



window on **wakefield**

Your Local News

Community News for the Wakefield Area

Good People Doing Good Things in our Community!

by Charlotte Thynne

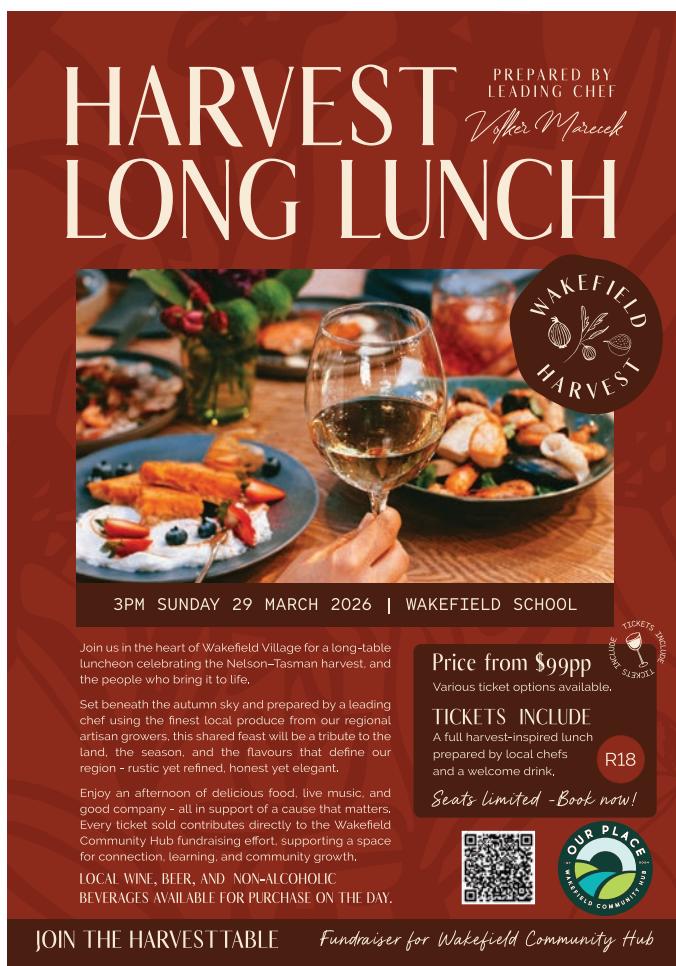
The answer to many of the world's problems is surely connection. People from all walks of life coming together in communal spaces to laugh, play, discuss and debate and of course share food. The Wakefield Community Hub project is aiming to build a space where all of these things can happen; a welcoming, functional, community building that can bring the community together.

Fundraising for the community contribution to the project is well underway. The Haunted Hall fundraiser led by the famous Wakefield Country Players was a great success raising just shy of \$7000, and next year we'll have plenty more fundraising events, activities and opportunities for the community to contribute and get involved.

One very exciting event already in the calendar is the Harvest Long Lunch, which will take place on Sunday 29th March 2026 at 3pm on the Wakefield School field. This fundraiser is a sumptuous three course lunch to be served sharing-platter style on long communal tables, and a really exciting opportunity for Wakefield to showcase our Community Hub project, and our village, to the wider Nelson Tasman community.

The lunch will be prepared by international chef Volker Merecek who, in short, has cooked for both the King of England and Mick Jagger. Since moving to Wakefield, Volker has been volunteering his culinary expertise at Willowbank and now, along with his wife Judith and established local couple Elspeth and Don Everitt, is throwing himself into raising as much money as possible for the Wakefield Hub project with the Harvest Long Lunch. Volker says "I've always believed that food has the power to connect people, and volunteering in Wakefield has reinforced that belief. The village has a strong sense of community, and being involved here has been a reminder of how powerful local connections can be. The Harvest Long Lunch is about celebrating local expertise and produce, and showcasing what's possible when a community comes together to support something bigger - strengthening the heart of the village."

So let's throw ourselves behind this event, Wakefield, there are so many ways to help!

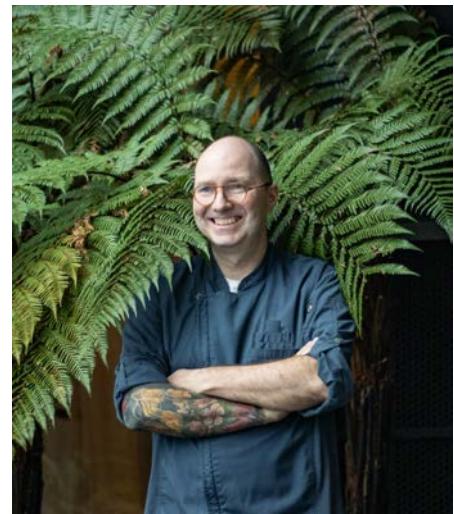


* Help us to set up and prepare, as well as deliver the Long Lunch. This is a great opportunity to get experience working in hospitality and events right on our doorstep, supporting the Wakefield Community Hub at the same time.

* Help us to spread the word. Tickets are on sale and start from \$99 which includes the 3-course lunch, a welcome drink and live entertainment. Tell your friends, family and colleagues about the event and direct them to the Harvest Long Lunch poster below (there's a handy QR code that you can point your phone at to go straight to the ticket purchase page) or the Events page of the Wakefield Community Hub website www.waimeasouth.org/events/

* Help us get business support for the event - we have sponsorship packages available. We also plan to have an auction and/or raffles on the day and we'd love to have some amazing prizes to offer. This is a great opportunity for businesses to get their name in front of a large audience from across the region.

To join the volunteer team for this event, or to find out more about helping to raise funds for Our Place, the Wakefield Community Hub, contact our Community Facilitator Ruth Collingham on info@waimeasouth.org.nz or ruth@activedir.org or visit our website www.waimeasouth.org.nz.



WINDOW ON WAKEFIELD

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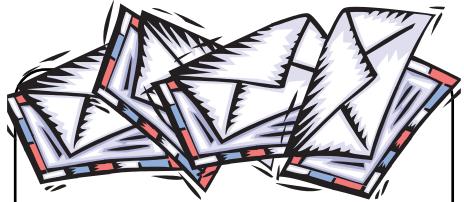
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Willow Bank Heritage Village

by Medea Grieder-George

The Christmas season is in full swing at Willow Bank Heritage Village, and the Village is looking beautifully festive! On Sunday, 30th November, we held our final Open Day for 2025, welcoming visitors despite a touch of rain. Earlier in the week, we were fortunate to host the Waimea South Historical Society for their Christmas get-together. Their guest speaker, Carol Dawber, was both interesting and informative.

We were also excited to witness the first Monarch caterpillar transform into a butterfly on 19th November. Since then, several more have emerged (11 were released on the 23rd of November), and we look forward to sharing this journey with visitors over the coming months — a lovely sign of the season and a highlight for staff and guests alike.

On 15th November, we enjoyed a fantastic printing workshop in our Printing Shop, The Colonist, led by Renee from the Armarie Room (<https://www.thearmarieroom.com>) — Aotearoa's Multi-Award Winning Letterpress Studio. Renee gave an introduction to setting up type on our stunning 1875 Albion Press. There were plenty of laughs and learning that day! We have plenty of plans for the press, but number one on our list is our High Tea menu!

Looking ahead to 2026, the next Open Day will be on 25th January, with a High Tea also planned for 20th January. Bookings are essential.



With Christmas just around the corner, we wish you all a safe and wonderful festive season. Keep up to date with all our upcoming Open Days and events at www.willowbankwakefield.co.nz— and don't forget, our online shop is open too!





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Town and Country Vet

by Brenda Halliwell, Vet

Did you know veterinary rehabilitation is another fantastic treatment option now available for pets in our new vet clinic in Richmond?

Also referred to as animal physio, veterinary rehabilitation can help your pet in many ways:

- rehab exercises after surgery especially ligament and fracture repairs
- return to function after soft tissue and nerve injuries
- prevention of injury in working/athletic dogs
- prevention of injury in dogs that are predisposed due to their breed
- improved function in dogs with congenital disorders such as hip or elbow dysplasia
- keeping older pets mobile for longer by relieving arthritis and back pain
- weight loss and weight maintenance



How does it work?

Just like human physios, a combination of:

- hands-on exam
- massage
- stretching exercises
- strengthening exercises
- acupuncture
- Aquatread hydrotherapy (see below)

all help to reduce inflammation and tension, strengthen areas of weakness and reprogramme the body to use limbs correctly.

The aim is to help your pet move better, recover faster and stay comfortable throughout their life. (We all know how much pain, loss of muscle and loss of strength and movement reduce our quality of life and it's the same for animals – they just can't talk about it!)

Ruby Sibley runs Therapaw Veterinary Rehabilitation out of our Richmond clinic in Brock Way.

She can be contacted through the clinic on 03 5441200 or checkout her website www.therapaw.co.nz. Ruby mainly helps dogs but is happy to help cats too.

We are also lucky enough to have Kristie Hughes, Canine Physio NZ, based in The Brook. Her website is www.caninephysiotherapy.co.nz

What is Aquatread hydrotherapy?

Vets and dog-lovers (and humans!) have been using hydrotherapy as a form of exercise and rehab for a long time. Aquatread is hydrotherapy in the form of an underwater treadmill. It provides a more controlled environment for exercise and rehab – safer and more comfortable for old, injured or struggling legs than crossing river stones to get to a cold river or sand and waves at the beach.

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Higgins Heritage Park Happenings

by David Win

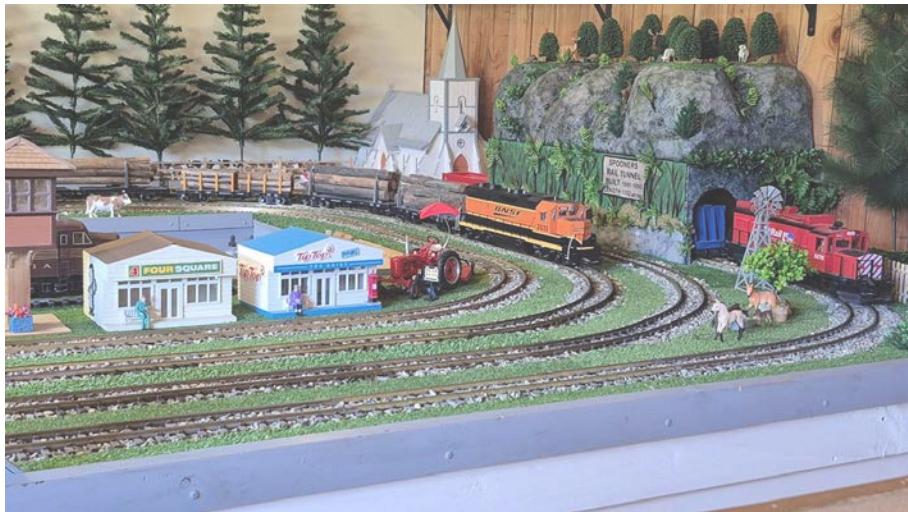
Season's Greetings, and wishing all our readers a healthy, safe and Happy New Year.

Looking ahead, 2026 appears to be shaping up to be a year of positive possibilities.

As you see below, we already have events happening in February & March with planning underway for others during the year.

During the past couple of months, our team have also been working away at building up a stock of firewood in preparation for the winter months. Early orders are recommended – phone/txt Rex 0274 434105.

One of our activities that is a crowd pleaser with all ages is Trev's trains.



You will note that the "Spooners tunnel" has had more foliage planted to contain rockfalls!

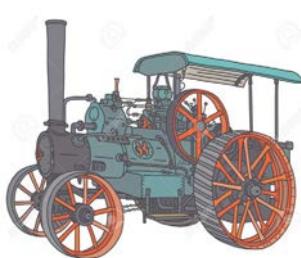
Upcoming park activities include:

- * Sunday 4 January – Craft Fair & Steam Up
- * Saturday & Sunday 21 & 22 February the Rover Car Club Nelson are hosting the National Rover Car Rally at the Park
- * Saturday & Sunday 7 & 8 March the Scent Dog National Trials will be held at the Park
- * Wednesday 18 March the Vero Festival of Historic Motoring with approx. 560 cars will be on display at the Park
- * Saturday & Sunday 28 & 29 March the Nelson Vintage Engine & Machinery Club event featuring Fordson Tractors will be held at the Park.
- * Schools' visits discovering machinery & equipment used by our grandparents are being planned

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Wakefield Bowling Club

Wakefield Bowling Club is feeling very proud!

The Wakefield Bowling club team of Steve Myers, Mel Mounsey, Alan Robertson and Nick Riordan won the Rangi Westrapp Trophy at the Nelson Pine Industries Bowls Nelson Greenkeepers tournament on Monday 1st December which was played at Stoke Bowling Club.



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To register or find out more contact

Jackie

03 544 7624

Text: 021 195 8108

community@ageconcernnt.org.nz

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[f/AgeConcernNelsonTasman](https://www.facebook.com/AgeConcernNelsonTasman)

2026



eBus Information Drop-in Sessions

- Tues 20 Jan: 10am - 11:30am **Age Concern Richmond**, 62 Oxford Street
- Thurs 22 Jan: 10am - 11:30am **Cancer Society Nelson**, 102 Hardy Street
- Wed 4 Feb: 10am - 11:30am **Age Concern Nelson**, 18 Bridge Street
- Tues 17 Feb: 10:30am - 12pm **Victory Community Centre**, 2 Totara Street



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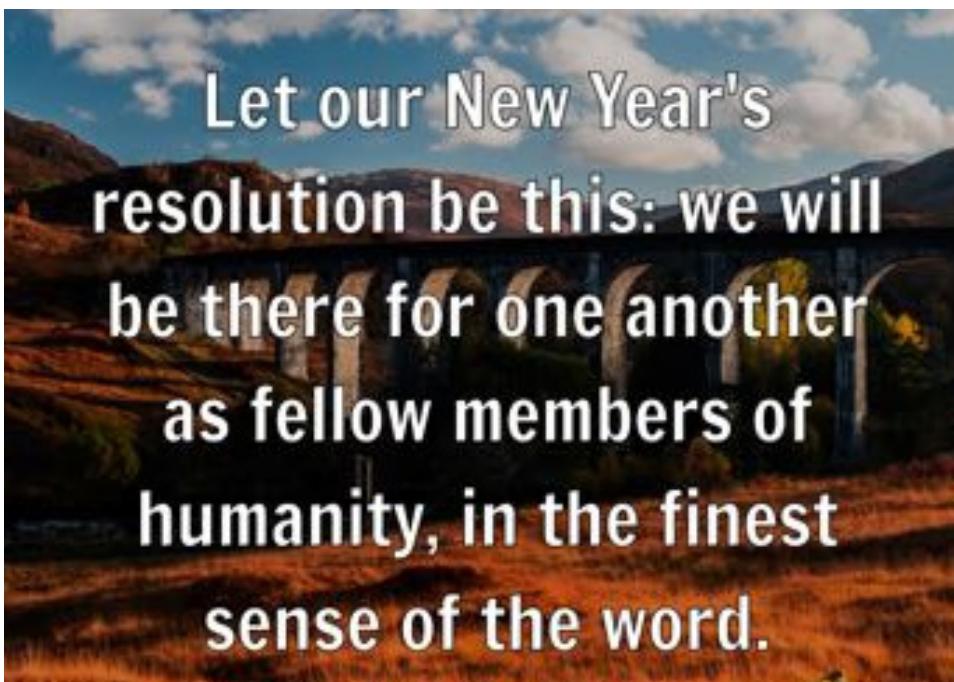
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Date	Join an eBus outing	Join anywhere along the route
Thursday 29 January	Founders Heritage Park Take the eBus from Richmond via Nelson and explore the park & enjoy its history. Wander through the many historic buildings and stop for cuppa at the Founders Café. Return to Nelson or Richmond .	9:28 am depart Richmond Interchange 10:26 am depart Nelson Bus Hub at Millers Acre 10.32 am arrive at Founders Park
Friday 27 February	The Brook Waimārama Sanctuary Get the eBus from Nelson to the Brook Valley then take the YMCA van to the sanctuary. \$12 entry with SuperGold & Community Services Card. Bring a picnic lunch, enjoy the sounds of birdlife & scenery in this beautiful environment. Return to Nelson .	11:14 am depart Nelson Bus Hub at Millers Acre 11.29 am arrive at Brook Valley Holiday Reserve then a short van ride to the sanctuary.
Wednesday 11 March	Nelson Farmers' Market Catch the eBus from Richmond via Stoke to Nelson; visit the Wednesday Farmers' Market, library, op shops, and enjoy a cuppa at Age Concern Nelson office. Return to Stoke or Richmond .	9:14 am depart Richmond Interchange 9:23 am depart Stoke Interchange 9.53 am arrive at Nelson Bus Hub at Millers Acre



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Waimea South Historical Society

Christmas Lunch and Meeting 25 Nov 2025 at Willow Bank

by Yo Tye

On a beautiful morning in the last week of Spring for 2025 twenty six of us gathered at Wakefield's Willow Bank Historic Village to listen to our guest speaker Carol Dawber, a Picton based, journalist and publisher, and to partake in a delicious buffet lunch prepared and presented by Christine Grieder and her daughter Medea Grieder-George to celebrate our last meeting for the year.

Carol Dawber and her husband Peter, were living in Collingwood when a position became available for a Golden Bay Reporter for the Nelson Mail. Carol secured the job, and suddenly her lifetime passion for reading and writing became her career.

Carol described her apprenticeship for the 'art form' of writing, as thousands of hours spent on projects, attending courses, affiliating with mentors and much more.

Her foray into editing books began by helping celebrated New Zealand author Christine Cole Cately with the editing and publishing of one of her books and it developed from there. They published 12 books together.

In 1990 Carol moved to Picton and in so doing relinquished her job with the Nelson Mail. She then joined the staff of the Picton newspaper. At this point she began writing books and after completing three books she was approached to write a book titled 'Bainham a History' and has since written more than 20 books.

Most of her books are of a historical nature accompanied by many photographs. Here are some of her book titles – 'Going to Town: High Street Motueka', 'Awaroa Legacy', 'Diary from the Lookout: The Cook Strait Whale Survey', 'The Journey of Girl Guiding in New Zealand', 'The Taylors Way: The Story of a Contracting Company'.

Carol took us step by step through the process of creating one of her books, describing each as having a frame which requires edges. Her job as a historical author is to seek out people and their stories and to then use her skills as a writer to put 'their' words into print, whilst at the same time making certain of the accuracy of names and dates for the photographs.

Carol is now in the throes of writing her last book. Her presentation was captivating and inspiring and we all felt rewarded for having been part of her audience.

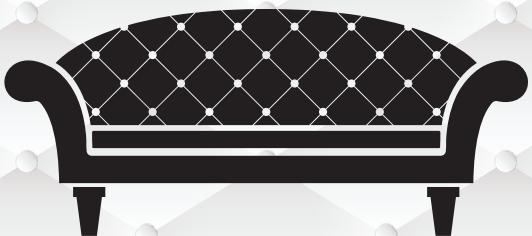
Carol brought with her a selection of her books for sale and many took advantage of this opportunity before sitting down to enjoy our Christmas fare.

Christine and Medea were dressed in period costume and did a wonderful job as hosts for this special occasion. We thoroughly recommend this wonderful facility which is set in a unique and special environment.

Our program planning for 2026 is now well under way and the first meeting will be on 26 Feb when the guest speaker will be Darryl Gallagher, the Chief Curator of the Nelson Museum photographic collection. You are all welcome to join us.



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Wakefield Health Centre

Skin Cancer

by Dr Mark Fry

Summer is coming and while I don't want to spoil the fun I would like to remind people about skin cancer. It is the most common cancer in New Zealand and unfortunately we have amongst the highest rates in the world. It is largely preventable- over 90% of all skin cancer cases are attributed to excess sun exposure. It is important to detect skin cancer early, especially melanoma. Early detection gives the best chances of successfully treating skin cancer.

Types of skin cancer:

Melanoma - the most serious form of skin cancer, causing over two thirds of skin cancer deaths.

Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) - easily treated if found early but can be fatal if left untreated.

Basal cell carcinoma (BCC) - the most common and generally the least dangerous skin cancer. BCC can be serious and require surgery if left untreated.

Causes of skin cancer:

The most common cause of skin cancer is too much exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun. People of all ages and skin colours can be diagnosed with skin cancer but those at a higher risk are people who have:

- Fair skin or red or fair hair
- Fair skin that burns easily no matter what hair colour
- Had one or more severe sunburns- especially in childhood or adolescence
- Used sunbeds, particularly at a young age
- A family history of melanoma (parent, brother, sister or child)
- Large irregularly shaped or uneven moles
- A large number of moles

Prevention of skin cancer:

If people protect their skin and avoid sunburn throughout their lives the risk of skin cancer is reduced. It is important to be SunSmart in the months between September and April, especially between the hours of 10am-4pm when the UV radiation levels are very high. In winter it is also important to be SunSmart at high altitudes and around snow and water.

Steps to being SunSmart:

Slip - into the shade where possible.

Slip - on some protective clothing, ie shirt with collar and long sleeves and trousers or long-legged shorts.

Slop - on sunscreen that has an SPF of at least 30 and apply 20 minutes prior to sun exposure.

Slap - on a hat that protects your face, head, neck and ears.

Wrap - on some close fitting sunglasses.

Symptoms and diagnosis of skin cancer:

Finding skin cancer as early as possible is the key to successful treatment. You should speak to your health professional if you have a mole, freckle or spot that:

- Is new or changing.
- Does not heal.
- Looks different from others around it.
- Has changed in size, thickness, shape, colour or has started to bleed.

We also encourage regular "skin checks" as an effective way of detecting lesions early and improving outcomes. We ask that these are booked as a dedicated appointment to allow enough time to do this properly.

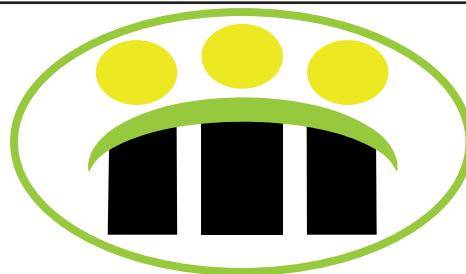
Treatment of skin cancer:

This depends on the lesion, location and patient factors. It can include application of special creams, cryotherapy (freezing), shave excisions (without sutures) and full excisions (with sutures).

Both Wayne and Mark have done extra training in skin cancer medicine and are now accredited doctors of the Skin Cancer College of Australasia.

We are well equipped and can treat most skin cancers at the Wakefield practice. We discuss treatment options and costs with all patients and refer both publically and privately when necessary.

Enjoy summer but be SunSmart and if you are worried about a spot then come and have it checked out.



Wakefield Health Centre

Surgery hours:

Monday to Friday 8.30am – 5:30pm

Wednesday 8.30am – 7pm

Phone 541 8911
12 Edward St Wakefield



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Visiting Wakefield Health Centre fortnightly
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edthynnehearing.co.nz

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hearing

Community Classifieds



Spring Grove Church of Christ
Main Rd Spring Grove
Worship and Communion Sundays 10am
You are welcome to attend.

"May the hand of God uphold you"
Psalm Ch 18 v 35 NKJ

"You have given me the shield of your salvation,
your right hand has held me up."WW



Wakefield Art Group Est 2012

Sessions: Thursday Mornings 9:30-12:00 @ Wakefield Hall

The 2025 year will end 11th Dec having completed 47 session and will recommence 15 Jan 2026

The participation at sessions has grown in 2025 with 47% of participants travelling to Wakefield to create art and support our local business community.

We wish to thank Michael & his staff @ the Villa Café for displaying our Art Works, this is much appreciated by the members.

We will be displaying artworks for sale @ Oakwoods Retirement Village, Richmond from 1st November to 31st January.

You are most welcome to join our weekly sessions or simply pop in to see 'Art in Action'



Wakefield Community Toy Library

WAKEFIELD TOY LIBRARY

We want to remind everyone that we are always interested to hear about what toys you think we should add to our collection.

You can share your ideas by emailing us on wakefieldtoylibrary@gmail.com
or pop in and see us during our opening hours,
Saturday 10:00am-11:00am and Mondays 3:15pm-4:30pm

The Wakefield Community Toy Library
is for everyone!



Wakefield Craft Group



**Come and join the ladies Craft Group
held on Wednesday mornings
in the Fire Brigade Supper Room
Pigeon Valley Road
9.00am - 12pm**

**Bring any project - sewing, knitting, crochet.
Learn to knit or crochet or just come for a look
and join us for tea, coffee and company.
Small donation**

For more information phone Judy on 5418342

MEALS ON WHEELS - VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Meals on Wheels are delivered from the Wakefield Homestead rest home to people in the Belgrove to Brightwater area

Monday to Friday
(excluding Public Holidays)
by a team of volunteers.

This service enables elderly and unwell people to remain in their own homes longer.

We currently have a vacancy for a volunteer delivery driver on alternate Mondays starting on December 15th.

Each delivery duty takes 1.5 to 2 hours.

We also need a pool of relief delivery drivers to do occasional fill in on a casual basis.

If you are interested in helping your community in this way, please phone or text Ian Nicholas (roster organiser) on 027 766 6937 or email on iannicholas.hr@gmail.com.

Have an idea for an article or something you have written that you would like **to submit?**

Email us at
[windowonwakefield@gmail.com](mailto>windowonwakefield@gmail.com)

Community Directory

Rutherford Memorial Hall
658 Wakefield-Kohatu Highway, Foxhill
Sue White 027 474 6324
www.lordrutherfordhall.org.nz

Higgins Heritage Park
info@higginheritagepark.co.nz

Higgins Park Community Fair
info@higginheritagepark.co.nz

Post Memory NZ
Sarah Arnold 072 341 7820
postmemorynz@gmail.com

Spring Grove Drill Hall
C Stratford 021 0268 5176

Totaradale Golf Club
Catherine or Ali 541 8030
totaradalegc@gmail.com

Wakefield Anglican Church
St Johns on the hill
Traditional Service: 9.00am
1st Sunday of each month

The Worship Centre
Service: 10.30am every Sunday
Food & Faith: 5.00pm every 2nd & 4th Sunday
Ph 541 8883 wakefieldanglican@xtra.co.nz

St Johns Worship Centre
Bookings Nigel Massey 027 243 1207

Wakefield Football Club
wakefieldfootballclub@gmail.com
www.wakefieldfc.nz

Wakefield Health Centre
541 8911

Wakefield Pharmacy
541 8418

Wakefield Playcentre
541 7097
Mon & Wed 9:30am - 12noon
Tue, Thurs & Fri 9am - 1pm
wakefield@playcentre.org.nz

Wakefield Volunteer Fire Brigade
CFO Wattie Mortimer 022 492 8841
DCFO Alana Shields 027 309 2953

Willowbank Heritage Village
willowbank2002@gmail.com

Country Players (Drama)
Jen Amosa 541 8139
enquiries@countryplayers.org.nz
www.countryplayers.wordpress.com

Nelson Vintage Engine & Machinery Club
Allan 027 319 7427

Pinegrove Kindergarten
03 542 3447

Rural Women
Diane Higgins 03 542 4388

St Joseph's Catholic Church
Mass - 5pm 2nd Saturday of each month
027 337 4622
office.admin@parish.org.nz

Waimea Sheepdog Trial Club
Sally Powell 021 773 461
Email: sally@tcvet.co.nz

Waimea Area Quilters
Kay Norgate 021 0811 4860
Marilyn Gibbs 03 541 8435
marilyncolingibbs@gmail.com

Wakefield Book Group
Mahala White - 541 8933 or
Chrissy Harris - 541 9596

Wakefield Bush Restoration Soc Inc
Evie South 541 8980 or 027 907 2879

Plunket Nelson Area Office
For appointments etc 539 5200

Wakefield School/ Community Swimming Pool
C/- Wakefield School

Target Shooting Wakefield
targetshootingwakefield@gmail.com
Holly Gibbons 022 406 1674

Wanderers Sports Club
027 714 6160
jimmy@wandererssports.co.nz

Wakefield Toy Library
Saturday 9.30-11.30am
wakefieldtoylibrary@gmail.com

Wakefield Art Group
Thursdays 9.30am - 12pm
Alison 541 8822

Wakefield Website
www.wakefield.org.nz

AED DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS - AVAILABLE 24/7

Wakefield Four Square, Wakefield Bowling Club, Wakefield Football Club, Highfield Farm, Kohatu Flat Rock Cafe, Old Tadmor Store, Dovedale Hall, 29 Moonlight Road Glenhope, Corner of Totara View Road and Kilkenny Place, Corner of Martin Ave and Lord Auckland Road, Southfuels Spring Grove, Belgrave Cafe and Bar [what was], Lake Rotoiti Fire Station, Golden Downs Golf Club, Totaradale Golf Club.

CIVIL DEFENCE - WAKEFIELD AREA COMMUNITY RESPONSE

In the event of an emergency, your first task is to ensure the safety of your own home, family and neighbours. Once you have attended to this, if you have **specialised skills/ equipment**, and/or feel you can assist others; or require assistance yourself, please make your way to the Welfare Centre which will be at the St Johns Worship Centre in Edward Street [unless notified otherwise].

Please note that the existence of a Welfare Centre does not absolve each individual from their **responsibility to be personally prepared**. You should ensure that you have your own **survival kit** in place, and that you are able to be **fully self sufficient for at least three days**.

In the event of an emergency, for urgent public messages, tune in to:
More FM 94.1, Classic Hits 89.8, Fresh FM 95.4



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Owner and
Sales Consultant
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