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Earlybird pool tournament “lot of fun”



Sherrylee Boyce of Hornby, Christchurch lines up a shot in the Earlybird Pool tournament. Photo: Jordyn Te Rahui-Hobbs.

Geraldine Town and Country Club hosted yet another South Island-wide earlybird pool tournament in mid-March.

Competitors from as far as Alexandra made their way to Geraldine for the annual tournament headed by the Geraldine Pool Club. Adelaide Couch-Snow, Club president says the tournament was “another raging success and a lot of fun”.

The tournament consists of two sections, which opens the competition up to people of various skill levels. The open grade serves those who have won too many B-grade competitions in the past to continue playing at that level. Simon Singleton from Queenstown won the open grade this year, while Sam Swain of Timaru won the B grade. “It’s a great atmosphere and there’s a strong field

this year,” says long-time player Paul Morris, who travelled from Christchurch to compete in the open grade for the first time.

Many local businesses sponsored the tournament. “We were so grateful for the local support that we had,” says Adelaide Couch-Snow.

Jordyn Te Rahui-Hobbs

Geraldine Golf Club ladies win Aorangi pennants

Geraldine Golf Club women have won the Aorangi SC Silver Pennants beating Temuka in the season-ending final at Pleasant Point.

Ginny Bolderston played well, hitting the greens with a pin-point accuracy to beat Frances Mulvey 5 and 3.

Ali Romeril was very consistent and when the pressure came on she came to the fore and won her match 5/4 over Dianne Taylor. Temuka’s experienced Kathy Manson defeated Shona Benseman 3/2. At this stage the team score was Geraldine 2 Temuka 1.

Colleen Gibbs was 2 down with 2 holes to play and with some good approach shots, and good putting, came back to halve with Glenis Priddle which was enough for the team to win 2½ - 1½. This is the tenth time Geraldine has won the trophy. Other club members who played during the series were Denise Kenny, Sisi Silcock and Natalie Rix.



Left to right: Colleen Gibbs, Shona Bensemann, Denise Kenny, Ali Romeril and Ginny Bolderston. Photo: Submitted.

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“Green” bags part of waste reduction

Local shoppers may have noticed a change in their grocery bags at Geraldine’s FreshChoice Supermarket. However, the crinklier, crunchier bags are not just an aesthetic and tactile change; they are also green.

FreshChoice Geraldine is one of just two supermarkets in the South Island supplying biodegradable shopping bags to their customers. The other is FreshChoice Nelson.

Geraldine’s owner, Gary Sheed, says he is excited to introduce the bags to his store and has “received incredibly positive feedback. They’re loving it and people are re-using them so that’s good, healthy stuff.”

Following five years of research, Gary sourced the oxo-biodegradable checkout bags from overseas and now orders them by the container load. With approximately 12,000 bags leaving the supermarket each week, the prime purpose of the bags is to mitigate the negative effects of plastic on the environment. “Within three years the bags will rot to nothing. It’s 100 per cent better than having a bag that’s always a bag.” However, he warns that the new bags cannot be placed in the council’s green compost bins yet as they do not decompose quickly enough for commercial composting purposes.

With no additional cost to the customer, Gary says he is keen to continue leading the way in business-related environmental sustainability. “It’s the way the world’s going. We need to look after our planet for future generations. We



Judith and Garry Sheed with their new biodegradable plastic bags. Photo: Pip Goldsbury.

need to be doing the right thing.”

To this end, FreshChoice Geraldine is running a sustainability programme for all their waste. “We’re working with the local council to have zero per cent going in landfill within five years. We’ve halved our waste over the past 12 months and we plan to reduce that further over the next 12.” Gary also says the digital labelling in the store has resulted in an 80 per cent reduction in paper waste.

Pip Goldsbury

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Lucy has special day



Ninety-year-old Lucy Nixon rode pillion on Alistair Milne's 1,300cc Harley Davidson to celebrate her special birthday. Her first motorcycle ride since primary school days was "a bit scary, but quite a thrill," Lucy said, "especially with the acceleration surge, but I held hold of him hard - I put my hands in his pockets." A present major objective for Lucy also concerns wheels: "I'm learning to drive a mobility scooter." Photo: Jan Finlayson.

Future Living Festival this weekend



Land-based ecosystems contributed \$57 billion to New Zealanders' welfare in 2012, say the Massey University authors of an environmental accounting report. They did this by providing life's basics and regulating disease, climate, and water. During Geraldine's Future Living Festival this weekend, local photographers including Hilary Iles, above left, are using retail windows to display work highlighting the value of land-based ecosystems. Hanging photographs at Geraldine Pharmacy with Suzanne Robinson, Hilary says, "I'd like to help people think about the environment differently - it needs to be recognised for its true value." Pharmacist Peter Lynds agrees: "It's on our back doorstep and many people take it for granted." Photo: Submitted.

John Badcock contributes to The Big Egg Hunt fundraiser

It's not every day that internationally acclaimed artist and Geraldine local John Badcock gets to play the role of Easter Bunny and paint giant eggs. But that is what he has done for the past two years in support of the Starship Foundation and Starship Children's Health.

John's work A Nest of Paint is egg number 60; one of the clutch of 100 eggs that secretly popped up on 12 March throughout Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, for the Big Egg Hunt that runs until 7 April.

New Zealand artists, celebrities and designers have donated egg art, to fundraise for Starship. Trade Me auctions will be run for 80 eggs while the other 20 will be bid on at a gala cocktail event on 31 March. Other eggs joining John's include those by artist Dick Frizell, fashion label Zambesi and former All Black Kevin Mealamu. The public can download maps of egg locations at www.thebigeggghunt.co.nz, track down the eggs and be in to win prizes.

John had no hesitation in donating his time and his work to the national fundraiser. "Starship's a great, worthy cause. Anybody that has got kids would do it."

A Nest of Paint is readily identifiably as John's work. It is rich and textural with a heavily applied, sculptured use of oil paint that depicts fields of grasses and seeding flowers. However, the fibreglass egg initially gave John artistic grief.

In John's words, "It's bloody big," and he felt reluctant to disturb the clean, smooth surface. Unlike a flat canvas, the egg has no beginning and no end, which also created compositional challenges. John's wife Linda completed the egg with an accidental title that gave it meaning and purpose. When John complained that it "looks like a mess of paint", she misheard and replied, "Yes, it does look like a nest of paint."

John's egg closely links to his latest series, *Harvests*, which he painted over the same period. *Harvests* will exhibit at



Harvests exhibition opens on 27 March. Photo: Submitted

Susan Badcock Studio from 27 March. As with A Nest of Paint, the series is a continuation of his plein air painting that is constantly building and evolving. Like his portraiture, John views as the ideal scene that will take layer upon layer of paint. "You can really just throw it - colour, butterflies, rabbits and a lot of movement. It suits the method of painting I'm doing at the moment."

The highest bidder of The Big Egg Hunt's egg number 60 will certainly own a unique and original piece of New Zealand art.

Pip Goldsbury

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Local athlete completes GODZone adventure race

GODZone is an annual non-stop, multi-day New Zealand adventure event. Teams of four navigate, kayak, cycle, trek, swim and raft through approximately 560km of diverse terrain. The route, this year based in Wanaka, is secret until entrants receive maps for the first half shortly before beginning, with second-half maps given on the first's completion. "I like that, though," says Geraldine's Milan Brodina, captain of the Chimpanzee Bar team. "It's all mystery."

Chimpanzee Bar finished fifth of 55 teams entered in the recent 2015 race, and was one of only 14 teams progressing sufficiently at the halfway cutoff to be allowed a full-course attempt. Milan and his crew took five-and-a-half days, during which they snatched only a few hours' sleep.

Unremitting activity defines GODZone. Milan explains, "You travel through as fast as possible. There are no compulsory rests. The more you run, the slower you are, but the more you rest, the more other teams go past. It's a balance between speed and tiredness."

"They set up stages for us, but it's all unsupported; at transition, there's just a black toolbox waiting, with gear for the next sections, including food and painkillers."

Teams began from the Haast Highway, traversing the Brewster Glacier. Descending, they rafted the Makarora River, trekked across Albert Burn Saddle, and rafted and coasteered down the Matukituki River. After a 500m swim to Glendhu Bay, "we cycled back to Wanaka where they gave us the second half of the maps", Milan says.

A "long cycle ride over the Pisa Range" followed. "It took 21 hours; we struck very bad weather." In kayaks from Jack's Point near Queenstown, they paddled to Kingston, then trekked several ranges to Piano Flat, a stage Milan remembers clearly, despite fatigue.

"I would say this was the most stunning range - the Garvie Mountains - with lakes, swamps, a beautiful sunset and moonrise. Just beautiful."

A mountain bike stage over the Old Woman and Old Man Ranges included a separate orienteering course, and the race finished in Wanaka after a gruelling kayak in heavy swells.

Reigning champions Team Seagate, of New Zealand, won



Chimpanzee Bar teammates Milan Brodina, Emily Forne, Rob Creasy, and Greig Hamilton at Mesopotamia for training. Local company Blairs Tyres' support included transport. Photo: Jan Finlayson.

with a time of four days, eight-and-a-half hours.

It was Milan's third GODZone. "It's a completely different experience from everyday life, and that's what keeps me coming back - the memories we create, the lifetime of emotions. We can be unhappy, but then there's a sunrise."

GODZone 2016 is a possibility for Milan but, "It's very early to say - it's only one week and the legs are still very tired. And it takes a big toll on the family... I'll probably get itchy feet after a couple of weeks and I'm sure I'll be trying

to improve on things from this year."

He's grateful to Chimpanzee Bar's sponsors, their namesake Chimpanzee Bar energy food company, Timaru's The Cyclery and Geraldine's Blairs Tyres, "who sponsored us, and helped with transport".

For more information on GODZone, go to godzoneadventure.com.

Jan Finlayson

Numbers of wasp and white-tailed spiders up this summer

Local pest-control professional Craig Arras has had a busy summer. As well as his usual commercial, agricultural and bio-security work there has been an increased demand from homeowners for wasp and white-tailed spider eradication.

This summer has seen an increase in numbers of these pests, which can cause reactions in some people who are stung or bitten by them. "The white-tail spider is a particularly aggressive spider from Australia and is related to the venomous redback. Generally if you do not have a lot of webbing around your property then chances are you may have a white-tail issue as their main diet is other spiders. They love to live in ceiling voids and wood sheds and they are often brought in from clothes hanging on your line then will search out dark areas to hide," says Craig.

There are myths surrounding the white-tail and its threat to humans but the Ministry of Health website states: "The usual white-tailed spider bite can be painful but the initial burning feeling, swelling, redness and itchiness at the bite site usually goes and there are no long-lasting effects."

"For any suspected spider bite, see a doctor if the bite area becomes very red or painful, blisters, appears infected, or forms an ulcer."

Department of Conservation (DOC) senior ranger Paul Gasson confirms that the hot, dry summer has seen an increase in wasps locally. "It is usually bad but it has been worse this year probably because the weather has allowed them to be more active. In our conservancy area, we have beech forests producing honeydew, which is a great food source for wasps and they become a very noticeable nuisance. They also attack vertebrates such as lizards and bird chicks in their search for protein as well as invertebrates such as bees. For trampers,

rangers deal with those nests close to tracks, huts and, of course, toilets. Fortunately Talbot Forest is a mixed podocarp, rather than beech forest so wasps aren't such a problem," Paul says.

"I have cleaned up five nests today and I know that one organisation has done 150 nests here this summer alone - so definitely a problem. However while the summer has been good for wasps it has meant a drop in the number of cluster flies so that may please some people," says Craig.

So what is being done to control the wasps? While there are poisons available at hardware stores and Craig recommends the use of a "licensed and experienced professional for peace of mind", it is a wider problem requiring a concerted effort and applied research.

According to a recent media release, (DOC) is piloting bait stations using the insecticide fipronil (approved by the Environmental Protection Agency) to control wasps. DOC trialed the bait stations in Nelson Lakes National Park and found a significant reduction in wasp populations and minimal risk to other species. "The wasps take the bait back to their nests to feed their larvae, so many nests can be destroyed from a single bait station," says DOC scientist Eric Edwards. "Previously there has been no way to control wasps over large areas of land. The only way to deal with them was to destroy



The aggressive white-tailed spider lives in ceiling voids and wood sheds. Photo: Submitted.

individual wasp nests where they cause problems." DOC's media release explains that wasps have no natural predators and harm native birds, insects and honeybees. They cause millions of dollars of damage to primary industries and are a significant threat to human health and outdoor recreation users.

"Bait stations are a step towards improving wasp control," Eric Edwards says, "but the science community will need to develop a variety of new tools, such as biological control, pheromones and insecticides, to successfully reduce wasp populations in the long term."

So perhaps there is hope in sight for the bees, gardeners and forest walkers.

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ORGANISATIONS may have their new committee members' names printed in this column for free if emailed to geraldinenews@ihug.co.nz

PUBLIC NOTICES

FUTURE of the Pleasant Valley Hall. Next meeting Wednesday 1st April 7.30pm at Hall.

NO Gentle Exercise classes at Senior Care Community Centre 7 and 14 April. Resumes 21 April.

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Jacqui Dean

MP FOR WAITAKI

Jacqui is in Geraldine each month.

Please contact her office if you would like to make an appointment. Jacqui also has Hannah Lind, a member of her team available each week on Fridays 10am - 12pm at Geraldine Community Resource centre.

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or to be interviewed will be contacted.**



SEWING?.....DON'T MISS THIS!!!!

Spend just ONE HOUR with us and SEE FOR YOURSELF!

Only 1 day in Geraldine

- Learn how to make your own custom-fit patterns no matter what your bust or hip measurements are
- See how a vest can be made in minutes to fit volunteer participants
- No previous pattern making experience necessary
- Attend our class without any obligation



FREE PATTERN- MAKING CLASS

Wednesday 8 April

Classes start 9.30am and 11.30am (duration: 1 hr)
At: The Pin Tin, 9 Talbot Street, GERALDINE.
Ph: 03 693 1122

Paid Hands-on Workshop
Blouse designing
1:30pm - 5pm

Sign Up Today – Every Visitor Receives Three Pattern Designs FREE

The Geraldine News
Building community since 1992

future LIVING FESTIVAL

THURSDAY 26

10am-3pm
7.45pm

Basket Weaving Workshop SOLD OUT
Water Matters – Resilience

FRIDAY 27

9.30am-12pm
1pm-4pm
9am-4pm
6pm-7.30pm

Preserving the Season Workshop
2 Day Stone Carving Workshop
Straw Bale Design/Construction
Kaikoura's Sustainability Advantage

SATURDAY 28

9am-12.30pm
9am-12.30pm
9.30-10.30am
10am-12pm
10am - 12pm
10.30 & 11.30am
10.45am
11am-12.30pm
11am
12pm-12.30pm
1.00pm
2.10pm
3.20pm
4.30pm
7.30pm
7.30pm
8pm - 10pm

Bokashi & Worm Composting
Geraldine Farmers Mkt
Powering our Future
Bikes, Bikes & E-Bikes!
Dress ups for you & your bike!
Bike Maintenance Basics
Make Your Home Warmer & Safer
Garden Escapes
Health Advantages of Cycling
Undress your Lunch
Geraldine's Incredible Edibles
Time Banking
365 Days of Zero Waste
Essence of Strong Sustainability
Children's Light Spiral Night
Blackboard Friday
Poetry & Pints for the Planet

SUNDAY 29

9.30am-12.30pm
10am-2pm
10.30am
11am-12pm
1.30pm-3pm

Upcycling Clothing wshop SOLD OUT
Toy Library Garage Sale (date changed)
Exploring Talbot Forest-walk
Short Film Fest
Community Bike Rides

For more info visit:

www.futurelivingfestival.co.nz

Some Door Sales.

TICKETS: LOUK Clothing (old post office)

freshchoice

Hop in for
your favourite
Easter
treats



RED HOT
special

\$7.99
kg



Fresh Tegel NZ Skinless Chicken Thigh Cutlets



RED HOT
special

\$3.99
bag



Country Fresh Washed Potatoes 2kg



\$7.99
kg



Fresh NZ Pork Shoulder Roast
(Excludes Free Range)



2 for

\$7.00

Vogel's Bread 720-750g
(Excludes Gluten Free)



\$3.99
each

Mainland Butter 500g



\$7.99
kg



Loose White Button Mushrooms



\$31.00
pack

DB/Export Gold/Tui 24 x 330ml Bottles



WINE DEAL OF THE WEEK

\$8.90
each

White Cliff/Corbans Homestead 750ml



\$1.79
each

Coke/Sprite/Fanta/Lift/L&P 1.5L



\$6.00
each

Sealord Hoki Fillets 450-480g
(Excludes Simply)

Prices apply from Thursday 26th March to Sunday 29th March 2015, or while stocks last.

Trade not supplied. We reserve the right to limit quantities. All limits specified apply per customer per day. All prepared meals are serving suggestions only. Props not included. Certain products may not be available in all stores. Proprietary brands not for resale.

Check us out on Facebook at [Facebook.com/FreshChoiceGeraldine](https://www.facebook.com/FreshChoiceGeraldine)

FCGN2603

FreshChoice Geraldine
Peel Street, Geraldine. Phone 693 8529.
Open 7am-8pm, 7 days.

Owned & operated by locals

