



There's snow where so spectacular

Here are just a few of the local photos from the polar blast



Word of the month: Gallimaufry
A. a fictional planet from the bbc series: doctor who
B. a list or catalogue of mummified remains
C. a collection of odds and ends
D. a food dish consisting of just meat and sauce.



August's word: Condign
A. Fitting or appropriate



The next NRA meeting will be held on the Wednesday 21st of September. New members welcome. The meetings last from 7:30 till 9:00 and all input is welcome.

NORMANDALE TIMES



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Winter Wonderland

On Sunday I thought I had been pranked. Snow? In Wellington? The Facebook posts must have been a lie. But then, to my delight is I peered out the window a snowy white curtain had descended on our deck!

For some these days were a chance for celebration, and for some this was an excuse not to go into work, but for all involved I'm sure we can agree that it was a once in a lifetime event and another one would be welcome again here anytime.

Scientists were quick to point out that this was a once in decade phenomenon. Shouts of joy from dogs and children could be heard echoing across the mountain tops, and I can assure you that there were many snowballs thrown.

Not everything about the snow was good news; the media advised people to avoid travelling if at all possible. The weather forecasters were pointing to several days of full bore winter, and schools were poised with their fingers over the cancellation buttons.



An intrepid cyclist on Pekanga Road

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Community NEWS

Cherry Blossom Festival

Paintings of life and landscapes in Japan and a demonstration of the martial art kendo will be highlights of Hutt Minoh Friendship House's annual Cherry Blossom festival on Sunday, September 25.

Guest exhibitor will be Wellington's Henry Campbell who returned last year from five years teaching English in Japan. Nearly every day after school he painted, mostly in acrylic, people and landscapes he had photographed. The work on show at Minoh House will be part of an exhibition he gave in Japan two years ago.

Members of the Hutt Kendo Club, recently returned from a trip to Japan, will give demonstrations and the

opportunity for visitors to "have a go". Other displays will include tea ceremony, Japanese storytelling, ikebana (Japanese flower arranging) and dancing.

The free event runs from 1-4pm, wet or fine. Park in Normandale Road (best access for baby buggies) near the skateboard ramp or the Normandale over bridge car park. Mobility parking available at the house.

Minoh House, at 38 Normandale Road and within Jubilee Park, is a historic Lower Hutt house transformed in 1999 into a Japanese cultural centre. Classes taught regularly include language, ikebana, tea ceremony and sushi-making. Any inquiries to 5864180.



Community NOTICES

TENNIS SEASON 2011/2012 Registration and Open Day Saturday 10th September 9am - 1pm (wet or fine)



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I run an art and craft market at Knox Church hall once a month. It is on the 2nd Saturday of the month right through to Christmas, from 9:30 am to 1:30pm. We are at the Knox Church hall, 574 High Street, Lower Hutt. We sell lovely handmade goods and crafts made by local crafts people. A must for a browse. Stall enquiries phone Marianne on 5895-388



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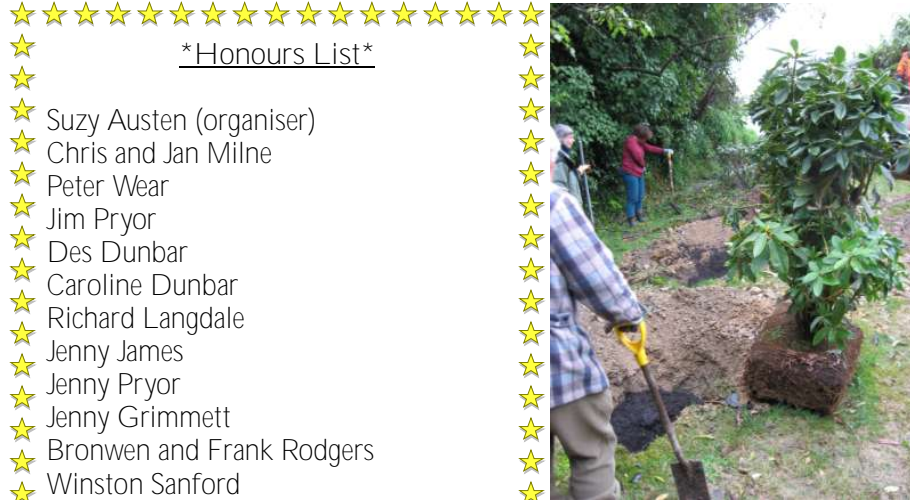
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Many hands make light work

On Saturday the 13th of August, a crew of dedicated residents from the western hills area ventured bravely into the cool Saturday air. Down by the Normandale over bridge, you may have noticed the fruits of their labour, a stunning group of rhododendrons and azaleas. The group worked amazingly well and efficiently and it was great to see the group of them working together. They were expected to finish around 2 o'clock but they actually finished around 11.

To honour the amazing work done by these fantastic individuals I have composed an honours list and a photo gallery of not only the work, but the workers themselves.

- *Honours List*
- ★ Suzy Austen (organiser)
 - ★ Chris and Jan Milne
 - ★ Peter Wear
 - ★ Jim Pryor
 - ★ Des Dunbar
 - ★ Caroline Dunbar
 - ★ Richard Langdale
 - ★ Jenny James
 - ★ Jenny Pryor
 - ★ Jenny Grimmer
 - ★ Bronwen and Frank Rodgers
 - ★ Winston Sanford
 - ★ Peter Wilson (and his wife Kim, who made the sandwiches)
 - ★ Darryl and Lee Thorburn
 - ★ Ivan and Zac Hunt
 - ★ George and Ina Pletea
 - ★ Jolly Mike (Mike harris) driving IM2OLD
 - ★ Rick Mooney
 - ★ Peter Hawkes
 - ★ Margaret Cousins
 - ★ And a special thanks to the guys from Tite Site Works Ltd who donated their time, machinery, and stored the rhododendrons overnight: David Lee and Mark Watt



Community events

Play Centre centenary

According to media reports, snow falling in the Wellington region is said to be a “once in a decade event”. Julie from Playcentre managed to snap a photo of the Old School (now Playcentre) building covered in snow.

There is another special event that is of note this month for the building, it officially opened on the last day of September in 1911. The opening occurred after a culmination of efforts from local residents, sparked initially by a grant and support from the Wellington Education Board mid 1910. A School Committee was then elected, an appropriate site chosen and an opening ceremony organised.

According to accounts from Rosemary McLennan's book on early Normandale, “Mr R Lee, chairman of the Education Board, who was called upon to make the initial speech, said that he always looked upon the opening of a new school with great pleasure. The building, although small, had all the essentials of an up-to-date school. One could go to many places in the country and not find one better in

equipment.” (McLennan, R. 1993, *Glimpses into Early Normandale*, pg 100)

The average number of pupils for the year was 21, according to Ministry of Education Reports.

Normandale Playcentre who now use the building are planning a Centenary Celebration of the old school by organising an Open Day in November. They would like to invite residents to contact them if they have any ideas or old photographs or memorabilia to bring along for the day, these could be for uses of the building in any of the past one hundred years. Planning at this stage includes an old fashioned games day and re-enacting some of the celebration which occurred at the original ceremony, which included entertainment in the form of bagpipes and the dancing of a Highland Fling. If you would like to be involved or have ideas or comments, please leave a message for Lisa on the Playcentre phone and she will call you back, the number is 589 1227. More details in the next Normandale Times issue.



A photo from an ex Play Centre person

Colin McGregor

A long time resident of Normandale recently died. Below are some recollections from his son Colin.

Dad was born in Aberdeen just over 85 years ago. In his life he epitomised three strong Scottish characteristics- thrift, hard work and education.

For most of his life he watched his pennies closely. He carefully weighted up costs when purchases were made. I recall him telling me that buying an LP was more cost effective than a 45 as you got more songs for your money. It was good to see him in his retirement enjoying the fruits of his thriftiness- in particular the many overseas trips he took, both with mum and after mum died by himself. He liked the Scandinavian countries and was always keen on Australia.

He also worked hard. As children our first memories were of dad going to work on Saturdays and often on Sundays too. He started his working career as a carpenter, working for his father. In later years, after a stint in what was then Rhodesia, he worked in New Zealand for many years for Angus Construction. Then he got a job at the Tourist Hotel Corporation as their maintenance Manager, based in Head Office in Wellington. He thrived in this role and was well regarded by the THC. He got

to visit THC hotels throughout New Zealand, mostly located in fantastic places such as Mt Cook and Tongariro. He did the Milford Track every year. On his retirement he and mum got shouted a trip to a number of the hotels. He also worked hard at home - enlarging 54 Poto Road as the family expanded. He also helped in the extension **building work of St.Aidan's church.** And with the general maintenance there.

Dad was a strong believer in education. He had left school at 15 and always regretted doing so. He used to study in the evenings until he got his Clerk of Works certificate.. He was an active member of the University of the Third Age, maintained an interest in general science and in particularly geology, and was very keen on ancient Greece- especially as taught by Matthew Trundle at Victoria University.

Whilst he hated sports he loved classical music and was a regular attendee of the NZSO concerts in Wellington

Dad has had a good innings. He travelled widely, enjoyed his work, enjoyed his whiskey and most important of all loved his wife Elma deeply.

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Snow men!



Who had the best snow man? You decide! Sure looks like everyone had fun building their snow men, Good work everyone!
(thanks to Grant R. for the pictures)