

REAL PEOPLE - DELICIOUS KAI - GREAT CONVERSATION

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



We know winter can make it tempting to stay home - but we promise this is worth braving the frost for. Come and make some beautiful 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're thrilled to welcome Kaumātua Louise McKenzie (Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara, Ngāti Waiki Mahurangi) to speak about Matariki.

For many of us, our understanding of this national holiday has come second-hand, through our children or grandchildren, rather than something we grew up learning ourselves. This is a great chance to hear directly from Louise and deepen our understanding.

Louise is a respected Central Otago community leader and long-time advocate for te reo Māori, tikanga, and Māori health equity.



She is a board member of Uruuruwhenua Hauora for the past 20 years, she has helped grow the organisation from humble beginnings into a thriving Māori health provider, while also championing the revitalisation of te reo and tikanga (Māori values and customs) across the region.

TARRAS TALK

Proudly sponsored by TARRAS RURAL WOMEN

JULY 2026



Photo courtesy of: New Zealand Photography by Martin Sliva

6pm - Wednesday 8 July - Alexandra District Club Inc. Alexandra.

Please register via Humanitix ASAP. Registrations close Friday 3rd July by 12 noon (for catering purposes). You can find details about the evening, on our page: <https://events.humanitix.com/central-otago-dinner-july-2026>

CLASSIFIEDS

COMMUNITY NOTICES

\$3000 ARTS SCHOLARSHIP

The Bannockburn Arts Charitable Trust is offering a \$3,000 scholarship to a young person living in the Cromwell Basin to support their artistic ambitions. The scholarship is designed to encourage local talent and help make the pursuit of a creative passion a little more possible. If you have a passion for the arts and are ready to take the next step, we'd love to hear from you. Application download: www.bannockburnarts.co.nz/scholarship

COUNCIL RATES - HAVE YOUR SAY

Council is considering a shift to capital value, which includes the land plus any improvements or additions you've made, like buildings, houses, or commercial crops like fruit trees and grapevines. Because everyone's property is different, this change will affect different types of properties in different ways. Get involved, find out more, and have a say. lets-talk.codc.govt.nz/rates-review-2026

FAMILY NOTICES

GOODGER, Gerald Raymond:

1935-2026
Merivale Station, Lindis Valley
Loved husband of Mary. Father of Bede, Juliet, Conrad, Loreto, Dominic, Eugene, Marianne, Francesca. Grandfather to Oliver, Maggie, Benjamin, Florence, Lichen, Luke, Carlos, Abigail, Bede, Lily, James. Great-grandfather of Monica.

A life lived well. May he rest in peace.
A private family Requiem Mass and burial has been held.

LOST AND FOUND

HORSE IS MISSING FROM WANAKA

Cash reward for safe return - no questions asked.
If you have seen this horse, or have any information, please contact:
027 406 7301.



MEETINGS

TARRAS WAR MEMORIAL AND COMMUNITY CENTRE MEETING

Tuesday 14 July 2026, 3.00pm
The Tarras War Memorial and Community Centre Committee invites community members to attend. All are welcome, and your attendance and input are encouraged.



Winter Webinar Series

Learn from experienced farmers and specialists from the comfort of your own home as they share practical insights on the following topics:

Monday 13 July: Rearing Calves: Practicalities and Pitfalls - Rebecca Hickson (dairy beef specialist and farmer) highlights the benefits and practicalities associated with rearing calves.

Monday 20 July: Making Every Tonne Count - Supplement expert Jakob Kleinmans (NutriAssist) outlines practical ways to optimise supplement quality, reduce wastage and get more value from conserved feed.

Monday 3 August: Strong Farm Teams: Attracting, Building and Retaining Good People. Farmers Matt Smith (Lonestar Farms), Simon Lee (Glenary Station) and Fraser Avery (Bonavere) share practical lessons on attracting, retaining and developing good people.

For more details on the webinars and to register, visit the B+LNZ website events page: www.beeflambnz.com/events.

SITUATIONS VACANT



TARRAS PRIMARY SCHOOL BUS DRIVER

Become a valued part of your Tarras community

Looking for a way to give back to your community and get paid for your time? How about driving the local Tarras Primary school bus?

We are currently looking for a driver living in the area to take on this role.

- Just 3-4 hours a day (school runs only)
- 12 weeks off a year, during school holidays

You'll need a valid Class 2 driver's licence and P Endorsement, and will be required to pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol test, as well as a Ministry of Justice check.

Interested? Would like to know more?
Give Lois a call on 021 0869 2921
central@wearekinetic.com



Police are investigating the theft of approximately 1,000 litres of fuel from a local business on the corner of Jollys Road and Deep Creek Road sometime between 5pm on Friday 19 June and 7am on Monday 22 June. A number of items essential to the business's day-to-day operations were also taken.

Detective Scott Vollweiler said incidents like this have a significant impact on local businesses and is asking anyone who saw suspicious activity over that weekend to come forward, particularly anyone travelling through the area who may have CCTV or dashcam footage.

Businesses and rural property owners are reminded to take steps to reduce the risk of fuel theft, including installing security lighting, keeping fuel tanks out of sight where possible, and parking vehicles with fuel caps close to walls or other vehicles.

If you have any information, please contact Police on 105 or online at 105.police.govt.nz, quoting file number 260622/3886.

PASSION MEETS PURPOSE

Heritage, heart and hard work define Odette Hopgood's remarkable journey.

Tarras has two significant connections to the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust coming up in the next few years. The Goldfields Cavalcade is heading to Tarras in 2027, and the Trust is currently working with DOC on the preservation of the old Lindis Hotel, including installing a new roof, (more on the Lindis Hotel in the next issue).

The woman behind much of this work is Odette Hopgood, who lives in Tarras and has been the Trust's Treasurer/Project Manager for the past 10 years. There is also a personal connection to the Lindis Hotel closer to home: Odette's partner, Jono Robertson, had a great grandfather who once owned the hotel, and Jono's grandfather was born there.

Odette and her two siblings were born and grew up in Cromwell. She had a good childhood which included hunting rabbits and fossicking at Bendigo. Her grandfather and two uncles were part-time gold miners in the area, owning two significant claims, one of which is now known as Macraes Gold Mine. Odette's family history in the area dates all the way back to 1870.

Gold panning continues to flow in Odette's blood and she represented New Zealand over the last few years at the World Gold Panning Championships in Czech republic, and in Spain (competing against 21 countries). Like many young people, she travelled extensively overseas - twelve months in Australia followed by five years living in the UK. But the pull of home was too great, so back to Central she came. Trading the hustle and bustle of town for the tranquillity of country living is what drew Odette to move to Tarras in 2024. She loves the simplicity and the opportunities to enjoy life's simple pleasures it presents.



Odette Hopgood

Odette is very proud of her two children: a daughter at Otago University studying primary teaching, and a son, Connor, who lives at home and works part time in a café in Wanaka. Connor, now 21, is on the Autism/ADHD spectrum, and Odette, alongside three other mums, set up and now runs the Central/Southern Kids Educational Trust. The Trust works with families and schools who have neurodiverse children and provides support in a number of ways. *continued on page 3 ...*

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

PASSION MEETS PURPOSE *cont...*

They raise funds to assist families with getting assessments done privately, as in the mainstream hospital system there can be a 2-year-plus wait. The Trust can also assist in funding teacher aides and therapy options, such as the programme A Horse Of Course, run in Cromwell by fellow Tarras local Zara McDonald.

For the last 10 years Odette has worked at the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust as Treasurer/Project Manager, a role she loves. Or should I say "lives". Like many who work in the not-for-profit sector, it has a way of taking over your life, *not only because you love the job, but because you love the people it brings you into contact with.*

The Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust is best known for its main event, the Goldfields Cavalcade, which of course is coming to Tarras in 2027. It also facilitates other events, including the National Gold Panning Championships, and in 2026, the prestigious World Gold Panning Championships to be held in Cromwell. The Trust also organises the Postie Bike Challenge for riders of bikes 110cc and smaller, and holds regular field trips around other heritage sites for both members and the general public. The core services of the Trust include facilitating the restoration and preservation of historic places, and providing display interpretation boards on site. All of this comes with a constant stream of fundraising.

Odette and a committee of machinery enthusiasts are also organising a major event for Easter 2027 to be held at the Cromwell Racecourse: Central Otago Tracks & Wheels, for those who love their big machinery. Odette enjoys working alongside her colleague Terry Davis, who is the Secretary/Event Coordinator for the Trust.

Odette has two dogs... a naughty Kelpie and an emotionally challenged Bull Mastiff cross, both of which struggle to recognise and accept the importance of fences! And there is a tabby cat that rules the roost! Odette is proud of giving up smoking and drinking; her one remaining vice is vaping. She says that as a child she was allergic to fruit - seriously allergic - having mild anaphylactic reactions. Thankfully, as she has grown older, this has changed. She always has a mandarin or two at hand now. LOL

In her spare time, Odette enjoys gardening, DIY and reading. She says her greatest love is dealing with people and it's what fills her cup. She describes herself as a 99% positive person, and every day she makes a point of saying something nice about someone, and something nice to someone.

Imagine what a great place the world would be with more bubbly and positive people like Odette in it. For more information on the Central/Southern Kids Educational Trust please email: kids.ed.trust@gmail.com



A HORSE OF COURSE PROGRAMME

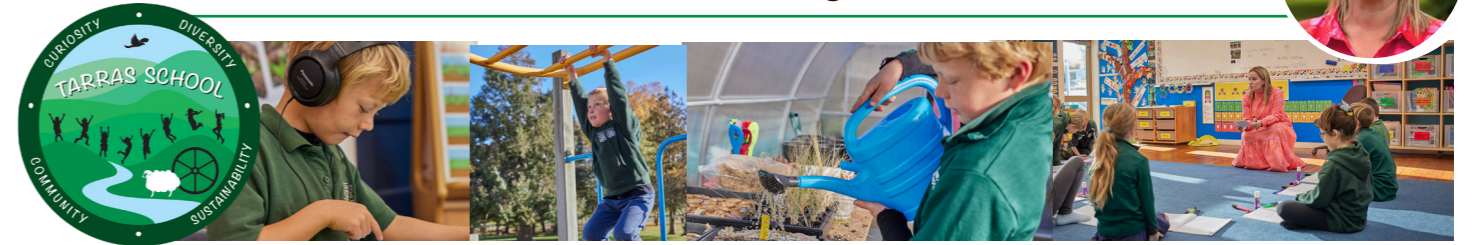
This amazing programme, run by Tarras local Zara McDonald, has been helping young people from Cromwell College for a number of years. Students come for two hours once a week from school to spend time with the horses and assist in their care.

Zara says contact with horses can aid wellbeing in young people. There are many reasons young people are selected to take part in the programme. Zara found many of them were unsure around the horses and uncertain of themselves. "They're huge and people can feel intimidated by them, but I want them to understand that's OK," she said. "It's like anything we come across in life, you know, that gives you fear, you've got to learn how to deal with that to move on."

Participants do not jump straight onto a horse, they build up to a bareback ride over weeks of grooming, leading and feeding the horses, allowing a connection to begin and trust to take root. Zara describes horses as a "mirror" that allows young people to see the impact of their own behaviour and emotions on another being, and respond accordingly. (Excerpts from ODT article 9/5/25)

TARRAS SCHOOL NEWS

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



Kia ora,

It's been a great month, at times chilly but lots of fun. We're delighted to welcome Marcus Winter and his whānau to school. We've been powering through lots of mahi in the classroom and are super proud of our tamariki for all that they have achieved! They continually tackle each learning challenge with positivity, resilience and enthusiasm.

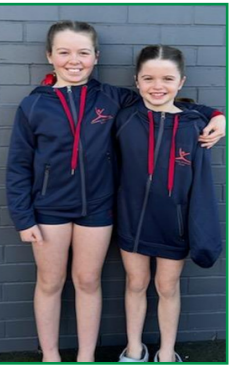
We headed off on our annual trip to Alexandra to go ice skating and curling. The tamariki all gave it a great go, learning new skills, overcoming fears and having fun.



For our Inquiry unit 'Epic Expeditions, we had Mark Inglis in to talk to the tamariki. He shared his stories of climbing Mount Cook, conquering Mount Everest and winning a silver medal in the Paralympics - all whilst being a double amputee!

It was impressive to hear how Mark sets a goal, has a positive mindset to achieve it, plans, prepares and trains and then perseveres to achieve the goal! The tamariki had lots of questions, listening with such focus.

We're super proud of Matilda F and Bailee D for their achievement at the recent Gymnastics Competition in Dunedin. Their team placed 'first' overall and for 'Individuals' Bailee came 1st with Matilda placing 11th. Tūmeke effort girls!



LOCAL LEGEND – GERALD GOODGER

It is with sadness that we note the recent passing of Gerald Goodger of Merivale Station, Lindis Valley.



Over the years, Gerald dedicated countless hours to local groups and organisations, including the Lindis Conservation Group, where it was often said his energy matched that of members half his age.

He had a deep love for the Lindis Valley and took great pride in planting kōwhai and other native trees throughout the area.

The Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust also acknowledged Gerald's passing, describing him as a well-known Cavalcader, Life Member and passionate historian.

His love of the Otago goldfields, remarkable knowledge, and unwavering support of the Goldfields Cavalcade over many years have left a lasting legacy.

A private family funeral has been held.

A true local legend. Rest in peace, Gerald Goodger.



A LIFE IN TARRAS

Helen Pledger reflects on a lifetime of community, change and service. She reflects on her idyllic childhood at Bendigo Station, her return to Tarras with husband Colin, and a lifetime of service to the community as a Justice of the Peace. She shares memories

of raising a family, supporting isolated rural mothers, and offers her thoughts on how Tarras has changed over the years - and the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Interviewed by Ruth Alderson, Helen's oral history interview is well worth a listen, you can hear her story here www.wanakahistory.org/our-storytellers/helen-pledger



TARRAS CHURCH

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

All welcome...

JULY SERVICE - SUNDAY 5th
DUTY: Jayne Rive and Rebecca McElrea

AUGUST SERVICE - SUNDAY 2nd
DUTY: Sue Rutherford and Anne Rive

THANK YOU

JUNE THANKS GOES TO:

- David and Dusty Robertson for donating a generous amount of books for our library! So kind!
- Everyone that supports the 'FOTS' fundraisers - your support really does have a great impact on our tamariki!
- Our very supportive, helpful and pragmatic Board, Dan Feary, Ben Purvis, Will Stuart, Joff Bakx, Letitia Fraser, and Chrissy Gibson. Thank you for volunteering your time to govern the school. We're really fortunate to have such a Board!



We reckon we have some adventurers in the making! Last week we went on our own expedition to Wānaka. We walked up Mount Iron, visited the Search and Rescue Shed and met Scout the dog and then had a quick play at the Dinosaur Park.

In case you missed our Facebook post, this year the lovely 'FOTS' ladies helped to fund:

- \$2000 worth of new library books for the tamariki
- \$1000 of new decodable books to help teach our littlies how to read
- \$3500 worth of new technology e.g. coding robots and Ipad.

Ngā mihi, Alice

LILLIPUT LIBRARY

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

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

TARRAS BOOK CLUB

Keen to meet new people?
The next Book Club meeting: 2pm Wed 8 July.
Hosted by Anne Rive
681 Ardour Rd, Phone: 445 2660.

Welcome to Tarras

Scan the QR code and find out all about us tarras.org.nz

THANK YOU FOR BEING A GREAT VOLUNTEER!

The world needs more people like you!

June 2026 was International Volunteer Month. We know there are a large number of people in our Tarras Community that generously volunteer their time, in many ways for many different groups, and organisations. We just want to say –

Thank You!