" (FLAS) to cover her legal costs for advice for engaging in the "In Court Process", and completing the application pack for filing in the Family Court.

Unless the applications qualify as urgent ("Without Notice"), lawyers cannot file applications and cannot represent parties until directed by a Judge.

Once Kate has filed her application in the Family Court, the Court will arrange for the documents to be served on William who will have 21 days to respond. If he files a response, a Judge will look at the proceedings and may make directions, which include:

- That Lawyer for Child be appointed to represent the children;
- That parties can seek legal representation;
- And that a settlement conference be allocated.

If a settlement conference is directed, there is an opportunity for the parties to reach an agreement with the assistance of their own lawyers and a Judge.

If agreement still cannot be reached, the Judge will make further directions that a Court hearing take place. A Judge will then decide the care arrangements for the children.

It is important that parties seek advice from a family lawyer at the earliest opportunity if considering engaging in the "In Court Process" to understand the process, legislative requirements and to be able to make informed decisions regarding care arrangements for their children.

Disclaimer: This information does not constitute legal advice. No liability is assumed by the author for any losses suffered by any person relying directly or indirectly upon this information. It is recommended that the reader should consult a senior representative of the firm before acting upon this information.



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A Showcase of Creativity

The Oxford Area School's Wearable Art Awards proved to be another successful showcase of the talent within our local communities for creating amazing wearable art costumes.

This year, the Supreme Student Trophy winner was Paisley Austin modelling her design "The Aviatrix" and the Supreme Adult Trophy winner was Michael Turner with his design "Hairy Styles Headed in the One Direction". Students and adults all competed for the category prizes plus the Supreme trophies at the end of the evening. The Trophy winners both received flights and tickets to WOW in Wellington, sponsored by Oxford Farmers' Market. While not every student was able to win a prize, event organiser, Jane Anderson says they were all winners for just entering and wearing their costumes on the night. "Lights, music, entertainment and beautifully diverse costumes combined to make a wonderful evening for all to enjoy." Local judges were Charlotte Davis, Areta Wilkinson and Mark Adams – all fully qualified in the different aspects of art. Compere for the evening was Yo Robinson with entertainment from Oxford Area School's student Emma Rutherford and Music Teacher, Cloe Anngow. The pair sang two duets, complemented by dance performances by the Dale Hartley School of Speech and Drama. Oxford Area School would like to thank all companies involved for their generous sponsorship of all student and adult prizes on the night.



Aviation design: Paisley Austin models her Student Supreme Trophy winning design 'The Aviatrix'. Photo: Annette Knowler

A different paradise

Words & Photo: Fi Maddison

From the moment Sally and Wayne Schist drove through the gates of the Ashley Gorge Holiday Park, they fell in love with the area.

It was barely seven months ago that the adventurous pair took a campervan road trip that was to change their life forever. As they stayed at different motor



New lifestyle: Ashley Gorge Holiday Park managers Sally and Wayne Schist sit on the new Ashley Gorge Reserve sign. As they stayed at different motor camps around New Zealand, met, and talked to the owners and managers, they began to see a new way of life. "These people had a lovely lifestyle," says Sally. "They were happy in their work. So when we came back home to Diamond Harbour, we decided we didn't want to go back to work."

Although, they loved their home in the harbour, they also had a yearning for something different. They began to look for motor camp management opportunities and when the Ashley Gorge Holiday Park lease came up, they couldn't wait to take a look.

"We fell in love the moment we drove in. The previous owners Jan and Dave were so welcoming," says Sally. "It was like paradise, a different sort of paradise to what we had at Diamond Harbour. It had a nice feel to it," adds Wayne.

As the new owners and managers of the holiday park, Sally and Wayne are looking forward to the 'busy season' but plan to take their time getting to know how the camp operates and getting used to a new way of life.

"It'll be a huge learning curve," says Sally, "but we are so lucky to have Jan and Dave just along the road and so passionate. They've been so helpful."

Sally and Wayne plan to make small changes such as the addition of fruit trees for the campers' use and giving the kitchens a 'kiwiana' theme. They also see opportunity to grow the use of the dormitories and function centre for weddings and events.

They'll also be gathering ideas from campers over the Christmas and New Year period. And if anyone is looking for a job over the holiday period, they can give Sally or Wayne a call on 03 312 4099

Celebrate Fathers Day

SUNDAY 6 SEPT



Father's Day is a chance to show Dad just how much you love and care about him. Make his day with a hug, meaningful words, quality time, and a gift that he will enjoy. Show your Dad just how much he means to you...

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Health & Beauty

Hair & Beauty Update

With Amy Roberts
Creative Director



Get ready for Summer

Is there a spring in your step as the weather (supposedly) heats up, and festivities begin to take full swing for no other reason than a rise in temperature?

This is when we start to kick off the gumboots and climb into the back of the wardrobe looking for last summer's jandals and clothes.

Another issue is, we haven't seen the sun for four months. Legs and hairy white skin have turned crappy, haircut and color is feeling boring as we haven't had much on lately.

I, for one, have been in hiding all winter. So now is the time to sort out your summer-time YOU.

Skin: keeping the skin fresh with a mini facial can be a great start. Using BB Creams are huge again this spring, say goodbye to cake makeup! A tanned look is coming through this season, with a focus on highlighting. Invest in a good bronzer.

Brows: big full brows have never been hotter, keeping them a good shape and tidy is very important And remember to keep them dark!

Lips: in summer colors of orange or pink. Lips are the go from neon to coral, baby pinks, and nudes - you can't go wrong! The easiest way to achieve a flawless lip is starting with a liner; this helps stop any bleeding and creates a more defined line.

Feet: treat your poor gumboot feet to a pedicure to get rid of the dry skin. Shape and color your toenails to make you feel great for your open toe shoes.

Body treatments and spray tans are another great way to prep for summer. Ask your beauty therapist about what they have to offer, most have summertime special's to kick start you.

Hair: is it time for a new hairdo? I get excited with summer hair with new fresh colours and cuts to get excited about. Ask your hairstylist today.
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Looking after your feet

Words & Photo: Whitney King
BHSc (Pod)

Nail fungus infections are caused when fungi infect the nail plate and the soft tissue beneath the nail

Often called onychomycosis (on-i-ko-my-ko-sis), it is caused primarily by organisms called dermatophytes and is extraordinarily common.

Fungal nail infection has little to do with personal cleanliness. Toenails are most vulnerable to infection since they spend much of their day surrounded by dark, warm and often moist shoes and socks.

An infection may begin as a white or yellow spot under the tip of your toenail. As the nail fungus spreads, it may cause your nail to discolour, thicken and develop crumbling edges.

The infection can spread to other nails, and possibly to other people. That's why it is important to seek treatment as soon as you think you have an infection. Your Podiatrist can diagnose and treat your nail fungus. There are many factors, which affect nail fungus growth, such as diminished circulation, athlete's foot (tinea pedis), or working in a humid environment.

Prevention is better than cure

- Keep your feet as clean and dry as possible. Regularly use an anti-fungal foot powder.
- Use shower shoes when walking in public swimming and shower areas
- Clip your toenails with clean clippers (run utensil under boiling water, then let cool before cutting nails)



- Nail Polish creates a layer for the fungus to breed in, and can often proliferate under nail polish.
- Many 'Nail Bars', in particular, those based in shopping malls, do not carry out correct sterilisation of equipment as this is an unregulated industry. There are many reports of people receiving fungal infections, and other serious or even fatal infections after their visit.

When to see a podiatrist

A podiatrist will be able to advise on a correct treatment and management regime. There are many treatment options, below is a few examples:

- Physically removing as much as much of the infection as possible, by thinning the nail exposing the fungus to topical treatments, making them much more effective.
- Anti-fungal solutions, which can be very effective in the early stage when the fungus first starts to affect the toenails.
- Oral medications can be prescribed by your GP, but are not always appropriate for some people as they can have damaging side effects. Consult your doctor to see if you can take these. For more information visit: www.totalpodiatry.co.nz

Keeping Healthy



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This is no snake oil. Whatever your age, there's strong scientific evidence that being physically active can help you lead a healthier and even happier life. If exercise were a pill, it would be one of the most cost-effective drugs ever invented

Research shows that physical activity can also boost self-esteem, mood, sleep quality and energy, as well as reducing your risk of stress, depression, dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

Most importantly, regular activity can improve your quality of life. A minimum of 30 minutes a day can allow you to enjoy these benefits.

If you currently do no physical activity, start by doing some, and gradually build up to the recommended amount.

If you have any health concerns, remember to check with your GP before starting any physical activity program.

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Community Services

Council Update with Councillor Wendy Doody



Congratulations to Waimakariri District Council Road Safety Co-ordinator Chris Neason, winner of the Cedric Rogers Memorial Award for New Zealand Road Safety.

When the nomination form for this years winner was received it was accompanied by no less than six supporting letters of endorsement. Two from Senior Police, two from Council staff and Senior Management, and one from a local trucking association. Throughout these is a reoccurring theme of the nominee being well respected and having a huge knowledge base, with examples of sharing that knowledge across the sector and community to the benefit of all. Chris is incredibly innovative and is extremely generous when it comes to sharing ideas, resources and experience. One example recently being the pilot of the recent NZTA/ACC workshops for secondary school teachers to deliver road safety education across the curriculum. Chris Neason's knowledge, inspiration and dedication to Road Safety has been widely felt by not only her local community but the wider road safety community in New Zealand. We congratulate Chris Neason on her award for services to Road Safety.



On the Beat with constable Brendan Riley



Over the past couple of months, there has been an increase in burglaries.

Offenders are targeting mostly rural buildings, both houses and unlocked outbuildings. The burglaries are mostly during the day when the homeowners are away at work etc. However, there has been at least two instances where the homeowners were at home working around the house or farm.

It is important to make sure you lock the house even if you are close by. We need to make it as hard as possible for these lowlives and keeping things locked is always a good start.

It's also important to get to know your neighbours and keep an eye on each other, get to know who's coming and going. If you know your neighbours are at work during the day and see a suspicious car or people at their address call the police straight away. We don't mind, at all, attending to find the person is there legitimately. But it is very frustrating for us to find out after something has happened that a neighbour saw someone suspicious on the property and didn't call.

Even though there has been this spike in offending, we still live in a very safe part of the country. Everywhere has these issues and unfortunately we are not immune to these oxygen stealers who think that they are entitled to take things that you and I work hard to obtain. We need your help to catch these lowlives. If you see something suspicious call police on 111 immediately. Lock your houses, keep expensive tools locked away and out of site in outbuildings, record serial numbers and, if possible, take photographs of expensive items such as jewellery. We all live in a small town because of the people and the sense of community, so look out for each other and together we can make Oxford a less attractive target for your local friendly burglar.

Fire Report with Fire Chief Trevor Ealam



For the month of July, the brigade was called six times.

Four of the calls were to false alarms with good intent; two were to investigate smoke in different areas; one to a private smoke alarm activation (faulty alarm); and one to two large slash burns, which were being controlled by the contractor. The others were to a fully involved car fire and to a medical assist, which was a cardiac arrest. This brings our total calls for the year to 61.

**The message for this month is:
SWEEP CHIMNEYS ARE
SAFE CHIMNEYS**

Cust-West Eyreton Garden Club News with Dean Ward-Leonidas

It was a pleasure welcoming new members to our August meeting.

Also it was great to see the level of interest in our scheduled October coach outing to Ashburton and environs.

Once the general business was dealt with, we welcomed two representatives of the Christchurch Bonsai Society. After an introduction and explanation of the various levels and forms of this elegant craft, we were treated to demonstrations of six arrangements.

Our next gathering will be a meeting on Monday the 14th September, when we will also meet people in our neighbourhood who provide a botanical or horticultural service.

If you would like more information re your local Garden Club, please contact either the President: 310-2274 Secretary: 312-5171 or email custwegardenclub@yahoo.co.nz.



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Pets & Animals

The life of Plucky

Words:
Fi Maddison



He was just one day old when he was plucked from danger after his mother had been hit and killed by a car. Just the tiniest little creature with gangly legs and a cute little face, this courageous Spur Winged Plover had a herculean will to live.

Brought to the Oxford Bird Rescue, Plucky was lucky to survive.

“Plovers are notoriously hard to keep alive,” says Scott Bowman. Scott and his wife, Tracy, have devoted their lives to helping wildlife of the feathered kind.

Since starting Oxford Bird Rescue, the pair has cared for hundreds of injured and sick birds. Not all survive. Plucky was, however, a special case. He became very ill in the early days and they did not expect him to survive. But Plucky had a will all of his own and after treatment donated by the South Island Wildlife Hospital, he survived and grew into an adult bird with

a huge character. Scott says that because of his upbringing and human imprint, he wouldn't survive in the wild. Although Plucky is 'domesticated', he doesn't like to be handled, but he has a special relationship with the family cat and dog. He also enjoys sitting beside the fire in the evenings.

Plovers are New Zealand natives but are not protected.

They originally self-introduced to New Zealand in 1910 in Southland but the breed has spread throughout the South Island.

While Scott says they don't need a permit to keep Plucky, they are in the process of applying for a permit so they can look after native birds when the need arises.

To see more of Plucky and his adventures, sign up to Oxford Bird Rescue on Facebook, and look out for their fundraising Plucky Calendar 2016.



Unexpected relationships: Plucky enjoys time with his friends Ratbags, the cat, and Boof, the dog.

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Students participate in tournament

Six Oxford Area School students recently competed in the NZ Area Schools 2015 Sports Tournament held in Whanganui.

The students had to attend trials in their selected sporting code to gain a place in the Top of the South Island team. Successful sportspersons were Ben Foster, Connor Fridd (rugby), Jeremy Kilgour

(football), Amber Leech, Nicole White and Rachel Kissack (netball). The students played against North Island teams and one other South Island team.

Jeremy Kilgour also made the NZ Area Schools football team and was selected as captain of this team. The Oxford and District Lions Club provided sponsorship for the students to travel to Whanganui.



Sporting success: From left, Nicole White, Connor Fridd, Rachel Kissack, Ben Foster, Amber Leech and Jeremy Kilgour

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13th September - Combined Service
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20th September - Combined Service and Cartoon Sunday School
 Both at 10am at St David's Church and the Church Hall, Cust.

27th September - Combined Service
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Committee warmly invites interested parties to the Committee's AGM to be held after the 8.30am Mass on Sunday 13th of September

Oxford - Cust Anglican Parish

Services for September

2 Sept 10.30am 1928 Prayer book Holy Communion

6 Sept 9am St Andrew's Oxford

13 Sept 9am at St Andrew's Oxford 10.30 at St James' Cust

20 Sept 9am at St Andrew's Oxford

27 Sept 9am at St Andrew's Oxford 10.30am at St James' Cust

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Services for September

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 (Shared meal starts at 6pm)

13th Sept - 10am Service

20th Sept - No Service

27th - 10am Service

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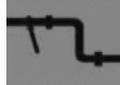
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Waimakariri Zone Committee August Chair's Column



Claire McKay - Chair of the Waimakariri Zone Committee.

Community involved early in sub-regional planning process

During April and May the Waimakariri Zone Committee held a series of ten community meetings around the zone in the lead up to the development of the Waimakariri sub regional plan.

The sub regional process will feed into the Land and Water Regional Plan (LWRP) - Environment Canterbury's

planning framework on how land and water are to be managed in the region.

While the more formal sub regional plan consultation isn't scheduled to commence until mid 2016 the committee felt it was important that we started talking with our community now.

We wanted to confirm that the eight priority outcomes we have previously identified are still relevant.

The priority outcomes include a range of issues such as managing the water quality in our lowland streams, making sure the quality of the water in the Ashley/Rakahuri River and the Waimakariri River improves and ensuring safe and reliable drinking water.

You can find out more about the priority outcomes by visiting the Waimakariri Zone Committee page at: www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater

Good turn-outs and interesting discussions at community meetings

Despite cooler nights we had good turnouts at our rural meetings with between 30 and 60 people turning up to each one.

Many people shared their concerns over water management issues with us and we had some very productive discussions. I want to personally thank everyone that made the effort to participate.

Getting the urban community along has been more of a challenge. We would love to see more urban people at future meetings because issues around water quality are just as relevant and important in our towns and urban areas.

Irrigation, flows and recreation were some of the key issues raised

Concerns raised were similar at each meeting although, not surprisingly, issues that were specific to an area were also discussed. For example in Clarkville, residents naturally wanted to talk about flooding and drainage issues and for some in the Eyre community, the focus was on current low ground water levels and the impact on shallow wells used for domestic consumption.

Common themes at all meetings included reliability and security of irrigation, low flows in the Ashley/Rakahuri river - particularly, where the result is dry sections of the river and water quality and the impact of this on recreational activities such as swimming, kayaking and fishing.

Where to from here?

From this round of meetings we are reassured that we have the community's mandate to continue with the previously identified eight priority areas.

However we will be looking at exploring several new issues that were raised including climate change modelling, and likely future impacts for the community.

The next steps for us are to send a copy of the Presentations and FAQ's to all attendees who provided contact details. If you would like to be on the contact list for this please let us know by contacting waimakariri@canterburywater.org.nz

Later this year we will host another round of meetings to outline the sub regional planning process and what that entails.

I encourage everyone to take the chance to be involved with this and have your say. So start thinking about what matters to you and please feel free to share ideas, thoughts and concerns with us.

You are welcome to attend our monthly meetings – see the Waimakariri Committee page at www.ecan.govt.nz/canterburywater for details.