

## Community Service Award for passionate health provider

The tireless commitment of a passionate health worker and advocate was recognised in Winton recently, with Winton Maternity Centre service manager Debbie McDougall receiving a Community Service Award from Southland District Council and the Ōreti Community Board.

A familiar and much-valued figure in the community, Debbie has been a leading force in rural maternity care for more than 30 years. While the award came as a complete surprise to Debbie, for many, it simply reflects what the community already knows - her impact has been immense.

Mayor Rob Scott described her as the backbone of the southern maternity service, saying thousands of families have benefited from her dedication. Ōreti Community Board chair Margie Ruddenklau echoed this; praising Debbie's determination to keep services accessible at a time when many rural facilities have been lost.



*Community Service Award recipient Debbie McDougall with Pat Henderson (left) and Anne Clark, two original midwives who campaigned strongly around 30 years ago to keep the Winton Maternity Centre open.*

Debbie's advocacy has been central to keeping the Winton Maternity Centre open, often working with significantly less funding than comparable services. Known for going above and beyond, Debbie is effectively on call around the clock and has built a supportive, nurse-led team while working closely with independent midwives. She has also introduced family-friendly facilities, including rooms where partners can stay with the new mother and newborn. Beyond maternity care, Debbie supports the wider community through nursing services, the local foodbank, and regular programmes for older residents - a true testament to her dedication to Winton.

## Winton turns out in force for ANZAC Day



A beautiful autumn morning set the scene as hundreds gathered in Winton to honour ANZAC Day, with the crowd continuing to grow each year.

The Winton RSA extends sincere thanks to the people of Winton and surrounding districts for their loyal support. We also acknowledge the wreath bearers, and thank the Fire Brigade, Police and St John for helping the day run smoothly.

A special mention to local school children for planting poppies; a meaningful gesture that helps keep the ANZAC spirit alive, and it was great to see so many St John cadets involved. Thank you to Winton Kindergarten for their artwork displayed in the Memorial Hall. We also thank the piper, bugler and NUMNUT Audio for their excellent service, and guest speaker Joseph Mooney MP for his address. Lest we forget.

**Trevor Cochran, Secretary Winton RSA**

## One year of strength and community at CrossFit Southern Lights



*The crew at CrossFit Southern Lights*

Just over a year ago, we opened the doors of CrossFit Southern Lights with a pretty simple idea: Winton needed a place where people could get stronger, in every sense, together.

A year on, we're really proud of what's grown here. Not just fitness, but a genuine sense of community. It's never just been about the workouts. It's about showing up, giving things a go, and surprising yourself with just how capable you really are. Over the past 12 months we've seen people try things they never thought they would.

We've seen adults kick up into handstands for the first time in many years. We've seen members who once avoided running now tackle workouts that include it without hesitation. We've seen members back themselves and push through to achieve a workout they once thought was impossible. It is what makes us very proud of our wee crew, especially to see the confidence that brews from it all.

In a small town, the connection that CrossFit offers really matters. You're training alongside people you see every day, and over time those familiar faces turn into real friendships. There's plenty of encouragement, a lot of laughs, and more than a few hard-earned high-fives.

To our members, thanks for turning up and backing yourselves and each other. And to the wider Winton community, thanks for getting behind us.

Year one has laid a strong foundation and we are excited for what year two and beyond will bring.

**Rachel and Tash, CrossFit Southern Lights**  
189 Great North Road, Winton

**TODD & CO**  
REALTY

We're very pleased to welcome George Hazlett to our team.

Based in Winton and a proud Southlander, George brings strong local knowledge and a grounded understanding of rural, lifestyle, and residential property.

**George Hazlett**  
Real Estate Consultant

027 254 1603  
george.h@toddco.nz

Todd Realty Ltd, Licensed (REAA 2008) TODDCO.NZ

**Winton Croquet Club**

Give Croquet a try! It's fun, it's challenging and it's social!

Tuesday and Saturday from 1.30pm

Call Carole Coveney Club Captain  
0272316386

Or  
Cheryl Pym Club Secretary  
0272206655

For more information

Book a social event with us and give croquet a go!

## Celebrating 50 years in song

The Invercargill A Capella Singers are marking their 50th anniversary over King's Birthday weekend (30–31 May) with a gala concert on the Saturday night, followed by a reunion lunch on the Sunday. Founder Ron James will return from Australia as guest speaker.

The choir is keen to reconnect with former members and encourages anyone with past connections to get in touch and be part of the celebrations. The concert will feature Vivaldi's Gloria, performed with the Invercargill Symphonia and guest soprano Rebecca Ryan.

For more information or to book, visit [acapellasingers.org.nz](http://acapellasingers.org.nz).



## Ōreti Community Board update

It's been another busy month across the Ōreti ward, and I'm pleased to share an update on what your community board has been working on.

In the days following Anzac Day, we reflect on the services held across our communities and the moments of remembrance we shared together. Members of the Ōreti Community Board were honoured to attend services throughout the ward, standing alongside our communities to acknowledge the bravery, service, and sacrifice of all Australians and New Zealanders - those who served, those who never returned, and the families who carried that loss. May we carry that spirit of remembrance with us, not just for a day, but in how we support one another and value the freedoms we hold.

One of the real highlights was the Limehills Jubilee celebrations, marking 100 years of Limehills Rugby Club. Congratulations to the jubilee committee on a wonderful weekend. It was fantastic to see so many people come together to celebrate the history, connections, and community spirit that make Limehills so special.

A big thank you also to the Winton Garden Club. The Meldrum Street walkway garden is looking fantastic.

There continues to be good momentum with the Kōwhai Reach restoration project, which has recently been highlighted in the media following a significant funding boost. This remains a truly collaborative, community-led project involving local groups, schools, environmental organisations, and landowners. Planning is underway for the upcoming planting season.

We recently held our community board meeting in Dipton as part of our commitment to engaging directly with communities across the ward. We had Murray Johns and Ewan Dunnage speak - it's always great to hear from our locals.

The Dipton bridge replacement project is going well and should be open again soon. A big thank you to the Dipton community for your patience and resilience during this time.

A reminder that you are always welcome to attend and speak at a board meeting. Hearing directly from our community helps guide our decisions and ensures we're representing what matters most to you.

You can also report issues through the Antenna app or by calling 0800 732 732.

It's been great to see progress on the Central Southland College 'Smart Grass' Community Turf, with funding support coming together. This project will provide a valuable all-weather turf for a range of sports and community use.

The board has also been actively involved in spatial planning discussions, helping to shape how our communities grow into the future.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to provide feedback – your input plays a vital role in these conversations.

**Margie Ruddenklau**  
**Chair, Ōreti Community Board**



*Members of the Winton Garden Club had a recent working bee on the Meldrum Street walk track garden, spreading fresh bark and planting a new rhododendrons - Irene Bain and Happy Anniversary - acknowledging the club's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*



## Winton Ambulance reunion celebrates years of service



There were plenty of smiles, stories and shared memories at the recent Winton Ambulance reunion, held to celebrate 33 years of ambulance service and 30 years on station in the town.

Past and present members, along with supporters of the local Hato Hone St John service, came together for a memorable evening that recognised the vital role the ambulance has played in the community over the decades.

The event was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect, reflect and reminisce, with many enjoying the chance to swap stories from their time on the job - from challenging callouts to moments of camaraderie and humour.

Winton's ambulance service has long been an essential part of the community, supported by dedicated volunteers and staff who give their time and skills to help others in times of need. The reunion was a fitting way to acknowledge that commitment and celebrate the strong connections built along the way.

By all accounts, it was a fantastic evening and a reminder of just how important the service - and the people behind it - are to Winton and the surrounding districts.



**1926-2026**

# LIMEHILLS NETBALL CLUB

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Join us for an unforgettable evening celebrating 100 years of our club!

**Weekend Programme:**

- ⚙️ **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> July** -  
Players Coaching and Photos at John Street courts.
- ⚙️ **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July** -  
Meal, Speaker, Cake, Band and Supper

⚙️ Links to register can be found via the *Limehills Netball Club Facebook page* or online at: [www.sporty.co.nz/limehillsnetball](http://www.sporty.co.nz/limehillsnetball)  
Printable forms are also available online.

**ENQUIRIES TO:**  
[limehillsnetball@gmail.com](mailto:limehillsnetball@gmail.com)




Photos by *Passion Photography*  
[www.passionphotography.co.nz](http://www.passionphotography.co.nz)

## Winton Police update



I can't believe another month has passed and we are already rapidly heading into another Southland winter. It's been a bit of a mixed bag in policing this month, with plenty of incidents keeping the troops busy.

### New crime prevention cameras

I'm pleased to announce that the first stage of the new crime-prevention cameras is now up and running, with more to be installed as winter progresses. The cameras are located on top of the police station and provide excellent views both north and south. These will be a real asset for both prevention and investigation.

### Fuel thefts – a growing issue

Our main focus this month has been fuel thefts, as high prices continue to drive demand for stolen fuel. We've seen smaller thefts where vehicle tanks have been siphoned, as well as larger commercial incidents where storage tanks are missing several hundred litres. Diesel remains the main target.

Prevention is key. There are some simple steps you can take to reduce the risk:

- Ensure fuel tanks are locked
- Install cameras or security lights
- Close gates at night
- Talk to your neighbours so everyone is keeping an eye out

Please call Police if you see suspicious vehicles or activity. Catching offenders red-handed is still one of the best deterrents. If anyone in the community is offered cheap fuel, it will be stolen. Instead of thinking what a bargain it is, spare a thought for the poor bugger who paid full price and then got ripped off - you could be next. Police are seeking any information about fuel thefts, so please call into the station or give us a confidential call.

### On the roads this winter

We've already had our first good frost, with plenty more cold weather to come. As experienced Southland drivers, we know to reduce speed and watch for shaded areas on frosty mornings, but every year it seems to take a while to relearn our winter driving skills.

This month has been particularly disappointing, with several drivers apprehended at more than twice the legal alcohol limit.

The worst involved a driver found asleep in the middle of an intersection, truck running and foot still on the accelerator. It's scary to think someone that intoxicated was trying to drive on the same roads our families use.

### Duck shooting season approaching

It wouldn't be the end of April in Southland without some excitement about the approaching opening weekend of the duck shooting season. Police staff will again be working alongside Fish & Game this year, visiting maimai. While rangers handle gamebird licensing and compliance, Police will be checking for Firearms Act breaches and levels of intoxication.

For many hunters, opening weekend is the only time they pull the gun out each year, and skills can be a bit rusty. Please take a moment to refresh your knowledge around transporting firearms legally and safely, and remember the basic safety rules. Most accidental shootings we see involve loaded firearms falling over and discharging, or people shooting while others are out collecting ducks. Safety must come first. The golden rule remains: guns away before the drinking begins.

It was great to see plenty of dry maimai last year. Also, please don't take firearms in the ute when heading to the pub - those days are long gone, and Police will be checking car parks.

Have a great week, and until next time, keep safe.

**Senior Sergeant Peter Graham**

**Area Response Manager, Western Southland**



11 DAY SMALL GROUP TOUR TO SOUTHWEST CHINA, 11-21 OCT 2026



For enquiries & bookings:

**Laura** 027 350 2541  
laura@xtravel.co.nz

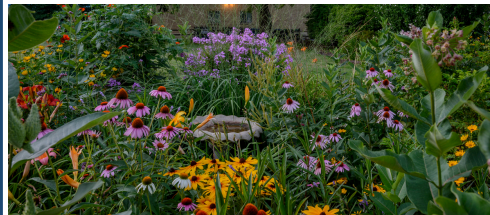
**Anna** 027 233 6404  
anna@kingtravel.co.nz

# What's on in Winton

## MEETING

### Winton Business Association

The Winton Business Association's next meeting is on Tuesday 26 May at the Top Pub at 5.30pm All welcome.



### Winton Garden Club

The next Winton Garden Club meeting is on Tuesday 12 May at 7.30pm in the Anglican Church Hall on Meldrum St. The guest speaker is Natalie Simpson from Neuro Restore. Enquiries to Colleen Simpson 027 632 8217.



### Winton walk group

We walk every second Thursday. The bus leaves at 9.30am from the John Street Recreation Area. The walks for May are on

- 14 May
- 28 May

For more information please ring:  
Diane Andrews  
0211248895 or  
Jenene Irwin  
0211855212



### Ōreti Community Board

The Ōreti Community Board will meet in the Wallace town Community Centre, 57 Dunlop Street, Wallace town on Monday 15 June, at 5.30pm. All welcome.



### Indoor bowls

- Tuesdays 7.30 – 9pm
- Winton Memorial Hall
- An ideal winter sport for all ages!

Come along, meet new people and have a go. For more info: ph/text Kelvin 0274 341 714 or Mary 027 669 1431 or just turn up on the night! All welcome.



### Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club

Open Sundays 2pm to 4pm or by appointment.

Contact  
027 254 3346

### Mid Oreti Catchment Group

### Mini Forest Movement Nursery Open Evenings

First Tuesday of every month  
4-6pm - AB Lime Nursery  
at the end of Bend Road, Winton

All welcome - Come and help grow native plants for your catchment & community

Any questions call Cam Nelson 027 823 5672  
or Sarah Thorne 027 588 5200

Stay for as little or long as you like!

### Central Southland Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens invite members and non-members to the following activities held at 5 John Street, Winton:

- **Euchre** – every Tuesday starting at 1.30pm
- **Housie** – every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting at 1.30pm
- **Concerts/Guest Speakers** – every second month on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Enquiries to Val Skinner on  
03 236 7643/027 920 3259 or  
Noelene Lightfoot on 027 603 0595

## AGM

### Let's Link AGM

The Let's Link AGM will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 09.30 at the Salvation Army Complex.

## Winton

Community Monthly Market

10.00am - 1.00pm

Saturday

16 May 2026

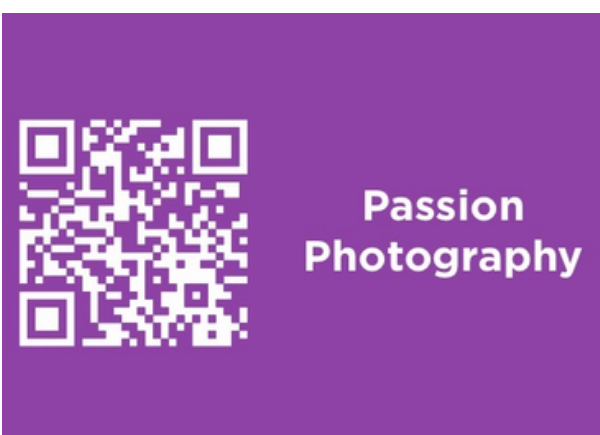
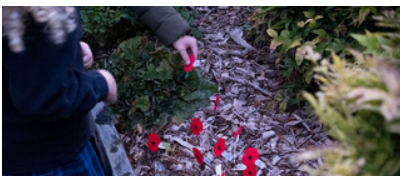
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Meldrum Street, Winton

Come along and get your fresh supplies of vegetables, baking and liquorice. Enjoy morning tea or lunch at the café.

Enquiries: Mary 236 8821  
Follow us on our Facebook page  
WINTON COMMUNITY MONTHLY MARKET

# Winton's Anzac Day service

Hundreds gathered in Winton's Anzac Oval to acknowledge Anzac Day this year.  
Photos taken by Tracy Sutton of Passion Photography can be downloaded free from the website:  
[www.passionphotography.co.nz](http://www.passionphotography.co.nz).



# Winton Outlook

## Essential contact numbers

**Winton Community Support worker**  
Louise 236 9934 or wcsv@xtra.co.nz

**Health Shuttle**  
For MEDICAL appointments in Winton and Invercargill. Phone 0800 103 046 (operates by donation). A shuttle to Dunedin is also available, leaving and returning daily from Invercargill.

**Let's Link Transport Service**  
Ken Galt 027 454 9119  
or Louise 236 9934

**Let's Link Odd Job Service**  
Phone Ken Galt 027 454 9119

**Free Smoke Alarm Checks**  
Checks/updates/batteries changed by a volunteer fireman. Phone Louise to book 236 9934.

**Helping Hands**  
Lawn, garden and pet care for those suffering short term medical issues. Phone Robyn Bye 027 4182 053.

**Winton Library**  
0800 732 542

**Winton Medical Centre**  
236 7444. After-hours service available in Invercargill, 6-9pm weekdays, 12-4pm weekends and public holidays. Phone 0800 456 138 to arrange an appointment.

**Winton Pharmacy**  
236 7729

**Winton Transfer Station**  
Florence Road.  
Mondays and Wednesdays 2pm-5.30pm  
Fridays 12-5.30pm  
Saturdays 1-5pm  
Sundays 2-5pm

**Let's Link Food Bank**  
Ken Galt 027 4549 119  
Louise 236 9934  
Salvation Army 022 011 7084

**Loss & Grief Service**  
Appointments available on request. Southern REAP, 224 Great North Road. Phone 027 443 8788 or email lossandgriefcentre@gmail.com to book.

## Church Services

**New Horizon Church**  
Meeting at the Winton Salvation Army, 7 Dejoux Road, Winton, Sundays 4.30pm in Winter, 6.30pm in Summer

**Catholic Church**  
Mass Sundays 10.30am  
Priest Rev Hamesh Wyatt  
84 Great North Road, Winton  
Contact 236 8084

**Salvation Army**  
Sundays 11am  
**Shared Lunch**  
Every Wed at 12noon. All welcome.  
7 Dejoux Road, Winton

**Presbyterian Church Winton**  
**Sunday Services**  
Winton 10am

**Live Alone Lunch**  
2nd Thurs of each month. Fellowship and food for those living alone.  
RSVP to Kathleen on 236 0250.

**Choirs, Prayer, and Bible Study Groups**  
Queries please phone office 236 9792  
Mon to Fri 9am to Noon

**Winton Church**  
11 Meldrum Street  
Postal Address P.O. Box 5, Winton  
Baby change facilities available.

**Anglican Church Services**  
Weekly 10am Sundays. All welcome.  
Cnr Meldrum St & Great North Road.

**The next edition of the Winton Outlook Newsletter will be out on the 1st of June, 2026.**

The closing deadline for articles and advertising is 20 May. Business advertising is available: for \$35 for a 45x90mm or \$50 for a 90x90mm space. Queries or info can be emailed to winton.nz@outlook.com

## Seniors' Gentle Exercises

Gentle exercises to improve balance and help keep moving.

Wednesdays & Thursdays

10am-11am

Anglican Church Hall,  
Meldrum St - beside the Anglican Church

\$7 per class

Contact:

Glenda - 027 429 6703



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 MELDRUM STREET, WINTON

## Live Alone Lunch



Everyone who lives alone, is most welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship on

**Thursday, 14 May at 12.00 noon**

RSVP to Kathleen 022 375 3304 or Jenny 027 536 0084

*With Lions Club Winton*

**Let's do it together**



**contact us:**

**winton.secretary@lionsclubs.org.nz**