



# the Duntroon DIGGER

Established 2005

April 2026 - May 2026 Edition

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**Next issue:** 2nd June. Please send your contributions to us at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com) by 27th May. See Duntroon Digger Dates 2026 on the last page of this issue.

## Domain Report from Geoff Keeling

If you aren't a farmer you would say the summer has been very disappointing, but that has not stopped the domain having its best summer yet.

Things have been very steady since the start of October with each month's camp income being up on the same period last year.

Over the last 6 months we have had on average an extra 3 people per night staying at the domain. Since the start of January, there have been more than 20 people every night on average. The busiest night in early January was close to 40 people. ...Continued on pg. 3



## DDDA Meeting -13th April

The next DDDA meeting is on the 13th of April at 7pm at Vanished World.

## Working Bee - 18th April

The next working bee is to be held on 18th April 10am.  
Work will be concentrated around the village.

## Anzac Service - 25th April 2026

Otekaieke - 8.45am

Duntroon - 9.15 am

Awamoko/Georgetown - 10am

Livingstone - 10.30am

Following the Anzac service in Duntroon the fire brigade invites the attendees for a cuppa at the Duntroon Fire Station.

## Duntroon Community Garden and Share Shed

The support for the share shed in the village has exceeded our expectations this summer and we are very grateful for the donations received through the season. A special mention needs to go to Jane Metcalfe and her beautiful dahlias that have been on offer. These are snapped up very quickly and have been brightening homes and campervans throughout the district.

The gardens have had a slow but steady season with the lack of consistent warmth, but the regular rain has decreased the watering work load.



We meet for a weekly working bee at the Livingstone Street garden every Tuesday afternoon from around 1pm until 3pm. New faces are always welcome.

We are hoping to apply for funding to purchase timber to build a permanent bed for the school tunnel-house and some additional stackable compost bin layers for both the school and community gardens. This has been made possible through share shed donations as well as proceeds from the plant stall at last year's Labour weekend market.

Of final note, the community garden is sponsoring the senior student's camp with a "white butterfly collection". Duntroon School students have been enthusiastically reducing the white butterfly population on the grounds. For every ten white butterflies caught the garden group is going to donate a dollar to their camp fundraising. This has kept both the students and staff entertained at lunchtimes. Duntroon really does have the BEST students. *Jan Keeling 0274979006*



## Duntroon Hotel Update

It has been a busy time for the historic Duntroon Hotel. The hotel has proved to be a real asset to the town as travellers have opted to stay in the refurbished accommodation available, and the restaurant and bar have been a godsend to campers from the Domain looking for a meal at the end of the day.

As the holiday season draws to a close, hotel management is making plans for the future. ANZAC Day will see the hotel open at 1pm.

Local patrons will be pleased to learn that the hotel intends to remain open over winter, albeit with reduced hours. As soon as those hours are confirmed, the information will be shared on the Duntroon Hotel Facebook page.

Keep an eye out for notices of events and food specials too. Follow the hotel to keep up with all the news on Facebook Duntroon Hotel.

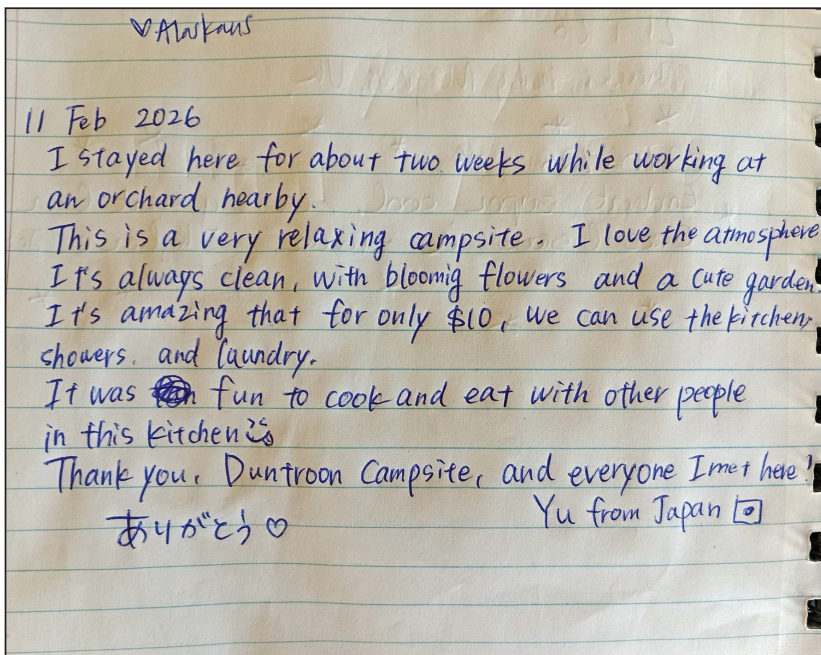
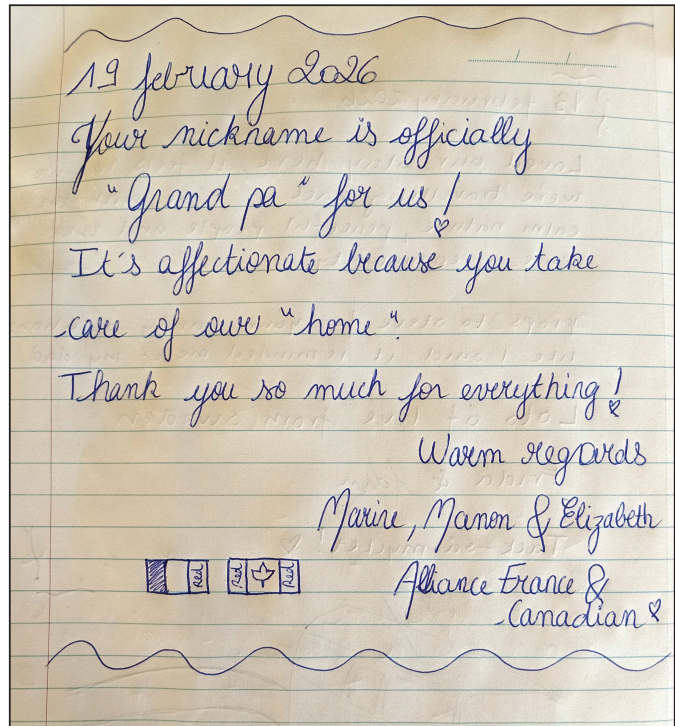
## Domain Report Continued...

The domain also has a core group of young overseas fruit pickers / pruners who spend their summer working in the wider valley area.

This is a reflection on the varied attractions that visitors to our area can enjoy as well as the standard and cleanliness of the facilities at the domain.

The caretaker, Steve, does a wonderful job keeping the buildings extremely clean. The added touches of flower boxes around the building give it all a wonderful vibe.

Prior to the summer rush we installed a larger water tank and a pressured water system to both the toilets and kitchen / showers. This has been very well received



by regular patrons and means we can now have more than one tap going at a time without starving the showers.

As camper / visitor numbers decline the domain will take on a different vibe as the base for the Riverside Football Club over the winter season.

The increased level of service the domain receives from the council mowing contractor has kept the grounds looking wonderful and provides a far better facility for our community and visitors to enjoy.

## Free Business/Services List

Please contact us at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com). Please keep your entry to 2 lines maximum.

**Flying Pig Cafe:** normal hours: Mon-Fri: 7.30am-3pm Sat/Sun: 8am-3pm.

Ph 021 08620428 [flyingpigcafe.co.nz](http://flyingpigcafe.co.nz)

**Seed/Seed Mixes:** fodder beet, grass, oats and kale seed. [www.duffffarming.com](http://www.duffffarming.com).  
[duffs@dufffarm.co.nz](mailto:duffs@dufffarm.co.nz) or call Grant 027 7379518

**MASSAGE: Therapeutic & relaxing.** Qualified massage therapist available Tues, Wed & Thurs 10 am - 2 pm. Sat by appt. Papakaio area. \$60 per hour - \$35 per 1/2 hour.

Ph Sam (female) 021 701 518

Te Hā o Maru, 23 Coquet St, Level 1, Ōamaru 9400. Ph. 0800 0800 07

## Duntroon Mōkihi Waiora Clinic

*Nau mai, haere mai! Kia mauri tau mo ōu whakaora kia ōu waia ki ōu whare*

*Empowering our takiwā through mobile healthcare services*

Te Hā o Maru Health and Social Services are offering a free Mōkihi Waiora clinic in the Waitaki Valley for all ages, at the Duntroon Community Hall, 6 Livingstone Street, opposite Duntroon School.

We are a holistic kaupapa Māori team weaving together Rokoā (traditional Māori healing and remedies) and Nurse-led mahi with standing orders for some ailments.

The team includes our amazing Kaiarahi ā whānau (whānau navigator hauora) Anjelica Matapo, Rokoā practitioner Lavinia Moemate-Reihana and Kairuruku hauora (registered nurse) Marianne Te Tau. We offer health promotion, health screening, education, advocacy and navigation. We ensure whānau receive the support they need in waia/familiar settings as close to home as possible to help break down the barriers when accessing health care. This comprehensive approach ensures we can effectively address the diverse needs of our community.

All whānau welcome! There is something for everyone.

The clinic is a drop-in service from 10.30 am to 3.30 pm, with dates listed on the attached flyer.

We look forward to seeing you and walking alongside you as you navigate your waiora journey.

*"Inā tae he manuhiri ki tō whare, watua he kōrero. Whākaona ōu manuhiri."*

*Welcoming each person as manuhiri, not clients, and working always with the whole whānau, not individuals.*



**Apply now for Meridian's Power Up Community Fund**

We're proud to back local projects in the communities around our wind farms and hydro stations with our Power Up fund.

With Power Up, your community has a say on what initiatives we support and fund. Managed by a panel of locals and Meridian staff we're working together to build strong, sustainable communities. Power Up Waitaki provides grants for projects in Aoraki/ Mount Cook, Twizel, Omarama, Otematata, Kurow, Hakataramea, Duntroon, Ikawai, Papakaio, Glenavy.

**How to apply**  
Applications are open until midnight on **Sunday 26th April 2026**.

For more information and to apply:

- visit [meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund](https://meridianenergy.co.nz/community-support/fund)
- email [community@meridianenergy.co.nz](mailto:community@meridianenergy.co.nz)
- call 021 733 931



 **Meridian** POWER UP COMMUNITY FUND

# Mōkihi Waiora Clinics

## Duntroon



Our Rokoā (traditional Māori remedies) and Nurse-led clinics provide **FREE** Hauora services to whānau, delivered by skilled professionals. **Te Hā o Maru**

**Where: Duntroon Hall , 6 Livingstone St, Duntroon**

**Time: 10.30am - 3.30pm**

### **January**

Thurs 29<sup>th</sup>

### **February**

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>

### **March**

Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup>

### **April**

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> (FLU CLINIC)

### **May**

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>

### **June**

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup>

### **July**

Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup>

Thurs 30<sup>th</sup>

### **August**

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup>

### **September**

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 24<sup>th</sup>

### **October**

Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup>

### **November**

Thurs 5<sup>th</sup>

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>

### **December**

Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup>

Thurs 17<sup>th</sup>


**Everyone Welcome**

**No appointments needed**

**Phone:** 0800 0800 07

**Website:** [www.tehaomaru.co.nz](http://www.tehaomaru.co.nz)

**Email:** [info@tehaomaru.nz](mailto:info@tehaomaru.nz)

 Te Hā o Maru

From Waitaki Whitestone Geopark

## NOTICE OF VANISHED WORLD REFURBISHMENT

Vanished World will be closed for refurbishment from the 20th of April until the 17th of May 2026.

Apologies for any inconvenience

Thank you for your understanding.



## We're going to be upgrading from Snap, Send Solve

### A simpler way to report issues and stay up to date

We're switching from Snap Send Solve to Antenno to give you an even better way to connect with us. Like Snap Send Solve, Antenno is a free mobile app that lets you quickly report issues like potholes or water leaks using your phone's camera and GPS. No login required. Just download and go!

But with Antenno, you can also sign up for alerts about local service disruptions like road works and water outages. You choose what matters to you, so the information is relevant and easy to keep up with. It helps you stay informed and helps us respond faster.

We'll let you know when the switchover happens, so keep your antenna up for more Antenno news.

**Waitaki**  
District Council

TE KAUNIHERA  
Ā ROHE O  
WAITAKI

## For users of SNAP SEND SOLVE please note information to Left:

(Reproduced from Waitaki Weekly, Oamaru Mail Friday 27 March 2026)

## New Speed Signage

The speed limit through Duntroon has been a bone of contention for many years.

In 2025 a renewed effort by the Duntroon and District Development Association was made to get the speed reduced from 70kms to 50kms.

In response to that effort, NZTA indicated that Duntroon was on a list of locations being considered for VSLs (variable speed limit signage) outside Otago schools. This signage is designed to operate during busy pick-up and drop-off times.

To quote NZTA "When the electronic signs display the lower limit it is legally enforceable: at all other times the usual permanent limit applies".

In addition to the two VSLs on State Highway 83, there is a static sign on the corner of Campbell Street and Harris Street alerting motorists leaving the Domain.

**Waitaki**  
District Council

TE KAUNIHERA  
Ā ROHE O  
WAITAKI

# Historic Duntroon: In Memory of "The Local News" Special Edition 1974: Part One

From Anne Phillips-Vira

This month we'll be revisiting a special edition of an old favourite school newspaper with which many of our readers may be familiar. After around 52 years of storage in the Duntroon School archive cupboard, extracts from this 1974 edition are again in your sights. "The Local News" was introduced by the principal of Duntroon School in the mid-1960s.

The first edition was printed in around 1965 and supervised by then Principal, Mr John Wright. There were approximately 13 editions per year which seems remarkable given the work involved in writing the articles by hand then copying, printing and stapling them ready for delivery to parents and the wider community.

As a former pupil of Duntroon School, I remember the purple waxy ink stains that stuck to our hands after neatly copying our articles onto the 'master sheet'. This was followed by the permeating smell of methylated spirits from the Banda copy machine. It still rests quietly in the Duntroon School archive cupboard.

The fun part was taking the finished product home to our parents, especially when we'd had the opportunity to design the cover page!

The special 1974 edition was published when the students of Forms 1 and 2 went out into the community to interview Duntroon residents for information about the history of the township.

The following are a few extracts from the magazine which was entitled "Duntroon in 'em good ol' days". No changes have been made to the original text although occasional sentences have been omitted for the sake of space. It is worth noting that these articles were written by students aged between 11 and 13 years.

At the end of each piece, I have added questions or comments. Your responses and/or feedback would be very welcome in the next edition of 'The Digger'. Now it's over to past students of 1974:

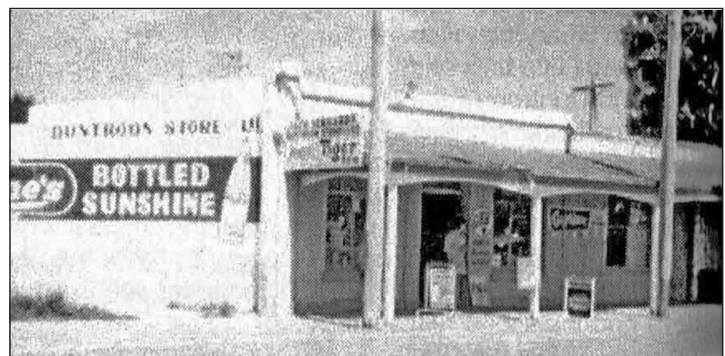
## The Present Population

The A.A. (Automobile Association) book states the population as 169. We did a survey within the village and we counted 129.

Ruth Blair, Fiona Murray, Karen Winchester, Robyn Russell

## Duntroon Stores

At the moment in Duntroon the store is run by Jack and Betty Eckhardt. They have been running the business since 1955. Before the Eckhardts was Jack Maurice who took over in 1950. Before that it was Mr Greallish [sic] who owned and took over in 1946. Before that were the Fyfe Brothers and the farthest back we could trace them was back until



*Eckhardt's Store (Morrison, R. 1979)*

1916. Before that it was a Mr Grant owned it. It was while he was owning it that part of the

building got burnt. While the Fyfe brothers were owning it in 1928, they closed the bakery.

Philip Geddes and Jordan Luck

**Comments:** According to a post on Facebook from Beth Daniell (2021), Mr Grealish's first name was Crichton. If I am correct, his full name was Crichton St Rodger Grealish. He was born in 1912 and married Gwendoline Hughes at St Mary's Church Milton on January 24th, 1938 (NZBDM 1938/4052). He died in 1975 at the age of 63 (NZBDM 1975/35301) and is buried in Anderson's Bay Cemetery.



*Fyfe Bros Store 1910s . Collection of the Waitaki Archive. Id 100773*

**Question:** What was the location of the store relative to the bakery in 1928?

## The Blacksmith Shop

The Blacksmith shop which is still standing was built in 1898. The first owner was Mr Walter J. Yardley who was there for 30 years. While Mr Yardley was owning it, it was down by Mr F. Peterson's. In 1928 Mr Muirden joined with Mr Yardley, until Mr Yardley was killed in a crash in the Dansey's Pass area. Then Mr Muirden took the whole business over. Also, after Mr Yardley's death, it was moved to where it is today. Mr Muirden's first assistant was James Rutherford. Wages at the time were 2 pounds a week. Another reason why Mr Muirden moved the Blacksmiths was because it was near a mysterious water supply now known as the brewery hole. After Mr Muirden left Mr Gibson took over, but in 1973 Mr Gibson left. People have looked into turning it into a museum but until then the Blacksmith Shop stands in 1974.

Stuart Shields and Jordan Luck

**Question:** Where exactly was the Blacksmith Shop before the move to its current location?

## Next Issue

Still to come in the next issue are stories about the Police Station, Post Office, Garage, Hotel, Defence Hall and Flour Mill.

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## Duntroon Digger Dates 2026

Dear Readers: We are providing the following table as a guideline/reminder of Digger dates for 2026. The table below also provides a 'pre-digger' deadline date for those of you who wish to send in content such as advertisements, letters or articles. Please note that we do not advertise items for sale. We suggest that this be done on the Duntroon Facebook page.

We intend to email The Digger on the same date as publication. Hard copies will be distributed by our deliverers as soon as possible after publication.

Month	Pre-Digger Deadline	Publishing Date
June	27/05/2026	02/06/2026
August	29/07/2026	04/08/2026
October	29/09/2026	06/10/2026
December	25/11/2026	01/12/2026

Thank you for your ongoing interest in The Digger. We look forward to receiving your news items, comments and letters in the year ahead. Please send to Gill at [duntroondigger@gmail.com](mailto:duntroondigger@gmail.com)