



Jenelle Lockyer and John Whiting with their New Zealand Bowls championship trophy. PHOTO: Supplied

New Zealand mixed pairs champions: John and Jenelle bowl their way to the top

Geraldine local John Whiting says, "If anyone had told us at the start of the day, we would go undefeated, win all seven games and come

home as the New Zealand Indoor Bowls Mixed Pairs Champions, I wouldn't have believed them." But that is precisely what John and Timaru bowling partner Jenelle Lockyer did in Upper Hutt last weekend.

"We had so many dramas before we even got to the event. The thick fog at Timaru Airport delayed our 6.45am flight for three-and-a-half hours, eventually leaving the tarmac at 10.15am."

"Our nerves were pretty high as we thought we would have to default the first game, but the organisers agreed to delay the start, and we got there with around three minutes to spare. We had time for a quick drink, a sausage roll, and we went straight into our first game."

Jenelle says, "We were extremely grateful to another couple of teams that purposely waited at the airport for us to make sure the organisers would delay the start, which shows the true sportsmanship between the teams. We certainly had a rollercoaster of emotions from all the delays and then the rush to the centre to begin our first game."

To represent South Canterbury at the nationals, John and Jenelle first won the South Canterbury mixed pairs and then the zone final, which featured Canterbury, Ashburton,

North Otago, and South Canterbury.

John says, "Just to get to the nationals was amazing, and something both Jenelle and I have really been looking forward to. We have both had a really good season."

The New Zealand Indoor Bowls championship consists of a round-robin competition. John and Jenelle's opponents included many New Zealand representatives, including the defending national champions. The pair's second game, against mother-and-son pair Carol Wright (Auckland) and Paul Wright (New Zealand representative), was won by John on the very last bowl.

John says, "We opened a few eyes in game four when we beat defending champions Ashley Diamond and Sheree Holmes from Upper Hutt. Everyone started wondering who this team from South Canterbury were. There was an elderly couple that followed us to every game after we won that one, and they ended up our biggest fans there on the day."

Jenelle says, "After winning game six, because we had gone undefeated with only one game to go, we had already won the title; no one could beat us on points even if we lost the last game. However, John and I agreed we wanted

to go out there, do our absolute best and win that last game regardless. We wanted to finish the day on a high."

The defending champions eventually finished in second place, with the Wrights placing third.

Both John and Jenelle are still pinching themselves. "It is still hard to believe that we won, that we are the New Zealand champions," says Jenelle. "It really hasn't sunk in yet. It was a great team effort. We both have similar games and similar shots. John encourages me to play shots I don't think I can, but he knows I can. I really enjoy playing with him."

It was a good thing the competition was smooth sailing for the pair, as the journey home was again hampered by fog.

John says, "We had our landing gear down for arrival in Timaru on Sunday night, only for the plane to climb back up again. We flew back to Christchurch and then endured a two-and-a-half-hour bus trip back to Timaru Airport. I then had to collect my car and drive home to Geraldine, finally getting home at 1.15am on Monday. It certainly will be a weekend to remember, in more ways than one."

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Like many of you, we sat up really late on Monday to experience the funeral of our Sovereign. Our cats kept us good company, as did Fi's royal teddy bears.

Once again, we've got to say we live in a top town. Well done to front cover stars Geraldine's John Whiting and bowling partner Jenelle Lockyer for bringing home the hardware for South Canterbury.

Top marks also went to Waihi Lodge in an award presented last week (see page 3). I think we will all feel proud of Waihi Lodge's achievement. As a community-owned facility, it is well supported by volunteers. It is great to know that it is recognised.

We're pleased as punch that our reporter Jan Finlayson has been given recognition for her work in championing access to the natural environment. She is past president of the Federation of Mountain Clubs and has worked for years promoting access to the network of paper roads that the public has a right to use.

Hugh enjoyed dressing up last Thursday to join the guests at the high tea for Her Majesty. It was a fun way to remember a remarkable woman. May she rest in peace and rise to glory.

If summer is coming, that means the Farmers' Market is back. See you Saturday when we do some shopping and then chill out to some great music. Gnews' spies tell us Alan Minear will be playing, so expect sounds from the golden age.

We hope the sunshine keeps up now that it's back again. But whatever the weather, Constable Dave tells us to take care out there. He doesn't want to be dragging you or us out of a ditch. Oh, and a safety tip from the fire service too - when you put your clocks forward for summer this Saturday night, don't forget to change your fire alarm batteries too. **HUGH & FI**

The man on top of the mountain didn't just fall there.

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Ric Cullinane, Chief Executive of Herenga ā Nuku, presents Jan Finlayson with the Outdoor Access Champion award. PHOTO: Hugh McCafferty

Jan Finlayson awarded for her "tenacious advocacy of public access"

Last Friday, a group of outdoor enthusiasts gathered at The Green Man Café in Peel Forest to honour Jan Finlayson.

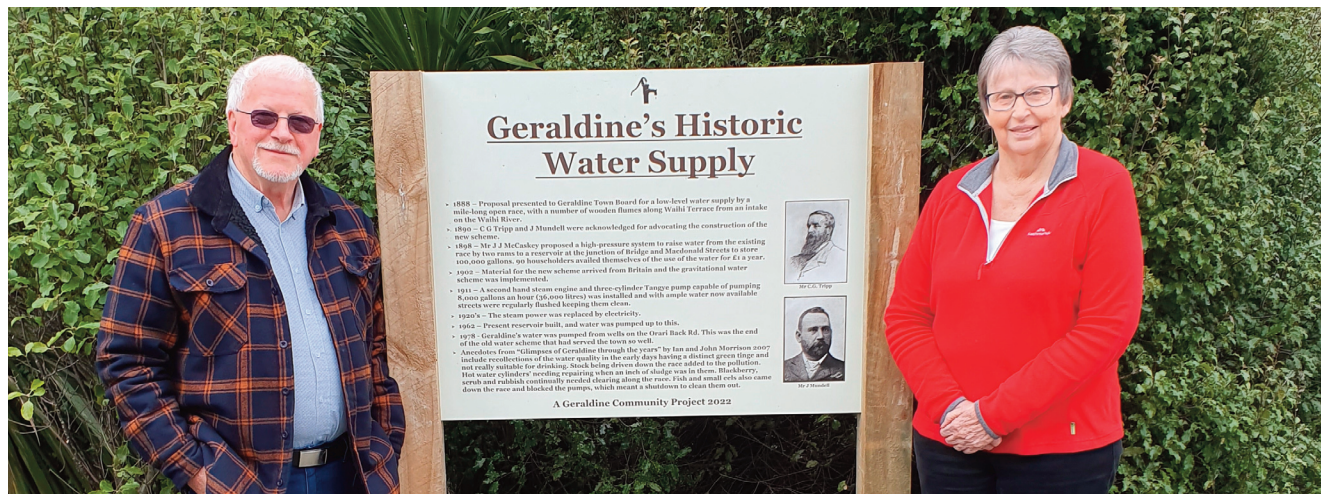
Ric Cullinane, Chief Executive of Herenga ā Nuku, the Outdoor Access Commission (formerly the Walking Access Commission), presented the award before about 25 invited guests, who then shared

a lunch. Jan was proposed as Outdoor Access Champion by Lauren Kelley and Neil Silverwoods, who travelled from Blackball on the West Coast for the occasion.

It was noted that such awards are often made for a specific project, such as a trail. Jan's award was given for her "tenacious advocacy of public access." In accepting

the award, Jan spoke of the importance of the hills for society's well-being. "It doesn't matter what car you leave in the carpark; on the hills, all are equal and meet nature on her own terms."

HUGH MCCAFFERTY



Retired joiner Gavin Prentice (left) oversaw the restoration work, and Bev Gregan researched the flume. PHOTO: Supplied

Historic water flumes restored

The last surviving section of Geraldine's historic water supply, which served the town between 1902 and 1978, has been restored, thanks to financial support from individuals and groups, including the Geraldine Community Board and the practical skills of local enthusiasts.

First conceptualised in 1888, a sequence of flumes was integral to the supply, which drew water from the Waihi River. Its capacity and water quality measures were beefed


up incrementally until the present Ōrari Back Road well system superseded it.

The old supply was sound, says flume restoration spokesperson John Sullivan. He says, "As we progressed with the work, we realised what a great old system the old water supply was." He and his co-restorers did the work off-site. "We took it to Four Peaks [Transport]. We did the restoration there." They used totara, the original material, and have returned

the four-metre flume section to its original site.

Complementing the physical work is an interpretive panel. Geraldine Historical Society committee member Bev Gregan assembled its content. She says, "John was looking for information. I work at the museum, so I did the research."

The restored flume is accessed from Waitui Drive. **JAN FINLAYSON**



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Seniorcare board members and Waihi Lodge staff celebrate the award. PHOTO: Hugh McCafferty

Waihi Lodge: South Island's best small aged care facility

Waihi Lodge manager Mike van der Heyden says that on Monday of last week, he received a call from the organisation Aged Advisor to say that Waihi Lodge has received an award as Best Aged Care Small Facility 2022. He was advised that Aged Advisor representative Nigel Matthews would attend on Friday morning to present it. Staff and members of the board duly gathered for a celebratory morning tea.

Nigel says he founded Aged Advisor with two other people after experiencing the aged care sector with their own families. He says, "There were good experiences and some not so good. We wanted to find a way of encouraging best practice in aged care." The organisation, launched in 2015, makes awards to the best large and small

facilities on both islands.

Nigel explains that the award is made based on positive client reviews. "We do check to make sure that the reviews are genuine." According to the company website, prior to the founding of Aged Advisor, there was no basis to compare different facilities in the market. "With the growth rate of people 65+ expected to double over the next 15 years, more New Zealanders will be looking for retirement or rest-care options. Our current aged care facilities are already operating at high occupancy levels, and rest-care providers are building new facilities to cater to the increasing market - and yet no site existed to review and compare these facilities in this rapidly

growing demographic within New Zealand."

In accepting the award, Mike acknowledged the staff's dedication, the board's unpaid work and the many volunteers whose combined efforts make life at Waihi Lodge such a positive experience. Chairman Stuart Blake commended the team for the achievement on behalf of the board.

Mike says there are still people in the Geraldine area who don't know about the facility, which is an arm of Seniorcare Geraldine. Waihi Lodge is a community-owned home supported by the voluntary efforts of the wider Geraldine community.

HUGH MCCAFFERTY

gnews IN BRIEF

High tea at the library celebrates the Queen

The invitation went out from Timaru District Libraries inviting people to sign up for a royal high tea to commemorate the late Queen. On Thursday last, around 20 people turned up at the library - some wore medals; some dressed for a garden party. There was certainly a sense of occasion.

Awaiting the guests was a right royal spread, complete with little sandwiches and cakes on tiered plates. Community board chair Wayne O'Donnell and his wife Diana were delegated to host the event. Wayne said a few words in appreciation of the late Queen's reign. He invited the group to join in singing God save the King, and a short Māori grace was said.

Before the assembled company tucked into the spread, Wayne invited reminiscences about the royal family and the Queen. A number of anecdotes were shared, some second-hand, but a good number had had some personal connection with Her Majesty or other royals. The reminiscing continued as the group mingled while enjoying tea, sandwiches and little sweet things.

GNews says thanks for the invite, and a special thank you to Adele Hewlett, whose idea it was. **HUGH MCCAFFERTY**

Guests reminisce before a high tea fit for royalty. PHOTO: Hugh McCafferty



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gnews 
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



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Te Moana upgrade

In response to last week's article about the sudden increase in Te Moana water rates (GNews 15.09.22), Timaru District Council Group Manager Infrastructure Andrew Dixon writes:

To fund the \$3 million of upgrades required to bring the Te Moana scheme up to the necessary drinking water standards, we've had to increase the rates scheme users pay. While this is a significant up-front investment, it is paid over a long period of time to balance the cost between current and future users.

In addition to the upgraded capital cost, the increased sophistication of the water treatment plant required to provide a robust and high-quality drinking water supply has increased our operating costs.

We have tried to keep costs at as sustainable a level as we can, including sourcing \$800,000 of central Government support for this project, but the cost of running and upgrading a small water supply scheme like Te Moana, which has fewer than 700 connections, is still significant.

Targeted water rates (like all Council rating charges) are reviewed and set annually through the Annual Plan process prior to 1 July each year, which is the date they take effect. The rates change from year to year and recover the capital works and operational costs associated with the Te Moana Water Supply Scheme. We do not cross-subsidise rural water schemes, so users can be assured that the money they pay into the scheme goes to the running and upgrade of only their scheme.

As the upgrades are nearing completion, the 2022/23 rates invoice is the first that features these increased costs. These increased costs were identified in our 2022/23 Annual Plan.

As background, Te Moana was commissioned in the 1970s, and although it has been well maintained over the years, much of the infrastructure has reached the end of its service life. The investment is required to bring the scheme up to current national drinking water standards and ensure it can cope with the declining source water quality caused by more frequent and significant rain events we have seen.

ANDREW DIXON
TDC GROUP MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE



McKenzie HealthCare activities coordinator Jasmine Davis and diversional therapy team leader Tony Usmar with South Canterbury Hospice fundraiser prizes. PHOTO: Jan Finlayson

Hospice fundraiser set to be “an exciting day for residents”

McKenzie HealthCare is holding a South Canterbury Hospice fundraiser, with Geraldine-wide raffles and an in-house Jeans Only Day event for residents and their families.

McKenzie marketing coordinator Melanie Rusbridge says that as well as getting behind the hospice, the 30 September event will be “an exciting day for the residents”.

Local businesses FreshChoice Geraldine, Geraldine Pharmacy, and The Running Duck have come to the party with raffle prize packages and a prize for a guess-the-designer-jacket's-value competition.

McKenzie's diversional therapy team leader Toni Usmar says, “I'd love for the general public to come on board. We'll be out and about selling tickets.”

The wider community fundraising joins a Jeans Only Day event for McKenzie residents and families. Melanie says, “Residents will be wearing denim. Make-up artists and hairdressers have volunteered to help, and there'll be a fashion parade.”

McKenzie HealthCare's 30 September take on the hospice's fundraising stalwart is “awesome”, says South Canterbury Hospice Events and Marketing Manager Kim Rogers. “We have a strong relationship

with McKenzie. They've taken it as an opportunity to have a lot of fun with Jeans Only Day; they've got a lot of the families involved. It's a good fundraiser for hospice.”

Raffle and “jacket” tickets will be available at FreshChoice's Peel Street entrance from 1pm to 2.30pm on Thursday, 22 September, Tuesday, 27 September, and Thursday, 29 September. They can also be purchased from McKenzie Healthcare's foyer until 1pm on Friday, 30 September. Tickets are \$2 for raffles and \$1 to guess the jacket's value.

JAN FINLAYSON



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gnews ON THE BEAT



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The result of unfortunate navigation skills at the corner of SH 1 and Racecourse Road, Ōrari; a ute was damaged after sliding off hail-covered road at Kakahu; two gleaming police cars after Saturday's efforts by some young people. PHOTOS: Supplied

Wintery blast creates havoc on the road

It seems winter's icy grasp is reluctant to let go. Last Tuesday, within the space of four hours, police were in attendance at three separate vehicle.

The first incident involved unfortunate visitors from overseas who took a wrong turn onto Racecourse Road at Ōrari. The driver and passenger were shaken up but unharmed, saying they thought it was the turn-off to Tekapo. Later that same evening, a freak hailstorm struck the region which had police attend the first of two vehicles that slid off the road.

The initial call came in advising four to six inches of snow on the road at Kakahu, just west of Hall Road and SH79 intersection.

However on attendance, it was the remnants of the hail on the surface acting like a layer of ball bearings which caused a company ute to lose traction whereupon a low speed collision occurred. Again the sole occupant was unharmed.

Upon returning to Geraldine, a third vehicle was found in a field at Slacks Valley. The driver had decamped and enquiries are ongoing to locate them.

Now that our borders have reopened, and visitors and fine weather coming, it is expected there will be an increase of traffic on our roads. With school holidays around the corner remember to plan your journeys and be prepared for any conditions.

Currently the road toll for the Aoraki district stands at seven (year-to-date) compared to 14 at the same time last year. So please report any bad driving to *555 and help us continue on the road to zero.

The Geraldine Police would like to thank the two young persons that came to the station on Saturday morning to wash the three police cars. Constables Karl Harrison, Bob Katene from Temuka and myself were very pleased with their efforts as now we have one less job to do.

As always if it's happening now dial 111, or to report a non-emergency event dial 105. Be safe, feel safe and look out for each other. DAVID BRAY

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FROM LEFT: The Rooster's rooster sets off for the runaway try; Alastair Hall with the Roster Roaster. PHOTOS: Hugh McCafferty

Rooster's mascot dots it down

The sun shone brightly for the final Golden Oldies game of the season, played on Saturday, 10 September. In front of a good crowd of supporters representing each team, the Raukāpuka Roosters played at home against the combined Maulers and Golden Koru team from Christchurch. Reflecting their tradition of adopting a theme for away trips, the visitor's supporters wore wild west costumes.

In the spirit of good sportsmanship,

Golden Oldie Rodger Leonard stepped out for the visiting team, who all wore number one on their jerseys in an effort to confuse the home team.

As is the custom, players were fortified at the breaks in play with a shot of mountain thunder. The Rooster's mascot, aka Year-11 student Deja Holder Lyon, helped serve the drinks before running onto the field and scoring a try. Were scores kept, it would have been disallowed because of

her youth - as it happens, everybody enjoyed the laugh. Whether by intention or accident, a member of the visiting team seized her headgear, turning the Rooster into a headless chicken.

A team of ringa wera (cooks) stood by to feed the visitors, with Alastair (Schneider) Hall manning the custom-built Rooster Roaster. **HUGH MCCAFFERTY**



A GREAT DAY FOR SKIING Geraldine Primary School senior syndicate were finally able to go on their annual trip to Roundhill Ski Area last Friday. The trip had been cancelled twice previously due to bad weather.

FROM LEFT: Year 5-6 students with teacher Fi Wilcox (far right) enjoyed trying out snowboarding. Tyler Bradley (Year 6) enjoyed himself so much that he hardly stopped for lunch, just a quick bite, before returning to the slopes. Teacher Chelley Leov says, "Tyler had never been skiing before. He was ready to give up after the first hour, but he used his perseverance; finally he succeeded and was so proud of himself by the end of the day." PHOTOS: Debbie Oliver

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2023 OUT-OF-ZONE ENROLMENTS

The Geraldine Primary School Board of Trustees is accepting applications from parents/caregivers who wish to enrol their child in 2023. Enrolment packs are available from the school office. As well as in-zone places, a limited number of out of zone places will be available. An enrolment scheme or zone is in place and details of this can be obtained from the school office.

The deadline for out-of-zone applications for 2023 is 3pm, Friday 14 October.

Application forms for out-of-zone enrolments are available from the school office - phone 03 693 8208, or by email: office@geraldine.school.nz.

Parents / caregivers of children living within our enrolment zone who intend to enrol their child at Geraldine Primary School during 2023, should also notify the school office by Friday 14 October.

We invite parents to contact the office if they wish to learn more about our school and arrange a tour.

gnewsresults


GERALDINE BRIDGE CLUB Waihi Handicap Pairs Session 3, 08.09.22: Championship Session 7, 15.09.22 North South: 1st V Hill & Julie Kelly 63.89% 2nd S Stevens & K Gidlow-Black 47.22%. East West: 1st D Johnston & L Johnson 59.72%, 2nd V Crawford & K Miles 52.78%. 14.09.22 North South: 1st C Hamptom & M Hyde 63.33%, 2nd R Scott & L Graybill 49.17%. East West: 1st K Le Lievre & A Blakemore 70.00%, 2nd D Crafts & A Numan 49.17%.

GERALDINE DISTRICT GOLF CLUB 17.09.22 Bisque Par: Sen/Int A Tedham 7-11 +4, B Simpkin 76-9 +4, K Silcock 87-15 +4, G Robertson 85-16 +4, Jun A+B G Dwyer 90-27 +8, G Waring 95-29 +8, R Holling 95-24 +6. Twos #15 G Waring, #17 K Hodge. NTP #12 Ladies J Kellahan, Men M Shepherd, NTP #18 3rd Ladies Liz G, Men 2nd #18 A Tedham. Ladies S Dwyer 103-28 +6, J Kellahan +5, D Dewe 104-30 +5, Felicity +5.

GRANDE VUE GOLF CLUB 18.09.22 Stableford 1st G Marshall 80-18-62-42stbs, G Oliver 86-17-69-35, T Kerr 86-15-71-35, C Seaton 94-22-72-34, J Rate 91-21-70-34, A Muff 84-14-70-34, S Scott 91-20-71-33, G Patrick 81-9-72-32, B Miller 104-28-76-31, P Cushnie 89-15-74-30, M Oliver 90-13-77-28, R Ramsay 94-18-76-28, J Cox 99-21-78-26. Twos S Scott #11, Nett Eagles P Cushnie #17, S Scott #2, G Marshall #7, G Oliver #17, J Cox#5, C Seaton #3.

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