



Bruce Rogers with grandson Toby Abel. PHOTO: Jan Finlayson

## Bruce Rogers hangs up handpiece after 40 years

After four decades in shearing, and 35 years of helming Bruce Rogers Shearing (BRS), Bruce is hanging up his handpiece to focus on farming. Until last year, BRS' patch spanned from Banks Peninsula to Outram and Makarora.

"It's been great to be in the industry, great learning from and working with the clients and the great people in the industry. I'm grateful," he says. Locally based Foster Shearing recently bought the northern part of BRS; McSkimming

Shearing, based in Kurow, in 2025 purchased the southern portion.

It was 1974 when Bruce went through the Telford Farm Training Institute, gaining shearing tuition among other things. He says, "I had an awareness of wanting to work to achieve my own farm; shearing was a way towards that."

As a means to an end, it worked. He got into farming 33 years ago. But, "I absolutely loved shearing, and the life lessons, and the competition

it brought" - so he carried on with it.

"You work physically for eight to nine hours, then hop out of bed the next day and do it again. And again. And do two weeks in a row, seven days a week. You learn a lot about yourself. You haven't hurt yourself; you've taught yourself. And there are the close quarters, for months at a time."

Shearing's competitive, day-to-day, and as a sport. Bruce was a competition shearer, locally

and inter-island, and instigated Speed Shear Geraldine, running it for 10 years.

BRS' staff, including long-time operations manager Pip Tehopu, has sometimes neared 100 people at a time. "It's really rewarding seeing people who have started here very young, who have progressed into their own businesses, homes, personal goals," Bruce says. "It's about good people, shearing sheep." **JAN FINLAYSON**

### gnews IN BRIEF



#### Geraldine High Shakespeare team shines at national festival

For theatrical exploits from fun-making to staging death, Geraldine High School Shakespeare team members collected awards at the National Shakespeare Festival, held in Wellington over the King's Birthday weekend.

Year 12 students Keeley Bray and Elise Coster won 'best comedic role' and 'best death' gongs, respectively. The pair performed a 15-minute *Romeo and Juliet* mashup. Keeley also won an award for her direction of the performance. Kylie Fraser, Year 13, won a direction prize for a five-minute performance by three team members of *Much Ado About Nothing's* wedding-preparation scene.

Eliza Williams, GHS head of visual and performing arts, says, "They've connected with Shakespeare this year. They were able to view a lot of performances at the festival and saw

that the plays can be interpreted in many ways. There was a high standard, and they learned a lot."

**STOP PRESS:** On Tuesday it was announced that Keeley Bray is among 48 Shakespeare Festival participants selected for the Shakespeare Globe Centre New Zealand National Shakespeare Schools Production, a week-long Wellington-based Shakespeare immersion in the spring school holidays. It offers the chance for selection to the 24-strong SGCNZ Young Shakespeare Company, which travels annually to London for workshops and performance. **JAN FINLAYSON**

Elise Coster and Keeley Bray in their *Romeo and Juliet* mashup at the 2026 National Shakespeare Festival. PHOTO: Supplied

**gnews**<sup>f</sup>  
MEET THE TEAM



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I've been editing GNews since April 2019, and always enjoy bringing the joy and community of this quirky little town to every single edition. I'm also incredibly proud of the reporters who bring those stories to us, and thankful to our advertisers and Allied Press for their continued support. If you've got a story you think our readers would enjoy, get in touch, and if you want to advertise, flick me an email.



**JAN FINLAYSON**  
REPORTER  
021 502 297  
janfinlayson@xtra.co.nz

My background's in farming, the backcountry, the arts, and teaching, but I'm interested in everything. Issues from large-scale to detailed, and from philosophical to hold-it-in-your-hand, they all have resonance: for a good article, it's just about listening hard and getting the context and angle right.



**QUYÊN TRẦN**  
REPORTER  
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quyen@qtwrites.com

I'm obsessed with stories. The ones shared in conversations and revealed in how people live their lives. I'm curious about what drives Geraldinians, what they care about, and what shapes their days. Every person has something worth sharing, and I'm here to help tell it.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

I must have flowers, always, and always.

CLAUDE MONET

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**PUBLIC HOLIDAYS: 5pm Thursday before**  
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Liz Chapman has been awarded a Floral Art New Zealand life membership. PHOTO: Supplied

# Life membership recognises decades of floral art dedication

Liz Chapman received a life membership of Floral Art New Zealand (FANZ) at the organisation's recent annual conference in Blenheim.

It is a "prestigious honour," says Geraldine Floral Art president Lois Fraser. As well as being an accomplished floral artist, Liz has held office in FANZ, including as national president, is a qualified teacher and a lecturer in design, and has had her work and expertise featured in publications and at national and international conferences.

"For all those things, Liz deserves it," Lois says. "From working on the constitution to

putting the Zip on. And she's still learning; learning new techniques all the time. And she's a really caring person."

Liz says, "Floral art's been a passion since I joined in 1985. I started as a gardener; I inherited my mother-in-law's lovely garden at Kakahu. I have a love of plants and growing things. Floral design came from that."

Geraldine Floral Art fosters the design ambitions of all its members, says Lois. "We're lucky. We have very good tutors in our club, nationally registered, with judges' exams, and exams for tutoring." The tutors practise across Australasia. Every club meeting features a

workshop or demonstration.

Lois says that Liz gets behind everyone in the club, nurturing floral artists with eyes on competitions from the local to the national level, as well as members "who just want to learn how to put flowers in a vase."

*Geraldine Floral Art meets monthly on the second Monday of every month, 10.30am-2.30pm, at Geraldine RSA. Find out more by visiting the group's Facebook page or by contacting Lois Fraser on 03 971 6991 or 027 292 8484, or Liz Chapman on 027 351 5317.*

JAN FINLAYSON

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New Zealand Film Awards Best Actor recipient Stephen Papps. PHOTO: tharts.co.nz

# Award-winning actor brings *Social Animal* to Geraldine

*Social Animal*, a satire co-written by its solo actor, Stephen Papps, and director Damon Andrews, is coming to Geraldine on 14 June. The Arts on Tour show is hosted by the Geraldine Community Arts Council.

The play touches on zeitgeist items: social media, celebrity's brittleness, real friendship, and the imminent closure of New Zealand's greyhound racing industry in July. And, Stephen says, "it gets lots of laughs."

An award-winning acting veteran, he plays lauded television actor Joe Quigley and an array of other human characters, as well as a few dogs. "Everything plays out on social media.

It's easy to get cancelled," Stephen says. "Joe's cocky; arrogant. They - the film company - decide his time's up and that they need someone young and in a different demographic. It's a bad day at the office. Then he meets a recently retired racing dog."

Acclaim evaporated, like the greyhound's loss of purpose; what can Joe build in its stead? "He has to rediscover local community, more humble people who walk their dogs, and take notice of who's around," Stephen says.

Stephen Papps is a New Zealand Film Awards Best Actor recipient and performed in the 2025 film *Pike River*; *Social Animal* is his fourth

self-written play. Damon Andrews has three decades' experience in theatre and television, from a role in *The Tribe* to co-writing the satire *Wheeler's Luck* and writing *Shortland Street*.

Elaine Taylor, arts council chair, says, "With Stephen we can expect diverse characters full of humour, pathos and biting satire, all delivered with true comedic timing whilst offering 'paws' for thought." *Social Animal* is the first of three Arts on Tour shows the council will host this year.

*Social Animal* is at 7.30pm on Sunday, 14 June, at the Lodge Theatre. Tickets \$30 at Joosh (cash); any remaining sold at the door.

JAN FINLAYSON

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Kristine Diehl-Breeding, Geraldine.nz promotions and development coordinator. PHOTO: Jan Finlayson

# Geraldine.nz marks 100 years of supporting local business

Geraldine.nz, founded 100 years ago as the Geraldine Businessmen's Association, is toasting its centenary in a month-long celebration beginning with an open-door Annual General Meeting and rounding off with the installation of a time capsule.

Kristine Diehl-Breeding, Geraldine.nz promotions and development coordinator, says between the AGM and the time capsule's dedication, "we're highlighting what's on in our town." She says, "We suggest businesses in town light up their windows for this special time."

"Colin Monteath [polar explorer and mountaineer] is giving a presentation on 27 June, and the first weekend in July there's

Geraldine Ukefest. Matariki weekend (10-12 July) sees a predawn Hautapu Ceremony, an afternoon variety show, the Carnivorous Plant Society perform in the evening, the fourth annual Matariki Motor Muster as well as the Lionesses' Garden and Home Expo."

For a century, she says, the organisation "has been about the promotion of small business and advocacy of small business. Small business is what makes Geraldine tick, and it feeds every aspect of it outside town: farming, hunting, for example. Geraldine's uniqueness is what brings tourists in, and we couldn't do that if we didn't have businesses to come to."

Kristine says, "The business association

gives Geraldine traction to be independent and function on its own." The time capsule will crystallise Geraldine in 2026. "Children predominantly will make things for the capsule; things like letters to people in the future, and figurines of 'now'."

*Everyone is welcome at Geraldine.nz's AGM, beginning with Business at Six at Bonnie Day, 6pm Thursday 18 June. The Geraldine.nz time capsule will be placed on Thursday, 23 July; details will be shared on the organisation's Facebook page.*

*See back page for event details, visit geraldine.nz or GNews Facebook pages, or go to eventfinda.co.nz. JAN FINLAYSON*



PHILIP HARPER

## Community feedback sought on two key council issues

Hello Geraldine Ward. There will be a Timaru District Council (TDC) drop-in session at Geraldine Library on Wednesday, 17 June, 4-6pm to discuss two significant upcoming proposed changes that your council is dealing with.

One is the Head Start pathway come local government amalgamation into unitary authorities, a directive coming from central government.

The other is the concept of divestment of the underperforming Alpine Energy lines company asset, in which the TDC has a 47.5 per cent stake and is run via Timaru District Holdings Limited. The other shareholders are Line Trust South Canterbury (40 per cent), Waimate District Council (7.54 per cent) and Mackenzie District Council (4.96 per cent).

TDC is inviting feedback on these two important issues. The council website has explanations on both.

Feel free to contact me direct at philip.harper@timdc.govt.nz or come along to the meeting with any thoughts and good ideas to share.

Nga Mihi. PHILIP HARPER



After 40 wonderful years of shearing, on Monday, 1 June 2026, BR Shearing Limited was sold.

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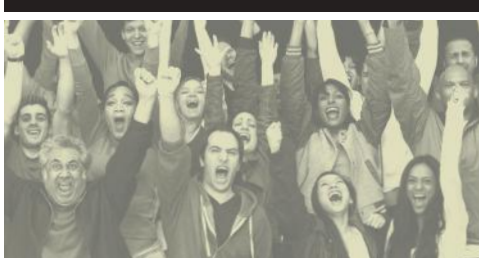
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# gnews RESULTS



**GERALDINE BRIDGE CLUB Championship 5, 4.6.26** North South: 1st: V Hill & Julie Kelly 61.88%, 2nd: K Miles & T Cooper 55.13%, 3rd: M Bray & John Kelly 49.48%. East West: 1st L Pincombe & P Rafferty 64.63%, 2nd: J Meijer & R Hobbs 53.13%, 3rd H Henderson & B White 48.13%. **Handicap 3.6.26** 1st: M Bray & K le Lievre 59.24%, 2nd A Numan & L Graybill 57.07%, 3rd K Miles & G Linton 51.34%, 4th: M Shierlaw & S Harris 49.48%.

**GERALDINE DISTRICT GOLF CLUB 3.6.26 Mixed Stableford** (37 in field) A Tedham 39, R Irvine 38, M Patrick 38, R Scott 37, I Macdonald 37, D Law 37 (Grand Vue), J Worner 37. **6.6.26 Men's Strokeplay Championships Rd 1 Senior** C Dickens 72, M Christian 75, I Macdonald 77, J Robinson 78, **Intermediate** I Smith 83, D Goodwin 89, M Oliver 89, B McArthur 89, S Melville 89, **Junior A** R Scott 88, R Irvine 88, D Holland 88, I Cartney 91, D Law 91, B McSweeney 91, **Junior B** M Crook 99, A Ensor 103, M Patrick 103, S Mahon 104 **Ladies medal** J Kellahan 88, S Bensemann 98, L Meaney 108

**GRANDE VUE GOLF CLUB 7.6.26 Stableford Round** 1st M O'Malley 81-16-65-39 Stbs, J Bell 79-12-67-37, B Millar 79-11-68-36, G Marshall 81-13-68-36, J Jones 84-14-70-34, R Ramsay 88-17-71-33, J Cox 80-9-71-33, T Kerr 87-15-72-32, A Cox 91-19-72-32, G Patrick 82-9-73-031, D Law 89-15-74-30, M Lang 89-12-77-28, B Aitken 97-20-77-27, A Muff 90-13-77-27, J Bayley 106-28-78-26, R Stevenson 100-22-78-26. N/Pin #4 J Cox, Two's B Millar #4.

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THURSDAY 11 JUNE - WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE

THE GERALDINE CINEMA WILL BE WELL HEATED THIS WEEKEND. FULL ATTENDANCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED THANK YOU.



Steven Spielberg and long-time writing partner David Koepp reunite for this feature that ponders what the current world would look like if we got undoubtable proof of the existence of alien life in the universe.

**DISCLOSURE DAY**  
(M) VIOLENCE, OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE & CONTENT THAT MAY DISTURB  
**SATURDAY 7:15PM | SUNDAY 6:45PM**



Mando and "Baby Yoda" make the jump from TV series to big-budget movie for this Star Wars film directed by Jon Favreau (Iron Man). The evil Empire has fallen, and Imperial warlords remain scattered throughout the galaxy. As the fledgling New Republic works to protect everything the Rebellion fought for, they have enlisted the help of legendary Mandalorian bounty hunter Din Djarin (Pedro Pascal) and his young apprentice Grogu.

**THE MANADLORIAN & GROGU**  
(M) VIOLENCE  
**SUNDAY 4PM**



Jake Gyllenhaal, Henry Cavill, Rosamund Pike and Eiza González (Baby Driver) star in this Guy Ritchie action film revolving around a covert team of elite operatives living in the shadows. When a ruthless despot steals a billion-dollar fortune, they're sent to take it back - an impossible heist that erupts into a deadly game of strategy, deception and survival.

**IN THE GREY**  
(R13) VIOLENCE & OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE  
**SATURDAY 5:15PM**



New Zealand actor and filmmaker Chelsie Preston Crayford makes her feature directorial debut with this multi-generational family drama centred on a teenage girl, a middle-age mother, and a caterpillar-loving grandmother. Set in a run-down Wellington villa in 2003, Caterpillar follows three women living separate lives under one leaky roof. Sixteen-year-old Cassie is all bravado and vulnerability, drifting into risky territory as she searches for belonging. Her mother Maxine, 52, is a formidable single parent and filmmaker on the brink of a long-awaited breakthrough, finally offered a greenlight—if she can land a star. Holding everything together is Huia, Cassie's grandmother, 80, whose life has been defined by quiet service to family and a private obsession with raising monarch caterpillars, dreaming of one day witnessing the legendary butterfly migration in Mexico.

**CATERPILLAR**  
(M)  
**SUNDAY 2PM**

**COMING SOON:**  
**THE CHRISTOPHERS | THE ODYSSEY**  
**A PRIVATE LIFE**

# JULY IN = Geraldine

**3-5 JULY**  **GERALDINE UKEFEST**  Concerts, Ukes in Cafes, the Big Strum and more!

**10 JULY** **MATARIKI** Predawn Hautapu Ceremony | Afternoon Variety Show

**10 JULY** **CARNIVOROUS PLANT SOCIETY**  A unique experience featuring vibraphone, tuba, harmonica, pan flute, synthesisers, drums, bass, and vocals

**10-12 JULY**  **Matariki Motor Muster** VINTAGE CARS, HOT RODS, MOTORCYCLES, TRUCKS AND MORE!

**11 JULY** **HOME & GARDEN EXPO**  Garden & home themed stalls, workshops, children's activities, demonstrations, garden walks

**31 JULY**  **AUCTION & TALENTS** BIENNIAL ANGLICAN PARISH OF GERALDINE FUNDRAISER

**ALL JULY** **GERALDINE.NZ Centenary 1926-2026** Light Up Geraldine | Time Capsule Celebration | and more! 

