

WAINUI RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Website: www.wainuibay.org

Postal: 251 Wainui Valley Road, RD 2 Akaroa 7582

Email: wracommittee@gmail.com and on facebook



UP COMING EVENTS



TAKE THE EDGE OFF THIS WINTER AND JOIN
THE COMMUNITY FOR A

**BAD
TASTE
PARTY**

Saturday 28th July 6pm onwards

DRESS UP AS LOUSLY AND AWFUL AS YOU
CAN

GOOD COMPANY, KIDS MOVIE, FUN GAMES &
MUSIC

BYO DRINKS
BRING FINGER FOOD TO SHARE (No chips please)
Ovens available
YMCA - Wainui Valley Road
RSVP - natalie@uev.nz or 0277243015

WAINUI GOOD FOLK FEST

Brought to you by good folks..... Tim and Linda Hennessy.

Hello Wainui Residents,
We are in the process of organising a small music festival at the YMCA on January 5th. I hope you will be able to join us? There will be music and food from midday to about 9.00pm.

I was also wondering whether anybody has a business that would benefit from sponsoring the event?

We could organise sponsorship packages from around \$500 and are flexible as to how this could work. We would do our best to maximise the value you would get.

We are trying to keep ticket prices as low as possible, so sponsorship would really help.

The event is not for profit, so any money left after musicians and staging is covered will go to either the YMCA or Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust.

Give me a call if you are interested and we can discuss options.
(And any other help/advice/recommendations gratefully received).

Regards,
Tim,

Tim and Linda Hennessy
021655698 or 03 304 8914



Christchurch City Council Community Award

It is with the greatest of pleasure that we announce to our membership, that a very special Christchurch City Council Community Services Award has been awarded to Dave Evans for his long standing and continual voluntary services to our district of Wainui.

Dave was born and raised in Wainui and schooled at our community centre. Worked ever since in and around our Wainui bay.



He has always been the first call in an emergency, the local fire and disaster officer, the bays council negotiator on slipways, wharves and breakwater, the first to help on any project, on our committee in every office for decades, built numerous rafts, and the never ending list goes on and on.

This great man is the backbone and gentle giant of our community. Nobody could be more deserving. Congratulations Dave.

We all know that beside every man or women, there is a wife, husband, or partner who does an enormous amount behind the scenes. Your support to Dave, and our bay Iona, is also greatly appreciated. Thank you.

WAINUI HISTORY

Brian Donovan

A Life in the Valley

Brian Donovan reminisces about what it was like back in his day in the Wainui Valley.

Brian, we discovered, came into this world on 12 August 1925, the only boy in the Donovan family, to Ronald and Avis Donovan. A bouncing 9 lbs and much looked forward to son.

Ronald had returned from the war where he served as an engineer in the infantry and then as a truck driver for the Engineers. He hadn't seen a lot of fighting but was pleased to be home safe, get working and start his life on the land. They had two children, Brian and a daughter Rayma who was born in Little River Hospital on 6th Nov 1932.

When Brian was born his father and mother were living on a small farm at French Farm. Brian was born in the then new Akaroa Hospital and later went to school in Barry's Bay, then followed on to Akaroa High School at the age of 12. The little school was filled with local families.

Ronald had bought the farm in Wainui from Burt Idle when Brian was 20 years old around 1945 and the family moved to Wainui to start dairying. The land was up the valley on what is now Donovan's Road. The property was called Glenroy (after two of Ron's very good farm dogs), and was around 200 acres. This later became known as Kahikatea.

Brian met his wife Marion at a local dance and after some eager courting they married. Brian and Marion later bought the farm off Ron and Avis when Ron retired and Brian joined

the two properties (French Farm and Wainui) by purchasing a piece of land in between off Cracroft Wilson, effectively doubling the size to 400 acres in total with dairying and sheep.

Brian and Marion did this for a while but then decided to make life easier by going into fat cattle. The cream run had by now stopped, and Brian had to give up the dairying. The milk and cream was picked up by Cooks Freight Limited and taken to Tai Tapu. It was a sad day that last milking day

(Photo of Visitors book with school trip to farm 2nd May 1977)

LAST MILKING OF THE LAST DAIRY HERD IN WAINUI			
DATE	NAME	ADDRESS	REMARKS
2-5-77	Kate Hutchinson	Wainui School	} Wainui School visited in the historic day of Brian stopped milking - The end of an era! in Wainui 2/5/77
2-5-77	EM Marshall	Wainui School	
2-5-77	J A Heth Hutchinson	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Clarkson Thorp	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Sara Hutchinson	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Brian Hutchinson	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Timmy Simes	Wainui School	
2-5-77	HANNAH Thorp	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Alison Thorp	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Andrew Shaw	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Cameron Thorp	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Catherine Simes	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Marti Hutchinson	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Leighton Marshall	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Debbie Shaw	Wainui School	
2-5-77	Nicky Simes	Wainui School	
	Kerenia Marshall	Wainui School	Wainui School visited in the historic day of Brian stopped milking - The end of an era! in Wainui 2/5/77
	Carter Marshall at large many thanks for kind hospitality!!		

Brian and Marion's first child Susan was born on May 30th 1953 in Akaroa Hospital and followed a few years later by son Ian in March 8th 1957.

Ron and Avis are by now living at the house in French Farm. Brian and Marion's children were all brought up on the farm. It was a lovely rural existence.

(Local farmers helping bale the hay at Glenroy) Brian Donovan Centre, Ian MacPhail looking forward, Brian's dad Ron with cup, Ian Donovan with sandwich, Alex Stewart and Jim Burnett on left.



Life was full in the valley. Brian had a fairly busy schedule what with belonging to the Cricket Club, the Tennis Club, the Rifle Club, he was on the Cemetery Board, a fire officer, a dog ranger and on the school committee. It's a wonder he had time to farm!

Not to mention the dances that were held on a regular basis over in Akaroa. The launch "Orari" owned then by Billy Poole, would do the rounds of the Bays and pick up the good

folk of the Peninsula and for one shilling return, would see them safely back around midnight blowing his big horn on arrival to let everyone know they were back.

Good neighbours provided lots of memories of fun times. Dave and Rosie Wright at Blawlown were famous for their home brew, everyone crawling home after one Christmas dinner.

Laurie Hooker gave the occasional “swan dinner” at the Hilltop and would regale those present with his antics getting the odd bite on the lip by the goose.

Laurie gave the land where the YMCA now stands to the YMCA. Laurie was deaf and dumb – he lived with his brother Mick up in the house opposite the Evans. The whole camp was on the right hand side going up the valley. Laurie loved his gin.



The Wahine storm of April 1968 kept the local community busy as they cleaned up the beach road, it was covered in boulders and debris but with local help was cleared away quick smart.

Brian moved away from Wainui in 1990 after many long and happy years. The farm went on the market on Friday and was sold by Sunday – lucky Neil Smith!

He now lives in Christchurch high up on the hill but stays firmly in touch with the goings on over in our sleepy hamlet.

Compiled by Linda Hennessey

