Ophir Info

September 2022

Queen Elizabeth II
April 1926 – Sept 2022

Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's longest reigning monarch, died at Balmoral on September 8, 2022 at the age of 96.

The long reign of Queen Elizabeth II was marked by her strong sense of duty and her determination to dedicate her life to her throne and to her people.

She became for many the one constant point in a rapidly changing world as British influence declined, society changed beyond recognition and the role of the monarchy itself came into question.

Now at rest beside her beloved husband Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh

The Tatler

Val Butcher (Motor Mouth)

You may have noticed I have been missing one week longer than planned. You didn't? Oh well I got the flu and it has been the pits. I thought wow! If I am going to be not well let's enjoy it. I could read a good book, watch TV and pig out on the chocolate biscuits carefully placed at the back of the cupboard for a rainy day.

I found I had already read the book, the Queen died and the war in Ukraine was still going resulting in most of the usual TV programs being cancelled or were repeats.

I was suffering a raging sore throat making it painful to swallow so the emergency biscuits were not eaten. I was left talking to the cat next door who wasn't the slightest bit worried about catching the bug and was being very social if I kept patting her.

Lovely company but I want to go back to work PLEASE!!!

This month has also seen a big change in our response to Covid with mask wearing requirements and the traffic light system ending on the 12th of September and all government vaccine mandates gone by the 26th. With spring here and summer on it's way this is good news. We can get back to having fun and recognising people in the street.

Troy Anderson took out the unofficial winner of the first person to get out and mow his lawns for the season. He was seen out in his shorts on September 3, first with the hand mower and then he bought out the big guns, finishing the job on the ride-on. Except he didn't get the job finished. There was a sudden hail storm!

Comings and Goings

A warm Ophir welcome to Steve Woods and Rebecca Elliot, the new owners of Ryan's Cottage. Becs and Steve spent some time in the cottage over September and found it to be the perfect retreat from their busy lives in the North Island. They love

Central Otago and will be spending as much time as they can in Ophir. In the times they can't be here Ryan's Cottage will still be listed with Airbnb.

It is also well known that Mark and Pauline Huddleston have sold Muddy Creek Café. We will miss them and wish them all the best in their "retirement". Pauline of course will still be driving the school bus and we hope to see them both at Blacks Hotel on a Friday night joining in on the local yarns.

We also wish the new owners well and can't wait to see the impact a French bakery (or for that matter the bakers!) will have on Omakau. We just want to be sure we can still get our fish and frites.

"Where in the World Were You"

The "Gin Club" girls got together again in Rarotonga with Val reporting on the activities.

"What happened in Rarotonga didn't stay in Rarotonga owing to a whistle blower. The photos requested of us in bikinis were absolutely stunning but somehow got lost. Did I hear a sigh of relief Yes! I think it was me.

We were met at the airport by Heather with leis of fresh flowers of the most beautiful fragrance. The next few hours were catch up time with chat, listening to the waves crashing on the beach and sleep. So relaxing, as was the whole trip with lots of wine, dining, whale watching from Heather's veranda (we saw one) and a trip to the local market.

"Leis of fresh flowers of the most beautiful fragrance"
Mere Tarapi, Heather Worth, Val Butcher, Judy Trainer
Rarotonga, August 2022

We flew to Aitutaki and followed up on Mere's family history which was highly successful and very moving with plenty of surprises.

Back to Heather who organised for Mere to have the traditional Polynesian tatau (tattoo) that she had wanted celebrating the reconnection with her family.

I also must add that Heather makes the most amazing, and may I say large, Margarita's. Absolute knockouts. Some of our eating out was a little hairy when a huge thunder and lightning storm including strong winds bought water crashing on to the veranda of the restaurant we were in and necessitated everybody rushing inside clutching their wine and the staff rushing out to save the furniture. We were well and truly soaked by the time we got home and it wasn't just with wine. Every holiday should have a momentous moment like that.

You don't want to know what happened in Auckland do you? You do. Okay.

I went to the "Ancient Greeks" at the Auckland Museum, Morris and James Pottery at Matakana, a miniature show in the old Albany Hall, and the Puhoi Pub an old haunt in my younger days.

Those days we travelled there in unwarranted rust buckets with no seat belts and often unlicensed drivers. This time luxury. My sons 1966 restored bright red Mustang. As I was not allowed to drive it, passenger only, I waved out the window to vintage riders on motor bikes passing on the way to the same place. I don't think I was young, blond or curvy enough for the vehicle I was in but still the same with live band, lots of dancing, hot rod cars and of course the motor bikes. A lazy afternoon out on the lawn with a beer and a pizza in the sunshine just like the old days only 50 years later.

"A lazy afternoon out on the lawn with a beer and a pizza"
Val, Colin (son and owner of red Mustang which can just be seen in background) Rodrigo and Adi, my grandson Joel and his girlfriend Reanne

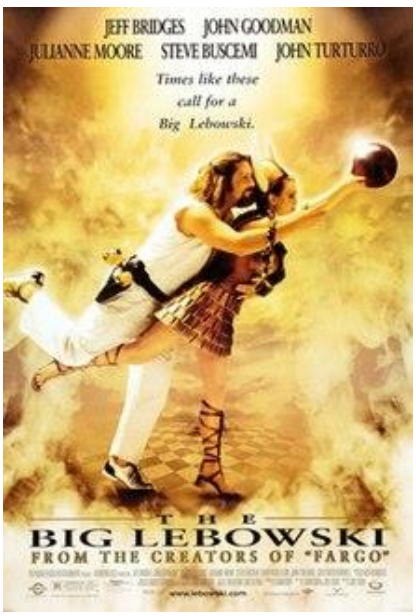
I spent the rest my holiday having dinner out with family, old friends, my youngest granddaughter's 16th birthday at an amazing Japanese restaurant and lots of walks.

Result __Laid Back in Rarotonga __ Fast Tracked in Auckland __Two great holidays in one Perfect!

Reminder for the Kendall Elise Concert .....

this Friday (the 7th) at the Ophir Peace Memorial Hall. Tickets are still available at the Post Office and there will be door sales for those of you making a last minute decision to come to a night with Kendall Elise. Doors open at 7pm.

Movie Night



The 1998 black comedy neo-noir crime film written, produced and directed by the Coen brothers will screen at the Ophir Peace Memorial Hall:

Friday 21st October
7pm

Seed Spud Sales

Ophir Welfare Committee

Labour Weekend seems to come around faster every year. Time again to sell seed potatoes for our potato auction and potluck dinner fund raiser Easter 2023. Let's hope that we will be able to get together in the hall for our usual boisterous night of fun after a couple of years of having to cancel out.

Harvie Trainer won the "Master Spud Advantage" this year and again chose potato variety "Heather" which this year we have been able to secure from our sponsor, Potatoes New Zealand.

We will be out selling the seed potatoes door to door over Labour Weekend, $1.00 each. Let us know if you are not going to be here that weekend and we will hold some for you.

Cleaner Wanted

Ryans cottage needs a regular cleaner. The new owners Becs and Steve intend to continue to rent it out when they're not visiting.

If you're interested please contact **Becs on 027-281-7677** to find out more.

Lambing on the Hill Block

Sam Leask

Lambing will start on the hill block this week. In order to give the ewes a chance to deliver their lambs in peace and quiet please stay off the hill block behind Ophir township. Also please keep all dogs off this block and tied up so they can't stray up the hill.

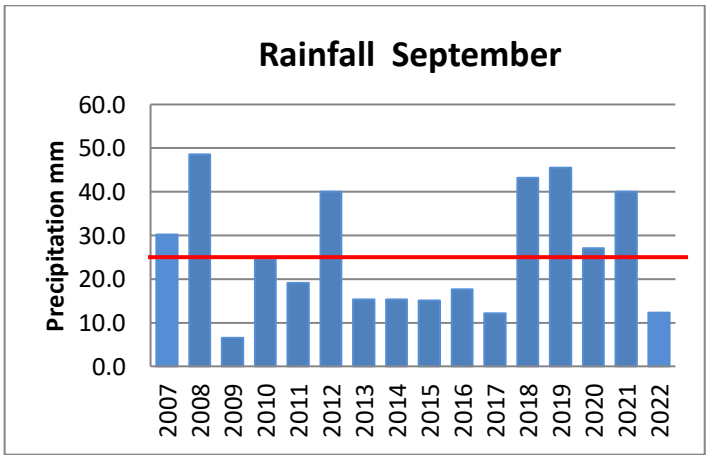
Call me if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for your respect, Sam.

The Weather

Sam Leask

Data for September 2022:

Maximum Temp: 21.4°C Tuesday 27th
Minimum Temp: -7.0°C Tuesday 6th
Rain/Precipitation: 12.3 mm

It seems to me that spring is a bit slow coming this year by about a week. While the pasture is growing it has been slow. This could possibly be attributed to the cold nights which on average were a whopping 4°C colder than the average for September last year. The day time average temperature was 1°C warmer.

Rainfall of 12.3mm is well below the average of 24.9mm for September since 2006.