

# The Geraldine News

Ngä Pükörero o te wiki ki Raukapuka

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## Tōtara targeted in deliberate poisoning



Department of Conservation partnerships ranger Chris Coulter with one of the poisoned tōtara. Photo: Jan Finlayson.

The deliberate poisoning of plantings, particularly tōtara, in Talbot Forest Scenic Reserve's Tōtara Street carpark and on Tōtara Street roadside land, has dismayed Department of Conservation (DOC), Timaru District Council staff and Talbot Forest Working Group members.

DOC Geraldine partnerships ranger Chris Coulter says, "It's herbicide spraying or use of prills that targets tōtara. We've found 54 dead in one site and more elsewhere. And, wherever tōtara have been sprayed, there's been by-kill of plants around them. It's really sad."

The dead and dying plants have been poisoned with non-selective herbicide or herbicides with residual action.

Liz Gunning, a biodiversity ranger specialising in weeds, says, "This is clearly

a targeted assault that has occurred over several months with some plants having been targeted within the last five to seven days."

Talbot Forest Working Group member Rosie Morten says, "I'm gutted... struggling to comprehend it. We all are. A lot of growing time has gone: it's taken out an age group of trees."

Chris says, "We investigated whether DOC or our contractors targeting blackberry could have done this by mistake. It wasn't done by our operation and it's nothing to do with Talbot Forest Working Group or Timaru District Council contractors. And none of us have the chemical in our arsenals that would cause this kind of harm."

Timaru District Council's council parks and recreation manager Bill Steans says, "Someone's out there killing things that

don't belong to them: that's illegal. We're disappointed to see this sort of thing happening. If anyone knows something about this we would like them to advise us or the police so it can be pursued."

The poisoning of the scenic reserve trees is also illegal: wilful damage to plants in reserves is an offence under section 94 of the Reserves Act 1977.

However, the aim of an increasingly healthy Talbot Forest remains. Chris says, "We'll be able to replant in the green areas that haven't had herbicide." Bill, also, says the council's plan for its Tōtara Street plantings stands. "At the appropriate time, we'll take the dead trees out and replace them like-for-like."

"Yes – we'll replant," says Rosie.

Jan Finlayson

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# Swing-style ukulele expert impresses



James Hill at the swing-style ukulele workshop. "The man is a genius," says one attendee. Photo: Fi McCafferty.

Over 40 people from all round the South Island attended a workshop, in late November, on playing swing-style ukulele, given by internationally-renowned Canadian musician James Hill. Locals were in the minority at the session held in the RSA rooms; the remainder came from all over the South Island.

Participants were encouraged to explore more difficult jazz chords. James told the group, "This is a year's homework, don't expect to get it today." Nevertheless, most of those

attending enjoyed the challenge and could see making a ukulele deliver in the swing style was achievable.

Nikki Williams of Alexandra spoke for many when she said, "I could not believe I could actually make my fingers do this and get a decent sound too. The man is a genius."

An evening concert at The Lodge Theatre was a sell-out. The Flukes, a three-piece ukulele band from Dunedin opened the proceedings and were warmly received. James then

delighted the audience of ukulele aficionados with an eclectic mix of styles including Celtic-influenced Canadian folk, pop, originals and, of course, jazz and swing all delivered with mastery.

Enticing an artiste of such stature to Geraldine is a personal triumph for Fi McCafferty, who says, "I have been stalking James' agent for the last two years to make this happen."

Hugh McCafferty

## Geraldine promoted at A&P Show

Go Geraldine co-ordinator, Janene Adams, is delighted with the response to their presence at the Christchurch A&P Show in mid-November.

"We didn't have a tent at the show for the last two years while we sorted out our branding and advertising material," says Janene. "Matt Searle has done a great job with the look of the Geraldine.nz brand. Thanks to the Thomas Hobson Trust we've been able to develop our brochure, which has a lot of information for locals as well as visitors.

"Geraldine has strong recognition value; people know we exist partly because of our festivals. But, although we have a lot to offer, some of our activities and interest is tucked away. Our brochure offers some images of those activities, promoting Geraldine as the place to be. Christchurch is a very important market for our town so we had a tent at the Geraldine Summer Fête, too, as so many Christchurch people attend that."

Janene says that it has been a busy year for Go Geraldine.

"Go Geraldine is gaining momentum with increasing membership. Our 2018 calendar is available in the shops and seems to be selling well. Depending how well it does we'll decide whether to produce one every year. You get the feeling the town is really going places and, after a bit of recuperation over summer, I'm really looking forward to 2018."

Hugh McCafferty



Part of the Go Geraldine display at the Christchurch A&P Show. Photo supplied.



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# Geraldine Preschool achieves Green-Gold award



Four-year-old Tait, flanked by Geraldine Preschool head teacher Sue Cooper and Councillor Kerry Stevens, holds the school's Enviroschools Green-Gold certificate. Photo: Jan Finlayson.

The Enviroschools programme's Green-Gold awards recognise schools' deep understanding of, and practice in, sustainability. They take time – initial bronze and silver stages normally take several years – and, usually, fundamental shifts in philosophy and practice.

This month, Geraldine Preschool achieved Green-Gold, so the children, their families, teachers and the wider community gathered to celebrate and reflect on the school's nine-year path.

"We're thrilled to be the first education setting in the Timaru district to receive the Green-Gold award," says head teacher Sue Cooper. "Sustainability is not just about conservation. It's about fairness, equity, celebrating diversity and thinking about the lives of future generations. Our responsibility is to embed sustainable practice into everyday operations."

Geraldine ward councillor Kerry Stevens presented the award, saying, "The most important thing is that Geraldine Preschool children take their learning home with them." Part of achieving Green-Gold involves a school's connectedness

with its community.

Geraldine Preschool took up the Enviroschools kaupapa in 2008. Hilary Iles, then a programme facilitator, introduced the concept. "There was real willingness among the staff and the community came on board," she says.

"The staff have done a lot of professional development about what sustainability really means and they've embraced that... They think about design, about what they can do and have and how things are going to work in the long term. There are lots of natural learning experiences available here and the children have a lot of involvement in deciding them."

Enviroschools' purpose is to help thinking and action on sustainability to become second-nature.

Sue wrapped up the occasion with a Chinese poem: "If you are thinking a year ahead, sow a seed. If you are thinking 10 years ahead, plant a tree. If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people."

For more information on Geraldine Preschool, visit [www.geraldinepreschool.co.nz](http://www.geraldinepreschool.co.nz).

Jan Finlayson



## NEWS IN BRIEF

### GHS students to launch book

Geraldine High School learning support students and their publishing company, No Laughing Me, welcome everybody to the launch of their first book, titled *I'm Going Home for Christmas* on Sunday 10 December from 4pm to 6pm in the Geraldine High School library.

"This very talented group of students has brought great enthusiasm and joy into their experience of learning, and provided me with some of the most joyful and memorable teaching experiences of my career," says art teacher Mike Deavoll.

Mike has overseen the book project alongside learning support staff and parents. "I hope you can attend this celebration of their amazing achievement. This is their moment to shine."

Jordyn Te Rahui-Hobbs

### Bulls, Brews, BBQs

"Saddle up, put your boots on and mosey on down to Bulls, Brews, BBQs on Friday 15 December at the Village Inn Green," says Temuka Geraldine A&P Association president Jason McKenzie.

"It's a fundraiser for our running costs and our building programme so we'd love to see heaps of support," says Jason. "We're encouraging people to dress up and get along and enjoy the spot prizes, the quick-fire raffles and the bull riding. There are serious cash prizes for that, thanks to our generous sponsors Progressive Livestock and Hayden Mackenzie Contracting."

There will be American-style hotdogs, burgers and spit roasts from 5pm; the mechanical bull will operate from 6pm; there will be live music from Cam Scott; and prizes will be awarded for best dressed.

The Bulls, Brews and BBQs event replaces the popular Bark-Up run by the A&P committee last year but that event will return in 2018, says Jason.

Submitted

### Songwriters in the Round



Phil Doublet and Lana Doublet two of New Zealand's most respected songwriters are playing in Peel Forest on Friday 15 December.

Phil has spent many years playing in the award-winning Coalrangers and Ranchsliders and is an accomplished guitarist playing blues and country and much more. Lana is a country/folk singer/songwriter who won Songwriter of the Year 2016. Phil and Lana will be joined by Geraldine's own rising music star Zoe Scott as part of Phil and Lana's musicians in the Songwriters in the Round tour.

To book a table phone the Peel Forest Café and Bar on 696 3567. Further details on page 11.

Submitted

### Ōrari bike trails update

Most of the Ōrari River cycle tracks, closed to allow tree felling in October, have been reopened.

Environment Canterbury (ECan) river engineering manager David Owen says November's fine weather meant good progress has been made. Work is ongoing, but "cyclists will be able to use most of the tracks over summer, including some loop tracks. We're hoping to be finished by the end of January, depending on weather."

Bike Geraldine convenor Allan Kelly says, "It's great. ECan and the logging contractor have worked in with the cyclists really well." For more information, call ECan's customer services line: 0800 324 636.

Jan Finlayson

### Geraldine's November weather

**Tripp Settlement Road.** Rainfall 14.5mm. Temp: high 29°, low -2°. Light snow to approx 800m. Just a tad dry.

**Te Moana.** A very dry month with only 12mm of rain. Rainfall year to date now 1116mm.

**Raukapuka.** We had 14.4mm of rain over 5 days, wettest day being Wednesday 8th, when 8.8mm fell overnight before sunrise. Temp: high 25.9°, low 0°. Highlight of the month was some distant thunder rumbles heard here from the Mt Peel area on Tuesday 28th.

**Geraldine Downs.** Rainfall 13mm.



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# Woodbury School celebrates new buildings

Last week, Woodbury School's Tarahaoa and Te Awa buildings were opened: the former is a recently commissioned learning space for senior students and the latter a link between the junior and senior schools, ensuring the school is connected as one.

Principal Claire Haugh congratulated the board of trustees for "putting the children's learning first" and says the Te Awa link is "the final part of the jigsaw". She said all the spaces will be utilised in an innovative learning situation.

Guests from the greater Geraldine district and the school community attended the official opening and were entertained by guest speaker Ken McKenzie, former student of Woodbury School. Ken regaled children and adults as he reminisced about his time as a student at Woodbury School, including tales of the Biscuit Tin (the school bus), school outings to the telephone exchange, the Woodbury store and a swimming pool with "green sludge in the bottom of it, but we liked it".



Ken McKenzie, guest speaker and former student.

Although the opening was a celebration of the physical buildings, the over-riding theme of the day was people. Chris Meakin from the Ministry of Education spoke of "tangata, tangata, tangata": the people using the buildings who will make the difference.

In addition, senior students Alla-Jo Pulham, Hazel Voigt and Devin Willers spoke of the significance of their new buildings. Bree Goodfellow, Eve Holmes and principal Claire Haugh planted a tree commemorating the opening of the buildings. Bree is the newest new entrant and Eve was the 101st student enrolled, boosting Woodbury School's roll to the point where it needed its fifth teacher.

Pip Goldsbury



From left, Eve Holmes, principal Claire Haugh and Bree Goodfellow at the tree planting ceremony. Photo: Pip Goldsbury.

## Relay for Life launch



Geraldine's 2018 Relay for Life organising committee: manager of the South Canterbury Cancer Society Leola Smith (second from left) and co-chairperson of the Relay for Life organising committee Michelle Robertson (far right). Photo: Pip Goldsbury.

A sobering statistic was met with shocked silence at South Canterbury's Relay for Life launch, held at the end of November in Geraldine.

Twenty-four members of Geraldine's local community are currently battling cancer. "That's too many," says Leola Smith, manager of the South Canterbury Cancer Society.

On 10 March next year, Geraldine will host the annual Relay for Life, the Cancer Society's largest fundraiser. The event sees teams of 10 or more celebrating cancer survival, remembering loved ones lost to cancer and fighting back in a bid to raise awareness of cancer and support the work of the Cancer Society.

For Leola, a vital part of Relay for Life is the fundraising the

teams will do in the lead-up to the event. The Cancer Society receives no government funding and Leola says the cost to "run the local centre is a whopping \$300,000 annually". Cancer survivor and co-chairperson of the Relay for Life organising committee, Michelle Robertson, says all funds raised locally go back to the Cancer Society's local branch.

Registrations are now open for next year's event. Michelle and Leola urge people to enter their teams or consider sponsorship. Registration forms are available from The Running Duck. For more information: visit their Facebook page, [www.relayforlife.org.nz](http://www.relayforlife.org.nz), or [screlay@cancercwc.org.nz](mailto:screlay@cancercwc.org.nz) or phone 03 688 0124.

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# Santa Parade the largest in the region

With more than 80 floats and vehicles, and hundreds of smiling participants, the Go Geraldine Christmas Parade "was a hit" last Friday evening says organiser Janene Adams of Go Geraldine.

Janene says that the parade was as big as last year which had been the largest in the 10-year history of the event. "Each year the parade has grown and become more popular thanks to the dedicated work of the organising committees, past and present, and the enthusiasm of the Geraldine community."

The parade attracts entries from across Mid- and South-Canterbury and is the largest in the region according to Janene.

The 2017 parade theme "The Twelve Days of Christmas" was embraced by a number of floats, with winning entries judged by local saloon racing-car star Ryan Marsden who also led the parade in his Ford Mustang Saloon car.

The winning floats were Fonterra Clondeboy for Most Enterprising, Geraldine Kindergarten for Best Family Focus and Hayward Cottage Montessori for Best Christmas spirit.

After the parade, the crowds enjoyed entertainment, food and an aerial Tiger Moth acrobatics display in the Geraldine Domain.

Submitted by Go Geraldine





# Giant plant identified

"I'm not sure what it is, but it's a big one," says Jill Klever. "The bumble bees are enjoying feeding on the flowers. There are some young plants growing alongside but I don't know how long they'll take to grow full size. There are all sorts of things in my garden: some I have gathered up and others propagate themselves. I used to sell plants once upon a time. Now I often give them away."

The Geraldine News asked our gardening expert, Rebecca Lees if she could identify Jill's giant.

"Yes it's an Echium," says Rebecca. "A beautiful specimen of one of all-time favourite plants. Right now it will be humming with bees."

"This gorgeous plant has hundreds of little flowers which are visited by bumblebees and honey bees."

"Leave the plant to set seed and you'll have baby echiums popping up the following year. After it has set seed, leave it until it dries and the leaves become brittle. Then you can then enjoy watching the bird fly down, snap off the leaves and carry them away with them, I imagine for using in their nests. Echium flower stems can grow to three metres tall. Last year one of my echiums flowered constantly for almost a full year."

Hugh McCafferty



# Development riders group to start this Saturday

Mary Craig and Peter Graham belong to an informal group of cyclists who meet at 10am on Saturdays to ride together. With several years of riding under their belts, they're a capable group. Now, Mary and Peter are inviting interested riders to join them an hour earlier for development of group riding skills.

"We'd like to get a nine o'clock starter group going so people can get used to it, get to know each other, learn the etiquette. It may suit people who want to do more cycling, get fit and maybe join the 10 o'clock group if they want to. It'd suit someone wanting to do the charity bike ride [Central South Island Charity Bike Ride]," says Peter.

"It'll be on sealed back roads, and people can be on road bikes, mountain bikes or hybrids. We'll go out for up to an hour. It'll be a relaxed pace."

Mary says, "To start with, we'll stick to roads that are not busy – not too far away – say, a circuit that goes out to Woodbury, along McKeown Road, then Pleasant Valley and back. And have a cup of coffee afterwards."

The 10am group have years of experience, Peter says. "The group's been going for 10 years. We're pretty fit; we go at a good pace." They take care of one another. "We call it no-drop riding; that means if anyone has a puncture or slips off the back, we regroup then continue on. Then, we get back for coffee at a local café."

"We're just a collection of people who want to get better at what we do and we want to offer that chance to others."

The Saturday 9am group riding will begin on 9 December, meeting at the Subway corner at the intersection of Talbot and Cox Streets. For more information, contact Mary on 021 264 9112, Peter on 027 515 2194 or email pagraham7991@gmail.com.

Jan Finlayson



Right: Peter Graham is inviting interested cyclists to join a new informal riding group. Photo: Jan Finlayson.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Museum lily day fundraiser

The impressive Himalayan lilies – *Cardiocrinum giganteum* – of Ōrari Estate's long-established garden are at the heart of a Geraldine Historical Society fundraiser on 10 December.

It's an annual event celebrating the early-summer blooming of the shade-loving plants that thrive in the garden's woodlands, growing fragrant flower heads of heights of up to 3.5 metres.



Historical society secretary Margaret Chapman says, "It's a nice day before Christmas to relax and unwind by the pond and smell the scent of the beautiful lilies, wander through the extensive country garden, and enjoy the view up to the Four Peaks. People are welcome to take picnics."

Ōrari Estate owner Rosie Morten is pleased to open the garden to the public. "It was in 1853 that the garden was begun. Plenty of trees were planted then. I've done lily day for years and enjoy the chance to support the museum."

The event is a general Geraldine Museum fundraiser: others available on the day will be a raffle and sales of cards featuring lilies.

Himalayan lily day is on Sunday 10 December, from 10am until 4pm. Entry is \$10: children free. No refreshments for sale. No dogs. Ōrari Estate is on State Highway 1 between Ōrari and Rangitātā and will be signposted from both locations on the day. For more information, call Geraldine Museum on 693 7028.

Jan Finlayson

### Kiwi Christmas movie

New Zealand's very first home-grown Christmas movie *Kiwi Christmas* will screen at the Geraldine Cinema on Thursday 7 December.



*Kiwi Christmas* tells the story of Santa who, disillusioned with the materialism of Christmas, decides to abandon ship one week out from Christmas and heads as far away from the North Pole as possible – to New Zealand.

When his reindeerless-sleigh crashes and sinks in the waters of an idyllic holiday beach, he is found washed up by eight-year-old Sam and his 12-year-old sister Molly and their newly separated parents. Once the family discovers who Santa really is, they must rescue him from Coastwatch, who have set out to capture him, and convince him to return to the North Pole in time for Christmas Eve.

As a dad to three young girls, director Tony Simpson knows only too well how the stresses and strains of daily life can compound over the Christmas season "I wanted to make a film that reminds us of the simple joys of family and Christmas," says Simpson. "That love is both the easiest and hardest gift to give...but definitely the most important."

Submitted

### Lions regional convention

The Geraldine Lions Club is hosting its region's annual convention at the high school on the weekend of 23-25 February next year. The area runs from the Rakaia River to Dunedin and from the main divide to the east coast.

Geraldine Lions social committee chair and convention chair Jim Hopa says, "The weekend's like an AGM, but we take the opportunity to meet other clubs' delegates and learn from each other; it's about camaraderie and about doing things better. There'll be about 150 people coming."

Guest speakers, a dinner with a yesteryear theme, awards, an auction, entertainment and activities for non-Lions partners join conventional items on the weekend's programme.

For more information about Geraldine Lions Club, visit its Facebook page.

Jan Finlayson

# Cadets fly the flag for Geraldine



From left, Serenity Pullman-Stewart, Tracey Harris, Caroline Blogg, Rick Pooley, James McColl. Photo: Hugh McCafferty.

In a recent district-wide competition for St John cadets, Caroline Blogg won the Fay Balley Cup as junior aggregate winner, Serenity Pullman-Stewart was first in the individual resuscitation (CPR) event and James McColl won first place in the individual caregiver event.

St John District Youth manager Tracey Harris says, "It is awesome that the Four Peaks cadets should achieve like this so soon after coming out of recess."

Divisional manager Rick Pooley says, "I'm proud of them." Hugh McCafferty

# Chalk art competition at GHS



Above: Erin Harland-Christie and Shianne Ecclestone work on their chalk art monster – named *Knockout* – at Geraldine High School's annual year seven and eight chalk art competition. The school's arts co-ordinator, Cynthia Stephens, says, "This year's theme is monsters and gremlins. The competition's just a lot of fun. Chalk lends itself to chunky

art, and we use pastels too, to give rich colours and definition if it's needed."

Year seven winners were Conor Boase and Caleb Shaw with *Taniwha*. Year eight winners were Milly Arras, Christina Boal and Phaedra Cunningham-Lucas with *Cookie Monster*. Jan Finlayson

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## PUBLIC NOTICES / Pānui a whānui

**MARGARET COTTERELL.** An informal gathering to remember Margaret Cotterell, who died recently, will be held at 1pm at the Geraldine Domain on Saturday 16 December. We will meet at the Pavilion. Friends of Margaret are invited to attend. Please ph Steve 027 217 6546 for more information.

**CORRAL CHRISTMAS DINNER.** Cyril and Val would like to thank the Geraldine Community for all the help and support that they have given over the years to the Corral Christmas Dinner. An invitation is extended to anyone who wishes to join us for dinner on Christmas Day. Ph 693 8630 before 18 December.

**GERALDINE** Patchwork and Crafts raffle results. 1st prize, quilt: M Walley, Christchurch. 2nd prize, quilt: Judy Hunt, Darfield. 3rd prize, grocery basket: Claire Gilmour, Geraldine. 4th prize, grocery basket: Kehi Jafer, Alford Forest. Winners have been notified and prizes have been delivered. Thank you for your support.

## The Geraldine News Christmas/New Year CHANGES to publication dates & deadlines

### ADVERTISERS:

Next week, 14 December,  
is your last chance to:

- ☐ Thank your customers
- ☐ Remind locals to shop locally
- ☐ Promote Christmas specials

*We'll be busy, so please have  
your ads to us promptly*

### PUBLICATION DATES

#### FINAL PAPER FOR 2017:

Thursday 14 December (deadline: 12pm, Mon 11 Dec)

#### SUMMER BREAK - NO PAPERS:

Thursday 21 December 2017  
to Thursday 11 January 2018

#### FIRST PAPER FOR 2018:

Thursday 18 January 2018  
(deadline: 12pm, Mon 15 Jan)



The Geraldine News office  
will be closed from 5pm Tuesday  
13 December, re-opening  
9am Monday 15 January 2018

## TRADES AND SERVICES / Mahi a ratonga

**ACCOUNTING** services, tax returns, book keeping, registered tax agent. Ph Raylene 693 7163, 027 274 3264.

**AUTO** parts and accessories. North End Motors, ph 693 8673.

**BIKES.** Holiday's coming, tracks are waiting. Does your bike need TLC? Geraldine Bicycle Repairs for: service, repairs, tyres, tubes, chain lube and quality parts. 221a Talbot Street. Ph 693 7055, 022 159 2560.

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## Geraldine High School

### NETBALL COACHES NEEDED

Geraldine High School is looking for coaches in 2018 for:

- Snr A and B Netball
- Junior Netball
- Snr and Jnr Basketball

If you are interested in coaching or managing a team in  
2018 please contact Kim Andrews:

E: [k.andrews@geraldinehs.school.nz](mailto:k.andrews@geraldinehs.school.nz)  
P: 693 0017 ext 7215

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## Geraldine High School

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## JUNIOR FARM POSITION

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### CASUAL APRICOT-PROCESSING STAFF

We invite registrations of interest from people for the  
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as will other casual staff who can commit for the three  
weeks of the season.

The days of work will be Monday to Friday, at our site in  
Shaw Road, Geraldine with the shifts generally worked  
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Your own transport is essential for this role and you may  
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If you are interested in applying for this role please  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS / Mea pakiri haere

**TOWN & COUNTRY CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY** on Saturday 16 December. See display ad for details.

**BULLS, BREWS, BBQS**, 15 December, Village Inn Green. See display ad for details.

**VOLLEYBALL** competition, starts Tuesday 13 February. Registrations accepted now. See display ad for details.

**GERALDINE NEWS** deadline, noon on Mondays at Geraldine Resource Centre or email: [admin@geraldinenews.co.nz](mailto:admin@geraldinenews.co.nz).

## Geraldine Town & Country Club Inc



Happy Christmas to everyone

We will be having a Christmas Party on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 5:30pm  
At the club room (190 Talbot Str)  
We invite all our members to join and non members are also welcome  
BYO – meat for BBQ & Drinks

Housie is moving back to the Clubrooms from 13<sup>th</sup> December  
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**TULIP FEVER**

(M) VIOLENCE, SEX SCENES

SATURDAY AT 5.15PM

SUNDAY AT 3PM FINAL

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- Coco (26/12)
- The Greatest Showman (26/12)
- Ferdinand (26/12)

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## Geraldine High School

### GERALDINE MIXED VOLLEYBALL COMPETITION

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Please register you team to:

Kim Andrews:

027 372 2334, [k.andrews@geraldinehs.school.nz](mailto:k.andrews@geraldinehs.school.nz)

or Courtmeyer Bates:

027 603 5200, [fourpeakfitness.cb@outlook.com](mailto:fourpeakfitness.cb@outlook.com)



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