



# Arnold Acres

# News

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## CASE OF THE MISSING NEWSPAPER



An old Press, at first mistaken for a log, was found here recently.

We subscribe to the Christchurch *Press* and are lucky to be on a delivery route that usually gets it to us before breakfast. Occasionally it doesn't arrive. Usually there is a good reason—Arthur's Pass is closed due to snow or slips, machines had broken down at the printing factory, the truck broke down etc. But occasionally when I phone I'm told it was delivered, the driver is *positive* it was thrown out. Our current delivery company is good but for a while the old company was terrible—our newspaper could end up anywhere.

About a month ago while spraying weeds I noticed what I thought was a log but on closer scrutiny I saw the distinctive blue plastic pull-strip of the *Press*. The burial site was eight metres from the top of our driveway down a bank that until a year ago had been covered in waist-high blackberry. That land is road reserve but we try to keep the grass cut and the weeds down.

Most of the newspaper had congealed into a nearly solid block of compost and the date was obliterated but there was a teaser for a recipe for a tortilla from Joe Bennett, a local writer and columnist. I put together a collage and story and mailed it to him to try to find a date. The address on the envelope was: Joe Bennett, writer, Lyttelton. I was confident he would get it and a few days later I received an email from Joe. He didn't know exactly when that recipe was in the *Zest* supplement but he narrowed it down to between 2005 when he moved into his new house and 2011, the date of the second big earthquake. We moved to the Coast in 2008 so that newspaper had been out there for at least five years!

## WAIKAWA BAY, PICTON



The view from the "back" we rented.

Ever since last summer when we rented a holiday house through Bookabach we've wanted to find another place for a few days holiday. We love Picton and narrowed about 15 selections down to this place in Waikawa Bay. It is hardly a bach, rather a very large apartment—the whole lower level of a house built into a hill above the bay. It had absolutely everything including a spa pool that could accommodate about 12 people. Every room had a gorgeous view.



Charlie, one of the landowners along the Queen Charlotte track.



We had good seats to watch one of the regular Tuesday sailboat races.

One day we took a boat over to Lochmara Lodge to spend a morning wandering around their art trails and soaking up the Sounds atmosphere. We walked up to the Queen Charlotte track where we met Charlie who was out watering some small trees he had planted. He's an engaging Alaskan expat who likes looking after his land, the track, and talking to trampers. He had a box of fruit from his orchard for anyone who wanted a piece or two. His apples couldn't have been fresher and really hit the spot.

## PHOTOS FROM around ARNOLD ACRES



The big Charming Creek waterfall was looking great.



Checking out a different waterfall along the Charming Creek track.



A kakariki (New Zealand parakeet), part of a breeding program at Lochmara.



A friendly alpaca who greets visitors.



A benefit of waking up early—Waikawa Bay looks great any time of day.