

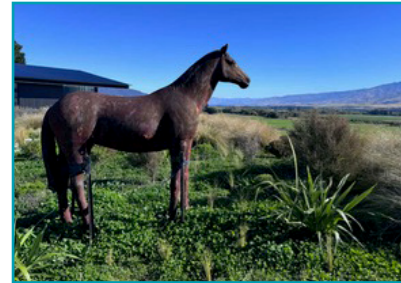
RURAL WOMEN GO PASSIVE

This month Rural Women met at the home of Linda and Jakob Hamilton to look at how it was designed and built entirely to passive house guidelines.



Passive House is one of the world's leading energy efficiency standards and also a construction concept made to build comfortable, environmentally friendly and affordable homes.

Linda gave a guided tour of her stunning home and explained more about how the passive energy was developed and used in each room.



With the 20+ women attending and a few new faces, this took quite some time, due to the high level of interest in both the technology and the tasteful decoration, some of which was designed especially for the home. Even the gardens were tastefully decorated, watched over by the amazing horse statue.

Afternoon was then served with lots of chatter and laughter, especially when

some of the ladies started a competitive game of croquet on the front lawn. Carol Osten, first time player, gleefully winning the game ahead of Spin, Sue, Linda, Rebecca and Marlene. A wonderful afternoon and thanks must go to Linda for hosting it. This Māori Point Road House by Rafe Maclean Architect, has been entered in the NZ House of the Year 2026 and has reached the finals. View all entries at www.homemagazine.nz/home-of-the-year-2026-the-finalists and you can vote for Linda and Jakob in the People's Choice.



TARRAS FIRE BRIGADE

TOTAL FIRE BAN REMAINS FOR CENTRAL OTAGO

Please be aware that Tarras and the wider Central Otago district are still under a total fire ban. All outdoor fires are prohibited until further notice due to the increasing fire risk across the region. The ban includes campfires, burn-offs, bonfires, and planned rural burns. Please also take extra care when using machinery such as mowers, chainsaws, grinders, farm equipment, or vehicles in long grass, as these can easily create sparks and start a fast-moving fire.

For our rural community, a little extra caution goes a long way in helping protect homes, farms, stock, and neighbouring properties. Before lighting anything outdoors, always check www.checkitsalright.nz for the latest fire season rules and safety advice. Thank you everyone for helping keep Tarras safe.



APRIL DINNER EVENT

6pm - Wed 11 April. Alexandra District Club, Centennial Ave, Alexandra.

We are really looking forward to hosting Dunstan Hospital, Chief Executive, Hayley Anderson who is going to give us an insight into the recently formed, Dunstan Hospital Charitable Trust.

Event details and bookings:

events.humanitix.com/central-otago-rwnz-dinner-group-february-2026

We'd love you and your friends to join us. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women from around Central Otago who are rural at heart, enjoy a lovely meal, and be part of a relaxed and uplifting conversation.

Register before 6 February - All welcome.

Email tarrasruralwomen@gmail.com for more information.



JONO ROBERTSON for installing a soaker hose in the cemetery garden — it is very much appreciated!



GOLF UPDATE

At the recent AGM, office bearers remained the same as follows:

- PRESIDENT** – Gus Chapman-Cohen
- VICE PRESIDENT** – Alison Caughey
- MEN'S CLUB CAPTAIN** – Wayne Bosley
- WOMEN'S CLUB CAPTAIN** – Jan Gibson
- HANDICAPPER** – Margaret Sell
- SECRETARY** – Elsie Blackmore

Opening Day was held on 14 March, marking a great start to the 2026 season.

Men's club day is held each Saturday, with a midday report, while women's club day takes place each Thursday, with a 9:30am report. **New players are always welcome** — if you're keen to get involved, please contact Wayne Bosley on 021 816 332 or Jan Gibson on 027 309 4344.

It's fantastic to see Tarras re-enter a Pennant team for the first time since 2018 in the women's competition. Their first match at Lake Hāwea resulted in a draw — a strong start to the season. The team included Jan Gibson, Jacqui Henderson, Annabel Spiers, Alison Caughey, Annabel Blaikie, and Margaret Sell. The team's next match will be held at Tarras on 12 April.

We wish them all the best.

Tarras was also represented at the 2nd Central Otago Women's Interclub competition at Lake Hāwea on Sunday 29 March. Competing on the day were Jan Gibson, Jacqui Henderson, Alison Caughey, Annabel Blaikie, Barb Annan, and Meg Page.



CENTRAL OTAGO FARMING FOR PROFIT

From Genetics to Growth

Thursday 23 April, 1–5 pm

753 Puketoi-Highfield Road, Gimmerburn

Learn how strong dual-purpose genetics and a focus on performance are driving the growth of the Paterson family's farm business.

Topics/highlights:

- **Amidale genetics** – the evolution of the flock, current performance and future breeding objectives.
- **Farm growth and development** – purchase of Idaburn Hills, integration with the Armidale operation and future direction for the business.
- **Lamb finishing** – the role of finishing in the system and key drivers of profitability.
- **Feed management** – maintaining performance and flexibility in dry seasons.
- **Wool supply partnerships** – capturing value for both farmer and brand partner (Craig Smith, Devold).

BBQ and refreshments sponsored by: Catalyst Performance Agronomy & PGG Wrightson.

To register, visit the B+LNZ events page: www.beeflambnz.com/events.

TARRAS TALK

Proudly sponsored by TARRAS RURAL WOMEN

APRIL 2026



RURAL WOMEN NEW ZEALAND
Ngā Wāhine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa

Photo courtesy of Dr Sharp.

CALLING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Thank you to those who've shared their beautiful shots. We'd love to see more! We encourage anyone new to have a go too! A stunning landscape or a glimpse of community life, we'd be honoured to feature your photo on our front page.



TARRAS BOOK CLUB

Keen to meet new people?
The next Book Club meeting: Wed 8th April at 2 pm. Hosted by Claire Kearsley, 60 Thomson Gorge Rd. Ph 0272798894. Cheers Claire.

SPREAD THE WORD

Located by the school gate, Lilliput Library sparks a love of reading in our community. It's always in need of restocking, please donate any surplus books to help!

- take a book/return a book
- add a book
- pass it on



A LABOUR OF LOVE!

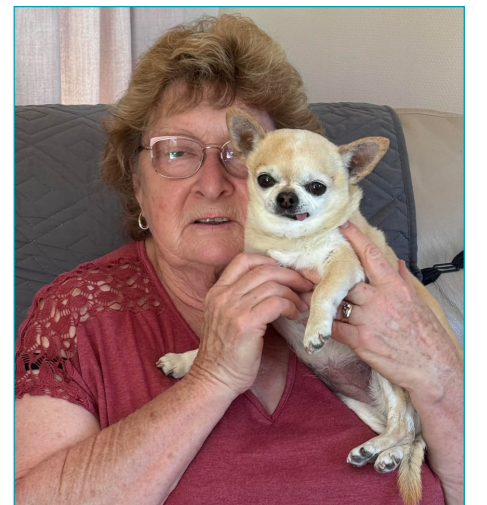
Who is it that keeps the Tarras Hall so spick and span that when people enter the hall they say, "someone has poured love into looking after this place?"

That someone is Carol Frisby and there is so much more to this remarkable woman than simply being the hall cleaner.

Carol grew up on the Taieri near Dunedin and attended Taieri High School, where she enjoyed playing netball. Her family later moved to Green Island, where her father, Les Uren, worked as a mechanic at the local garage. They eventually returned to the Taieri, where Les opened his own business, Maungatua Motors. Carol has fond memories of those years, growing up alongside her three siblings - one sister and two brothers.

After leaving school, Carol held a variety of jobs, including working in a cheese factory and at McIntosh's lolly factory. A trip to Nelson to work in the orchards with a friend proved life-changing. It was there she met her husband, Jeff. They have now been together for an incredible 57 years, which is something truly special.

The couple later moved to Australia, where they settled for a time. Their son Tony still lives there today. After returning to Invercargill, Carol and



Carol Frisby and 11-year-old Daisy

Jeff worked at Tiwai Point in companion service roles. Carol later took on a role at Invercargill Airport, where she drove a tractor and mowed the runway lawns - a job not many can say they've done!

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WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Whether you'd like to advertise, share your news, or receive Tarras Talk by email, just get in touch with Chris at tarrastalk@gmail.com

TARRAS CHURCH shares the following letter from **Damon Plimmer, Vicar of Tarras Church.**



Dear Parishioner,

After 13 years as Vicar of the Upper Clutha Parish, I have made the decision to accept an offer from the Bishop to be full-time Ministry Educator for the Diocese. My last Sunday will be on Easter - 5 April. Your support of my ministry has been much appreciated, and I am confident the Parish is well positioned for the future.

Raewyn, the family, and I have been part of this Parish community and it's been a wonderful period of our lives. We've made good friends. We've seen the churches of the Upper Clutha Anglican Parish grow and change and flourish. We've farewelled some remarkable people. You've supported me in my ministry, and I hope you've felt supported in yours. We've come a long way and this Parish is well positioned for a strong and positive future.

In May of last year, I took on the role of Ministry Educator for the Diocese. A part-time role. It has seen me become more involved in Diocesan life, leading retreats and clergy conferences, organising training for lay and ordained, walking with those on the discernment path, helping guide parishes in transition, as well as continuing with rural chaplaincy, and archdeaconry responsibilities.

I have been able to do this because of the contribution of many. Wardens, Vestry, Committees, Licenced Lay Ministers, retired clergy, all of you. With the part-time appointments of Jen Chamberlain in Cromwell, and Liz Maluschnig and Janeen Brown in Wanaka, the pastoral and administrative needs of the Parish have been well covered. I would even go so far as to say the ministry team has been strengthened by my stepping back from Parish work. However, it has been a juggle, and at times exhausting.

I am someone who likes to give 100% to whatever it is I am doing, and the demands of the Parish and the Educator roles are increasing. New opportunities are presenting themselves within the Parish and the Diocese. And for this reason, I have come to a mind that I can no longer give the Parish my best while continuing in the role as Ministry Educator.

After 13 years as your Vicar, I have decided, with much prayer, to accept an offer from the Bishop to take on the Educator role full-time. I know this will come as a shock to some of you, a disappointment to others. But I believe, all things considered, it is for the best. This Parish is ready for someone new, with more energy than I can now give, to lead it into the next stage.

You have had the best of me. It's now time for me to take on a new challenge. So, practically speaking, what will this mean for the Parish?

My last day as Vicar of the Upper Clutha Parish will be on Easter Day, April 5. This date will allow us to get through two busy periods – the annual general meetings, and Lent through Easter. It will also provide time to prepare for the interregnum following. As I've said, the Parish is in the best state it has been since my coming.

Our buildings are in good order. Our finances are healthy. We have strong lay leadership, complemented by our three ordained ministers. And people are well cared for. There is no reason to think any of this will change.

The Church is the people. We are the Body of Christ. Each with a part to play.

My time as your Vicar is coming to an end. But the true ministers of the Church will always be you. With God's help, and your faithfulness, this Parish will continue to grow.

Please pray for me, as I do for you.

Damon.
The Reverend Damon Plimmer, Vicar, Upper Clutha Anglican Parish, Archdeacon, Central Otago.

TARRAS CHURCH

Church Service is at 11am on the first Sunday of every month.

All welcome...

EASTER SERVICE
5 APRIL - 11AM
Led by BARRY ENTWHISTLE
DUTY: Billee Marsh and Christina Perriam

MAY SERVICE - SUNDAY 3
DUTY: Lucy Annan/Barb Annan

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A LABOUR OF LOVE!

Although they owned the land, they weren't quite ready to settle down and spent further extended periods in Australia, including time in Bundaberg and working in companion service roles at a mine in Western Australia.

In December 2017, they returned to New Zealand and established their compact 40ft by 13ft home on their 20-acre Tarras property, joining other family members who each have their own spaces on the land. Together, they have created a largely self-sufficient lifestyle, with a large vegetable garden, glasshouses, and orchards producing a wide variety of fruit. Chickens and sheep roam freely across what is truly an idyllic setting.

Carol treasures the peace and quiet of Tarras, as well as having family close by. While she has sadly lost her sister and brother-in-law in recent years, other family members remain nearby, keeping that strong sense of connection.

Seven years ago, Carol took on the role of cleaner at the Tarras Hall. What is officially just two hours a week often turns into much more, as Carol works tirelessly until everything meets her high standards. She takes great pride in knowing her work benefits the community and enjoys the interactions with hall users, including members of the golf club.

In her quieter moments, Carol enjoys knitting and gardening, but her greatest joy is her beloved chihuahuas. Currently, she has Daisy, who is 11-years-old and the fifth chihuahua she and Jeff have owned.

Carol and Jeff are very proud grandparents to their eight grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

This quiet, unassuming woman has dedicated seven years of service to the Tarras community, doing an exceptional job while largely remaining behind the scenes. It is more than time her efforts are recognised.

Thank you, Carol - we truly appreciate you.

TARRAS SCHOOL NEWS

The best little school in Central Otago - ALICE CASEY, PRINCIPAL



Kia ora,

The month has flown by with lots of exciting opportunities for our tamariki from Athletics, to Swimsafe Lessons, jam making, produce picking and our usual business of academics. Our little juniors have worked so hard, they earned themselves a 'Learning Party'!

The seniors were treated to a 'VR' (Virtual Reality) experience with Amelda from the NZ Antarctic Heritage Trust - they popped on goggles and went for a virtual tour of Antarctica, Scott Base and they 'walked' around Sir Edmund Hillary's hut. This will be used as an igniter for our Term 2 learning around 'Epic Expeditions'.

We're incredibly proud of our tamariki at the recent 'Small Schools Athletics' event. If you haven't already, check out our Facebook page for the video and the results - we had 12 students earn placings with a further 3 making it through to the Central Otago Athletics event held in Alexandra. The Tarras School tamariki gave everything a go, achieving their personal best with a positive attitude - they're a pretty impressive bunch!

THANK YOU!

MARCH THANKS GOES TO:

- A HUGE thanks to Chrissy and Robbie Gibson along with Matt and Emily Walker for their organisation of the A&P Show Gift Lamb/Ear Tag competition.
- To all the families and community members who supported the 'Dog Trials', with delicious food.
- Jackie Purvis for organising and running the 'Dog Trials' fundraiser as well as Sarah Anderson and Dani Feary for helping out in the kitchen

We appreciate you



Congratulations



FELICITY AND MICHAEL HAYMAN are thrilled to announce the recent arrival of their first grandchildren, James Guy Letham and Percy Michael Letham.

Congratulations from the Tarras Community.



AUD'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

On 16 March, Aud Cowie celebrated her 100th birthday - what an incredible milestone!

She lives independently in Cromwell and is truly an amazing lady. Aud and her husband, Matt, farmed Deer Park at the end of Munro Lane for many years before retiring to Cromwell. Matt sadly passed away in 2012.

Happy birthday, Aud, congratulations on a wonderful century.



We'd like to welcome Laura Taylor to the team as a part-time Junior Classroom teacher. Laura will be releasing me (Alice) on Thursdays and Fridays - we're reeeeeeally looking forward to her joining us!!!



And finally...after overseas delivery delays - our playground install is underway! The orange fence is up, the digger has been on site and the concrete is drying. We look forward to playing on the new pieces and can't thank 'Central Lakes Community Trust' enough for their generosity and support.

Thanks to everyone that purchased tickets and supported the A&P Show Gift Lamb and Ear Tag Competition.

Congratulations to:

- Richard Pledger, winner of the Gift Lamb
- Lesley Purvis, winner of the Ayrburn Voucher
- Murrell Ruddenklau, winner of the accommodation at the Rydges Hotel in Queenstown

Have an enjoyable Easter break! Take care, Alice

SAFER SPEEDS

A positive change is on the way for our community, with new speed limits being introduced outside Tarras School to help keep our children safe. Tarras School is one of 16 Otago schools selected for new Variable Speed Limits (VSLs), designed to slow traffic during peak school times.

An electronic sign will be installed over the coming weeks and will activate up to 45 minutes before and after school, reminding drivers to slow down as children arrive and head home.

This initiative is part of the New Zealand Transport Agency's nationwide safer speeds programme, which must be in place by 1 July. It's a small change that will make a big difference in helping ensure our tamariki get to and from school safely each day.

TARRAS REFUSE STATION

THE RECYCLING CONTAINER IS NOW ON THE SOUTHERN SIDE OF TARRAS HALL.