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Gone Fishing

Oxford Area School Principal Bob Norish is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren as well as being able to indulge in his favourite hobbies - trout fishing and playing bridge - when he retires from the role he has held since 1998.

Bob retires at the end of this school term.

His wife Cheryl, who also teaches at the school, will continue to do so and the couple have no immediate plans of moving away from a town that Bob says has a very special community that both he and Cheryl love being part of.

While he is retiring from his role as principal, he would still like to be involved in a part-time education role, but is keeping his options open for the moment.

During the last 17 years, Bob has seen big changes in the education system with the introduction of both NCEA and National Standards. At the school, he has overseen the construction of the Library and other buildings, and watched the growth of Agriculture as a subject, along with fantastic opportunities being created for students thanks to the Pathways programme.

Bob has enjoyed being part of the Area school's network with the annual CASA fest becoming a highlight.

"Post-earthquakes, the school experienced a lot of growth but has retained its country atmosphere," Bob says.

It is this along with the staff's commitment as well as a strong and supportive PTA and Board of Trustees that Bob credits with making the school an extra special place to be.

"Exciting times lie ahead for education with technology and modern learning giving kids the opportunity to take ownership of their own learning," he says.

Looking back and forwards, Bob takes great pride in the young people of the district and feels immensely proud to have watched them grow.



Quality time: Retiring Principal Bob Norish is looking forward to spending more time with his grandchildren and pursuing his hobbies.

Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal

A gig for a cause

Oxford local Kerry Ward was horrified by the Nepal earthquakes.

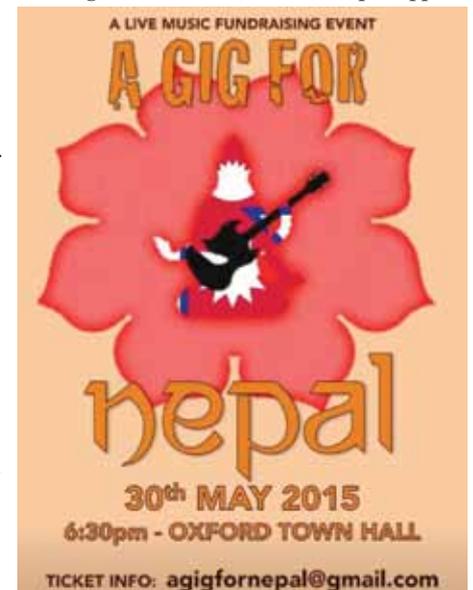
So she and musician husband Chris Ward decided to do something to help.

The enterprising pair quickly sought support from family, friends, musicians and the council to run a fundraising concert in the local town hall.

So what started as great idea has become a major fundraising project to help the people of Nepal put their lives back together.

A Gig for Nepal is on Saturday 30 May at 6.30pm at the Oxford Town Hall. Tickets \$10 & door sales available on the night.

Funds go to Save the Children - Nepal Appeal



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Coming Events

Arts in Oxford

Exhibitions (refer page 12)

30 May

Gig for Nepal, Oxford Town Hall

30 May

Pink Ribbon breakfast at Pink Sugar Café, Oxford

6 June

Oxford Singers Choir, Oxford Town Hall

10 June

Free seminar for new migrants (refer page 18)

20 June

Community Barn Dance, Oxford Town Hall

25 July

St James-on-the-Cust 150th Jubilee (refer page 4)

15 August

Oxford Wearable Arts Evening (refer page 9)

The Oxford Observer

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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.



Club day in Oxford

Touch down: Oscar O'Steen scores a try for the Under 6 team. The Oxford Rugby Club hosted a successful interclub day on home turf.

Community garden gets new fence

Men at work: Members of the Oxford Menz Shed team up to build the fence around the gardens.

Funding for the fence came from the Mental Health Foundation.



Cross country fun at Oxford Area School

Pure determination: Maddison Jury (6) negotiates the tyre feature as part of the Oxford Area School cross country event for Years 1 - 6. Maddison says she loves cross country, especially jumping the hay bales and going through the tyres. Photo: Erika Jury



Poets on the run

A good gig: From left, Luther, Aaron, Ben, Doc and Andy. Performance poetry by The Republic of Poets with musical accompaniment by Stray Empire, and followed by original country/folk music from The Eastern, was enjoyed at the Oxford Town Hall.



Dogs' Day Out

Fancy dress line-up: A fun day, organised by Lee Leonard, for the Christchurch section of the New Zealand Papillon Club was held in Oxford recently. Featured with Fancy Dress contestants is club member Kathryn Clarke.

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Not just books, eight years on...

With eight years in business under her poncho in June this year, Emma Gillard says she still enjoys living and working in the small country town of Oxford.

"It's a fab community," she enthuses. "We are a total destination and that becomes clearer and clearer on weekends but more importantly on public holidays."

Her business, Emma's at Oxford, is a treasure trove of quality homewares, accessories, books, and gift ideas, and employs a staff of five, including Emma.

Emma believes it is important to keep her business evolving and is continually on the lookout for suitable products, identifying new interests and trends, to add her stock. The latest craze for adult colouring-in books is one such trend.

And with the cooler winter months coming in, Emma has made sure she has a wide range of Merinomink knitwear on offer and says "they are great investment pieces that won't age or date."

Emma's at Oxford is open daily from 10am to 5pm.



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News



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37 Main St, Oxford

St James-on-the-Cust celebrates 150 years

Words: Bernard Kingsbury

Celebrations for the
150th Jubilee of this
historic church will
commence with an open
day at the church on
Saturday 25th July
2015, 2-4pm.

Visitors will be able to
learn about the history of
the church and view the
many plaques, stained
glass windows, Lord
Lyttelton's prayer desk,
the Pearse organ and
items made by Frederick
Gurnsey, the noted
worker and craftsman.

The church of St
James-on-the-Cust was so
named being near the
Cust river. This river was
named after General Sir
Edward Cust in 1849.
Cust was a member of
the Canterbury Association
in England who organised
the first immigrant ships
from 1850 and the
Canterbury settlement.

The Cust Museum will
also be open at this time
for viewing some of the
church's historic treasures
including the silver
Canterbury chalice and
paten brought out on one
of the first immigrant
ships to Canterbury in
1850 and a Pocket



Iconic feature of Cust: The bell tower at St James contains one of the best toned bells in Canterbury. The bell is inscribed "Given by General Sir Edward Cust, one of the founders of Canterbury". It also has its weight 5cwt., 2 lbs., 10 ozs. cast on it.

Communion Set donated to the church
in 1901 by Prebendary WA Purey-Cust of
Lincoln Cathedral.

It was used by his great uncle, the Rev
Richard Cust, Rector of Belton, Grantham,
Lincoln, between 1811-1864.

A church service will be held the
following day on Sunday 26th July at
11am. This will be followed with a tree
planting and luncheon.

The service is open for anyone to attend
but for the luncheon please register with
Judy Ph 03 312 5136 or
Ngaire Ph 03 313 5271.

Concert in Cust



Musical afternoon: An appreciative audience enjoyed a range of music performed by the 50s Up Brass Band, followed by a sing-along with the Waimak Warblers.

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and former clients for the flowers, food,
cards, letters, and phone calls at the time
of Rodney's tragic accident. We appreciate
the help given by Woodstock Station, the
Oxford Police, and Victim Support. Your
kind thoughts at this sad and difficult time
were very much appreciated.

This support and love has helped us to
return to our previous commitments and
accept a different pathway.

Preserving Oxford's heritage

Words & Photo: Fi Maddison

A love of things old and beautiful was enough motivation for Yvette Feary and Ross Whiteside to purchase the Oxford's historic West Hotel with the aim to restore the building and breathe new life back into it.

Originally built in 1878, Yvette and Ross are keen to give "the grand old lady" her dignity back, not just for themselves and their families but also for the people of Oxford.

"We're just the caretakers. The building is structurally sound and we want to get it back to being as original as possible, so we can share its heritage with the community," Yvette says.

With many heritage buildings being lost in Canterbury, she felt it was time someone stepped up to save it, "because it was on the edge of being too far gone."

Yvette is keen to get back heritage items such as the 'chamber bells' and other original decor that belongs to the hotel and the community.

Plans for the building are big and include a name change to Rustic Country; a new bar and café; and a restaurant with decking, landscaping, and outdoor seating.

Future plans also include an emporium filled with local produce, wines, art, and craft that represent the area; a mini animal farm; and accommodation.

Rustic Country will be family orientated and a destination for both locals and visitors to the area.



Community pride: Locals have shown keen interest in what has been happening up at the old pub.

"The building has always been about people so why not put it on the map for the community as something they can be proud of. It deserves that respect."

Both Yvette and Ross are experienced in the hospitality industry, Ross as an executive chef and manager, and Yvette, a dental therapist of 25 years, had 15 years renovating the old Rennox accommodation building in Oxford. They both understand the task they have taken on but Yvette, who also has family history in Oxford, (her grandmother, Hilda Rebecca Feary, lived in the area as a child and her father was born at View Hill) says it will be a labour of love and may take a few years to complete. "It's not a cash cow to us. We're just regular people who want to preserve this building for the future."

Yvette and Ross would love to hear from locals with stories and photos of the hotel in its former glory days. You can phone Yvette and Ross on 03 928 3732 and follow their renovation journey on Facebook under Rustic Country.

In Touch



With Matt Doocey
Waimakariri MP

I sometimes hear from constituents that another bridge over the Waimakariri is needed to solve traffic congestion.

The reality is that choices have to be made around projects for best use of funds. In this case, the choice would have been the bridge alone or the parcel of major roading projects that are going ahead. Recently I attended, with Transport Minister Simon Bridges, the sod turning of the Western Belfast Bypass, which will re-route about half the traffic driving through Belfast. According to the Minister, it is expected that the bypass will clear congestion all the way to Tram Rd.

The Northern Arterial project, including the widening of the Waimakariri Bridge to three lanes heading north through to Tram Road, will also reduce travel time.

I also had a really positive meeting around public transport recently to look at issues facing our local residents and will continue working on this important issue.

It's been a busy time in the electorate. Besides Minister Bridges, I hosted Associate Trade Minister Todd McClay, who was briefed on issues local retailers and business owners are facing with attracting skilled and semi-skilled workers, and Housing and Building Minister Nick Smith for the KiwiSaver HomeStart Roadshow. Around 900 people have been identified in Waimakariri as being eligible over the next five years for help to get them into their own homes.

Property owners and developers also had their chance to vent their frustrations around property rules and regulations recently at the Rules Reduction Taskforce meeting.

There's no doubt Waimakariri is growing fast – it's overtaken Invercargill as the third largest district by population on South Island behind Christchurch and Dunedin. Managing the demands and issues arising from that growth will continue to be my focus.

Authorised by Matt Doocey MP
130A Percival St, Rangiora.



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News

The Cottage Pantry comes to town

Pauline Denzey is back in Oxford and with her comes her exciting new business, The Cottage Pantry.

“The Cottage Pantry is all about good, healthy food and eating,” says Pauline.

For Pauline, taking on the Cottage Pantry in Geraldine and then bringing quality, natural baking ingredients to Oxford has all been a steep learning curve.

But she is determined to introduce good old-fashioned shopping as it used to be, with an emphasis on quality and affordability.

Most of her products, which include flours, bread mixes, pulses, grains, seeds, nuts, dried fruit, salt, herbs, spices, teas, and an extensive gluten-free range, are bought in bulk and re-packaged into attractive brown bags with see-through windows on the fronts. All are clearly labelled and some come with a recipe and most have shelf descriptions.

“We have a lot of certified organic products in the range, with more to come. I’m happy to source products I don’t stock, if there is a need and also happy to package smaller or larger amounts, as required.”

Because all her bulk stock is in Geraldine, Pauline will have shopping lists available for customers to fill out and order any quantities

or products not available on the shelf.

Pauline is passionate about her business and says a lot of these ingredients have been around for years and are just coming back into fashion as people look for healthier eating options in preference to processed food.

“Traditional cooking methods are back in favour and people want good, natural ingredients in their food.”

Researching what is available and finding ingredients that are inspired by recipes from around the world has been a fascinating eye-opening journey for Pauline.

“It’s been really interesting to learn about the food industry and what has been happening to our food over the years. It’s exciting to be able to offer good quality alternatives.”

While some of her products come from overseas, Pauline is keen to support local growers and suppliers.

Her aim is to also introduce a range of ‘kitchen paraphernalia’ such as pots, pans, and crockery.

Pauline is also keen to help people into a healthier way of life and hopes to offer workshops in the future. **Check out and like The Cottage Pantry on Facebook.**



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- 2 litres vinegar
- 50gm black peppercorns
- 50gm allspice
- 50gm chopped ginger
- 50gm chillies chopped or dried
- 750gm treacle

Method

1. Cut up apples and garlic coarsely, cover with water and boil to a pulp.
2. Strain, through a sieve, pushing pulp through.
3. Add vinegar and remaining ingredients, except for the treacle.
4. Boil for 2 and a half hours.



5. Now add the treacle and boil for a half hour longer.

6. Strain through muslin or fine sieve into sterilised bottles.



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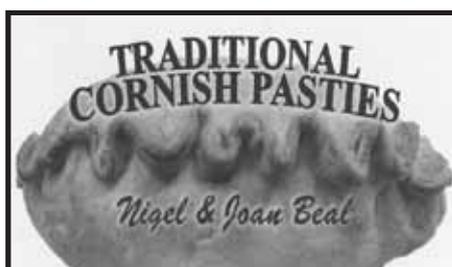


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News

Swan Song

Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal

There is a special significance to the date of the Oxford Singer's Celebration Concert being held on Saturday 6 June for the re-opening of the Town Hall, given that the hall was originally opened 84 years ago on 3 June, 1931.



Singing group resurrected: The Oxford Singers practice for their upcoming concert in the Town Hall

The Oxford Singers was formed 25 years ago and have performed an annual fund raising concert at the Oxford Town Hall since conductor Margaret Purdie joined the group in 1999.

"It seemed fitting that as a group we get back together for a one-off show to welcome in the newly refurbished hall," Margaret says. The brainchild of Margaret and longstanding choir members Jane

Frahm and Colleen McKenzie, it didn't take much persuasion to get the rest of the four-part harmony choir on board when presented with the idea. Margaret retired after 12 years as the group's conductor. The choir disbanded three years later when their original accompanist, Pauline Hurley, who had been with the group for more than 20 years, also retired.

Exciting news for St Andrews Church

Words: Michelle Vernal Photo: Fi Maddison

St Andrews Church has a new vicar.

Christine Allan-Johns, who has been the interim Priest-in-Charge of St Andrews Church in Oxford since March last year, has officially been made Vicar.

An induction ceremony at the church attended by parishioners and both the Archdeacon and Bishop of Christchurch was held on 22 May.

As Vicar for a three-year term, Christine will get to have a say in the life of the church and hopes to bring a more settled feel to the parish.

"I am passionate about family and children, and building up the heart of the parish," she says. "Becoming Vicar is a serious

commitment on behalf of the parish and me. I am an ordained priest but being vicar is 'the job'."

Christine is married to Andrew Allan-Johns, the Vicar of Rangiora, and the couple have two grown up sons. They met when they were both students at Theology College, which Christine says, "threw a spanner in the works."

A former primary school teacher, Christine is also a Genealogist with a keen interest in photography.



Symbolic commitment: The Vicar of St Andrews Church Parish Christine Allan-Johns receives the Bible as part of her induction ceremony, with The Right Reverend Victoria Matthews Bishop of Christchurch and Ken Fletcher in the background.

With Pauline and Jackie Baddock as accompanists' and Margaret back at the helm conducting, the choir has been rehearsing in earnest to bring the community a showcase of music through the decades. There will be songs from the 1930s with a selection of popular war time songs, right through to modern times as well as guest artists performing both song and dance. In keeping with the group's strong fundraising tradition, all proceeds raised will go toward a new piano for the Town Hall.

Margaret says that her time spent as conductor with the Oxford Singers was a lot of fun and strong friendships have been forged. Despite this though, it has had its moments - such as when her stand collapsed mid show or the time she found herself standing in front of the choir with the wrong music and had to ask the audience to excuse her for a moment!

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Kids' breakfast club fulfils a community need



What better way for children to start the day than with the Before School Breakfast Club, where eating breakfast becomes an anticipated fun activity. The Before School Breakfast Club is the initiative of Oxford OSCAR (Out of School Care and Recreation) and is co-ordinated by manager Barbara Griffiths. "We started the morning programme at the beginning of the year, because with the influx of new people to the district, we saw there was a need within the community," says Barbara. "We already have 5-6 families using the service but there are probably many families out there not aware that it exists. We'd love to have more along."

The Before School Breakfast Club not only provides a safe and supervised centre for children to go before school but also offers breakfast, activities and games until it is time to catch the school bus. There is even a quiet space for children while they properly wake up.

"We offer, toast, spreads, and Milo but we'll also happily cater for the individual child's needs."

The club operates weekdays and opens at 7.30am in the morning in time for busy parents heading off to work but, says Barbara, they can open earlier if there is a need.

Before School Breakfast Club complements the afterschool programme, which continues to grow with over 20 children attending each day. The before and after school programme caters for children aged 5 - 13 years with an emphasis on having fun while in a safe environment. "The one rule we have at OSCAR is to have fun." Children are also encouraged to look out for each other, while bullying and verbal abuse is not tolerated. "We want a safe environment for staff, children, and visitors."

"Older children become junior leaders and with that comes responsibilities and privileges.

We understand it's not easy for them to be here and like to work with them."

While the start up rate was just \$5 an hour, a new 'per session' rate will help cover staffing and food costs. The new breakfast session rate will cost just \$10 per session with family discounts for more than one child. The service is CYF approved and families can access the OSCAR subsidy through WINZ. **To find out more, call Barbara: phone 03 312 1441 or email: oxfordoscar@gmail.com**



Early start: Eating breakfast are Sophia Toulson, Corban and Riley Clement, Clare Toulson (staff) and Brooklyn Punter-Minns.

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Get creative

Into its fourth season, the Oxford Wearable Arts runs every two years. The event is the initiative of the Oxford Area School PTA, which organises the event to raise funds towards resources for the school.

This year the funds will go towards purchasing and building a large agility course and recreational equipment for the senior school. The PTA is keen to attract local schools as it offers huge learning opportunities for young students in designing a costume, implementing their designs and then, in most cases, showcasing it themselves on a stage in front of 300 people.

This year's categories include: **Years 1-6** - Back to the Future **Years 7-13** - Back to the Future or Open (they are free to choose a title and materials used) **Adult categories:** Open, Avant Garde and All Things Bright and Beautiful

Supreme Student and Supreme Adult winners each receive a trophy plus flights and tickets to attend the World of Wearable Arts in Wellington.

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'Different for a reason'

News

Handcrafted gifts still a popular choice

Words: Erika Jury

Situated right in the heart of the Oxford Village is a special place where you will find a unique handcrafted gift for just about any occasion. The Oxford Cottage Craft Co-op was founded over 30 years ago by a group of local crafts people. The co-op has gone from those early days in strength to strength offering a wide and varied range of goods. What makes this place super special is the variety of goods that are on display.



“The displays are always changing so popping in regularly means you’ll always see something you may have missed the first time” says Oxford Cottage Craft Co-op President Yvonne Wilson. With each member of the co-op contributing to the shop, the selection is vast and always changing. From lavender products, kitchen co-ordinates, cushions, and aprons through to art, wall hangings, toys, and dolls clothing, there are so many unique and well-made gifts to choose from.



Honey and preserves are also a popular product at Oxford Cottage Craft Co-op. Supplied by a local apiary, there’s manuka, honey dew, and creamed clover for sale, plus a large range of the popular Barkers preserves.

At this time of year, the range of gorgeous hand knitted crafts are sure to be a popular choice, and being able to offer hand knitted goodies for premature babies makes this place a real blessing for those hard to come by pieces. Not only do they have a great range of finished items but hand-dyed and homespun wool too.

Bright displays of jewellery and greeting cards, floral arrangements, crystals, and woodwork all help make up this unique shop.

Centrally located on Main St and open 7 days, from 10am to 4pm Oxford Cottage Craft Co-op is so accessible and so diverse in what they have to offer, you can even follow them on Facebook and see all the new crafts as they come into the shop. With gift vouchers available too, even the very hard to buy for are covered.

Where have all the chickens gone?

Words & Photo: Fi Maddison



Oxford locals are asking why the distinctive hen and rooster mural has been painted out on the public toilets on Main Street.

Chickens gone to roost: After maintenance completion, a new mural will replace the distinctive ‘hen’ and ‘rooster’ artwork.

Once noted for receiving ‘the most beautiful toilets’ award, the building has been well photographed over the years by visitors to the area as well as having been easy to find.

According to a source from the Waimakariri District Council, the public toilets are currently undergoing repairs to the exterior as well as a repaint. The work was not possible without removing the mural.

This was discussed with the Oxford Eyre Ward Advisory Board, and the Board agreed to proceed with the maintenance work.

Keep Oxford Beautiful secretary Cheryl Norish says the group, which organised the original mural, is planning to apply for funding to create a new mural but have yet to discuss what or how long the process will be.

Offers of ideas and assistance, either with design, paint, and/or artist contributions, will happily be considered.

If you would like to help with the project, please contact Cheryl on 03 312 4977 or email: Cheryl@oxford.school.nz

Competitive plough



Ploughing an art and skill: Peter Mehrstens from the Oxford Workingmen’s Club vintage section gets to work on his first furrow with his 1942 Reid & Gray plough pulled by his 1952 FC Farmall tractor at the Vintage Ploughing Competitions in Swannanoa.

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Firefighters' challenge for charity

Five members of the Cust Volunteer Fire Brigade competed in the Auckland Fighter Sky Tower Challenge recently and raised \$5817 towards the national fundraising figure of \$1,006,978 for Leukaemia & Blood Cancer New Zealand.

The Brigade is also selling raffle tickets for a fire brigade themed playhouse to raise money for the charity. Tickets available from the Cust Brigade, phone Ph: 03 312 5898



Sky tower competitors: Firemen Paul Evers, Johnny Riley, Aidan Blanchard, Mick Cooke and Ed Jackman. Inset: Cute playhouse up for raffle.

Rubbish bin an eyesore

An ugly rubbish bin outside Village Foods has become the centre of attention for some Oxford residents.

A local, who wished to remain anonymous, said she had contacted Waimakariri District Council about the state of the rubbish bin but nothing had been done about it. She said the rubbish bin, with its rust and general poor state, was an eyesore and spoiling the view of Main Street.

Village Foods owner Wayne Davis said he had put in a request to the Council to have the bin moved closer to the outer edge of the footpath but had never received a reply. "In the eight years that we've been here, the council has never cleaned the bin. I water blast it at least twice a year because little kids climb all over it," says Mr Davis. Aside from being moved out of the focal



view of people walking along the street, the bin risks being a Health & Safety issue and is in dire need of being replaced or at the very least a thorough clean and new coat of paint.

Asked to comment, Waimakariri District Councillor Wendy Doody said she would look into the issue and let the Observer know the outcome.

Property Market Report



With Vicki Driver

OPEN HOME OR PRIVATE VIEWING?

While listing a property, my client will ask "open homes or private viewings?" Good question and very relevant to the client and the property.

Open homes are a perfect way to market suburban homes located on a section 1000m2 or less, featuring two, three, or four bedrooms and upwards, with no complicated features requiring further explanation during the viewing.

During the open home the Real Estate Agent will be situated at the front door meeting and greeting buyers. This can potentially result in a lack of "one on one" conversation due to multiple buyers in your property at one time.

Open homes are designed to get the maximum amount of people through your property in a short time-frame creating a sense of urgency in a competitive environment.

Private viewings are best suited to lifestyle properties with features that may need further clarification such as boundaries, paddocks, wells, water supply, pumps, septic tanks, outbuildings and trees.

There is a place for open homes, however private viewings are a valuable opportunity for your Real Estate Agent to have a "face to face" and "work" your prospective buyer.

Real buyers don't wait for an open home to view a property. Real buyers ring your Real Estate Agent and make an appointment to view your property immediately.

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Arts

The Art of Restoration

Words & Photo: Michelle Vernal

Tessa Warburton's studio in the garden of her Oxford home, where she has lived for the last three years, is a treasure trove of old books waiting to be restored or bound in a craft she learned from mentor, Don Hampshire.

Every Monday for three hours over a five year period, while she was studying toward a Craft and Design Degree at Christchurch Polytechnic, Don passed on the tricks of the trade to Tessa, the techniques and equipment of which are still traditional and have not changed with modern technology.

Bookbinding and restoration is a painstaking labour of love, and for Tessa the magic of it lies in the untold story within the covers and pages of an old book, a thumb print on the page of a favourite verse in a family's much loved

prayer book for instance or a section of preserved newspaper revealed within the spine of an old book.

At present, she is working on binding into volumes a series of collated Philatelic Society magazines for the society's library. Family bibles too are a particularly popular restoration commission as are



Labour of love: Tessa Warburton uses techniques of yesteryear to restore and repair old books

favourite children's books, hard or soft cover. Tessa opens up her studio and runs classes for those interested in working on their own project under her guidance and also runs box making workshops. A talented artist, it was the restoration of a Mrs Beaton home maintenance book that inspired her to create an art work from pieces of it titled 'Cleaning up after Mrs Beaton', which she went on to exhibit. Tessa has illustrated and written her own books as gifts for her nieces and nephew. She has also made wedding albums and personalised guest books. You can find some of her wares for sale at Arts in Oxford.

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Email: tessawarburton@gmail.com

Be inspired, get your creativity out

Arts in Oxford will host a Pinhole Photography workshop with Ryan Macauley on Saturday 6 June from 9am-4pm.

Over the course of a day you will be introduced to the exciting world of pinhole photography! Create your own pinhole camera utilising simple everyday objects then create photographs of your own using photographic paper and learn how to develop these. You will go home with at least one image you have created with your own camera. Book at Arts in Oxford, cost \$80.

Photographer's work on display

This body of work on display at the gallery, by Wellington photographer Ryan McCauley, explores a prominent feature

of nearly all New Zealanders' childhood memories - the backyard.

Ryan seeks to explore these spaces through the medium of pinhole photography. The use of the pinhole distorts the view yet the photographic nature of the object having to be present roots the image in a strange and unfamiliar form of reality.

The unnaturally wide view creates a distance such as the metaphorical distance and time that separates us from our childhood fantasies. The small size of the



works encourages the viewer to engage with the work closely where the ambiguous backyard symbols can trigger a personal mnemonic experience.

ARTS IN OXFORD PRESENTS

YARD

Ryan McCauley

MAY 23 – JUNE 7

PINHOLE PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP



SAT
6 JUNE
9AM-4PM

\$55 + MATERIALS (\$25)

ESSENCE OF A LANDSCAPE

Micheline Robinson

JUNE 10 – July 1



GALA OPENING
3pm Saturday June 13

What's happening at Arts in Oxford...

May 23 – 7 June

Backyard Studies by Ryan McCauley. Also Pinhole Photography Workshop Saturday 6 June 9am-4pm with possible extra workshop on Sunday 7 June if numbers allow

June 10 – July 1

Essence of a Landscape by Micheline Robinson: Gala opening Saturday June 13th 3pm

Arts in Oxford 72 Main Street Oxford www.artsinoxford.com

New bus survey to assess need for extra services



Photo: Fi Maddison

While the daily commute into Christchurch by Red Bus continues to be a popular option for residents in the Oxford and surrounding areas, there is opportunity to improve on the current service with additional bus runs if the need is there.

Oxford parent Loreto Colvin says her son, Benjamin, still uses the service every morning to get to St Bedes College.

“We’re thrilled with the morning service, it’s good timing, but I still have to drive into Christchurch each day to pick him up as the 5.30 service is too late for school students.” Loreto would be keen to see a 4pm bus service to cater for the students and thinks it would be useful for others who don’t want to wait around for the later bus departure.

Working in the central city has its disadvantages when it comes to parking and as Oxford local Max Maddison has discovered the Oxford bus service makes the daily commute less stressful and drops him within minutes of his work place.

“I find it easier to take the bus but at the other end of the day it would be good to have an earlier option and a price incentive for making the return journey.”

Currently the weekday commuter service leaves Oxford at 6.50am, with stops in Cust, Swannanoa, Mandeville and Northlands Mall before arriving at Central Station. The return service leaves from outside Central Station on Tuam Street at 5.30pm.

Red Bus is interested to know if there are any changes they could make to improve the service. A survey is available for completion on their website www.redbus.co.nz/christchurch/Oxford-Service/ Patronage has increased around 30% since November 2014 when the service started. Demand for the service continues.

Red Bus Chief Executive Paul McNoe says the service is a safe, inexpensive and convenient way for Oxford people to travel to town with no parking hassles and a relaxing journey.

Oxford driver Peter Watts, who has been driving the service since it started, says he enjoys his part in providing the bus service.

‘We’ve got a great bunch of regular commuters, and we would like to see some more join them’.

Oxford Bus Service

Oxford – Cust – Swannanoa – Mandeville – Papanui – City

Weekday bus service departs Oxford 6.50am, returns from City 5.30pm. If you have any suggestions on how the service can be improved, complete our survey. Details on our website:

www.redbus.co.nz/christchurch/Oxford-Service



For more information call:
03 379 4260

New Cust Preschool opens its doors

Words: Erika Jury

The Cust Preschool will open its doors to the community on Wednesday 3rd June to Friday 5th June. This is an open invitation to those already enrolled, friends, grandparents, those considering a new preschool and the community to come and have a look around, let children play and see this very special new centre fully operational.

The purpose-built Preschool is the original idea of Cust locals Amy and Terry Blatch. With Amy’s qualifications and experience in primary education and Terry’s background as a builder, they are the perfect pair to bring something, unique and a little special to early learning.

Cust Preschool is taking a unique approach by adopting a purposeful play philosophy. This means that when your child is at Cust Preschool they will be excited to play, explore, learn, imagine, discover and wonder; your child’s potential is endless. Specifically tailored for 2-5 year olds, every little detail has been considered to make this an extension of home with uninhibited learning. This includes planned activities, but run at the children’s pace.

With an expansive outdoor area, including a massive sandpit and playground the building sets the perfect foundation for everything Amy wants to offer the children and families.

Amy says “this is a natural, unhurried environment that activates the children’s senses the moment they walk through the door”.

Everything is about the children and their day. The Preschool feels good, looks good, and everything is centred on the children, their arrival and the importance of their day.

“We look forward to meeting you on Wednesday 3rd - Friday 5th June from 9am -11am.”



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For more information, visit:
www.custpreschool.co.nz

Health & Beauty

Hair & Beauty Update

With Amy Roberts
Creative Director



End the frizz with my hair straightening tips

No shampoo or conditioner will give you straight hair. But hair care items labeled "smoothing" may be able to help prepare the strands for the process. Take a wide tooth comb to comb the conditioner through, then rinse your hair gently. Once you're out of the shower, don't towel dry like crazy! That will enhance the natural curl. Instead, pat downwards gently.

Are you blow-drying the wrong direction? This can make or break a good job of straightening and all the difference when you're trying to get a sleek finish. It's important to keep the nozzle facing downwards the entire time, otherwise the hair will frizz. Apply your product and blow it out smooth for the best result. It gives the hair more direction and shape.

No sizzling. If you see steam or you hear the sizzle, stop, and evaluate the situation. Your hair should be bone dry when you straighten. If you're certain that the hair is dry, it could be product build-up.

Thermal protectant is really important. It helps coat the hair and protect from humidity and reduces the frizz factor. If you have thicker or coarser hair, you could still use an argan oil.

Sectioning is really important. You shouldn't be randomly grabbing fistfuls of hair. The iron won't be able to get to pieces that are too thick, and you don't want to unnecessarily re-apply heat. Create sections so you can easily track your progress.

Split the hair in the middle at the back and then bring it forward. This will give you two sections to work with, but if your hair is thick, you may consider clipping it into four. Sectioning will save you time. Some of the reasons straightening takes so long is that you're working off random bits of hair. Tension is essential. Create your tension, then pull the iron downward starting from the root. Obviously, curly styles will find it necessary to pull, straighten, and repeat a few times, but pulling the hair taut while you straighten will help immensely.

Finishing. If you have the kind of hair that may frizz or curl up, finishing product is your best friend, reduces frizz, and adds shine.

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One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though
everything is a miracle.
Albert Einstein*

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Help for new parents

Words: Michelle Vernal Photo: supplied

It was a grateful mum who said "you need to get this out there," that first gave Rangiora-based author and Postnatal Educator, Philippa Murphy, the idea to write a book on how to nurture using nature for babies that are inconsolable.

The launch of Philippa's first book, *BabyCues - Nurture with Nature*, coincides with National Infant and Child Gastric Reflux Awareness Week, which runs from the 31 May to 6 June 2015. The book is a practical and personal parenting guide for the prevention and remedy of colic, reflux, lactose and dairy overload. Philippa, a mother of one, also provides in-house visits and worldwide skype consultations through her practice *BabyCues*.

After initially qualifying as a nanny 20 years ago in New Zealand, Philippa worked in America before heading to the United Kingdom, where she moved into the field of live-in maternity nursing. Word spread about her successful ways of enabling calm, and her clients included celebrities such as Kate Winslet. During her six years of research, Philippa nursed 32 sets of newborn twins who showed her that the clues newborns communicate are often being misread.



On returning to New Zealand in 2003, Philippa was compelled to study newborn biology for a year in order to marry this together with what the babies in the UK had taught her. This led to her coining the phrase 'Bio-logical Care' – nurturing that works alongside our early natural biology and cues.

"It is all about getting back to basics," Philippa says, "there's a gap in New Zealand when it comes to antenatal education and my long term goal is to run antenatal classes that focus on prevention of digestive issues for newborns."

Philippa's self-help parenting book can be purchased as a paper book or e-Book from her website: www.babycues.info or you can find the paperback at Wee Kiwi in Rangiora.

Keeping Healthy



With Oxford Community Health Centre

It's Flu Season again...

The flu season is once more upon us and already cases are being reported around the country including Canterbury. Typical symptoms include sore throat, dry cough, headache, fever, widespread aches, and pains.

All of these symptoms can be quite severe and, in fact in many cases, may be the worst illness a person has ever had to endure. Unfortunately, as with colds there is no cure and antibiotics do not help at all, in fact may be harmful.

The good news is that in the absence of complications your body will do a perfectly fine job of fighting the infection and you will recover. This may take a couple of weeks and you may have symptoms for up to a week.

For symptom relief, it is safe to take paracetamol and ibuprofen. Do not use aspirin based products for children. Some people also find decongestants useful for blocked nose and sinuses but steam inhalation and nasal rinses work as well. It is important to maintain an adequate fluid intake with water and other cool fluids.

Rest is important to allow your body to fight the virus

It is, of course essential to take time off work or school both to look after yourself but also to prevent spreading your infection to others. No one will thank you for being a hero!

When to see the doctor?

At the height of the flu season, the health centre would be swamped if expected to see all the victims of flu and colds. If your need is basically for a work certificate, this may be provided after just a telephone call. However, should you be concerned that you have a complication, especially the very young or elderly, a medical assessment is essential.

Complications should be suspected when symptoms change for the worst, usually after several days, with increased fever, worsening cough with offensive green brown or bloody phlegm with a nasal discharge or in rare cases increasing headache, increasing sensitivity to light and vomiting. These complications could represent pneumonia, sinusitis and meningitis. These are caused by bacteria, can be very serious if untreated and respond to antibiotics.

Oxford Community Health Centre

Primary Health for the Community / 24hr Medical Service
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Community Services

On The Beat with Constable Aaron Campbell



Constable Campbell has been doing some great work over the past couple of months and has arrested two burglars for recent thefts from rural properties, where farm bikes have been stolen.

These types of burglaries are notoriously difficult to solve as there are usually no witnesses. The items are stolen to order and are moved on very quickly so credit given where credit is due.

However, these types of people are like cockroaches whenever there is one there are normally plenty more so please be vigilant. Note suspicious people and vehicles, and keep your bikes locked away when not in use.

I have noticed several vehicles parked around town that are unlocked. Handbags and packages left in plain view, windows left down and, in some instances, keys in the ignition.

Police receive thousands of complaints a year from people who have had things stolen from their cars. Simple steps can be taken to avoid this by simply moving items out of view and locking your car, even if you are only going to be away from it for a short time. Remember "lock it or lose it".

With the nights drawing in earlier, and most rural properties having no street lighting,

Fire Report with Fire Chief Trevor Ealam



During April, the brigade was called nine times. One call was to assist the Hororata Fire Brigade with a shelter belt fire at Windwhistle, however we were stood down before our arrival. The other calls were to: three smoke investigations in different areas, which were controlled burns; two private alarm activations and each case they were false alarms: one to a car fire that had actually over-heated; one to a two-car motor vehicle accident, both vehicles were extensively damaged, the occupants walked away without injuries; and one to a chimney fire. This brings our total number of calls for the year to 40.

This months message is: Overloaded plugs can KILL

finding addresses in the middle of the night is becoming quite an issue.

There are many addresses with no street numbers or numbers not on letterboxes but in some obscure place that makes them difficult to see. We can not rely on the GPS, as in subdivided lifestyle blocks it will give us the old block number, if there are 10-15 new dwellings on the block this becomes problematic for emergency services.

Please make sure your address is easy to find by placing your street number in a location that is easily seen from the road and again on the fence outside your property if you're on a driveway with several dwellings on it. You may know where you live but if you or a loved one is in serious trouble and you call emergency services, you won't want us taking 5-10 minutes trying to find your address.

Council Update with Councillor Wendy Doody



A very busy time for your Councillors, apart from the usual meetings we are now into the Long Term Plan Submission period.

Having spent two long days listening to submitters both at Kaiapoi and Rangiora, this week on the 20th and 21st of May we will be spending full days looking at the submissions from ratepayers who did not wish to speak and deliberate on all submissions for the period. At present we have received and read 583 submissions and 205 pages of staff reports. This is a very important period for Councilors as they grapple with ratepayers wishes and what the ratepayers can afford as we budget for the 2015 - 2025.

We have had good submissions from our Oxford-Eyre Ward, which Kevin and I will endeavour to support your wishes, but unfortunately everything comes at a cost.

Oxford No1: Island Road generally complete, pressure test to be done in May.

Rockford Road Well: new well had been drilled to 93 metres as of 14/05. Due to the rocks/stones, well cannot be drilled any further using 300mm casing. Drilling will continue by telescoping it down to 250mm.

Oxford No 2: Woodside Road renew supply pipes for two properties – in progress. Woodside Road – generally complete, pressure test to be done next week.

Oxford Urban: Gammans Well - drawdown test has been completed, the yield from this well is 14 l/s. This is not enough for the backup source for Oxford Urban and Oxford No 2 schemes. A report will be presented to the Council and OEWARD requesting the second well to be drilled at Domain Road.

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

It was a pleasure to welcome new members to our May meeting.

After the general business and an introduction to the coming year's programme we were treated to a presentation by Wendy Gibbs from the Canterbury Bonsai Society. What an inspiration as she uncovered the mysteries of wiring and shaping these little gems. The Sheat Challenge Cup was presented to Barry Frost for his prize chrysanthemum, congratulations Barry.

Our next gathering will be our mid-winter dinner, with group and individual challenges competing for donated prizes on Saturday the 13th June.

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

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In the Coop

**With Jonathan Branton-Casey
aka Chickenman**

With winter rapidly approaching it's time to start thinking about how to keep your hens warm and toasty over winter.

For the coop/house make sure you have checked for any leaks so they stay dry and it's also really important to check for draughts. The icy winds can be more fatal for chickens than the wet.

For the nest boxes, we strongly recommend only using untreated sawdust. Straw/hay can harbour mites inside the tubes but most importantly it's not that comfortable for your hens to sit on. The bonus is that sawdust seems to keep the eggs clean.

As for the floor of the coop/house - over winter why not try the deep litter method.

This means you put down about 10cm of bedding - a nice layer of sawdust at the bottom (say at least 5cm) would be good and then cover with the same depth in straw/hay.

Some of our clients have advised they put feed sacks or newspaper under the sawdust. This can help with the clean out at the end of winter.

Over the course of the winter, these deep layers of bedding will absorb all the poop and will compact down over time. If needed you could just top it up with fresh straw - then at the end of winter when you "spring clean" the coop everything from the floor can go into your compost or vegetable garden. You see, chickens are more than just egg laying machines...

For more information on keeping backyard hens, visit www.chickenman.co.nz



Yummy Treats to Keep Your Hens Happy

* Pour boiling water over your vege/food scraps and let it set for 10 minutes before feeding it out. By simply heating the food it saves precious energy that can put into egg laying.

* Heat the wheat/pellets/mash before feeding out. Do this by pouring hot water over it, let it sit for a few minutes and then feed it out.

* Feed small amounts of dogroll to give them extra protein over winter (choose rolls made with beef not chicken meat).

* Cook up spaghetti and feed with vege scraps - the hens love this worm-like gourmet meal.

* Check daily to make sure your hens' water is not frozen, top up with warm water on frosty days.

Out of season treat to give your hens: Buy cheap frozen cobbettes at your local supermarket, allow to thaw in hot water before feeding out.

What to avoid feeding to hens: onions, rhubarb, avocado, raw beans, and green potato peels are toxic to chickens.



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Classifieds & Church Notices

Casual Classified Advertising

Casual classified ads can now be dropped into **Oxford Florist** 1-30 Words: **\$11.50**
(Rata Street entry) no later than 20th of each month prior. 31-40 Words: **\$17.25**
 Cash only. GST inclusive. 41-50 Words: **\$23.00**

FREE SEMINAR FOR NEW SETTLERS/MIGRANTS Citizens Advice Bureau North Canterbury is running a FREE SEMINAR covering "GENERAL HEALTHCARE AND YOUR RIGHTS" to be held on Wednesday 10 June – MainPower Oval, Corner East Belt/ Coldstream Road, Rangiora, from 6 – 8pm. Light refreshments provided. To register please phone 310-6205 or email cb.northcanterbury@xtra.co.nz

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Church Notices



Poyntz Road, Horrellville
 A Country Christian Fellowship

Services for June

6th June - 7pm Service
 (Shared meal starts at 6pm)

13th June - 10am Service

20th June - No service at present

27th June - 10am Service

(Sunday School at morning services)
 Prayer Group every Wednesday at 7.30pm
www.horrellvillechurch.nz
www.facebook.com/horrellville



Oxford Baptist Church

Sunday Service & Childrens Church at 10am. 166 High Street.

Providing Children & Family Services to the Community throughout the week.

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ICONZ ADVENTURE FOR BOYS AND GIRLS
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 Years 7 to 9 Boys Wednesday Night 6.30 to 8pm

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 Years 7 to 8 Friday 6.15pm

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 10.30am for morning tea & chat.
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Sunday Mass - 8.30am

Enquiries: Waimakariri Parish ph. 313 6285

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Union (Methodist & Presbyterian) Parish
 Services for May, 2015

7th June - Combined Service
 10am at Oxford Union Church, Main St.

14th June - Combined Communion Service
 10am at Oxford Union Church.

21st June - Combined Service and Cartoon Sunday School
 10am at St David's Church and the Church Hall, Cust.

28th June - Combined Service
 10am at Oxford Union Church.

MINISTER: REV. PHILOMENA KINERA
 PHONE 313 1912 (HOME) OR 021 521118 (MOB)

Oxford - Cust Anglican Parish

Services for June

7th June * 9am St Andrew's Oxford

14th June * 9am St Andrew's Oxford
 * 10.30am St James' Cust

21st June * 9am St Andrew's Oxford

28th June * 9am St Andrew's Oxford
 * 10.30am St James' Cust

Wardens: **Lois 312 4715 * Judy 312 5136**
 Priest in Charge: **Rev Christine Allan-Johns**
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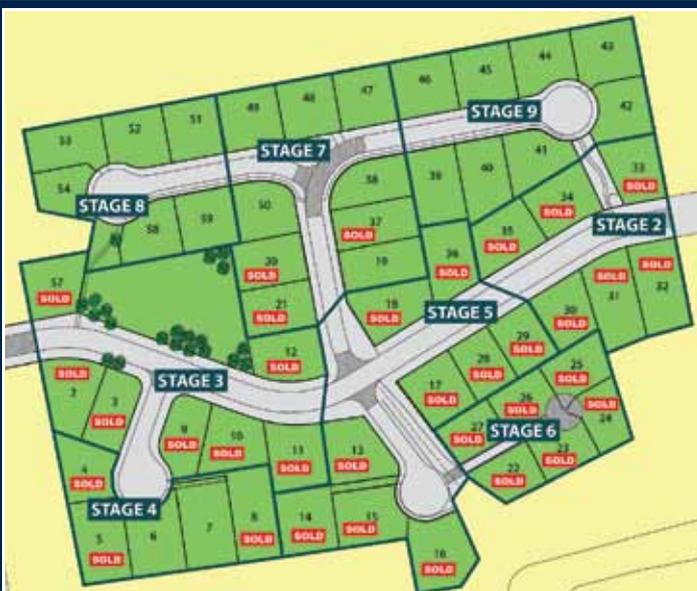


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