# **Eureka Express**

Vol XL No. 2 Circ 315

March 2019



**EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION** 

## EUREKA EXPRESS EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION

Groups:	Pre-schoolers Juniors 5 – 7 Seniors 8 – 11 years 12 years and upward see below
Only	one entry per person. Further copies available from Gull Eureka
]	Please have entries in to Gull Eureka by 10am Friday 12 April
_	ng will take place and prize-winners will be advised prior to Easter Winners will be named in April Eureka Express ayons, pencils or felts may be used. Please colour the whole page).
NAME:	
<b>AGE:</b>	
ADDRESS	S:
	•••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
CONTACT	PHONE NUMBER
	<b>DESIGN A COVER COMPETITION</b>
	For School students 12 years and upward You are invited to design a 2019 Eureka Express cover (Please make your design in black and white only)
	Entries please to Gull Eureka by Monday 15th April at the latest
NAME:	
<b>AGE:</b>	

CONTACT PHONE NUMBER: ....

## **EDITORIAL**

We are Paul & Sam (Dad and Mum), Brodie and Milla (twin son and daughter nearly 15), Pipi the labradoodle (who DOES shed hair), Whiskers (the long-haired cat) the sheep and the chickens.

Paul 'retired' after 34 years in the police and is now back as a very busy builder ... he's not sure which occupation is harder on his body.

Sam works as the HR and Education Manager for Hospice, has her own business HR on Tap, working with organisations who need HR help, is in two bands and is a also wedding Celebrant. Needless to say, Paul, Brodie and Milla do more outside than Mum!

Brodie and Milla are in year 10 at Hillcrest High and are avid musicians – Brodie is a great guitarist about to sing and play at his first wedding this year and Milla will sit her Grade 6 piano exam this year. So you may hear the odd band jam coming from our place.

We live in Friedlander Road – having purchased the original 1916 built homestead from the Goulding family in 2015. One of the most wonderful parts of our welcome to Friedlander Road was a picture of our home originally named Te Koraha taken in 1960 by the second owners the Smith family, with hand written messages from all of the Goulding family. Each member had shared some special memories of their 20 plus years spent in the home, wishing us many happy years of the same. Pretty special.

It has been a bit of a change for us – 3 of us having not lived in the country before. Some of the more interesting events have been the knock on the front door – to which Sam heads to the door to be greeted by a rooster's head being lifted up and walked through the air from below the glass section... with the entrails descending ... (courtesy of Milla). Brodie helping to make a cryptorchid – (not one Mike Roach would grow Mum!), Paul out shooting possums in whatever attire he can grab at 3am... when Pipi tells him there's one outside! Then there's Pipi especially loving finding the crusty old lambs' tails in the long grass – many weeks old! Needless to say, Whiskers did not enjoy his night in the feral cat cage due to the thunderstorm that had gone on all night... heading home through the bull paddock after being freed, with every Bull giving the 'mad looking drenched cat' a very wide berth.

We have loved moving in and making Eureka our home. The ability to pick our own produce to make sauces, jams and chutneys as well as have our own meat in the freezer is a real bonus, as is the wood supply for the well needed winter fire.

We've started to work on doing up our home as well as some changes outside.... its coming together slowly. Has only taken 102 years to get under floor insulation fitted!

Getting to know the community has been so easy with people dropping in or stopping to introduce themselves and say hi.

Being a part of a true country community has cemented our decision to stay where we are – Eureka is a great place to call home.

#### Christchurch 15 March 2019

The events of 15 March 2019 in Christchurch have impacted on every New Zealand citizen, resident and visitor regardless of ethnicity, faith or country of origin. The Eureka Express committee sends our deepest condolences, sympathy and love to those who lost family members and friends or were injured in this tragic event. The NZ Police, ambulance staff, paramedics, professional medical staff and other frontline personnel have our heartfelt thanks and admiration for your amazing strength and care both now and at all other times.

#### **Snippets**

#### WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS TO: Ross and

Gemma Blair, married. November 15<sup>th</sup> at the home of Gemma's parents, Lynette and Tony Walker of Masters Road. Our very best wishes to you both for the future.





And Sharon Laurent and Mark Fisher from Hooper Road celebrated their daughter Libby's wedding at Rua Awa lodge in Kakahi near Owhango on Saturday 16 March. Libby married Ryan Ogle. The weather was beautiful and the day was enjoyed by all.

**FAREWELL TO EUREKA TO:** The Drevers. After 15 years in Eureka we are sad to say goodbye to Ian and Anna Drever and family of Eureka Road who are on the move to Katikati. Anna has composed our EExpress covers for some years and has offered to continue in her role. Our thanks go to Anna, and to the advent of computers..... We wish you well in your move.

**WELCOME TO EUREKA TO:** Diane and Gavin Hodges who have moved into Oak View Lane after 18 years in Whatawhata (to flat land)! Diane and Gavin have 4 adult children and 2 grandchildren. (Also 3 dogs and 4 cats!) Welcome to you all. Phone 2841660

#### TERTIARY STUDIES:

Congratulations to all students who did well in their NZEA exams at the end of 2018 and to those who have moved on to the workforce or to tertiary studies go our best wishes.

Harrison Whiting of Eureka Road has begun a 4 year B. Engineering degree at Waikato University. Go well, Harrison.

#### **WARNING BURGLARY!**

Do keep vigilant and safety conscious of your homes and sheds. It has come to our notice of a recent farm burglary. Lock up and pay due care and attention to any unusual vehicles or activity in your neighbourhood. Phone 111 in an emergency, or 8586200 to report any suspicious activity or thefts.

Thieves can be unbelievably brazen when stealing property. Recently a caravan was stolen from the front of the owner's home right outside the window just after 8 am while the owners were having breakfast inside! Fortunately, the caravan was recovered quickly but, unfortunately, the thieves have so far, not been apprehended. There were 2 people in a white Toyota Land Cruiser. The police who came to fingerprint the caravan said that caravans seemed to be targeted by these thieves and often they are not recovered.

#### **EASTER COLOURING COMPETITION:** See cover.

Open to all children in the Eureka Express circulation area. Please use this March cover. More copies are available from Gull Eureka.

Please follow the instructions on the reverse side of the cover and make sure entries are in to Gull Eureka by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April. Prizes will be delivered Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

**ANZAC:** The Poppy Tree will be on display from mid-April and a small Anzac Remembrance Service will be held at our Cenotaph at 11am on Anzac Day, April 25<sup>th</sup> followed by a cuppa and Anzac biscuit ...

Sincere condolences are extended to Caroline Tims and all the family on the death of Gary on February 27<sup>tt</sup>. Gary was the dearly loved husband of Caroline, father of Diane, Peter and Sheryl, Grandad of Mark, Lance and Alex, Shaun and Daniel and Tayla and Jordan, and Great Grandad of four.

Gary married local girl, Caroline Hinton, 56 years ago and they have been dairy farming in Eureka (Hinton Road/Morrinsville Road) ever since. Horses and riding were always a huge focus of their lives, from hunting, competing on the Show circuit, to Gary being a successful amateur jockey (winning the Duke of Gloucester Cup), and then becoming an acknowledged owner-trainer. Son, Peter, who went on to forge a very successful career as a jockey, actually had his first win on one of his dad's horses, Bright Star. Today Gary and Caroline's grandchildren are all carrying on the riding and racing family tradition. Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with you in your sad loss.



#### PRELIMINARY NOTICE: MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### Our hall is turning 50!!

The Hall Committee invites you all to a celebratory Community Luncheon Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 11.30am at Eureka Hall

#### Pot-Luck Finger Food Lunch. Tea, coffee and juice provided.

You are all invited to come along and meet and greet your neighbours, both new and long-established.

All welcome, including children. Do come along and enjoy a convivial afternoon in your hall.

#### HALL UPDATE

The end of March is here already. Where is the year going? At least the weather is cooling down, now if we could have some rain we would all be happy.

Another busy month for the hall - meetings, weddings, parties, it is fantastic to see the hall being used.

It has been decided to hold an ANZAC day ceremony on ANZAC day. Starting at 11am at the cenotaph at Eureka Hall and followed by a cup of tea for those of you who would like to join us. A small cross will be placed in front of the cenotaph, and if anyone else would like to lay a wreath or just something small, to remember our fallen, you are very welcome to do so. Hopefully we will see many of you on the day.

April is the hall's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, as I mentioned last month. It has been decided to hold a get together in the form of a luncheon on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May starting at 11am. More details will follow next month, so put this date in your calendar. It is a great way to meet your neighbours and people in our community. Attending one of these luncheons 13 years ago was how I met so many people and have made some amazing friendships since then.

We have a few bookings for the hall already for the year, so if you are thinking about having a function, meeting, or looking for somewhere for a group to meet, then we have the perfect place. Below are the prices for the hall for this year. If you would like to book a function, contact Gail Mayall 824 1758.

Have a great month, and I hope to see many of you on ANZAC Day.

Usage	Residents	Non - Residents
Meeting Supper room	\$5	\$25
Meeting Hall	\$15	\$60
Social function	\$95	\$160
Weddings & Dance	\$115	\$250
Bond	\$400 Secretary's Discretion	\$400 Secretary's discretion

#### **EUREKA EXPRESS AGM REPORT**

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Eureka Express was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at the Eureka Hall. Ten residents attended the meeting which was chaired by Editor Gail Mayall.

Income for the 2019 financial year was \$2,906.69; Cash expenditure \$8994.86 – a loss before depreciation of \$6088.17. This loss includes a donation made to the Eureka Hall Committee of \$5,000 to go towards the purchase of chairs for the hall.

Bank balances at the end of the financial year were – Encore account \$2,948.42, Simple Saver account \$6,037.58. Advertising charges will remain the same.

During the 2018 year the Express again ran their annual Easter colouring competition, well supported by local children. Local ladies supported the Waikato District Council ANZAC poppy initiative by knitting and crocheting hundreds of poppies that were mounted around a tree in the hall grounds. Eureka was included in Council's Little Library initiative and the library was placed next to the hall.

The Editor expressed regret that no community events were held in 2018 but that this will be remedied in 2019 with the plans to hold a luncheon in May 2019 to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Eureka Hall.

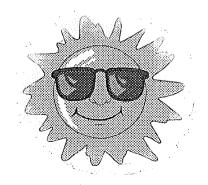
In 2020 the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Eureka Express will be held, probably in March, and it is hoped that past members of the Express Committee will attend.

Guest editorials continued and are a feature of the Express enjoyed by all and the Editor thanked those who contributed. She acknowledged the thorough care of the Express accounts by new Treasurer Glenys Middlemiss and thanked Sheryll Gordon who reviews the Express accounts, Lin Buckley who finds volunteers to write the editorial each month and remind contributors to meet printing deadlines, Wendy Morch for her work preparing advertisements, Anna Drever who designs the covers, Lorraine Morrison who is a huge help on printing day, Margaret Smith and Jill McGuire for their assistance with editing and typing and who, with Sue Marshall help on printing days. Also to the other Committee members who make a big contribution to the smooth running of the Express; also Waikato Sheds, Eureka Motors and other advertisers, regular and new contributors and those who assist with delivering the Express each month. The Committee is also grateful for the donations they receive from past and present residents of Eureka.

The Editor commented the Express Committee would welcome new ideas and suggestions from the community.

#### WEATHER

Weather for Feb 2019		
Rainfall total	10.2 mm	
Rain Total for year	42 mm	
Rainy days	3	
Most daily rainfall	8.8 mm	22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb
Highest wind speed	27.4 km/hr	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Temp high	31.1 C	14 <sup>th</sup> Feb
Temp low	5.3 C	27 <sup>th</sup> Feb



### MARKETPLACE

**ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED**: If anyone knows of any available accommodation for rent in the Gordonton/Puketaha/Eureka areas then we have a very good staff member who would be interested to know. Any enquiries please phone 0274160096. Robyn Badger, Telephone Road.

**WORK WANTED:** Hi, it's Ashleigh Mayall and I am looking for some baby sitting and pet sitting jobs! I am 14 years old and I live on Eureka Road. Phone: 0224671511

**FIREWOOD FOR SALE;** Quality firewood, \$90 sq mtr. Can be delivered for \$10 locally. Mix of Tasmanian Blackwood, Oak and Ameilia – all hard wood, dry and shed stored. Phone Ace 02102889247

#### FOR SALE: HONEY!

To help with fundraising for her trip to Barcelona in July for the World Roller Games, Laura Thresher is selling two varieties of honey: Pasture honey and Rewarewa honey.

Both are 1kg, and the price is only \$25 each! Alternatively, if you're part of a business, there is a raffle available for the chance to have your logo on their training jersey!

Flick Laura a text message on 0278486014 or email her at <u>laura.thresher@gmail.com</u> if you're interested, and be sure to check out their Facebook page: "New Zealand Inline Ferns".

#### FOR SALE: OLIVE OIL

Olive oil. Extra virgin spray free oil, this season's lovely taste, priced from \$9.99 for 250 mls to \$19 a litre for bulk. Not as cheap as in the supermarket but fresher and local. Phone Robert 0272929571

#### JOB VACANCY

A teenager wanted to assist part time on a casual basis around the olive grove, and then to assist in the press room and maybe harvesting weekends late April, May and June. Must be able to lift approx.  $15-20\,\mathrm{kg}$  and work in a noisy environment (hearing protection and milking apron provided), male or female. Am willing to teach how to press olive oil. Hours generally from 10am to 5 pm. Must be literate and numerate. Ph. Robert 0272929571



161 Morrinsville Road, Hamilton, 3286

Phone: 07 856 4522 Fax: 07 856 9487 Email:

enquiries@newsteadvets.co.nz Website: www.newsteadvets.co.nz

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Rural location with ample parking

Referral to Specialists

PennHIP Certified

Full Laboratory Service

Hospitalisation

Cremation Service

Convenient Online Shop

#### INVITATION



The Eureka poet Sue Edmonds
Would like to invite you
To a celebratory launch and book signing
Of her newly published poetry collection

#### A Full Life

A book which contains 53 poems on topics such as Life, Drollery, We're Here, Friends, & But...

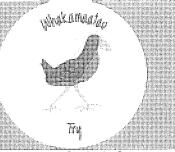
Hamish Wright of Paper Plus Cambridge
Has generously offered their premises
At 54 Victoria St, Cambridge
For the occasion, which is to be held at
5.30pm on Wednesday 10 April 2019

#### PLEASE COME AND SHARE IN SUE'S LATEST EXPLOIT!



# Tavwhare Schoo

garan gadaren (Manazakarra) bilan bilan



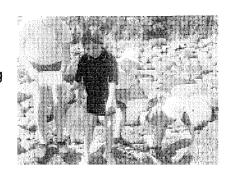
Words cannot express our horror and sadness as the events of the Christchurch tragedy unfolded. Our deepest sympathies go to the victims and their families, and to the many schools and school children who remained in lock down for many hours. Many of you may well have been impacted in some way and we send our love and sympathies to you all.

We have reviewed and amended our school's lock down policy and procedures. Just so you know, we use an App called SchoolStream which enables us to send an immediate alert to phones and devices for caregivers. We also have food, water and toilets available for each classroom.



#### Whole School Rock Pool Trip

We packed the whole school into buses along with sunscreen and hats and wonderful parent helpers. It was a stunning day and the rock pools did not disappoint. The children and teachers are always energized by the excitement and anticipation of leaving the school environment and learning in an unstructured way.





#### **Swimming Success**

We had one of our biggest teams ever represent us in the combined Cluster Schools Swimming Sports. The children were amazing! There was a sea of yellow with over 30 children qualifying for the finals. These children will now go on to compete in the City & Country Interschool Swimming Sports.

#### SCHOOL POOL CLOSURE SUNDAY 24th March 12pm -4pm

As a fundraiser we have the Car Rally using our back field and pool for the final afternoon of their rally. This means the pool will not be available for community use for those hours. We apologise for the inconvenience, but the funds raised will go towards the pool upkeep.

#### Hillcrest Kaahui Ako Teacher Only Day

Friday 14th June 8.30-3.00pm

#### Zenders

4)9 Ruskurs Road Newstead Hamilton

#### Keynote speakers: Nigel Latta

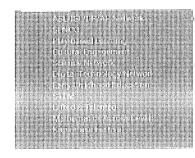
Ant Backhouse Linda Bendikson

#### Workshops:

Laughton King Dyslexia Lance King The Art of Learning plus 2 speakers TBC

#### COL TEACHER ONLY DAY

There are many exciting things happening in our community of learning. Many meetings are organised for after school where teachers from all levels get together to share best practice, have professional learning and celebrate successes. Teachers are also visiting each other in their school settings to work together on shared interests or inquiries. Coming up in June we have a Teacher Only day for all 8 schools. Having over 250 teachers come together as one will be extremely exciting.





Other events this term include a visit from sensational storyteller & artist Stu Duval who held the children and teachers captivated with his stories, and Athletics with Sports Waikato. A busy, wonderful month.



# Pukeko Country Preschou



26 Spotsman Vellay Road RD7

HAMILTON 3287

Talaphona: 07 824 0860

E-mail: pukakopraschop@xtra.co.nz Wabsita: www.pukakopraschoplorg.nz

8th March 2019

. Dear Parents/Caregivers/Whanau,

Hello from Pukeko Preschool Trust Board, we trust you have all settled well into 2019 and are having a good year so far.

As we are sure you are aware, the new Preschool Building is so close to being finished and open, it really will be a fantastic space for our kaiako (teachers) and tamariki (children).

We have encountered a hold up however; we have had to alter our carpark design which has pushed our opening dates out further than we had anticipated. The council is in the process of approving the new plans, and as soon as we get the go ahead from them, we will be able to go ahead and seal and gravel the carpark and driveway.

In the meantime, the inside will be finished, including carpet and lino going in this week, the white-ware and office furniture, toilets and sinks and the heating. Outside landscaping will be going up.

Once all this is done, we then need to get our building compliance, as well as the Ministry of Education approval and we will be able to open our doors. Because we are reliant on outside approval, it is hard for us to put a definite open date on the Preschool, but I can say we are aiming for the end of April, the beginning of term 2, although we will keep you posted on this.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our families for their patience and understanding during this exciting time; we appreciate that some of you have had to after work hours to accommodate the delay in the opening and we do appreciate your ongoing support. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact either Clare or myself.

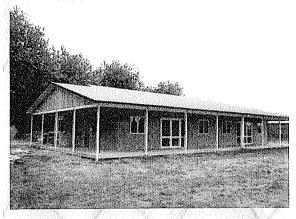
Warm Regards,

Emma Elliot Chairperson On behalf of Pukeko Preschool Trust Board

#### About Pukeko Preschool

We are a small rural preschool situated in the grounds of Tauwhare School on Scotsman Valley Rd. We are open from 8am – 4pm and licensed for 17 children. Session times are 8.45am – 1.00pm, 8.45am – 2.45pm, or choose your own hours for bookings over 6.5 hours. We welcome children from 2 years of age. They need to be toilet-trained (or close to it) as we do not have nappy changing facilities (we will have these in our new centre).

Limited spaces are available – call in and see us, phone 824 0860, or email <a href="mailto:pukekopreschool@xtra.co.nz">pukekopreschool@xtra.co.nz</a>. We offer 20 hours Free ECE (NO extra charges for these hours) and you may also be eligible for the childcare subsidy. Contact us for more information, check out our website <a href="mailto:www.pukekopreschool.org.nz">www.pukekopreschool.org.nz</a>, or find us on Facebook 'Pukeko Preschool in Tauwhare'.





Our new centre will be open from 7.30am to 5.30pm and will be licensed for seven under-2s and twenty-three over-2s. We're getting closer to knowing our opening date – please watch our Facebook page for updates. If you would like to put your child's name down, please contact us now to go on our waiting list.

#### TAUWHARE PLAYGROUP

It has been wonderful to welcome so many new families to playgroup this term. The children have been making the most of what's left of the fine weather by enjoying some water play. They have also loved spending time in the school's sandpit and exploring the wonderful playground on the school arounds.

#### About Tauwhare Playgroup:

Tauwhare playgroup is a friendly and fun group, where parents, grandparents, caregivers, children and babies meet together in a relaxed environment. Everyone is welcome.

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 between 9am-12 noon every Thursday during school term time. We are happy if people want to drop in for just a short while between naps or after school drop off. You don't have to stay all morning.

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 us Katherine 021 403 969 or follow us on Facebook to keep up-todate with what is happening.

#### TAUWHARE INDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Welcome to March's club newsletter.

The bowling season is now underway. We have had two nights so far with 17 attending on the first night and 18 last week.

Any people that used to play bowls we would love to see you back and of course we welcome anyone who would just love to give bowls ago. It is a game where you can be as serious as you like or you can just come along on club night for a social evening.

If you have not played bowls before but would love to give it a go, then come along to the Tauwhare hall on a Thursday evening. We have plenty of people within the club that can explain how the game is played. We start at 7.30pm but names need to be in by 7.25pm

If you would like more information, then do not hesitate to contact one of the following people: -

Jim and Rosalie Arnold 07 887 4832

Bev Meads

021 172 7822

Kevin Williams

07 824 0728

Upcoming events for April:-4<sup>th</sup> - Triples Championship

11th – Club Night

18th - Open Triples Tournament

25<sup>th</sup> – Club Night – Family Night

Family night is definitely a fun night. Bring along the whole family - mum, dad, brothers, sisters, grandparents etc. Usually have a couple of short games then a couple of fun competitions for just the children that have never played bowls before.

Come along and give bowls a go.

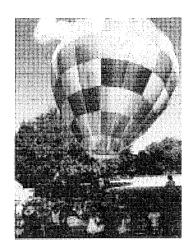
Another fun season of indoor bowls has started.



Term One has been busy and exciting time for the students at Newstead School.

Last week we were fortunate enough to have a team of Hot Air Balloon enthusiasts visit our school. The children had the opportunity to watch a Hot Air Balloon inflate. We also had time for questions and answers and children were able to go inside the basket of the balloon after it had been deflated.



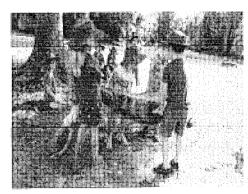


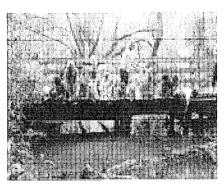


Tui at Forest School

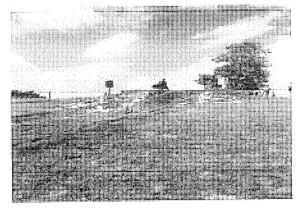
Every Tuesday Ruma Tui goes to Forest School. This is a great way to utilise the wonderful resource behind our school, The Newstead Gully. Forest school is child-directed and play-based. The forest school allows learners the time and space to develop their interests, skills, and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences.







A couple of weeks ago the year 4,5 and 6 student had their annual camp. This year it was at Totara Springs Christian Camp. The students had lots of opportunities to participate in a variety of activities including the Abseil Tower, Flying Kiwi, Raft Building, and team building challenges, as well as making damper and cooking it over a campfire and hurtling down the 'now famous' foam slide.



#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

#### March

28 City Swimming Sports

#### April

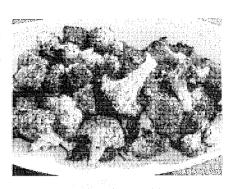
- 6 PTA presents Lego Movie
- 11 Junior Tabloids
- 12 Last Day Term 1
- 29 First Day Term

## TASTE BUDS

#### **BROCCOLI AND LEMON**

The crazy thing is, this recipe is so simple!

It is not much more effort than steaming them in the microwave, though it does take longer because you bake the broccoli. Baking is the key! Roasting broccoli creates a flavour that is light years away from plain steamed broccoli, it sweetens it and you also get the caramelisation. Plus, it sucks up the flavour of the lemon juice when you drizzle it over the broccoli while still hot. I tried it once with steamed broccoli and it didn't absorb the lemon juice at all. It's the "secret' that makes this broccoli so amazing!



To finish it off, you just scatter with parmesan and lemon zest. Sometimes I forgo the parmesan. But the lemon zest is a must.

#### PRAWNS IN TOMATO SAUCE

8oz spaghetti 2 cloves garlic crushed 1oz Basil chopped 6oz white wine Prawns pre frozen 800g can tomatoes
1oz parsley chopped
2 spring onions chopped
1oz parmesan cheese



Cook onions and garlic, add tomatoes, parsley, basil, add wine and cook 25 minutes. Add prawns and cook 5 minutes. Cook spaghetti, drain and mix into tomato sauce. Serve... Yum

#### SALMON WITH LEMON CAPER CREAM SAUCE

2 tsp olive oil1 garlic clove fine chopped2 tbs capers

1 tsp lemon pepper60 mls fresh lemon juice4 oz sour cream

Pan fry the garlic for one minute. Reduce heat and add lemon juice, capers, lemon pepper. Cook 5 minutes then add sour cream, cook for another 5 minutes.

Grill salmon for 5 minutes each side. Can be served with roast vege or a fresh salad.



#### How to make Windows 10 Less Terrible

So, by now, you either use, or have at least heard of, Windows 10. It's a bit of a mess, if I'm honest. It doesn't help that Windows 7 is discontinued by Microsoft in February 2020, meaning that it will no longer receive security update patches and will no longer be safe to use on the internet. There are still ways to upgrade to Windows 10 for free, if you have a valid Windows 7 license, but these aren't straightforward to do unless you have a reasonable amount of proficiency with computers.

But once you've gotten Windows 10, what do you do? You've probably heard about forced restarts for updates, of updates breaking wifi support and various other catastrophes, calamities and indignities. Windows 10 spies on you to an extent, sending usage data back to Microsoft for analysis – anonymously, supposedly, but who knows? Perhaps it's a bit of a '1<sup>st</sup> world problem' to complain about this stuff, but there's a few things you can do that make Windows 10 more useful, less annoying, and less creepy.

The first thing I recommend is a little free program called "O&O Shutup10". If you run Shutup10 and apply the "Recommended" settings, it will disable the bulk of the telemetry (spying) that Windows 10 does. Of course, every time you get a major security update Windows will revert some of your changes, so it pays to run this program after every major "feature update" (these come out about every 6 months).

The next thing I suggest is installing the free Openshell. Remember how the Windows 7 "Start" menu (that button in the bottom-left-hand corner) used to make sense? How it was completely useful? Well, remember no more. Openshell brings back the start menu style from Windows 7, Windows Vista or Windows XP, depending on which you prefer the most. It's also very customisable, if you're a bit of a tweaker. Download, run and install. Nothing could be simpler.

Now there's a few settings you can tweak. Right-click your mouse on the taskbar (that strip at the bottom of the screen where the programs pop up) and left-click on "Taskbar settings". Scroll down to "Combine taskbar buttons", click on the drop-down box and change the setting to "Never". This will give you a more "Windows XP" styled taskbar, where the name of the program is displayed alongside the icons for the program. Useful if you're a novice or merely absent-minded like myself.

Now, staying in settings, find the search box and search for "Night light". Go into the night light settings and set it to turn on, on a schedule. What this does is change the screen colour subtly at night so that there is less blue light coming into your eyes. Not only does this make the screen easier to look at after-hours, it also stops your brain from withholding melatonin (the chemical that makes you sleepy), meaning you're more likely to get a decent nights sleep after using the computer late.

Lastly, never, ever click on the "Check for Updates" button under your Windows 10 settings. Unlike Windows 7 & 8, this tells Windows 10 that you want to receive "beta" (relatively untested) updates on your computer in future. Doing so can lead to computer problems.

That's it for now. There are of course, a bundle of other things I use on Windows 10, and a bunch of settings I change on client machines, but none of them are really novice or intermediate material. But hopefully this lot gets you halfway to making Windows 10 slightly more useable. Give me a ring if you need a hand.

- Matt Bentley is the computer repair guy running Waikato Home PC Support Email info@homepcsupport.co.nz or phone 0211348576. \$60 per hour with no travel fee. www.homepcsupport.co.nz



#### **NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

This week Waikato District Councillors and staff observed a minute's silence to acknowledge the dreadful tragedy and loss of life in Christchurch on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Our Mayor Allan Sanson released a statement on behalf of the District expressing sympathy, and wrote - "These were our people, New Zealanders, some of them refugees who had chosen to make our country home. They died meeting to pray at their Mosque. This was an absolute tragedy,"

"There really are no words that can adequately describe how deeply sad this event was for the many families and individuals affected and for our country. Our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described it as one of our darkest days."

"Today and in the days and weeks to come, our thoughts are with the Muslim community here in the Waikato and in New Zealand and with the people of Christchurch too. Our hearts go out to you" – Allan Sanson

Due to the near drought conditions in the Waikato the Fire Status for Rural Waikato is still restricted and by permit only. WEL Networks in a recent communication asked us to remind our residents to keep trees and vegetation near power lines trimmed. During periods of dry conditions and extreme weather a small spark from a power line can cause a fire. As a property owner, you are responsible for trees inside your property and it is important that you keep them well away from any service lines (i.e. lines within your property). Any trees growing within your property, but reaching over onto the roadside reserve, are also your responsibility. However, don't try to remove trees and vegetation near live lines — WEL Networks can turn off the power if you or a contractor wish to undertake trimming. For more information visit <a href="https://www.wel.co.nz/every-day-home-safe">www.wel.co.nz/every-day-home-safe</a> or call 0800 800 935.

Further to my comments last month for those connected to the Southern Districts water scheme; you should have received a letter from Council recently asking you to ensure your water meter is accessible. Water meters will be read in the next few weeks and Council are asking that you check that access to your meter is clear to ensure you get an actual and not an estimated reading.

Woodlands Estate near Gordonton is owned by the Waikato District. There is no charge to visit the estate and wander through their extensive gardens. There is a nominal cost to visit the homestead. You could visit Woodlands in April during their extremely popular Pioneer Fundays, being held this year during the school holidays on 16th, 17th and 18th April.



If you travel regularly through Tamahere you may like to avoid SH1 during the periods 1 & 2 April, 14 - 17 April and  $28^{th}$  April  $-2^{nd}$  May because the **southbound lanes will be closed** while interchange crossover work is carried out.

Every month I receive a number of phone calls and emails re problems with recycling pick up. A common theme is that cardboard and paper and sometimes all recycling is being left by the Metro Waste crews. Due to our overseas markets having drastically reduced the level of allowable contamination, NZ is trying to keep recyclables clean at kerbside. Therefore, you cannot put paper and cardboard in with your plastic and glass recycling. Either tie your paper and cardboard together with string or place it in bags or a cardboard box and then place SEPARATELY from your recycling bin. If you include this material in the recycling crate your recycling won't be collected.

The Huntly Information Centre (i-site) north of Huntly township is due to close on 31st March 2019 in



anticipation of the Expressway opening in 2020 that will bypass the township. This *i*-site was opened in 1996 by then Mayor Angus Macdonald and for the last 23 years has fielded 2.5 million enquiries (with 46,336 visitors in the 2018 calendar year) and has worked to support tourism groups and operators.

At Hampton Downs there is now an independent *i*-site (**Hampton-***i*) in their visitor centre that can cater for

visitor enquiries, book accommodation and take bookings for local tours etc. There is also an adjoining café.





Contact me anytime
Rob McGuire: - Councillor Eureka Ward
Ph. 824 3696 / fax 824 3645 / Mob 0274 970 966
WDC Council free phone - 0800 492 452.
Email: rob.mcguire@waidc.govt.nz





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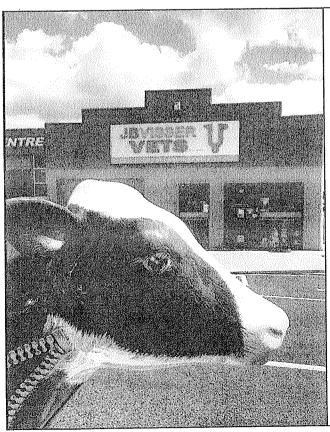
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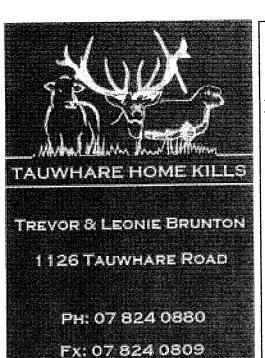


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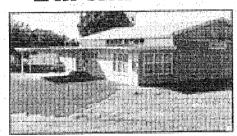
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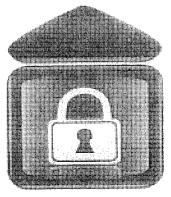
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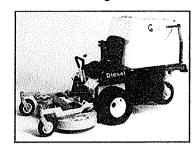


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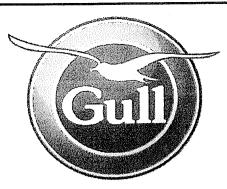
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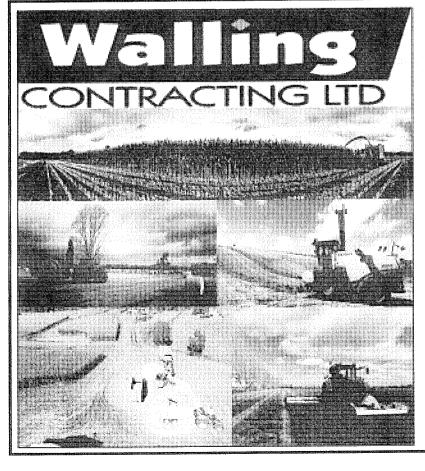
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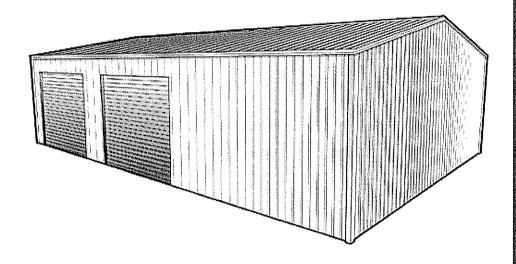
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