



MAORI POINT

COMPLIMENTARY
Wine Tastings

**SIP, SAVOUR
AND STAY AWHILE**

There's never been a better time to visit Māori Point Wines.

From now until the end of October, tasting fees are being waived, giving visitors the perfect opportunity to sample the winery's beautiful range of wines - complimentary.

Relax over a delicious platter at the picnic tables, settle into one of the comfortable egg chairs with a glass of wine, or take a peaceful stroll through the vines.

There is no need to book; simply drop in between 1pm and 5pm, Wednesday to Sunday, at 413 Māori Point Road.

The good times continue every Friday evening with Māori Point Happy Hour from 5pm to 7pm. Enjoy discounted wines by the glass, free nibbles, wonderful company and the occasional handcrafted cocktail.

Gather your friends and unwind - it's the perfect way to welcome in the weekend.



TARRAS CHURCH

Service is at 11am on the first Sunday of every month, led by Barry Entwistle

All welcome...

SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER SERVICE - DUTY:
Jeanette Emmerson and Jan Anderson

SUNDAY 1 NOVEMBER SERVICE - DUTY:
Jo Mccaughan and Rebecca Chapman-Cohen



TARRAS FIRE BRIGADE

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED

It's been a busy couple of months for the Tarras Fire Brigade, with nine call-outs across August and September.

Some of the more significant incidents included a local house fire, assisting crews at the large fire in Albert Town, and attending a serious motor vehicle crash just north of Cluden Hill, where two patients were airlifted to Dunedin.

Back at the station, our recent upgrades are now complete and fully operational. We're planning to hold an open day in the next couple of months, which will be a great opportunity to come down, meet the crew, check out the station and see the equipment we operate.

With daylight saving upon us, it's a timely reminder to check your smoke alarms and make sure they're working properly.

We've also recently launched a Facebook page [Tarras Volunteer Fire Brigade](#) - so give us a follow to keep up with brigade news, community updates and upcoming events.

Thanks, as always, for the continued support from the Tarras community.

**SMALL TOWN.
STRONG RESPONSE.**

Join the few who make a big difference.

OUR PEOPLE.
OUR COMMUNITIES.
A SAFER TOMORROW.



Volunteer with the Tarras Fire Brigade

We're seeking locals to join our crew. If you have the drive to turnout for your community then get in touch! Contact **DCFO Matt Duffy** to find out more.

027 823 3341 | matt.duffy@fireandemergency.nz



TARRAS TALK

Proudly sponsored by **TARRAS RURAL WOMEN**

OCTOBER 2026



**RURAL WOMEN
NEW ZEALAND**
Nga Wahine Taiwhenua o Aotearoa



**ROADSIDE
MYSTERY!**

Whose responsibility is it?

Most of you will have seen the abandoned vehicles on the road to Cromwell. Both these vehicles appeared 4+ months ago, in different locations and on different days.

One remains intact – the other not so much. But are they abandoned? Whose responsibility is it to do something about it?

Surely after 4+ months the owners have had plenty of time to reclaim, if they were going to. These vehicles have simply become targets for rogues and vagabonds, afoot at night.

So, I picked up my magnifying glass, donned my cape and swept into Cromwell Police Station, with notebook at the ready. No question would remain unasked. Well, that was the premise. However, I was turned away, as both vehicles are on a State Highway, I was advised I needed to contact NZTA.

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A STONE'S THROW

A childhood pastime makes a splash on the world stage...

Generations of Kiwis have grown up skimming stones across rivers and lakes. Yet until this year, New Zealand had never held a national stone skimming championship. That changed on a chilly day in May at Lake Hāwea.

Held at The Hide, the first Aotearoa Stone Skimming Championships brought together around 150 competitors and 300 spectators.

In true community spirit here were plenty of laughs and a little lakeside chaos, but once the stones hit the water, the competition was serious.

Stone skimming is growing as a sport around the world. For a throw to count, the stone must bounce at least twice and stay within its marked lane. Distance and accuracy both matter.

Queenstown's Abbey McDonald stole the show at Lake Hāwea. Her remarkable 72-metre skim won the women's title and was the longest throw of the day. It also earned her a place on New Zealand's first team to compete at the World Stone Skimming Championships in Scotland.

In September, on the slate quarry waters of Easdale Island, Abbey went one better: she became the Female World Stone Skimming Champion, beating six-time champion Lucy Wood.



Men's champion Jay Reeve and Women's champion Abbey MacDonald celebrate after earning their place at the World Stone Skimming Championships in Scotland. Photo Deanna Gerlach

There was a moment of suspense when one of Abbey's throws was ruled a "no skim", but the judges reversed their decision after reviewing video footage.

Abbey is Australian, but she made history as the first competitor representing New Zealand to take the world title. Fellow team member and Lake Hāwea men's champion Jay Reeve also had a strong showing in Scotland, beating the reigning world record holder but missing a place on the podium.

Start practicing, Tarras! The Lake Hāwea championships return in May 2027, and registrations of interest are already open.

REAL PEOPLE - DELICIOUS KAI - GREAT KŌRERO

Whether you're a RWNZ member or simply a woman who is rural at heart, you are warmly welcome here.



We know it is a busy time of year for farmers, horticulturalists and rural communities.

Come and make some new connections, catch up with familiar faces, and go home with a full belly and a warm heart, having heard a brilliant guest speaker. This month we welcome Chanelle O'Sullivan.

Chanelle is a Central Otago farmer, entrepreneur and champion of rural women. She founded Farming Mums NZ, an online community supporting around 20,000 women, and Borage + Bee Meadery.

A Kellogg Rural Leaders scholar, she also co-founded Groundshift, which helps farmers improve soil health and profitability, and Rich Planet, which shares stories of people working towards a more resilient future.



Describing herself as a "multipotentialite." *Someone who thrives on juggling big ideas rather than sticking to one lane.*

Chanelle brings warmth, practical experience and a passion for supporting rural women.

6pm - Wednesday 14 October - Alexandra District Club Inc. Alexandra.

Please register via Humanitix ASAP. Registrations close Friday 9 October, 12 noon (for catering purposes).

You can find details about the evening, on our page: <https://events.humanitix.com/central-otago-october-dinner-2026>

ROADSIDE MYSTERY! *continued...*

With cape still donned, and pencil sharpened I phoned NZTA to explain the peccadillo and the proposed headlines for the next issue of Tarras Talk. *Only to be greeted by a call centre, who noted all the details, thanked me and reassured me that someone would be in touch.*

An email was sent to me full of the cryptic clues I had provided, with an official looking reference number. *Aha – things were suddenly getting serious.*

The phone rang and I reached again, for my trusty notebook and sharpened pencil – time to have my questions answered. *The main question loomed - who is responsible for these vehicles and the removal of same?*

Well - turns out this super sleuth was the first person to report this issue in the 4+ month period the cars have been sitting, abandoned. Now that this vital step has been taken, there are a few processes that need to be followed. *The solving of this peccadillo is not as easy as first thought.*

Firstly, the Police need to be contacted to ask them to make contact with the owner of each vehicle. If, as for one of the vehicles, the rego plates have been stolen, then records based on chassis number are

checked. 8/10 times, this sleuth was told, there will be no traceable owner.

IF, they find an owner that owner must be given a period of time to reclaim the vehicle.

Super sleuth said they have already had 4+ months! But nope there is still a waiting period, just in case they DO want it back, which will come with a sizeable ransom.

Then NZTA will check to see if the vehicles have been removed at the end of this period. If not, a removalist specialist is appointed and takes them to an impound yard – where yet again, they are held for a period of time, again, in case the owner wants to reclaim.

At the end of impound, with no claimant found, the vehicles are dismantled, parts sold, and leftovers smashed to bits. *Courtesy of tax payer money. But that's not fair...*

What can one do about this? Not everyone has a magnifying glass and cape?

The answer I'm told is **REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!**

The sooner abandoned vehicles are reported, the more likely that the owners can be traced. If fact any issues on state highways the word is **REPORT**.

Can't be fixed if not known about and even sleuths need to rest up sometimes.



This episode proves that we often, assume its someone else's responsibility. 4+ months!!!

So, *next time, make it yours.*

Report a state highway issue by calling 0800 44 44 49. For non-urgent issues, search "NZTA report a state highway issue" to find the online form.

Mystery solved? Well not quite yet. Didn't say I was a successful super sleuth!!

TARRAS TALK CLASSIFIEDS

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

FOR SALE

Hi everyone, I'm selling sheep poo to save for motorbike parts. Thank you !!! From Alfie (age 10)



TARRAS SCHOOL NEWS

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



Kia ora,

It has been another great term learning about 'How things work'; from electrical circuits, telescopes, and seasons to how planes fly, how the heart beats and how things grow. Due to weather, we managed two skiing days up at Cardrona - the tamariki and parents still made the most of it though!

We end every term with a 'Learning Celebration' where the tamariki share all their learning with their whānau, celebrating their achievements. Wednesday was another great turn out of parents, siblings, grandparents and community members. We love having you all in at school and sharing with you what we have been up to; the school always has a great buzz to it! Thanks so much for giving up your time and joining us.



CONGRATULATIONS

During our Book Character dress up day, the tamariki competed in 'The Next Chapter' bookmark competition (our local Wānaka bookshop).

Matilda won and now has her bookmark produced and in store in Wānaka! Pop into the store and have a look!

She also won a pack of new books for the school library too! Great mahi Matilda!

PROPERTY UPDATE

You may recall from the Newsletter back in April that temporary new classrooms are being placed on our school field for us to move into?

Over this two week break the Property Works begin! New, temporary buildings will be put onto site, trenches dug, paths made etc. In the middle of January, we will move out of the school into the new buildings and begin the 2027 academic year in there. The current school will be receiving extensive repairs to the main building, including a new septic and stormwater system and an upgraded driveway system!

These works will take a while, hence the temporary building to reduce the disruption for our learners!

Please keep away from the school grounds over the next two weeks whilst the new buildings are delivered.



SEPTEMBER THANKS GOES TO:

Holly Attfield for all her sewing efforts, kindly altering the Kapa Haka dresses ready for our performance.

TARRAS BOOK CLUB

KEEN TO MEET NEW PEOPLE?

Book Club meeting:
2pm Wednesday 14 October.
Hosted by Anne Mackersy,
24 Lady Fayre Drive, Lifestyle Village.

SPREAD THE WORD - LILLIPUT LIBRARY

Located by the school gate and sparks a love of reading. It's always in need of restocking. Every donated book helps keep this little library thriving and ensures there's always something waiting for the next reader.

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

