

Eureka Express

VOL XXXVI no. 10 Circ 315

Nov/Dec 2015



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



THE EDITOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE
EUREKA EXPRESS

Wish all our readers, advertisers, contributors, and distributors,

Seasons Greetings,

A very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

All the very best for a happy and safe 2015.



Eureka / Tauwhare Community Carol Service,

including skits by our local Kids for Christ group

Sunday 13th December from 7pm
at Tauwhare Hall

Bring a plate of supper to share afterwards
All very welcome.



EUREKA EXPRESS

ADVERTISING RATES

Classified Advertisements	Free
Small Business Advertisements	\$10 / month
• x 10 insertions	\$80 / year
One Third Page Advertisement	\$15 / month
• x 10 insertions	\$120 / year
One Half Page Advertisement	\$20 / month
• x 10 insertions	\$160 / year

CONTACTS – Gail or Gayle

Gail Mayall (Editor)
70 Eureka Road
Ph 8241 758

e-mail:

editor@eurekaexpress.co.nz

Gayle Orr (Treasurer)
1139 SH26
R D 6, HAMILTON 3286
Ph 8241 713

e-mail: gorr@xtre.co.nz

SNIPPETS



BIRTH. NEW BABY CONGRATULATIONS TO: Emma and Grant Burke of Manor Park who were delighted to welcome their first born, a darling daughter, Millie Mae Anne Burke on October 29th. Very best wishes to all.

LADIES NIGHT. The Eureka Express committee sincerely thanks all who took part and all who attended the recent Ladies Night at the Hall. 13 ladies exhibited their wares which were many and varied and of a very high quality. Special thanks goes to Robyn Holden and her 8 young dancers from the Fox School of Irish Dance in Tauwhare, who provided a delightful demonstration of their dancing.

We trust you all enjoyed the evening.



Sincere condolences are extended to Ian and Anna Drever and family of Eureka Road on the recent sudden death of their son Nick, and Melanie's, two month old baby son, Riley, in Hamilton on 30 October. Riley was a cherished son, brother of little Sophie, grandson, and nephew. Thoughts and love to all.

Deepest sympathy is also extended to the Singh family of Hooper Road on the sudden death of Bill (Baldev) on November 11th. Bill was the treasured husband Kulwinder, father of Jasdeep and Gagandeep, and father-in-law of Ramondeep Kaur. The family arrived on Hooper Road in June to milk for the Basi family of SH 26 on their newly purchased farm (ex Kimbers). Bill was only 48 years old. Our love and concern goes to you all.

RAINFALL

	October 2015	Year to 31 st October
Total (mm)	44.5	997.5
Average (1994-2015)	89.5	991
Difference	- 45	+ 6.5

Rainfall recorded on 8 days.



Guest Editorial - 103 Eureka Road

Barry, Christine, Megan and Michael Whiteley

Black and white foxies – Renee and Zoe

After several years in Europe working as a veterinary nurse and a polo pony groom I returned to NZ. Barry followed me back and we found jobs in Hamilton.

I grew up on a sheep and beef farm and the whole family was always involved with the farm jobs of docking, shearing, weeding and raising bobby calves for the American hamburger market. The bulls were always sold around 2 to 2.5 years old before they caused too much mischief. So living in town wasn't easy - I missed the animals and the country.

Geoff Hinton had sections for sale in 1997 and when I came to view them he said 'where do you want to be how much land do you want?' I chose the spot by the Kahikatea trees and said one acre would be enough.

It took ages to get the title and to plan and build the house, but it was exciting building and doing the landscaping. Unfortunately we got caught up in the closure of Eureka School which wasn't a fun time at all. But the country life has been great for our family. We have enjoyed the animals and outdoor space. Schooling was good and there were always plenty of friends. We grow a lot of fruit and vegetables, have hens for eggs and a pig to eat our scraps.



Megan is now a Medical Laboratory Scientist working in Christchurch. Michael is at Waikato University studying Computer Science – he's a whizz if you need help with Apps or Websites.

Barry has recently left his career in IT and is now the brewer for King Country Brewing at Waitomo. It is a semi-automated brewing system; Barry can control the fermenting tanks via his mobile phone. He has just won medals for his beer in NZ and Japan. King Country Brewing sells beer, pilsner and cider by the keg if anyone has a big celebration coming up.

I have worked at Waikato Hospital for 30 years in the Cardiology Department and I'm mainly involved with the pacemaker clinics these days. I did a degree in Landscape Design and I do plans for a Landscape Company. My latest craze is ceramic art. I spend my spare time in the garage with my kiln and clay creating. If you are looking for gifts or things for your garden I may have something you like.

Life seems to get busier and your priorities change which means the sheep might be replaced with a ride on mower and the driveway might get sealed to get rid of the weeds.

We have the best neighbours ever – Barry Mayall is very caring and helpful and John Middlemiss is kind and great at looking after our house and animals when we go away.



We appreciate having a nice home and a lovely place to live.

Christine Whiteley

HERD OF COWS? AT MORRINSVILLE

As Eureka is halfway between Hillcrest and Morrinsville, I am sure that some of us go one way and some the other, when it comes to local shopping.

When I came here 18 years ago I thought Morrinsville was rather boring. Everything (apart from the dairy factory) on one level and a straight main street of small shops.

But over the last decade things have certainly been stirring out there. The main street got wiggles, and humps and hanging baskets and flower towers. The supermarkets got bigger and, after much discussion, Morrinsville got a superb art gallery, which is now the envy of Hamiltonians - not only because it's big and spacious, but it has a changing show in one gallery from the biggest collection of NZ art in the country, courtesy of Sir James Wallace. The other two galleries provide wonderful exhibition space for not only Waikato artists and schools, but work of artists and craftspeople from all over the country.

And then came the Cows! Not just Morrinsville calling itself 'The Cream of the Country' but decorating its streets with what will very soon be a total of 42 decorated bovines, sponsored by local businesses and families and lovingly painted in a myriad of different ways by local artists (who did all their work for free!)

And, whether you know it or not, Eureka participated! I'm a volunteer at the gallery who takes down exhibitions and helps put up new ones. When the Director Justin Morgan casually told me 'Oh by the way Sue, I've got a cow for you' I had mixed feelings of terror and elation. And she arrived on a trailer, brought by my sponsor Morrinsville Real Estate, with instructions to produce a Mooloo.

She resided in my garage for nearly three months, and then departed on the same trailer to have her graffiti proof coat added.

And the best news of all? She will be sited right outside the gallery, with her sponsor's office being right next door. And she'll be there before Christmas, having been launched to the world along with another 19 at the gallery on 19th November to an appreciative audience of 250 guests.

These days the tour buses stop in Morrinsville and the passengers grab leaflets and stroll round the town to find all 42 jazzy bovines and visit the gallery, and Morrinsville is now a recognised centre for art.

So when you go to Morrinsville and see a cow outside the gallery wearing not only Waikato rugby colours, but with an army of striped shirted guys playing on her sides, you'll know who decorated her, and feel that Eureka played a part in The Herd of Cows?. And don't miss Willie the Waiter who is serving beers on her tail!

To get an idea of how good they all are, go to www.herdofcowsmorrinsville.co.nz for a sneak peek.

Sue Edmonds



TAUWHARE SCHOOL GOLF TOURNAMENT



WOW WHAT A DAY! On behalf of Tauwhare School we would just like to thank everyone who participated in our golf tournament. We managed to raise \$4491.89. This money is an awesome contribution towards our sports equipment for the school. Our day could not have gone ahead without the help of our sponsors, which are listed below. Also a massive thank you to all the parents/helpers we had on the day. We had such a positive response to the tournament that we have decided to make this an annual event for our school so we hope to see everyone back next year.



SPONSORSHIP COMPANIES

J Swap
Flex Fitness Morrinsville
A J Fencing Morrinsville
Walling Contracting Morrinsville
Cooper Aitken Accountants Morrinsville
Silver Fern Farms
RD 1 Morrinsville - Dianna
Bunnings Cambridge
Balance Agri
Lone Star Rototuna
Paper Plus Morrinsville
Heathcotes Morrinsville
Harry's Fashion Morrinsville
Annexa Animal Health Centre Morrinsville
LIC
The Beauty House Tauwhare
Liquor King Rototuna
Countdown Cambridge
Hillcrest New World
Brendon Arnett – Fonterra
Couplands
Goughs Cat – James West
Partners Life – Mark Armstrong



Again **THANKYOU EVERYONE** and have a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.
Jo Buckley and the Tauwhare School PTA

Pukeko Preschool December 2015

Our focus on celebrations is about to start as we celebrate our centre birthday and Christmas. This is a crazy time of year and we love to bring the joy into the season so we are planning lots of fun activities for the children.

Thank you Women of Tauwhare

We were overwhelmed to receive a surprise visit from some of the members of the Women of Tauwhare group. They had a plant sale table at their latest meeting, and decided to donate the proceeds from this to the preschool. We are so grateful for their generosity and thank them so much for thinking of us. ☺

Does anyone have...

We are always on the lookout for inflated truck/ tractor inner tubes. Please contact Clare at the preschool if you can help.

Pukeko Preschool closes for Christmas on Tuesday 22nd December, and we re-open on Wednesday 13th January 2016. If you would like to enrol your child in 2016 we have some spaces available at the beginning of the year, with some more becoming available throughout the year as our children move off to school. If you have a younger child who's not quite ready for preschool, we recommend you contact us to put your child's name on the waiting list now, so when they are ready to start there is a space available for them.

The staff and Trust Board wish the Tauwhare community a safe and happy Christmas, and a wonderful summer holiday. Thank you all so much for your support of the preschool this year. We are looking forward to next year and more progress on our new building.

Remember our 3 session times:

Main session: 8.45am – 2.45pm

Short session: 8.45am – 1.00pm

Long session: 8.15am – 3.30pm

Call in and see us on the grounds of Tauwhare School, contact us by phone 8240860, or email pukekopreschool@xtra.co.nz. And don't forget to check out our website www.pukopreschool.org.nz and like us on Facebook: "Pukeko Preschool in Tauwhare".



Tauwhare Playgroup

We are back in the multipurpose room at Tauwhare School now. We are able to play with a wider range of our toys and equipment, and we can spend more time playing in the school sandpit and playground as the weather warms up.

It is also wonderful to get the paints out again, and see the younger children having so much fun exploring the colours and textures!



We used Tauwhare Hall for a playgroup session in early November. This venue was great fun for a change of scene, and as it is a larger space, we were able to set up a bouncy castle for the morning. We hired this from Smile Inflatables, it was great to support a local company who gave us such a good service. The toddler size bouncy castle was great for the smaller children, as well as the bigger and more boisterous four year olds! You can find out more about Smile by searching Facebook under 'Smile Amusement Specialists'.

We are spending the next few weeks making Christmas crafts, and having our end of year trip – details to be confirmed at playgroup and on our Facebook page. Our last playgroup for the year will be on Thursday 10 December, when we'll have a celebration morning tea and lots of festive fun!

About Tauwhare Playgroup:

Tauwhare playgroup is friendly and fun group, where parents, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies meet together in a relaxed environment. Our playgroup is free to attend, and our activities include:

- Music and singing
- Imaginative play
- Outdoor and free play
- Art and craft activities
- Trips to interesting places.

We meet at the Multipurpose Room at Tauwhare School from 9am-12 noon every Thursday during school term time. Please bring along a small plate of food for the children's shared morning tea, and we provide hot drinks for parents and caregivers.

For more information, contact: Pippa on 07 824 0846

Like us on Facebook and keep up-to-date with what is happening.

About Playgroups:

No child is too young for playgroup. All children from 0-5 years, including babies, love new experiences and benefit from developing sensory, social and communication skills through activities at playgroup.

Children like playgroup because they can:

- Participate in new experiences
- Develop and increase their social skills
- Learn sharing, co-operation and simple routines
- Interact with other adults and children in a safe environment
- Enjoy learning more about their world.

Adults also benefit from playgroup - a time to talk, make friends and share experiences, while children learn through their play experiences. Adults like playgroup because they can:

- Meet other local families and develop new friendships
 - Relax and talk in a friendly environment
 - Share experiences and ideas
 - Play with children and nurture a spirit of co-operation.
-

MARKETPLACE:

SHEEP FOR SALE: 9 ewes, 1 ram, 10 lambs. \$1800 total.
Please phone 8241766 or 0276116030



FARM IMPLEMENTS FOR SALE.

- Steel stock crate 5.50x2.50m
- Haybale loader
- Hay elevator
- Vicon mower 6 disc

Offers please. Phone Barry on 8241873 or 0211409074

Firewood for Sale

- Blackwattle and Blue Gum

Great for BBQ's and Open Fires, prepare for next season at the old price.

- \$90.00 Cubic Metre, pick-up or delivery negotiable

Ph Ace 8241891 or 02102889247

Mini Bale Silage

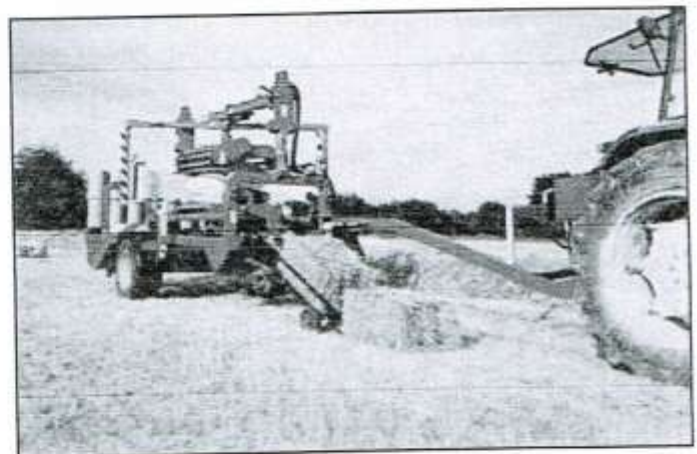
We do the complete job from mowing to stacking or just rake bale & wrap if you prefer.

Joe Macfarlane

Contact: 027 4770021 / 07 8562996

Address: 135B Marshmeadow Road

Email: j.macfarlane@xtra.co.nz



Share Your Favourite Recipe With Us

Do you have a favourite recipe – maybe it is one that you created or maybe it is one that has been handed down the family. If so we would love you to share it with us and we can include it in one a future edition of the Eureka Express. Send them to editor@eurekaexpress.co.nz



Reunion

Last weekend we celebrated our 125th reunion as a school. It was a fantastic weekend, well organised by our wonderful reunion committee and well attended by young and old. There were lots of stories retold, memories rekindled, speeches and performances on show. Lots of people loved catching up with old pupils and staff and learning more about the rich history of our school. A massive thanks must go out to the reunion committee; Gwyn Verkerk, Sally Sleight, Fiona McCallum, Nicole Lannam, Graeme Davison, Dennis Tickelpenny, Robyn Winters and Lyn Mather. They have worked tirelessly making sure that the weekend was enjoyable for everyone. I would also like to thank our wonderful PTA who helped out with food and catering throughout the celebrations.

The date to allow our students time to practise. Further reminders will come out soon.

Thank You Morning Tea

We will be having our annual Thank You Morning Tea for all the people who have helped out the school in one way or another on December 9th. This is our way of thanking the people who have contributed to the school.

Life Education Bus

This week, Harold and the Life Education Bus will be at school. All classes will have the opportunity to attend lessons on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Year 6 Fair

This Friday, December 4th the annual Year 6 Fair will be held. This is a wonderful opportunity for our senior children to come up with creative ways to raise money and give back to the school.

Final Assembly

A reminder that our final assembly is on Monday 14th December at 1.00 pm at the Car Club Hall. Children will be transported to the hall by bus and can be collected from the hall around 2.15 pm. Children going home by bus or who are going to After School Care will be transported back to school.

125th Jubilee Tea Towels - SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL AND GET YOURS TODAY!!

We still have a few School Tea Towels to sell and we need your help to do so!! So even if you already have one, please think about who else may want one, or about getting a spare! These are the easiest Christmas gifts you are going to find this year!! After all, what grandparent/aunt/uncle/family friend could fail to love a tea towel featuring hand drawn self-portraits of a little person they love!

Only \$12.20 per tea towel or 2 for \$20.00. Lightweight and small in size, they're a super easy post to recipients far away.

Every child needs one as a lasting keepsake of their time at Newstead School.

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL AND GET YOURS TODAY!!

Order forms came home in school bags this week, or at the office. THANKS!!!

Speech and Poem Finals

Last Monday we had our annual Speech and Poetry finals. The standard of presentations was extremely high which made it hard for our judges. Congratulations to all the finalists and especially to the children who got final placings: Speeches – Lydia Marsters (1st), Mitchell Keightley (2nd), Charlotte Ulyatt (3rd) and Poems – Madeline Coombes (1st), Kaea Cribb (2nd), Charlise Davison (3rd). On Thursday, Mitchell Keightley gained a 3rd placing and Lydia Marsters a 4th placing at the country Schools Speech finals. Well done! Also a big thank you to our two judges, Barry Maughan and Jackie Woodland.

South East Hamilton Schools Tee ball Champions

Congratulations to the Newstead Red Sox Tee Ball team who won the South East Hamilton Schools Tee Ball tournament held at Tauwhare School last Friday. They were outstanding both on the field and off the field. Well done to the Black Sox team who showed great spirit and team work throughout the day.



Morrinsville Hire is under new ownership



Recently the opportunity arose for Clinton and Chloe Bell to take ownership of Morrinsville Hire.

Chloe has lived in Eureka her whole life as a 'Walling' until marrying Clinton earlier this year, they now live on the Morrinsville side of Eureka making it very convenient for themselves and their customers.

Taking over Morrinsville hire has been a huge step in their lives and career pathways. They're aiming to grow and revive the business, in both the industrial and party hire sides.

The couple are eager to regenerate the Party Hire as soon as they step foot in the business, which means they will be able to help you piece together your dream event. If Morrinsville Hire doesn't have what you are after they will endeavour to find it for you.

For all your hire needs please phone Morrinsville Hire on 07 889 6581, email at morrinsvillehire@gmail.com, visit our website www.morrinsvillehire.co.nz or drop in and meet the friendly couple at 131 Thames Street, Morrinsville.



LADIES A PLATE

Avocado Cucumber Tomato Salad

2 Avocados
1/4 cup Cilantro
1 Cucumber
1 medium Lemon
1/2 Red Onion
1 LB Roma Tomato
1 zucchini
1/8 tsp pepper
1 tsp salt
2 tbsp olive oil (optional)

Method

Cut up vegetables and herbs. Add olive oil, salt, pepper and squeeze lemon.

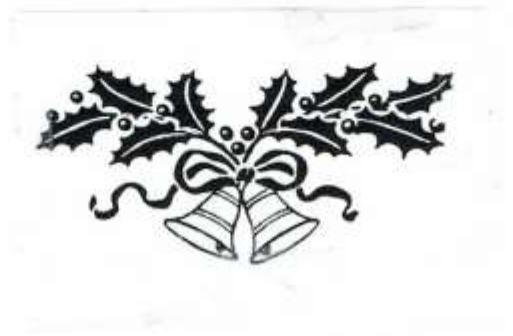
Serves 2-3

Enjoy!



Best Broccoli Ever!

Just need broccoli, sea salt, olive oil, pepper, parmesan cheese, garlic and lemon. Preheat oven to 425. Toss cut, dry broccoli in enough olive to lightly coat each piece. Add a bit of minced garlic. Toss together. Spread single layer on baking sheet. Add salt & pepper. Bake 20-25 minutes. Squeeze lemon over and sprinkle with parmesan cheese and serve.



IN YOUR GARDEN

The drought is coming and so is Christmas.

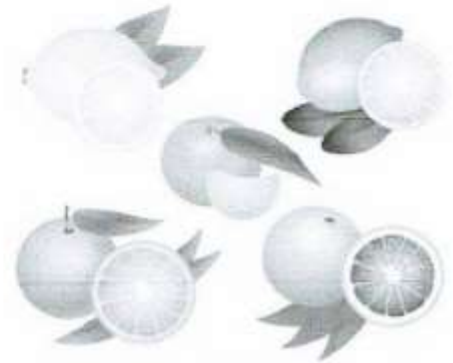
Plant anything you are considering to plant now like potatoes, roses, fruit trees, hedges, summer vegetables and citrus, the list goes on. A good reason to get planting is the expected December dry spell, by the time that hits its too late to think about planting.

Let's talk about Citrus, their benefits and needs in terms of how they grow and the best ways to look after a citrus tree. Most Citrus' are grafted on trifoliate stock, some grown by cutting mainly Meyer lemons which do well in a large container and fruits within 2 years of planting. There are 3 most popular lemons:

1. Meyer is thick skinned and mild.
2. Eureka and Lisbon thick skinned and quite tart in taste, suitable for marmalade.

Several varieties of mandarins are also suitable for large pots. Also, are easy to peel and seedless -Good for kid's lunches! Satsuma is superseded by several other new types of mandarins.

Oranges: Some varieties can be potted. Best seedless is as its name says, the best seedless variety in oranges. There are a lot of choices in types of oranges also.



New Zealand Grapefruit, most popular with several new varieties and some not so new.

Limes, Tahitian are the most popular which has green fruit. There are also Rangpur which is another lime variety that is orange with the same flavour as Tahitian. Kaffir Lime is grown for its aromatic leaves which are used for cooking. Its fruit is only ornamental.

Most citrus trees brought at garden centres and nurseries have lots of new growth when you purchase. The reason for this is the plants are mostly under plastic canopies. When planting the above trees do not tease the roots.

At Roach's we keep our citrus in the open all winter, this makes the tree hardy and will transplant easily. The tree will not require frost protect the following winter.

Please note: the most susceptible to frost is limes when the tree is small.

At Roach's we have hundreds of trees to choose from, retailing at only \$25 each. Some citrus are over 1mtr and bushy. We also stock roses, fruit trees including Louisa plums, hedge plants, and have a large range of vegetable seedlings. Prices have been reduced on most plants. We have a good range of trees some 3 or 3mtrs high; price reduced from \$40 down to \$25-\$30 each.

Mushroom compost, guaranteed weed free, no bark. Plants can be planted in it. Mushroom compost retails at \$10.00 per large 45L bag. \$29 per scoop, 3 scoops= cubic metre, 2 scoops to the average trailer.

Please note: compost is light to shovel and will break down to the same colour as your soil.

For More info, Call Mike on: 0274955183.
Nursery is open Monday – Friday, 8am – 4pm.
Weekends by arrangement only.

Happy Gardening
Mike



Memories of Europe Part 2 On to Austria

Vienna - First stop our hotel - right next to the River Danube with plenty of time to relax in the hotel courtyard with a cool drink and watching the river craft and enjoying a break from the stifling heat. Then a trip to the Schonbrunn Palace, the Hapsburg home and gardens - originally a hunting lodge transformed to a palatial residence during the reign of Empress Maria Theresa. During the 1800's the richly decorated Rococo façade was removed and painted a shade known today as the *Schonbrunn Yellow*. Home to magnificent art with the remarkable monumental paintings representing political and family events (much like a photograph today) each guest depicted in exact detail. I was particularly intrigued by the story of the depiction of a serenata in the Redoute Halls with the then child prodigy Mozart pictured among the onlookers - however he was added to the painting as he was a favourite of the Express but was not actually in the audience (early photoshopping?!). It was also occupied twice by Napoleon in 1805 and 1809. A highlight of our visit was a concert in the beautiful Palais Auersperg, built in 1706, featuring the music of Mozart and Johann Strauss. The hidden treasure of our visit to Vienna was the Imperial Crypt in the Capuchin Church which is nestled between more modern buildings in the centre of the city. Still occupied by Capuchin friars this simple monastery houses the ornate sarcophagi of 145 Habsburg royalty including Archduke Otto the last crown prince of Austria who died in 2011 at the age of 98. His father Charles I never abdicated with the dissolution of the Empire in 1918 so Otto considered himself to be the rightful Emperor-King after his father died in 1922.

Next on to **Prague** - a UNESCO protected city in the Czech Republic once part of the Holy Roman Empire. This beautiful city was spared bombing during WW2 but has endured decades of cultural and religious repression. The Czechs are apparently a very pragmatic people who over the centuries have never taken up arms against any invaders. The end of communist rule in the then Czechoslovakia was a non violent uprising during November 1989 known as the Velvet Revolution. Prague has an amazing tram and metro system and is one of the few European cities with no double decker tourist buses because of the many low tunnels through the city. We also travelled down the Vltava River enjoying the sight of many leisure craft, the *Charles Bridge* that connects the old town with the lesser town and the historical buildings and structures sited along the river. We enjoyed visits to St Vitus Cathedral and the Astronomical Clock. Our local guide Jan told amazing stories but it was difficult to tell where the facts stopped and the fiction started - he was an amazing raconteur with a seamless patter of stories.

Then **back to Frankfurt** and the end of a trip crammed with too many facts to assimilate, memories of stunning architecture, beautiful gilded churches and amazing people. It ended all too soon but one day we may return to enjoy a more leisurely holiday in some of the beautiful cities we visited.

Our next adventure - a 14 day train trip to Munich (München) in Germany, Salzburg and Innsbruck in Austria (Österreich), Lucerne (Luzerne) and Interlaken in Switzerland and, Venice (Venezia), Florence (Firenze), Pisa, and Rome (Roma) in Italy. Euro-pass travel is to be recommended - comfortable trains with reliable timetables, amazingly fast trains reaching speeds of 300+ km per hour, easily negotiable railway stations and spectacular scenery on the way.

- **Munich** - visits to BMW world (show room of new cars) and the BMW museum (unfortunately the BMW factory doesn't open on a Saturday). Also a visit to the now rather neglected Olympic Park built in 1972 for the Olympic Games on hills of WW2 rubble.
- **Salzburg** - city of music and home of Mozart. Cobble stoned streets with medieval and baroque buildings in the old city on the left bank of the Salzach River and the 19th century new city on the right. Great food - especially enjoyed schnitzel and beer served in an outside restaurant - a welcome respite from the heat and a chance to rest our sore feet.
- Then onto **Innsbruck in the Tyrol** with visits to Hofkirche a gothic church housing the ornate black marble cenotaph of Emperor Maximilian I surrounded by 28 large bronze statues of ancestors, relatives and heroes including King Arthur of Britain, the medieval Old town to see the Goldenes Dachl with its copper tiled roof and walks through the old city finding new sights around every corner.
- Next a trip through the spectacular Tyrol (the mountains and lakes best seen by train) through Liechtenstein to Switzerland. An **overnight stop in Lucerne** and then an early train to **Interlaken** a small town of around 5,700 permanent residents - the gateway to the mountains and lakes of the region and a very popular tourist destination. Unfortunately on arrival a move from our centrally located booked hotel - Arab guests had flooded the floor of their bathroom (not a good idea in a totally wooden building with no floor drains!) Mien Frau the hotel owner was not impressed but found us other accommodation near Wilderswil train station where locals and visitors catch the cog railway up in to the mountains. Loved the mountain views, including the snow capped Jung Frau (too high for us at around 4,158 metres), the icy mountain fed river through the town, a trip in to the mountains - up to 1967m seeing where the farmers graze their stock during the summer (behind electric fencing!), shops with amazing displays of Swiss chocolate [no shopping between 12 noon and 2pm - everything shuts for a long lunch hour (what a good idea)], dairy farms in the middle of the houses - one near our hotel with a refrigerator outside the dairy selling fresh cheeses, yoghurt and other dairy products with an honesty box for your money. (The special alpine cheeses are made during summer and the locals were predicting a shortage of cheese in 2015 because of the drought conditions) Who can forget the unusual sight of dairy cows, with huge bells around their necks, meandering down the main streets holding up tour buses and cars to take part in the William Tell show held twice weekly.
- Three train changes then **Venice** - our hotel near San Marco Square Piazza was within easy walking distance of the Grand Canal and the surrounding sights. Highlights - a boat trip to the islands of Murano, Burano and Torcello and wending our way through the narrow alleys enjoying window shopping, new sights around every corner and particularly watching the loading and unloading of the gondolas that bring in, via the Grand Canal, food, linen, beverages and other requirements of the many hotels, restaurants and shops on the islands and take out containers of garbage, laundry etc. Venice is built on 100 small islands so the crossing of countless bridges and negotiating around the many hawkers became a bit wearing in the 40+° heat.
- **On to Florence** - by then we were tiring of queuing in the heat in huge crowds to visit churches and monuments so after a 2-3 hour walk through the old city on the first day we opted the next day to take a bus trip in to the Tuscan hills where we could see Florence from above. What a beautiful part of the world - Tuscany would make a great holiday destination for a leisurely break. Then on to **Pisa**: we walked through the city wall into a grassy walled square, the Piazza del Duomo (Cathedral Square), expecting to see just the Leaning Tower only to be greeted by the wonderful Baptistery & marble Cathedral of Pisa & other buildings with the Cathedral bell tower in the background (Leaning Tower of Pisa) All constructed around 1064-1180.
- Then to **Rome** - awed by the magnificence of the Colosseum (so much larger than we imagined); the Vatican Museum, Sistine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica lived up to expectations (we paid extra for *skip the queue* tickets and as the main queue was lined up around the whole of St Peter's Square on the day we visited well worth the extra money). Unfortunately the *Trevi Fountain* was empty and covered in scaffolding - so disappointing. It rained on the last day of our European travels so for the first time our umbrellas and coats got an airing. Unfortunately we didn't have enough time to visit all the sights of Rome - perhaps another time?

Then via Vueling Air (no frills Spanish version of EasyJet) back to **London** for two days with time for a visit to a National Heritage park in South London, a farewell barbecue with my English family and then a reluctant farewell to the UK and back home via Singapore. The trip of a lifetime and more travel planned. Perhaps next time another visit to Scotland and a trip to the Hebrides and northern England or maybe Canada and the US? So much more of the world to see!!

NARROW BOATING IN THE UK

If you are reasonably agile and like a challenge take a canal trip in the UK. We opted for a five day, 44 lock trip through the County of Worcestershire. We boarded our hired boat "Alice" on a Monday afternoon, received 10 minutes instruction on driving the vessel and we were then on our own! (however in NZ we had been given a DVD as part of our booking with the *Black Prince* Company so after watching this a number of times we had a good insight in to the locks systems and 'canal rules' before we started our trip)



We were furnished with a canal map with all the locks and bridges detailed with each day's destination clearly marked to ensure we arrived back at the depot on time by Friday at 9:30am. I opted to work the locks while Rob drove the boat. Alice was a 52ft narrow boat, fully fitted out with clean and well equipped bedrooms, bathroom and living and kitchen areas. There are many companies offering similar boats for hire – the largest boat in the *Black Prince* fleet is 72 feet. Our boat had accommodation for 6 people but we enjoyed the extra space and found we could manage the trip easily with no help.

The boats are steel hulled and flat bottomed and are driven from the back. Rob soon got to grips with the way the boat was steered even when the first hours on the water were a bit challenging manoeuvring through moored boats and battling strong winds that were blowing the boat sideways.

The boats travel at walking pace so we could see the countryside and wildlife as we travelled and learned to avoid the fishing lines of the many fishermen sitting on the banks. The tow paths are very easy to traverse and I often walked between the locks rather than get back on the boat.

The locks are operated by a "paddle". Each narrow boat carries a handle that fits the ratchet of the paddle and, except for a bit of help with the larger locks when entering the river, we could open the locks very easily. The lock gates have a beam that one leans on to open - once the water pressure is released they are easy to push open.

We traversed two canal systems and the Severn river (similar size to the Waikato River as it goes through Hamilton) during our round trip from Stoke Prior near Birmingham, via Worcester City and back. (Worcester, a former Roman settlement, is a small town in the Midlands with a population of around 100,000 - it attained its city status by dint of being a cathedral town). Narrow boating is a great way to see the countryside and there was always a pub close by when we moored each night serving a great range of meals.



When mooring one can use the centre rope to pull the boat in to shore – I could easily manage this. One boat owner told us narrow boating is a 'contact sport' hence the steel hulls. When entering some locks you can only go in at an angle so the boat has to bump on to the lock sides to straighten up. Some locks hold two boats side by side, more commonly on our trip just one boat.



["Paddle" & beam]

More and more canals are being reopened each year throughout Britain, most of the trips are 10 – 14 days and you can choose from many options. There are also aqueducts, tunnels, swing bridges, rivers and manned locks to traverse and you meet a lot of interesting people in your travels.

Take friends to share the adventure – its great fun and to be recommended. A word of warning – be sure to research the canal trips offered to check if there are any staircases in the system you choose. A staircase is 2 or more locks where the lower gates of the higher lock are also the higher gates of the lower one. In other words there is no stopping once you are in the staircase. We did a small staircase of 3 locks in our travels and managed this easily but staircases can be up to 30 locks so you would need to be very fit and have 4-6 helpers on your boat to attempt this.

Jill

Eureka Farm Discussion Group Report

This month we visited 50:50 sharemilkers Brent and Danielle Johnsons, Valintine Road. The property is peat running 3.2 Jersey cows /ha producing 1,000MS/ha. The farm is looking beautifully lush with cows in great condition. This must be a major attributing factor to achieving a great mating performance last year, and early indications with a 95% submission rate in the 1st 3 weeks project another great result. This season the required replacements were attained within 10 days. Passion and attention to detail is the key here.

Area Update

- Most people have made silage and put in crop, future silage cuts are highly dependent on rainfall going forward with later planted crops 10 days behind due to dry conditions from low rainfall and wind
- Pastures are showing signs of stress through lack of moisture and evapotranspiration
- Submission rates for the 1st 3 weeks of mating are generally down by 10% due to a marked reduction in the use of CIDR's this season

Issues

- Growth rates over the last week or so have been up but largely due to plants going reproductive. Average Pasture Covers (APC) however are dropping
- Later planted crops are slow and are 10 days behind
- To use Nitrogen (N) or not
- El Nino

El Nino Strategies

- N will help build cover going into a dry period
- Once A Day (OAD) milking will conserve Body Condition Score (BCS) giving the ability to get through a dry spell to capture autumn production without jeopardising BCS going into calving. Extra days in milk will cover milk production losses
- Early pregnancy detection (PD) then culling will reduce demand on farm and putting available feed into cows that are profitable long term
- Contracting feed now on a flexible 12mth contract will hedge against a long dry period. If you put in feed during the spring, contract it now at the current low prices. If you need it in the summer it is available



Late Spring Use Of Nitrogen

- If using N we must use N with inhibitors such as Ballance's Sustain N. Inhibitors stop the N in Urea from volatilisation creating wastage. Worst case scenario is up to 40%. Inhibitor products are \$50 more expensive but cost effective in hot dry conditions. Any queries call Anna-Lena from Balance 0274489714.
- N applications reduce the stress on grasses, promoting tillering and delaying reproductive tillers emerging therefore delaying quality reducing in our pastures
- The problem for many sharemilkers at present is if we apply N creating a surplus causing extra cost through making silage then having to feed it out. Bought in feed is a shared cost of 50:50. Is this profitable for the whole farm business. In the modern agreement silage harvest costs are shared 50:50 for whole farm profitability
- Extra feed grown now is not affected by current N applications. N applied now will affect pasture availability in 3-6 weeks. An excess of feed can be used to extend rotation or for making supplements like hay.

Fishing

- Raglan is fishing really well at the moment with plenty of fish between 40-60m on the start of the outgoing tide. As time goes on the band will narrow closer to 50m as the spawn gets going. Expect this to last until mid to late December
- Coromandel fishing is also heating up with the outer mussel farms having plentiful numbers

Tough Times

- It's been a rough season with some big lows causing high stress. With the looming dry summer coming due to El Nino we need to remember what is important in our lives, the people that surround us, our family, friends and peers. Go to a park, a walk down the farm or a coffee with a mate or neighbour. Time given to these people will make our and their lives better with the old saying "a problem shared is a problem halved"

Dan Hinton
0274 267 509



THE FORTHCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON – BE PREPARED

As Christmas, New Year and the holiday period approaches it might be a good time to review security around your property and home and assess what preventive measures you can take in good time for any period you plan to be away from home. Professional burglars don't go on holiday – this is their peak period – so you can at least be prepared.

The Neighbourhood Support national website contains many useful factsheets and tips to help you be proactive and avoid being a victim of burglary. There is also a wealth of information available on the Police website also. **NOW** is the time to start preparing with window and door locks, security lighting and timers, burglar alarm installation, registering your valued and hard-earned possessions on SNAP, and purchasing and using SelectaDNA.



During the Second World War the U.K. Government ran a propaganda campaign using a slogan "Careless Talk Costs Lives" reminding people to be careful about what they talked about in public situations such as on a bus, at the pub, in the shopping queues. It might be worth remembering in this more modern age that it may cost being **burgled** if a forthcoming trip or holiday is publicised on a social media site of any kind, talking to friends in unguarded situations when unsure just WHO is nearby listening to your plans to leave your home empty, or somehow letting strangers know you will be away.

Most burglaries are opportunist and happen when owners are away. Unfortunately it is necessary to be especially careful at Christmas time, as homes are more often empty with many people out shopping, socializing or away on holiday. Burglars are also aware that most houses have presents to steal. While enjoying the festive season and your holiday, please don't overlook your home security. Taking a few simple precautions will help to deter all but the most determined burglar.

"Crime can't survive in a community that cares"

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NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

I have recently had the privilege of being invited to attend the **Newstead School and District 125th Jubilee** celebrations held at the School. Despite the bad weather it was a very enjoyable event and I enjoyed catching up with old friends. Newstead is one of the oldest schools in this part of the District – Tauwhare and Tamahere are older at 131 years old. Gordonton celebrates 125 years in 2016, Matangi celebrated its centenary in 2010 and Puketaha's centenary is next year in September 2016. I was also invited by the Matangi Community Committee to join them at the formal opening of the **Jack Foster Reserve** behind the church and next to the school. Jack was the district vet for over 40 years and much admired and respected by his community – his widow Eileen unveiled the sign in the reserve. You can read about Jack's colourful life on the Tamahere Forum website www.tamahereforum.co.nz

The District Council has recently released an electronic version of its District Plan online – **Waikato district e-plan**. Features include the ability to click on defined words and see their meaning, easily navigate between sections and search for key words. This should make it easier to explore the plan and understand the rules. *e-Plan* will eventually replace the hard copies but for now they can still be reviewed at all our Council offices.

A reminder before the dry weather to **be careful when lighting fires**. You may require a permit, or there may be a fire ban. Before lighting a fire check on line www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Services/Rural-fires or phone our toll free number 0800 492 452. Remember fires on peat soils can spread undetected underground so avoid lighting fires in dry weather. Do not leave any fire unattended – if a fire gets out of control, even if you have a permit, you are liable for any damage or fire fighting costs.

Water usage – if you are connected to the Southern Districts Water Scheme remember to regularly check your pipes for leaks. As the meters are only read every six months a slow leak can result in large water bills if undetected. Council is also reminding you to flush at least a cupful of water from your drinking tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from your plumbing fittings overnight.

The **Inorganic refuse collection** is nearly completed. Disappointingly there has been a large number of 'dumpings' of household appliances, furniture and general rubbish in the district. This is probably being dumped by non residents but will have to be removed at a cost to the WDC ratepayers. In the future the methods of collecting inorganic refuse will change to try to avoid this happening.

Heritage – The Heritage Committee I mentioned in last month's newsletter has been meeting for the last 18 months. We are looking for someone from Tauwhare to join the Committee – George Dingle has been assisting us but is unable to continue. If you would like to join the committee our next meeting will be held on 9th December at 7:30pm. Phone me for more details.

Community Day
Tuesday
15 December

Starts 3pm
Last entry 7pm
Closes 8pm

Explore the Cambridge Section of the Waikato Expressway

The event will be based at the Victoria Road Interchange, the gateway to Cambridge

- Explore by foot, bike or bus.
- Free buses will be running in a circuit from Victoria Road along the Expressway with stops at the Northern and Southern Interchanges and the Kauri Dully Viaduct.
- Helicopter rides will be available over the Expressway, a five minute flight will cost \$40 per person (4 people required).
- The road is scheduled to open to traffic by Christmas.

Walk Cycle Run
Helicopter rides
Displays and activities
Free bus tours

Tell us what you think and go in the draw to **WIN** a free helicopter ride over the expressway on the day
go to www.nzta.govt.nz/cambridge to enter.



Waikato Expressway .

The **Cambridge Section** will be officially opened by Minister of Transport – The Hon Simon Bridges at 10:30 on **Tuesday 15th December** at the Victoria Road Interchange. To mark the occasion a community day is being held on the same day from 3pm to 8pm (last entry 7pm) so residents of Cambridge and surrounds can explore this section of the Expressway (details in the flyer I have included).. The expressway will be opened to traffic by Christmas.

Please note that parking is to be accessed off **Laurent Road**.

Hamilton Section - A consortium of contractors and designers (Fletcher, Beca, Higgins and Coffey [FBHC]) has been awarded the contract to build this 21.8km section in an alliance with the Transport Agency. Over the next 12 months the Alliance will complete the detailed design with the start of construction scheduled for spring 2016. The Transport Agency has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with HCC, WDC and Tainui Group Holdings to ensure good local road connections to the Expressway.

My family joins me in wishing you all a very enjoyable holiday season.

Contact me at any time

Rob McGuire - Councillor Eureka Ward

Ph. 824 3696 / fax 824 3645 / Mob 0274 970 966

Email

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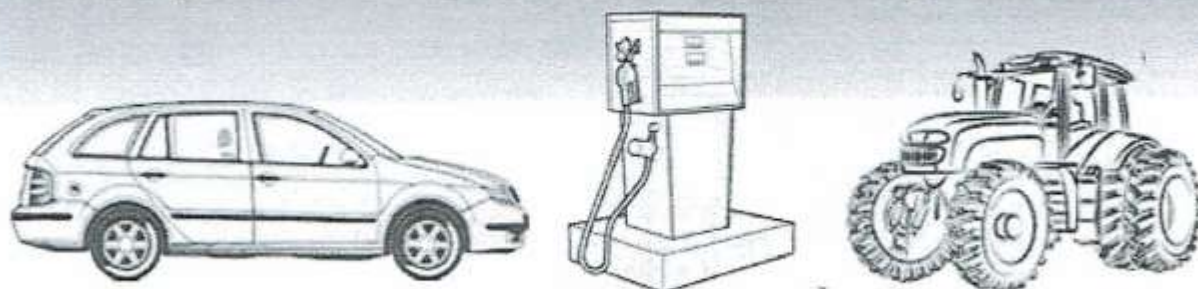
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