

Friday 6th December



Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Thank you for the support of the recent initiatives with everybody incredibly busy at this time of the year. The children are finishing well with their ability to move through unstructured, yet engaging opportunities really pleasing from a teaching point of view. We have been talking about keeping to a high personal standard with tiredness and year-end meaning as a group we must keep our eye on the ball.

Local Legend Biographies - attached.



We are trying hard to stick to our plan focussed on Local Curriculum and it has been incredibly rewarding seeing the progress taking shape. The aim of this year has been to establish learning programmes that are both sustainable and purposeful, while reflecting the Vision and Values that have been etched on paper. The worry however is the speed of change currently and the standardisation we are facing as schools. We have included two of our Local Legend biographies with Lesley and Russell Jeffries and Wilma van den Bosch and Michael Midgley's backgrounds ready for publication on our website. This is such an

amazing opportunity for our children to hear from the locals in our community and the stories and wisdom they offer. We have two more local candidates to complete who have been sadly unavailable this term, but these will be followed up early in 2025. With the statement "Sense of Self, Sense of Place", these insightful local opportunities certainly add value to our school and to the learning of our tamariki.



Sprout Book Club 2025

Sharron Binns and a motivated group of kids met to discuss the preparation and planning for a children's book club to be run throughout 2025. The School has been approached by Sharron to use the structure of the Adults Petronella's Book Club to engage and promote



books for our tamariki. The children will meet to discuss their current reading choices, while writing reviews and looking at resources that will help here at school. There has been talk of extending this once established to include some of our Lake Tekapo School leavers so that the joy of literacy can be shared for the communities kids. In the words of our "Sprout Readers" "We were not sure what to expect, but cookies and treats were not what we thought we would be sharing. We had prepared our book reviews and were eager to share these with Shazz. Imagine our surprise when not only did we get to share our reviews with Shazz, but she treated us to some snacks and we even got

to borrow some special books over Summer". Thank you Shazz.

Ruud Kleinpaste - Bio Blitz - Thank You Amy and Geoff



A massive thank you to Amy and Geoff for quietly buzzing away in getting our gardens prepared for the "Bugman", Ruud Kleinpaste. The children have absolutely loved having Ruud in the school and it has been wonderful, as teachers, being able to discuss and plan actions for future visits. Ruud is an absolute icon and his "hands on" approach to sustainability and Kaitiakitanga leave you spell bound. We will keep you posted regarding future visits and we are hoping to include the Lake Tekapo Kindergarten, Cannington School and Aoraki Mt Cook in future visits, so that we can begin to reciprocate and learn from each other in our different environments. Thank you to Jasmine Shaw for the work in getting the community garden initiative underway and we hope to pick this up in the new year as part of both the transition programme and Sprout Programme, I have been cheeky and added Jasmine's account from the other day. The School would like to also thank Angela and Greg Marshall for the accommodation of Ruud in his time here in Tekapo.



A Big Day in the Community Garden – Tamariki Shine! - Thanks Jasmine

Today, our tamariki impressed us once again during our visit to the Community Gardens. With guidance from William Beauchamp, we carefully chose spots for the plants we've been growing and nurturing as gifts to Papatūānuku. The tamariki have put a lot of effort into growing a wide range of plants from seed, and their hard work is paying off! Today, Tekapo School joined us, making it a wonderful opportunity to collaborate on preparing the gardens. While we initially planned to plant vegetables, we quickly realized the gardens needed some extra care. Everyone rolled up their sleeves, pulling grass from the beds and setting up hoses and sprinklers to soften the soil. Together, we managed to plant three zucchini plants – a fantastic addition to our garden! These will be added to our planting calendar so we can track their growth. We also checked on the potatoes we planted last time but noticed they need more water. If any of our families can help with watering, we'd greatly appreciate it. Adding to the excitement, we had a visit from Rudd the Bug Man, who introduced us to his weta! The tamariki loved having the weta crawl up their arms – it was a fascinating and hands-on learning experience. While today was incredibly productive, there's still more to do to get our gardens in top shape. We would love your support to make this happen.

Ways You Can Help

Watering Roster: Can you commit to watering the gardens once a week? Let Jasmine know so we can create a roster.

Compost Collection: If you can pick up a free trailer load of compost from the Timaru or Geraldine Eco Centre, please let Jasmine know. We'll provide a voucher to make it easy!

Weeding: Spend some time weeding with your tamariki. It's a great way to connect and contribute.

Community Carols:



The children were absolutely sensational as they cranked out Christmas Carols for the Community Christmas evening in town. Thank you for the support of this with a full contingent really helping with both the volume and adding to the festive ambience of children. Thank you to Tekapo Promotions for including our school in this annual Community Christmas gathering.

Nativity / End of Term Assembly: Holiday Season Goodwill



Nativity: Monday 9th December - 5:30pm
End of Term Assembly -Wednesday 11th December - 1:30pm

The children are preparing for their Nativity performance on Monday night at the Church of the Good Shepherd. This is such an incredible opportunity with the children sharing this historic site. The theme this year is around “reflection” and taking time to “stop and think”. This has been drawn out of the busy nature of the year and hopefully a time where we can sit and soak in the positive message from the kids. Thank you again

for the support of this.

The End of Term Assembly will be on Wednesday 11th December and this is a special day as we pay tribute to our Year 6 leavers. This year we have a small group with Mila Jeffries and Lucy Monk moving on to Mackenzie College. Both girls are ready to move to their next step and have been an absolute delight as seniors in our school. The assembly will begin at 1:30pm in the community hall.



Working bee - Friday 13th December: 1:30pm

LAKE TEKAPO SCHOOL AND LAKE TEKAPO KINDERGARTEN

INVITE YOU TO OUR

End of Year PICNIC

FRI 13 DEC
3PM-5PM

After the school working bee wraps up at 3 pm, bring along some afternoon tea and your favorite drinks for a relaxed gathering with music, connection, and fun as we celebrate the year together.

If you and your children would like to enjoy the pool, you're welcome to— but please note that there will be no lifeguard on duty. For everyone's safety, parents and caregivers are responsible for supervising their own children at all times.

We look forward to spending this special time with you—let's make it a memorable celebration!



Thank you for the return regarding the school working bee on Friday 13th December. This day will be followed by a relaxed picnic with the Lake Tekapo Kindergarten and will allow us to get on top of some of the jobs that have been sitting around throughout the year. The Sports Shed is to be shelved out as part of our property plan and this will have a work bench for the children and offer more storage for staff. Thank you to all the parents who have offered help and the old adage of many hands make light work will certainly help a lot. If there is anything you may want to take from the Sports Shed on Friday, please contact Jane.

Working Bee Jobs - 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Sports Shed - Gear and Jobs

- Shade Sails
- Old Books
- Shelving Panels
- Old Sports Gear
- Large White Boards
- Plastic Chairs
- Tables
- Stereo / Speakers
- Blinds

Working Bee Jobs

- Rubber Flying Fox
- Gutters , Drains
- Heke in Classroom Beams
- Pool Area Cleaned
- Irrigation
- Tree pruned
- Art Room

Classes / Stationery

The classrooms will run as Year 0-3 and Year 4-6 at the beginning of next year. This will mean the classrooms will remain as we have ended, except with the leavers and new entrant students throughout Term One. A stationery list will be provided next week for purchase through the holidays.



School Pool: A Massive Thank you to Nigel Frost

The pool is such a massive asset to the school. A special thank you to Mr Nigel Frost who fronts each season and cleans and prepares the pool without fuss. Nigel puts hours into making sure it is in ship shape condition and this is genuinely appreciated. The Board of Trustees has reviewed the pool documentation around pool usage over the holidays, and information regarding the pool costs and documentation can be received from Jane in

the School office.

Dates:

9th December	Nativity - please be at the Church by 5.15pm, start time: 5:30pm
11th December	End of Term Assembly 1:30pm - Community Hall
13th December	Parent Working Bee 1:30pm - Picnic with Kindergarten: 3:00pm
17th December	Last Day / Water Afternoon - Term 4 with Kindy in the afternoon - Reports Last Day.
3 February 2025	First Day - Term 1, 2025
6 February	Waitangi Day - SCHOOL CLOSED
11 April	Last Day, Term 1
28 April	First Day - Term 2

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Russell and Lesley Jeffries

On 20 November 2024, Elijah, Johnny and The Macaulay Class at Lake Tekapo School interviewed our Local Legends Russell and Lesley Jeffries.

Videographer - Lexi Joyce

Scribe - Tu Peni Cavalevu



How do you feel about being interviewed and has this happened before?

We are very happy to be interviewed and this is the first time ever.

Where were you born and have you ever moved?

Russ: I was born in Port Chalmers, Dunedin. Then I came up here to Tekapo in 1975, for 3 years. I met Lesley in Dunedin, and moved back to Dunedin. Then we moved to Alexandra for 5 years, came here to Tekapo in 1985 and have been here ever since.

Lesley: I was born in Balclutha, and moved to Dunedin when I was 6.

What school did you go to, and what was your favourite subject?

R: I went to Sawyers Bay School, and then to Otago Boys. I had lots of good subjects but my favourite would have been Geography and History.

L: I went to Balclutha Primary School, and when we moved to Dunedin I went to Balmacewen Intermediate, and then on to Otago Girls' High School. My favourite subjects were Cooking and Sewing. I did also enjoy Arithmetic.

What activity or hobby are you the most serious about and why?

R: Watching Sport, Motor Racing or Reading

L: I'd say travel. I have the bug, I like going and seeing places. We've bought a caravan, we are looking forward to getting into that and travelling all over New Zealand.

What famous person do you admire the most?

L: I think Sir Ed. He's done a lot. He came from that little country way down under.

R: He was the first to climb Mt Everest and he put New Zealand on the map, when many people didn't really know where we were. He also put so much into helping the people of Nepal, with new schools and help. He was also a very humble and great man.

When was a time you were most proud of yourself and why?

Apart from getting married, it would be when we opened up the new shop, down the road. The old one was pretty good and we built it up, but when we opened up the new shop. There was a lot of hard work and Jason and Casey joined us and transformed it. That made us very proud. To be able to pass on and sell to Jason and Casey made us very proud.

When did you start working at the Four Square?

R: 1975, it wasn't a Four Square in those days. It was a little country store, "Al Groceries". It was very small, it would have been maybe a third the size of this library. We had petrol pumps outside because there was no tourism, it was just to feed the locals basically.

Have you ever been out of the country and if so where?

Yes, how many fingers have you got? We have travelled through the United States, Canada. We have had many trips, and just recently we had seven weeks in Europe. We have done a lot of travel to The Gold Coast in Australia when the kids were young, with theme parks. Once the kids had left home, we started travelling in the States.

What was your favourite place? Why

R and L : Canada!

R: When I was young about your age, I started reading books about Canada and I always wanted to go. As you start work and have a family, you don't always get to fulfil your dreams. But then one day we decided we were going to go, and we went, we loved it. Canadians are very friendly, very similar to New Zealanders. The country is very pretty and safe.

L: It is a gorgeous country.

What is the longest adventure you have had in your life?

Travel - our longest being 8 weeks,

Would you rather travel back to the past and meet your great great grandparents or into the future to meet your great great grandchildren?

Both: I'd go back,

L: Things were simple then.

R: It was simple and given that we were born in the 1950's, life was more simple but I'd love to know how our great grandparents got on as they didn't have things we take for granted today, yes like machinery.

L: Building houses and things like that, we have cranes. In the old days they would have done it all by hand.

No electricity, running water, flushing toilets.

L: Possibly wouldn't go back as far as no flushing toilets!

If you had one wish what would it be?

World Peace and that all countries got on with each other and there were no wars.

This was followed up by many interesting encounters and titbits regarding Bears, Cougars and Moose when travelling through Canada. Russell has a simple analogy to safety when travelling, follow the traffic light rule for life. Green is when you are at home with your family or at school and you feel safe, orange is when you are up town and not quite certain, you are still safe but just aware of cars etc. Red is dangerous and you need to get out of there. Always being aware and looking around.

The students would like to take this opportunity to say a sincere thank you for your time and the lovely atlas you donated to our library to help us with our future travels. We are so lucky to have such Local Legends in our Tekapo Community.

Wilma van den Bosch and Michael Midgley

On Thursday 28th November, Lucy, Beauden and The Macaulay class interviewed Wilma and Michael at LTS.

Scribe - Mila Jeffries

Videographer - Asher Nand



How do you feel about being interviewed and has this happened before?

Michael : I have never been interviewed and I'm feeling very nervous.

Wilma : I'm very curious what questions you are going to ask.

Where were you born and where have you ever moved?

M: I was born in Timaru in 1941, we moved to Napier in the Hawkes Bay when I was about 4, then moved back to South Canterbury in 1957.

W: I was born in a small place in 1960, The Netherlands then lived in various places then moved to Tekapo. I have lived in Tekapo for the 32 years.

What school did you go to, and what were your favourite subjects and why?

M: I went to Te Awa School in Napier. My favourite subject was Nature Study, sometimes I rode my pony to school. We lived on Napier Boys High School farm.

W: My kindergarten and Primary Schooling were in Boekel, The Netherlands. I liked handicrafts - like what you would call soft tech.

What activity or hobby are you the most serious about and why?

M: Fly Fishing because we live in the perfect place to go Fly Fishing. We call it sight fishing, because you have to see the fish before they see you. It's like hunting really, you sneak up on the fish and cast the fly that sits on top of the water. You have to fool fish into taking an artificial insect.

W: Books - reading. I love books and I love the power of the story.

What famous person do you admire the most?

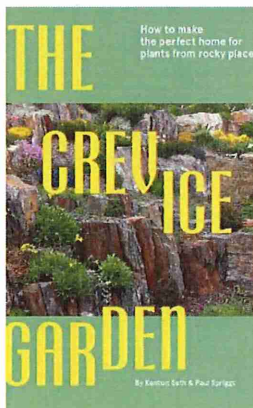
M: Sir Ed Hillary - I remember I was at intermediate school in Napier, at Ilam in 1953 it was announced he had climbed Mt Everest. Years later when we built The Macaulay Hut, up the Macaulay River, Sir Ed came to visit.



W: Kamala Harris - She tried to become President of the USA, I felt she had a very good heart and wanted to make a difference. She didn't win, but she lost gracefully.

When was a time that you were most proud of yourself and why?

M: I built the first crevice garden in NZ. It is a beautiful crevice garden with Alpine plants placed between crevices in rocks. The rocks are placed on their sides and plants are planted between. There has been a book written and photos taken. It is world famous, and especially in NZ.



Have you ever been out of the country and if so where?

M: I drove around North America in 1969 , that was 45000 miles. I went around Western Canada. Because of our hostel here in Tekapo for 23 years, we have met many people from all over the world. Hunters and fishermen would come and stop in the hostel, returning every 2-3 years. That's how we learnt about and travelled to Scandinavia, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Netherlands, Switzerland. We also drove through with the kids to Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and of course The Netherlands.

What was your favourite place?

M: My favourite place - lots of favourite places. I couldn't say one in particular.

Would you rather travel back to the past and meet your great great grandparents or into the future to meet your great great grandchildren?

M: I think I lived in the best part of time, I've already got Great great nieces and nephews, and we are in touch with them all the time. I would like to see a bit of everything. There is an area in Yorkshire called Midgley. There are 2 more Michael Midgleys in NZ but we are not related.

W: I would love to meet my ancestors. What has happened has shaped me so I would like to get to know them better.

If you had one wish what would it be?

M: Tidy up our house so it isn't left for our kids to sort out.

W: To have healthy people, especially the special people around me.

What is your favourite book of all time?

M: Jim Corbett's - *Man Eaters of Kumaon* - It is about The Himalayas. He was a famous naturalist who killed many man eating leopards and tigers in India. At the moment David is right there where he wrote about. He wrote many books about the Foothills of The Himalayas. I have read this book several times. I would also recommend *Man Eating Leopard of Rudraprayag*.

W: I grew up with *Grimms Fairy Tales* - if I could only take one book to an island, this would be it. It is timeless and has many lessons for people in general.

What is your favourite saying?

W: "Worry doesn't take the sorrow out of tomorrow, but takes away the joy out of today". I try to remind myself of this often.

What age were you when you got your first paid job, and what was it?

M: I Grew up on the farm, so always helped out, my first paid job was in 1988,

W: Strawberry picking - I grew up in an area that grew a lot of strawberries. I do not like fruit so I did not eat any!

What experiences do you like about working in a Bookshop Wilma?

When people come in and ask for help to find a book. Finding the right book for someone. It is a nice experience that I get regularly.

Have you ever seen big spiders?

W: I haven't been to Australia yet, but I believe they are much bigger there. I don't like spiders

M: Amber tells us that Huntsman Spiders are the big spiders in Australia. I don't mind spiders.

What is your favourite genre of book?

M: Fishing and Hunting

W: Fiction

Wilma, who is your favourite author?

Elizabeth Strout, an American author. She has very good insight into people's thinking, she can write it down very well and I am very envious of how clever she is.

When and where did you meet?

W: I was travelling in NZ, at one stage I needed a ride. Michael picked me up in Cave. Very lucky for us. I was 29 when I met Michael.

What is your favourite sport?

M: Ice Hockey & Rugby for watching.

W: Ice Hockey, watching and I love cycling

The class decided Fly Fishing and Hunting are sports too.



Michael and Wilma commented that when their children were at Lake Tekapo School, there were only 13 students, with one teacher. David and Luca were the only kids at the time in their year level.

Michael shared with us how he has been to Mt Cook station many times, and shared with us it is not fly fishing but see fishing as you are trying to see the fish before it sees you.

Michael loves nature and was called nature boy at school. He does not go "tramping" in the mountains, he places his feet. Michael's best fishing spot is Narnia - "Narnia business".

Wilma spoke Dutch with us and shared photos of her and her sister wearing clogs when they were younger.

Thank you both for sharing so openly your life story so far, we all agreed you have had many wonderful adventures and loved how you brought them to life with your sincerity, photos and great stories. We are so lucky to have you as Local Legends here in Tekapo.