

Winton Outlook

Sixty years of combined service celebrated at Mitre 10 Winton

Mitre 10 Winton has seen plenty of change over the past three decades, but one thing has remained constant - the dedication of owner Christine Flynn and valued team member Pam Drake.

The pair recently celebrated a remarkable milestone, each marking 30 years with the business; a combined 60 years of service to Mitre 10 Winton and the local community.

Since Christine purchased the store in 1996 from Angela and the late Graeme Richardson, the business has evolved in many ways. It has weathered storms, including the late 2025 event when it remained open for three days without electricity, changed locations (it was originally where the Salvation Army store is today), refreshed its branding from blue and yellow to the now familiar black and orange, and embraced technology that has transformed the way the store operates.

Through every change, Christine and Pam have been there, building lasting relationships with customers and helping make the store a cornerstone of the Winton community.

For Christine, it is those relationships that have made the past 30 years so rewarding.

"The enjoyment for me is being able to come into the business, be with our customers and my team, and support our local community of Winton and the surrounding districts. Those relationships have kept me here for 30 years," she said.

Celebrating milestones is something the Mitre 10 Winton team enjoys doing. On 1 July, immediately after the close of business, Pam was surprised with a special gathering and presentation to mark her 30 years of service, with the team sharing memories and reminiscing about the many good times they have enjoyed together over the years.

The store's commitment to customer service has been recognised with a number of awards over the years.



Christine Flynn and Pam Drake each celebrated 30 years of service with Mitre 10 Winton

Highlights have included the Mitre 10 Mystery Shopper Customer Service Award, the Southland Chamber of Commerce Large Retail Store Award, and being named Mitre 10 Store of the Year in 2019 – an achievement Christine describes as one of her proudest moments. Pam was also recognised nationally as Mitre 10 Employee Customer Service of the Year in 2004. Long-serving staff have become a hallmark of the business, with Korina Somerville and Michelle McPherson also each contributing more than 20 years of service.

As Mitre 10 Winton celebrates this latest milestone, it's clear the store's greatest achievement isn't just the awards it has collected over the years, but the people who have made it what it is today. Christine and Pam's combined 60 years of service reflects the loyalty, commitment and strong community connections that have shaped Mitre 10 Winton over the past three decades.

Community comes together to celebrate Matariki

This year's Winton Matariki Forest Night was a special celebration that brought together tamariki, whānau and the wider community to honour the Māori New Year.

Matariki reminds us to pause, reflect on those who have gone before us, celebrate the present, and look forward with hope to the future.

In the weeks leading up to the event, tamariki explored the stories of Matariki and Māori creation, created artwork inspired by these narratives, and helped prepare our bush environment for the evening celebration. The Weka children gathered branches, cleared pathways, created natural spaces and transformed the bush into a place of wonder.

As darkness fell, families were welcomed into the forest, where gentle lighting, children's artwork and the natural surroundings created a magical atmosphere.

A highlight of the evening was the remembrance ribbon walk, where whānau tied ribbons along the forest pathway to honour loved ones who are no longer with us - a beautiful reflection of the spirit of Matariki.

Events like these show that learning extends far beyond the classroom, strengthening connections between tamariki, whānau and the wider community while fostering a strong sense of belonging.

An event of this scale is only possible because of the generosity of so many people who gave their time, resources and expertise. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Lions Community, Ritchie from Numnuts, Aimee from Kids Pace Community, CSC Kapa Haka, the Duke of Edinburgh students, Design Crew, Limehills SVA students, St John Cadets, Scammel Honda, Winton Stihl, my incredible Weka staff and their husbands, and our personal friends who all helped bring the evening to life.

Thank you also to every family who joined us. Seeing our community come together to celebrate, reflect and connect is a reminder that it truly does take a village to raise a child.

Ngā mihi maioha to everyone who helped make our Matariki celebration such a memorable occasion.

Rochelle Robins
Owner - Weka Preschool



Winton Lions lending a hand



The Winton Lions Club continues to support the local community in a number of practical ways.

Vegetables for the community

As spring approaches, club members will once again be helping to dig vegetables for those who need a hand. Anyone requiring assistance is encouraged to contact Winton Community Support Person Louise Faithfull before 20 August. All enquiries will be treated confidentially.

Firewood for sale

The club also has dry firewood available for purchase, with delivery available if required. Proceeds from firewood sales are reinvested back into the local community through Lions projects and initiatives.

Matariki celebration

Recently, Winton Lions was also pleased to support the Winton Matariki Celebration at Ivy Russell Reserve, continuing its commitment to local events and community wellbeing.

Get in touch

For more information or to request assistance, email winton.secretary@lionsclubs.org.nz.



Garden Club celebrates 60 years



Past and present secretaries of the Winton Garden Club from 1973-2026

The Winton Garden Club was founded on 28 July 1966 and has met on the second Tuesday of each month at the Anglican Church Hall ever since. In 1971, as part of the club's beautification vision, a committee was formed to work alongside the Council. Their efforts helped establish the beautiful gardens that continue to enhance our township today.

On 18 July 2026, members gathered at the Hedgehope Church and Hall to celebrate the club's 60th anniversary. Life Member Joan Jordan shared a fascinating insight into the club's history, and current and past members came together to mark the milestone with a wonderful lunch and a day of celebration.

Colleen Simpson, Winton Garden Club

2026
WINTON GARDEN CLUB

Spring FLOWER SHOW

& ART AND CRAFT DISPLAY

THURSDAY 24 SEP | **FRIDAY 25 SEP**
1.00pm - 5.30pm | 9am - 3.30pm

Memorial Hall Meldrum Street, Winton

Entries Wednesday 23 Sept 11am-5.30pm

Featuring Dot Mullay Photography, Jeff Andrews Wood/Metal Artisan Plant Stall, Raffles and much more

Adults \$5, Children free. Morning & Afternoon Teas \$5.00

Enquiries Daphne Batt 021 260-1674



Remembering the end of an era



This year marks 40 years since the Winton Toll Room closed and local telephones were converted to automatic working, allowing subscribers to dial their own toll calls for the first time.

To commemorate this significant milestone, former staff from the era have organised a reunion and celebration, to be held on Saturday 17 October 2026 at the Winton Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club, 10 Wreys Bush–Winton Highway.

The afternoon begins at 1.15pm with a warm welcome, followed by the opportunity to explore the Vintage Machinery Club's fascinating collection. Guests will also be able to watch the historic video of the toll room's closure and browse a display of photographs, stories and newspaper articles capturing this important chapter in Winton's history. A delicious afternoon tea will be served.

The organisers are also hoping to uncover more pieces of Winton's history and would love to hear from anyone who has photographs, newspaper clippings or stories from the time, including images of the railway, retail shops, butcher, baker and other local businesses.

If you can help, please contact Paul McKay (Ex Postmaster, 1984–1986) on 021 037 3371 after 17 August.

Whether you worked at the toll room, remember the changeover, or simply have an interest in Winton's history, everyone is welcome to come along for what promises to be a memorable afternoon.



Winton police update: Keeping Winton a great place to call home

There is no place like home, and every day we should thank our lucky stars that we live in such a great community. Better still, we live in a community that works together to keep it that way.

This was hammered home to me this month when I had the opportunity to lead a team of 20 Southern Police District Public Order staff to Auckland to assist with the visit of the Indian Prime Minister.

It was an amazing opportunity to get outside my little Southland bubble, but it quickly became clear how big-city problems such as drug abuse, mental health issues, and homelessness affect those working and living in our larger centres. Once again, I was very glad to be a Southlander.

While Winton doesn't have too many big-city issues, one challenge we do face is rapidly increasing drug use. For the first time in my 30 years of policing, Winton has cocaine, MDMA, ketamine, and methamphetamine being used by a small proportion of our community.

Nationally, both the quantity and variety of drugs available in New Zealand are growing rapidly as overseas organised crime groups see our country as a lucrative market. Ultimately, Southland sits at the end of the supply chain, and while government agencies are working hard to stem the flow of drugs into the country, those of us at the end of that chain need to take a different approach.

We need to address drug use at its source. Why do people feel the need to take drugs? Once someone becomes addicted, what can we do to help them? And what can we do locally to disrupt the supply chain?

That's where a caring and proactive community such as Winton can make a real difference.

If you or someone you know is struggling with drug use, please contact Police. We can provide advice or put you in touch with people and services that can help, with no judgement and no questions asked. The focus is on support, not punishment.

If you know someone who is dealing drugs in our community, then step up. They are stealing our community's future for their own financial gain. If that sounds dramatic, ask residents in larger cities about the impact drugs and crime have had on their neighbourhoods and public spaces.

You, the community, are our eyes and ears, and we need your information to make a difference. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111.

Every piece of information you provide to Police helps us hold offenders to account and keep our community safe.

Keep safe

Senior Sergeant Peter Graham
Winton Police



LEARN PLAY & GROW WITH YOUR BABY

At SPACE you and your baby will connect with other parents & their babies aged between 0 – 5 months old, to explore parenting and children's development in a safe, facilitated environment.

Your SPACE group will meet weekly in Winton over two terms, giving you and your baby the chance to make real connections during your baby's first year. You will get to know other new families and build strong relationships in our local community. Learn & explore a range of topics.

Dates: THURSDAYS at 10am - 12pm

23 JULY - 24 SEPTEMBER & 15 OCTOBER - 10 DECEMBER

Contact Southern REAP (Rural Education) to register on info@reap.co.nz or call 0800 111 117

FORKLIFT (OSH) & 'F' ENDORSEMENT

FORKLIFT CERTIFICATE (OSH):

Will enable you to operate a forklift within your workplace.
Course cost: \$200

FORKLIFT CERTIFICATE (OSH) + 'F' ENDORSEMENT:

Will enable you to operate a forklift within your workplace and on the road. To gain this the learner must hold a Full Class 1 licence. **Course cost: \$260 + \$62.10 to be paid at Licensing agent**

Class will start at 8am with learning for Forklift certificate (OSH) running till 3.30pm. Those wishing to gain 'F' endorsement will stay on for an extra 30 mins of learning. All will break for lunch and then move to Winton Mitre 10 for the practical component.

Kindly supported by Winton Mitre 10

● **Monday 31 AUGUST**

● Southern REAP, 224 Great North Road



Contact Southern REAP (Rural Education) to register on info@reap.co.nz or call 0800 111 117

Ōreti Community Board update: Events, milestones and what's next

It has been wonderful to see so many people supporting local events, celebrating milestones and contributing to projects that continue to strengthen our towns and rural communities.

Wallacetown bike tracks officially open

It was a pleasure to attend the official opening of the new Wallacetown pump and BMX tracks. This fantastic facility provides a safe and exciting place for riders of all ages to develop their skills, be active and enjoy the outdoors. It is a wonderful asset for Wallacetown and the wider community and will be enjoyed for many years to come.

Celebrating 100 years of Limehills netball

Congratulations to the Limehills Netball Club on celebrating its 100th Jubilee. It was a privilege to attend the celebrations on Saturday evening and hear many stories reflecting a century of friendship, competition and community spirit. Congratulations to the organising committee and everyone who worked so hard to make the weekend such a memorable occasion. Reaching this milestone is a remarkable achievement and one which the whole community can be proud of.

Matariki at Ivy Russell Reserve

The Ivy Russell Reserve once again provided a beautiful setting for Matariki celebrations, with Weka Preschool children, whānau and community members coming together to reflect, learn and celebrate. The children shared songs and activities while learning about the significance of Matariki and the importance of caring for our environment. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying this special occasion and making use of this awesome natural space. A huge thank you to Rochelle and everyone involved in this amazing community event.

Planning for the future

At our most recent community board workshop, members discussed priorities identified through the Long Term Plan (LTP) and considered a number of existing and future projects that will be a focus over the coming months. The workshop was an opportunity to review progress, discuss community priorities and begin planning for projects which will continue to improve facilities and services across the Ōreti ward. We look forward to sharing more information as these projects progress.

Have your say on the future of local government

The Local Government Commission (LGC) is holding its Phase 2 public community engagement session for the Ōreti/Winton area on:

- Wednesday 5 August 2026
- 5.30pm to 7pm
- Winton Memorial Hall, Meldrum Street, Winton

This is an important opportunity for our community to have its say on the future of local government in Southland and how you would like councils to be structured. Whether you support change or wish to retain the current arrangements, your views matter. The LGC is seeking community feedback before making its recommendations, so I encourage everyone to attend, ask questions and share their thoughts.

Community board drop-in session

Our next community board drop-in session will be held on Friday 14 August, 10am to 11am at Winton Library,

These informal sessions are a great opportunity to raise local issues, discuss ideas, ask questions or simply have a chat with board members. Everyone is welcome.

Upcoming community board meeting

The next Ōreti Community Board meeting will be held on Monday 17 August, at 5.30pm in the Supper Room at Winton Memorial Hall. Community Board meetings are open to the public, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Thank you to the many volunteers, schools, clubs, community organisations and residents who continue to give their time and energy to make the Ōreti ward. Your commitment is what makes our communities thrive.

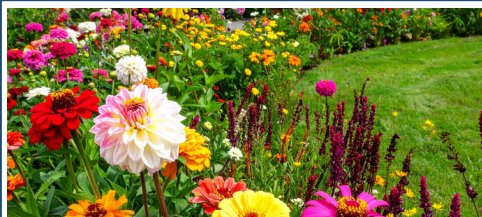
We look forward to seeing you at the Local Government Commission engagement session, our drop-in session, or the next Ōreti Community Board meeting. As always, if you have an idea, concern or community project you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to get in touch with your community board members.

Margie Ruddenklau
Chair - Ōreti Community Board



Winton Business Association

The Winton Business Association AGM will be held on Tuesday 1 September at 5.30pm in the Winton Top Pub function room, behind the main bar. Come and hear the latest news and future plans for Winton and surrounds from a guest speaker from the the Ōreti Community Board. All welcome for drinks and nibbles.



Winton Garden Club

The Winton Garden Club AGM is on Tuesday 11 August at 7.30pm in the Anglican Church Hall. For enquiries please contact Colleen Simpson on 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 August are on:

- 6 August
- 20 August

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



Ōreti Community Board

The Ōreti Community Board will meet in the Winton Memorial Hall Supper Room on Monday 17 August, at 5.30pm. All welcome.



Daffodil Day

This year Daffodil Day is on Friday 28 August. Keep an eye out for street collectors in Winton.

Every donation helps support the 1 in 3 New Zealanders who are diagnosed with cancer.



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 or 027 920 3259 or Noelene Lightfoot on 027 603 0595.



Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club

Open Sundays 2pm to 4pm or by appointment.

Contact
027 254 3346

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Essential contact numbers

Winton Community Support worker
Louise 236 9934 or wcsu@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
September, 2026.**

The closing deadline for articles and advertising is 20 August. 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, 13 August 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