



Spring is here

The Catlins Connection

Community Guide ... No 87 October 2026 Calendar

Thursday, 1 October

Quiz Night, Catlins Hotel,

Owaka Euchre Club, 1.pm, Fire Brigade Rooms

Friday, 2 October

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7.30pm. Bake House Gallery, Waikawa Rd

Saturday, 3 October

Owaka Golf Club, Tee Off, 1 pm

Sunday, 4 October

Owaka Grace Church Service, Morning tea 10.30, Service 11am

Owaka Presbyterian Church Service, 10.30am

Monday, 5 October

Tuesday, 6 October

Catlins Men's Group, Presbyterian Church, 7pm

Steady As You Go Exercises, 10 am, Grace Hall

Search & Rescue Meeting, 7.30pm

Wednesday, 7 October

Owaka Bowls, 6 pm Opening Day

Owaka Volunteer Fire Brigade Training, 7 pm

Thursday, 8 October

Quiz Night, Catlins Hotel,

Owaka Euchre Club, 1.pm, Fire Brigade Rooms

Friday, 9 October

Owaka Community Dinner, 6.30pm (see ad)

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7.30pm. Bake House Gallery, Waikawa Rd

Saturday, 10 October

Owaka Golf Club, Tee Off, 1 pm

Sunday, 11 October

Owaka Patchwork Grp, 9.30am-4pm Supper Rm

Owaka Grace Church Service, Morning tea 10.30, Service 11am

Owaka Presbyterian Church Service, 10.30am

Monday, 12 October

School Starts for Term 4

Owaka Fire Brigade Meeting, 7pm

Mainly Music, 10am, Grace Hall

Tuesday, 13 October

Owaka Library Book Group, 2-3pm, Library

Steady As You Go Exercises, 10 am, Grace Hall

Wednesday 14 October

Owaka Garden Club, 1.pm, Supper Room

Catlins Club (3.15 -4.15pm), Owaka Museum, Primary School children (Years 1-8)

Thursday, 15 October

Parent Support Group, Plunket Room, 10-12pm

Quiz Night, Catlins Hotel,

Catlins Historical Mtg, 1.30pm

Owaka Euchre Club, 1.pm, Fire Brigade Rooms

Friday, 16 October

Catlins Senior Citz Meeting, 1.30pm, Supper

Alcoholics Anonymous, Bake House Gallery,

Saturday, 17 October

Owaka Golf Club, Tee Off, 1pm

Sunday, 18 October

Owaka Grace Church Service, Morning tea 10.30, Service 11am

Owaka Presbyterian Church Service, 10.30am

Monday, 19 October

Owaka Lions Club, 6.30, Supper Rm

Mainly Music, 10am, Grace Hall

Tuesday, 20 October

Owaka Search & Rescue, Training, 7.30pm

Catlins Men's Group, Presbyterian Church, 7pm

Steady As You Go Exercises, 10 am, Grace Hall

Wednesday, 21 October

Owaka Fire Brigade Training, 7pm

Thursday, 22 October

Quiz Night, Catlins Hotel,

Parent Support Group, Plunket Room, 10-12pm

Owaka Euchre Club, 1.pm, Fire Brigade Rooms

Friday, 23 October

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7.30pm, Bake House Gallery, Waikawa Road

Bittern Event, (see ad)

Saturday, 24 October

Labour Weekend

Basil & Bayly's Plant Sale, 10am-2pm (see ad)

Owaka Museum Market, 9am-1pm (see ad)

Owaka Golf Club, Tee Off, 1pm

Bittern Event, (see ad)

Sunday, 25 October

Labour Weekend

Owaka Patchwork Grp, 9.30am-4pm Supper Rm

Owaka Puketiro Gun Club, 12 Midday

Owaka Grace Church Service, Morning tea 10.30, Service 11am

Owaka Presbyterian Church Service, 10.30am

Bittern Event, (see ad)

Monday, 26 October

Labour Day

Tuesday, 27 October

Bingo Night: Catlins Hotel, 7pm,

Steady As You Go Exercises, 10 am, Grace Hall

Wednesday, 28 October

Owaka Wise Owls, 10-12noon, at Library.

Catlins Club (3.15 -4.15pm), Owaka Museum, Primary School children (Years 1-8)

Thursday, 29 October

Quiz Night, Catlins Hotel,

Parent Support Group, AGM, 7 pm Lumberjack Cafe (see ad)

Parent Support Group, Plunket Room, 10-12pm

Owaka Euchre Club, 1.pm, Fire Brigade Rooms

Friday, 30 October

Alcoholics Anonymous, 7.30pm. Bake House Gallery, Waikawa Rd

Saturday, 31 October

Owaka Golf Club, Tee Off, 12.30pm



Support the Owaka Museum & have a great day out at the Catlins Historical Society's

Annual Market Day

Labour Day Weekend

Saturday 24th October

9am – 1pm

Owaka Community Centre

Stall bookings now open

Sites: \$25 single \$40 double

Contact Glenda Landreth (03) 415 8119
027 273 6314 cjgalandreth@gmail.com



This edition of the Catlins Connection is kindly sponsored by the
Catlins Café & The Bakehouse Takeaways

Phone: 03 4158040

Open seven days a week ... 8.30am to 7.00pm

Check out our daily specials

OWAKA HEATED SWIMMING pool

MEMBERSHIP COSTS:

Family (Members of one household only) - \$175

Individual Adults (Over 18 years) - \$125

Senior Citizens - \$95

\$20 for a keycard (If you haven't got one already)

CASUAL KEYCARDS:

Available at The Catlins Country Store.

\$5 per person/swim + Keycard Bond refundable on return.

Visitor Admission with a keycard holder \$5

POOL MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENTS AVAILABLE BY:

emailing - owakaswimmingbaths@gmail.com or link on

 Owaka Heated Swimming Pool

The Great Matuku-hūrepo Muster 2026

- listening out for our rare bittern

The male bittern boom most often around the full moon! Hence, the plan is to sit out at sites at sunrise & sunset, for 90 mins dawn & dusk around the full moon **October (23rd, 24th & 25th)**

No experience necessary but the ability to hear VERY low frequency booms is a distinct advantage! PLEASE contact if you want to take part.

Meet for dawn: 5:15am OR dusk: 7.30pm:

MacLennan Bridge (Papatowai side);

Catlins River Bridge (Purakaunui Rd side), Catlins Lake



There is lots of information about bittern on the website:

<https://www.lovebittern.com>

Catlins contact: Catriona 0223 914 698

catlinspekapeka@gmail.com



Love Bittern project in the Catlins is supported by:



Owaka Going Forward

Donations or Sponsors appreciated for the Catlins Connection. This is a community project ...

The Catlins Connection

New publishing costs

Sponsorship.....\$250

Half page ad.....\$75

Small business ad\$30

Community NoticesFree

Bank Number: 031734 0526858 00 Reference: your name.

Our penguins are in peril

POPULATION
DOWN

80%!

Since 2010

**Hoiho can't vote,
but you can**



**South Otago
Branch**

Authorised by Forest & Bird, 205 Victoria Street, Wellington 6011 Photo: Hoiho/Yellow-eyed penguin

**Nature can't vote,
but you can**

OWAKA DISTRICT
PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP
AGM 2026

Thursday, 29 October 2026
7 pm at the LumberJack Cafe, Owaka

Dessert provided
RSVP: owakapsg@gmail.com
by Tuesday, 27 October



**SOUTH OTAGO FOREST & BIRD
Environmental Events
October 2026**

All members & supporters welcome

Sun 4 Oct Earthlore, Hinahina Rd, Owaka
1-3pm **Planting your garden for birds & bats**
Please book: Ph 027 385 3182 earthlore3@gmail.com



Sun 18 Oct 145 Hinahina Rd, Owaka
10am **Forest & Bird Branch meeting**
1pm **Working bee in F&B's plant nursery or**
Free a Tree - Otanomomo Scientific Reserve
Contact: Jim: 027 440 9529 janejimyoung@gmail.com.co.nz
Roy (03) 418 1319 johns-stones@riversnet.co.nz



Fri 23-Mon 26 Oct Dawn & Dusk
Matuku Muster/Bittern listening
MacLennan Bridge & Catlins River Bridge
Contact catlinspekapeka@gmail.com for details.



Sat 24 Oct Owaka Community Centre
9am-1pm **F&B Stall at Owaka Market Day**
10am-2pm Native plants will be on sale at
Basil & Bayly's 35 Main Rd, Owaka



Sat 24 Oct 1pm
Dutton's Bridge planting - 5th anniversary!
Contact: Catriona 0223 914 698



Native Plants for sale
Jim & Jane's place 145 Hinahina Rd, Owaka
Contact: janejimyoung@gmail.com.nz
027 440 9529 (03) 415 8532

General enquiries: SouthOtago.Branch@forestandbird.org.nz



**South Otago
BRANCH**

the botanicalists
COAST TO COUNTRY

OWAKA MUSEUM
2 October -
27 November 2026

Catlins-inspired botanical
paintings, drawings and
jewellery

botanicalists.co.nz
@the.botanicalists

**Rachael Landreth
PHYSIOTHERAPY**

**Physio Led
POOL CLASSES**

Come
and try
it out!

Aqua Boost

A higher intensity session to get your heart rate up, build strength, improve coordination and balance.



IDEAL FOR:

Those wanting a more challenging workout, improved fitness, coordination and balance.



MONDAYS
6.30 - 7.15pm
(45 min)

Aqua Flow

A low intensity class designed to improve mobility, build gentle strength, enhance balance and coordination, and support recovery after injury or surgery.



IDEAL FOR:

For anyone wanting a gentle, supportive workout, or those in rehabilitation.



THURSDAYS
10.30 - 11.15am
(45 min)

Classes start
Monday 12th
October 2026

PROGRAM FEE
\$75
for 5 weeks
(pay upfront)

ENTRY TO POOL FEE
\$5 per session
for those without a
season pool key.

No pool fee for
season card holders.



**Where: Owaka Heated
Swimming Baths**



Minimum of 5 people required
for classes to run.



Interested?

To enquire or make a booking contact

Rachael

021 885 969

rphysiotherapy@gmail.com



CluthaNZ.com

OWAKA

PLACE OF THE CANOE



NEW OWAKA SIGNAGE ... This is a starting point!

The Clutha District Council is intending to replace the two "Welcome to Owaka" signs at the main entrances to Owaka as part of a district plan of replacing signs in other South Otago towns as well. Owaka Going Forward is working with the CDC to get community input into the design of the new signs which will be replaced in a year or so. The sign design featured here is **only a starting point**. It is not the design which will be used. What would you like to see on the Owaka sign? Please send your comments and ideas to: m_leslie@xtra.co.nz



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

SPRING CELEBRATION COMMUNITY DINNER

ALL WELCOME

**BRING YOUR FAVOURITE MAIN DISH
TO SHARE - DESSERT PROVIDED**

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER
6:30PM
FAMILY FRIENDLY

OWAKA GRACE HALL
NEXT TO OWAKA MOTORS, 3 CAMPBELL STREET

**HOSTED BY
THE OWAKA CHURCHES**

SPRING PLANT SALE

SATURDAY 24th OCT

10AM – 2PM

At Basil & Baylys Farm Shop
35 MAIN RD, OWAKA

MARK YOUR CALENDERS AND MAKE SOME TIME TO
COME ALONG TO OUR ANNUAL SPRING PLANT SALE,
ON SAT 24TH OCT. WE HAVE ALL THE PLANTS YOU'LL NEED
FOR YOUR SPRING GARDEN!

FOR MORE CHECK OUT TO WWW.BASILANDBAYLYS.CO.NZ



Steady As You Go®
Age Concern Otago



Exercises

Tuesdays 10 am

Grace Church Hall (next to Owaka Motors)

**Benefits: Balance, Leg Strength,
Flexibility, Mobility, Coordination,
Spatial Awareness, Wellbeing,
General Fitness, Social Connections**

Gold Coin Donation

Enquiries to Liz Rowe 027 259 6193,
Glenda Landreth 027 273 6314
Social time and morning tea.

Catlins Medical Centre

Catlins Medical Centre October Update

Regretfully we wish to advise our CMC family, that Practice Nurse Jo will be leaving us in early October. Jo has been a fantastic Practice Nurse and we will miss her dearly! We wish her and her family all the best.

As the weather warms up and we head into spring we often also see an increase in hay fever (allergic rhinitis).

Hay fever is a common allergic condition that affects your nose, throat, sinuses and eyes that affects approximately 1 in 5 New Zealanders and is more common if you have a history of asthma or eczema.

Symptoms of hay fever include:

- a blocked nose
- a runny and itchy nose
- sneezing
- an itchy throat,
- red, itchy and watery eyes.

Severe hay fever can disrupt your daily life as it can affect your sleep and concentration so, if possible, avoid known irritants and you can prepare early for the hay fever season by starting treatment 2 or 3 weeks before the season begins. (Healthify.nz)

Hay fever advice and treatments are available from your local pharmacy and daily pollen forecast information for your area is now also available on the Met Service website.

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." — Hal Borland

Tracy Jury, Practice Manager

Phone: 03 415 8006

**Catlins Medical Centre (2017) Ltd
Main Road, Owaka**



Coastal:
Hair Design

Stella Smith
Senior Stylist

Message to Book

Services

- ♥ Womens Haircuts
- ♥ Colouring
- ♥ Mens Haircuts
- ♥ Special Occasion Hair
- ♥ Highlights
- ♥ Blow waves & Styling
- ♥ Kids & Teens Haircuts
- ♥ Balayage
- ♥ Treatments

By Appointment

0273392185 31 Main Road Owaka coastallhairdesign1@gmail.com





RIVER RIDGE NZ

CATLINS COUNTRY FETE

NOV 14, 2026 | GATES OPEN AT 10:00 AM

Fabulous Stalls | Great Food | Coffee | Bar

Free Entry

OWAKA OUTDOOR BOWLING CLUB

Opening Day

Wednesday, 6 October at 6 pm.

New members very welcome.

Practices on Wednesday evenings at 6pm,

Enquiries to Dawn Smith Ph. 027 657 4012

Clutha PRINT
COMMERCIAL PRINTERS

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Cartridge World

INK CARTRIDGES

Bring your empties in for refilling

Ph: 418 4044 - 18 James St, Balclutha
www.cluthaprint.co.nz

Restoring the Long Yellow Ribbon

Meet at 1pm,
stay half an hour or half a day!

Dutton's Bridge pull-off, Owaka Hwy

24th October – 5th anniversary
21st November

Planting back the trees on the Owaka River side. Spring is time to enjoy the new leaves, birds nearby and to give the young trees some care - bring a spade, shears or flax knife if possible; plants (& refreshments) provided.

All welcome ☺

Wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing, hat etc. for the weather. For details contact:
Catriona ph:0223 914 698

Forest & Bird
RIVER WATCH



For Emergencies Call 111

Catlins Medical Centre
Ph: 03 4158006 (24 hours)

Catlins Health and Gifts Pharmacy Depot

Open 9.30am-5.30pm Mon-Fri
Prescription Collection Point
from 4.30pm, Wendy Dewe
Ph: 03 4158109

Catlins Information Centre

Ph: 03 4158371
catlinsinfo@cluthadcc.govt.nz
Week days, 8.30am-5pm
Weekends & Public Holidays 9.30am-4pm

Owaka Community Library & CDC Services

PH: 03 4158371 After Hours 0800 801350
owakacommunitylibrary@cluthadcc.govt.nz
Open 7days, 8.30am-5pm
Weekends & Public Holidays 9.30am-4pm

Owaka Museum

Mike McPhee (Manager)
Week days, 8.30am-5pm
Weekends & Public Holidays 9.30am-4pm
Closed Christmas Day
Ph: 03 4158323
owakamuseum@outlook.com
Follow on Facebook Wahi Kahuika,
Owaka Museum

Alcoholics Anonymous

Bake House Gallery
Waikawa Road, Owaka Friday 7:30 pm
0800 AAWORKS (2296757)

Basil & Baylys Ltd

Farm Garden/Permaculture
basilandbaylys@gmail.com

Catlins Cafe

Open 8am to 5pm every day except 9am
- 5pm Sundays & Public Holidays
Ph 03-415 8040 or 0274352521

Catlins Club for Kids (Yr 1-8)

Owaka Museum, 3.15-4.15pm
Mike and Steph: catlinsclub@gmail.com

Catlins Coast Inc

Hilary McNab, Ph: 027 4166819

Catlins Community Co.

Hamish McDougall
Ph: 03 4158273

Catlins Early Learning Centre Little Hoiho:

8am to 5pm Mon to Fri
Manager: Lisa Foster,
Ph: 0273599178

Catlins Historical Society

Karen Bradfield, 034158377

Catlins Historical Society Volunteers

Jenny O'Connell, Ph: 027 4128071

Catlins Hotel, Darryl & Carmen

Ph: 034158350 or 02040002473
E: catlinshotel@gmail.com

Catlins Men's Group Gregory

Kent, Ph: 022 047 2973

Catlins Motors, (Matt),

17 Main Road, Ph: 034158179
catlinsmotors@outlook.com

Catlins Search and Rescue

Greg Ramsay, Ph: 0274350304

Catlins Senior Citizens

Eleanor Sinclair, Ph: 03 4158075

Four Square Owaka (7 Days)

034158201, owaka@foursquare-si.co.nz

Hina Hina Hall

Melanie Burgess, Ph: 027 4826260

Katea Indoor Bowling Club

Barry Gray, Ph: 03 4158415

Our Hut Heritage Hub

Films, Tahakopa

Wifi-Unifone available

Don Sinclair, Ph: 03 4158075

Owaka Combined Sports Bodies

Nathan Wilson, Ph: 03 4158599

Owaka Cricket Club

Francis Parker Ph: 027 8244587

Owaka & Districts Parents Support Group

Abigail Tarbotton, Secretary,
03 4158975

Owaka Euchre Club

Dawn Miller, 0272345056
Pat Ratahi 0274158873

Owaka Garden Club

Meets 2nd Wednesday of month
Community Centre Supper Room
1pm, Anne Berney, 034158216

Owaka Going Forward Committee

Marion Leslie, Ph: 03 4158588

Owaka Golf Club

Every Saturday
Doug Dewe, Ph: 03 4158060

Owaka Grace Presbyterian Fellowship (next to Owaka Mo-

tors), Sunday Services: 10.30 am
Visitors Welcome, Pastor: Matt
Tarbotton, Ph: 034158975

Owaka Hall Committee

Debra Hollows, Ph: 03 4158428

Owaka Ladies Golf

Tuesdays, Christine Mitchell
Ph: 03 4158 386

Owaka Community Library Book Group

2nd Tuesday of month, 2pm
Ph: 03 4158371

Owaka Lions Club

Wayne Hollows, Ph: 0274374619

Owaka Mainly Music

Monday, 10am, Owaka Grace Hall
(next to Owaka Motors)

Heni Landreth, Ph: 03 4158117

Owaka Memorial Community Centre

Caretaker: Louise Burgess
PH: 027 4385589

Owaka Outdoor Bowling Club

Dawn Smith, Ph: 0276574012

Owaka Patchwork Group

Meet second & last Sunday of month
at Supper Room, 9.30am-4pm,
Lynne Smith, Ph: 0274418122

Owaka Pilates, (HT Pilates Plus)

Hollie Turner, Ph: 0221944265,
holliemarett@hotmail.com

Owaka Presbyterian Church

Sunday Services: 10.30 am

Visitors welcome

John Spicer, Ph 03 4128184

Owaka Rugby Club

Chris Chittock, Ph: 027 3182388

Owaka St John

Ambulance Volunteers

Jim Young, Ph: 03 4158532

Owaka St John Committee

John Spicer, Ph: 03 4128184

Owaka Swap Shop

Rear of Owaka Community Centre

Open: Mondays 12-1pm,

Thursdays 2.30-4pm

Annette Patterson, Ph: 03 4158491

Owaka Swimming Baths

Alyssa McDougall, Sec, 027 3052159
or 03 4158273

Sarah Chittock, Pres

Owaka Volunteer Fire Brigade

Mark Cuthbert, Ph: 03 4158509

Owaka Yacht Club

Hina Hina Estuary
Mark Preddy, Ph: 03 4128674

Otago Youth Adventure Trust (Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre)

Warden: J Geissler,
tautuku@youthadventure.org.nz

Papatowai and Districts Community Association (PADCA)

Ian Morison, Ph: 021 2797170

Papatowai Country Store & Peake's Kitchen

Tom and Nicole Peake

Ph: 0224090798

E: peakeskitchen@gmail.com

Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust

Mary Sutherland, 0274150205

E: marysutherland@icloud.com

Papatowai Volunteer Fire Brigade

Tony Miller, Ph: 03 4158669

Puketiro Gun Club

Chris Bennett, Ph: 034158513

Quiet Space

Frances White, Ph: 0273577705

Romahapa School

Principal: Ph: 03 4128849

Romahapa Women's In-

stitute, Romahapa Hall, 7.30 pm,

1st Wednesday of month. Shona

Preddy Ph: 034128674

S.O.Branch of NZ Deerstalkers

Assoc. 5 Glasgow Street, Balclutha

1st Wed of Month, 8 pm.

southotago@deerstalkers.org.nz

South Otago Forest & Bird

Jane Young, Ph: 03 4158532

South Otago Pony Club (Owaka)

Wednesdays 4pm

McGill's Farm, Newhaven

Denise McGill Ph: 03 4158358

Tahatika Collie Club Lyndon

McNab, (Sec) Ph: 0273159738,

tahatikacollieclub@gmail.com

Tahakopa Fellowship

Our Hut, Tahakopa

Fortnightly services

Keith Olsen Ph: 0274158244

The Catlins Area School

Glenys Hanley, Principal

Ph: 034158036

The Catlins Bat Project

Catriona Gower

catlinspekapeka@gmail.com

Wise Owls (Senior Citz)

Owaka Community Library,

Last Wednesday of month, 10-12 pm

Ph: 034158371

Community Email Convener

Join the Catlins Community
email Group to receive up-
to-date community notices.

Contact:

catlins-community@googlegroups.com

Would you like an email edition of the Catlins Connection?

Contact Helen-May via email
greenwoodfarm@xtra.co.nz

Justices of the Peace:

Owaka:

Mr MI Patterson JP, 027 9076677

Ms KI Goffe JP, 021 777732

The Catlins Region:

Mr A Keen JP, 027 208 7250

Kaka Point:

Mr MJ Ford JP, 03 412 8792 or 027 4128045



The Catlins Connection is an initiative of the Owaka Going Forward Committee

The Catlins Connection is published monthly. Information or events from all Catlins organisations must be submitted before the 20th of each month to

Glenda Landreth, 03 4158119 or 027 2736314, cjgalandreth@gmail.com Helen-May Burgess, 027 4384538, greenwoodfarm@xtra.co.nz