



## DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN

Southland District Council has approved its draft Annual Plan 2011/2012 and is seeking comment from the public during the consultation period of 9 April to 11 May 2011.

The draft plan sets out the money needed to carry out work in the financial year 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012 and compares this to what was projected in the Council's Long Term Council Community Plan. The projected total District Rate of \$24.6 million (6.65%) is lower than what was projected in the Long Term Plan. A separate summary document is being sent out to all households and more information is available in the full plan which is available from Council offices or the Council's website.

Council's Group Manager of Customer and Financial Services Phil Culling said the changes for individuals would differ depending on the value of the property, the type of property, the area of the District and the services that they receive. Examples in the draft plan show increases ranging from \$6 to \$350 for a range of property types with varying values. Despite the increase overall, the Council's rates are still some of the lowest in the country, Mr Culling said.

A feature of this year's plan is the proposal to cut about \$1.5 million of expenditure on roads to match the level of funding which the Government is putting in. The Government (through the New Zealand Transport Agency) pays for about 54% of the cost of maintaining roads. Because it has capped the total amount it is willing to contribute because of funding pressures, Council is also planning to reduce the amount of work being done. However, at this stage Council is still planning to increase rates for roading to help reduce its roading debt which under the current plan is projected to increase to \$9 million by June 2012 before being paid off by June 2021.

The plan also outlines proposed changes to the amount that different sectors contribute towards paying for roads. The Council has started work on an in-depth review of the standard of the District's roads in the next 12 months ahead of the 2012 Long Term Plan, with this review also looking at options for repaying or reducing debt funding for roads.

Mr Culling said while Council knows times are tough for some sectors of the community, it has major infrastructure which needs to be maintained and as such there is a



limit to what Council can cut back on. "A lot of our plan is about continuing with the basic maintenance that we need to do to keep things ticking along," he said. "There are some things we just can't cut back on."

Some of the optional items in the draft plan which Council is seeking feedback on include proposals to provide an extra \$96,400 grant funding in 2011/2012 to various organisations.

The plan also includes proposed changes to a number of fees and charges.

The plan also includes the full-year impact of the new two-bin wheelie bin service with the new contract for this service as well as the operation of the District's transfer stations starting in May.

In total, Council is projecting to collect \$36.5 million in rates which makes up around 58% of total revenue. The funds will be used to pay for around \$92 million in expenditure, with just over half of this being spent on the District's roads. The plan also shows that reserves are expected to drop by \$800,000 to \$12.9 million and that borrowings will increase by \$1.7 million to reach \$14.7 million by June 2012.

For more information or to request a copy of the plan, please contact the Council's Corporate Planner on 0800 732 732.



Mayor Frana Cardno

I don't need to remind you all that we have the biggest roading network in New Zealand and how we are struggling to maintain them to the expected level.

Council recognises that roads are pivotal to the economy and social success of our District. I believe it is coming to a time when Council is going to have to make some hard decisions: Do we have too high a standard of roading maintenance? Do we move to having a hierarchy of roads and spend different amounts of money on the different classes? What about the more than 900 bridges, some of which are of a low standard already?

We have not carried out any seal extensions for several years now because it is not financially viable and that is not likely to change considering the cost of fuel and its continual increase.

The earthquake in Christchurch is likely to see even less Government money being spent on roading in the south and is likely to increase the cost of doing work in the South Island for a considerable period of time.

Well-known professor Dr Susan Krumdieck, from Canterbury University, raised many relevant issues when she spoke to Council and staff recently. Dr Krumdieck is the Associate Professor in Mechanical Engineering, University of Canterbury, the National President of Engineers for Social Responsibility, was

## ROADS AND THEIR COSTS

It's Annual Plan time and we once again are talking about roads and their costs.



appointed to the Royal Society of New Zealand Energy Panel in 2005, and heads the Transition Engineering firm, EAST Research Consultants Ltd.

She talked about the challenges of peak oil and climate change, and the kinds of changes our communities could consider in order to adapt and prepare. She suggested the cost of fuel and increasing focus on carbon footprints means we should be looking at the village concept for urban development. She also stressed the need to look towards rail development to support our rural road network and reduce the amount of energy we use to transport our products to the market.

She challenged us to think about what we can do to help our communities use less rather than more, particularly with the "boom and bust" patterns of the past repeating themselves today in the rate we consume finite natural resources. She questioned whether we need all that stuff or whether these resources would be better left for our children's grandchildren. She suggested that our pursuit of endless exponential growth may be at the heart of this problem and that this is inherently unsustainable and ultimately will leave the people on the bust side worse off.

There are other issues in our draft Annual Plan that we want your comments on too. A number of grants to support local initiatives are included and we want to know what you think. There is also information on the review of the Southland District Plan, and what stage that is at, the rollout of the new two-bin rubbish and recycling collection service, and an update on the Round the Mountain Cycle Trail.

We need to know what you think so we strongly encourage you to give us feedback via submissions to the draft Annual Plan, out in April.

## WORKING TOGETHER

*Councillors' and staff's thoughts over the last month have been with the victims of February's Christchurch earthquake and the more recent victims hit by Japan's large earthquake, resultant tsunami and consequential nuclear problems that are still unfolding.*

These two events have again brought home to all of us our vulnerability to the great forces of nature which provide this magnificent world in which we live. We can all relate to the Christchurch tragedy as the vast majority of us will have travelled to Christchurch and personally have memories of a lot of the places destroyed at 12:51pm on 22 February 2011.

The personal identification with Christchurch and for a number of us with Japan brings home to us all how important it is to be prepared for an unexpected emergency event whether it be a flood, earthquake, tsunami, hailstorm or other unexpected natural event. People need to ensure they have the appropriate emergency kit with food, water and medical supplies, ensure as far as practicable their vehicles are filled with fuel as it is not always practical for the emergency services to reach everyone immediately following in the disaster.

If anything good has come out of the Christchurch earthquake I have been heartened by the number of incidents where neighbours have gathered together, got to know each other very well and supported each other both physically and mentally.

I hope this incident encourages people to go and introduce themselves to their neighbours as the benefits of strong neighbourly and community relationships can bring benefits to our communities even in normal times. Equally important is getting to know your neighbourhood so you know areas that may be prone to flooding or other issues in the case of extreme natural events.

Southland District Council has had staff helping in Christchurch including building inspectors, geographical information system operators, water/waste water engineers, communications specialists, administration staff and environmental health officers. Upon return all of the staff have stressed the television coverage has not done justice to the trauma being experienced by the residents of Christchurch and a number of them experienced first hand the hardship and sadness that was felt when people were told their house was inhabitable and all of their possessions lost.

Christchurch has a long way to go and will continue to need our support over the next number of years, if not decades.

The resourcefulness of our local communities and the number of community initiatives that have been undertaken to support the



David Adamson

people of Christchurch have simply amazed me. All our communities and in particular those people who rallied to support and organise these initiatives need to be thanked.

With a national emergency in Christchurch, Southland has had to run its emergency operations centre and ensure it's contactable 24 hours a day seven days a week.

We have also had district council staff working alongside Emergency Management Southland, Invercargill City Council, Gore District Council and Environment Southland staff to ensure we fully meet our obligations. This has worked very successfully and the benefit of a joint emergency management service across all of Southland's territorial authorities has again shown itself.

There are a number of ongoing ramifications from the Christchurch earthquake and the event in Japan.

We are likely to see a change in building standards which will incorporate potential additional requirements around earthquake strengthening, councils' earthquake policies, which we had recently called for submissions on, are likely to be looked at in a different light especially due to the large number of older buildings that make up the bulk of our small townships' commercial areas and finally we are likely to see an increase in our insurance levies.

These along with at least a temporary loss of a significant part of the South Island's commercial hub will impact on us for a significant period.

However, buildings and economies can be rebuilt, but lost lives can never be replaced and therefore we need to do what's right to ensure protection of our people if we are unfortunate enough to experience a similar event in Southland.

# Planning for Southland

## DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW

*During the past year Southland District Council has continued to progress the Southland District Plan review project and is due to complete the third of four key stages by July 2011.*

Council and Environment Southland have developed and implemented a collaborative review project for the second generation Regional Policy Statement for Southland (Environment Southland) and Southland District Plan (Southland District Council). Both of these planning documents were due for review at the same time and the Councils saw a number of advantages in progressing the projects collaboratively.

Stage 1 of the review process the Issues and Options stage took place throughout 2009. This stage was focussed on 13 key topic areas and involved the release of Issues and Options discussion papers, public consultation meetings throughout the province followed by feedback from the community and key stakeholders. A "Summary of Community Feedback" document was then released in October 2009, ending this stage of the review project.

Stage 2 of the review process involved the drafting of combined issues, objectives and policies for the Regional Policy Statement and Southland District Plan. Joint Councillor Workshops on the draft objectives and policies were then held during July to September 2010. Following the completion of the workshops and feedback from Councillors the initial policy drafting stage was completed in November 2010 with a final draft version of the Issues, objectives and policies prepared.



Stage 3 of the review process the methods drafting stage is currently underway with the draft objectives and policies from stage 2 being used as a basis for the methods drafting. In terms of the Southland District Plan the methods will also include the drafting of rules. The District Plan methods drafting stage will progress through the first half of 2011.

Stage 4 of the review process will involve the First Schedule Resource Management Act 1991 process, including the public notification of the proposed Southland District Plan, submissions, hearings and appeals. Council is aiming to have the draft second generation Southland District Plan ready for notification by the end of 2011.

## TE ANAU DEVELOPMENT GETS CONSENT

*A proposed visitor centre on the outskirts of Te Anau has been granted resource consent by the Southland District Council.*

Fiordland Lifestyle Properties Limited applied for consent to establish, construct, operate and maintain a visitor centre at 2 Alpine Drive, Te Anau, and the consent was issued following a hearing in Te Anau on Thursday 10 February.

Council resource management planner Matt Hunter said the consent has been issued, subject to a set of 16 detailed conditions. The application was publicly notified and 25 submissions, both in support and opposing the proposal, were received.

One of the key concerns was the potential for the proposed development to fragment the existing retail centre of Te Anau. However, Council's resource management committee, in its

decision approving the development, said the land which was the subject of the application had recently been rezoned from rural to urban via a District Plan change, and the proposed development was largely compliant with the urban provisions of the District Plan.

Also, a previous proposal to establish a commercial zone based around the existing town centre to minimise the potential for retail fragmentation had not proceeded following community feedback at the time.

The committee put extensive conditions on visual effects, landscaping, noise management and access and parking arrangements.



## COUNCIL'S DOG REGISTRATION FEE TO INCREASE TO \$25

The cost to register your dog in the Southland District is being increased to \$25, effective from July 1 2011.

Group Manager Environment and Community Bruce Halligan said the cost was going up from its current \$20 to \$25 for several reasons, including

- Council's Animal Control section is receiving increasing numbers of dog control matters to respond to
- In response to this, the Animal Control Officer has become a full time role, whereas previously this was a 50/50 split between animal control and resource management compliance
- Council needs to provide funding for upgraded pound facilities, so as to enable greater capacity and security
- The costs of the free microchipping programme have increased and the registration fee increase will assist with the ongoing provision of this service for owners of

registered dogs. (Microchipping of all dogs over 3 months old is now compulsory under the Dog Control Act)

- Council has engaged an additional ranger to assist with coverage and response times within the District

The recommendation to increase the fee was not made lightly, but was in recognition of these factors.

At \$25, and an additional \$12.50 for late payment after 1 August 2011, the fee is still one of the lowest in New Zealand.

"It is important that Council can provide a timely and thorough response on dog control matters, as situations such as dangerous dogs can represent a physical threat to both persons and livestock," Mr Halligan said.

The Southland District Council administers more than 11% of the land area of New Zealand and has more than 13,000 registered dogs.

## DOGS BEING MICROCHIPPED

Southland District Council dog owners are being offered free microchipping by Council.

Council's dog control officer Paul Bell said the offer is primarily targeted towards dogs which normally do not have to be microchipped, such as working dogs or those registered before 2006.

Dogs have to be registered in Southland District Council area to receive a free microchip.

"People are starting to see the benefits of microchipping. If you have a valuable working dog or even just a precious pet and they get stolen or lost, microchipping will identify them straightaway," Mr Bell said.

The microchip carries a number unique to each dog and is a transponder, which means it responds to a scanner. It is not a transmitter and has no power source.

The microchip is the size of a grain of rice and is implanted under the skin just forward of the shoulder blades along the top of the neck line. The procedure is as simple as a vaccination.

### SDC FREE DOG MICROCHIPPING DATES

AREA	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
EDENDALE FIRE STATION	7 4.30 - 5pm		9 4.30 - 5pm
INVERCARGILL OFFICE	5 11am - 12 noon	3 11am - 12 noon	7 11am - 12 noon
LUMSDEN RAILWAY STATION		5 5 - 5.30pm	
NIGHTCAPS -- FIRE STATION	14 4 - 4.30pm		
OHAI -- FIRE STATION			16 3.30 - 4pm
OTAUTAU OFFICE		7 11 - 11.30am	
RIVERSDALE - ANDREWS TRANSPORT	12 5 - 5.30pm		14 5 - 5.30pm
RIVERTON OFFICE	2 11 - 11.30am		11 11 - 11.30am
TE ANAU OFFICE (AT REAR)	12 5 - 5.30pm		16 4.30 - 5pm
TOKANUI FIRE STATION	7 3 - 3.30pm		9 3 - 3.30pm
TUATAPERE - OLD RAILWAY STATION		12 4 - 4.30pm	
WINTON OFFICE	7 11 - 11.30am	5 11 - 11.30am	2 11 - 11.30am

# Economic

# Lifelines

## \$1 MILLION OF ROADING WORK APPROVED

*Southland District Council has approved three contracts to rehabilitate about 5km of Southland roads totalling \$1.02 million.*

Southland District Council roading manager Michael Voss said Council's activities performance audit committee awarded the contracts to two contractors this month. SouthRoads Limited was awarded the contract to rehabilitate 1.28km of pavement on the Dipton Mossburn Road. Central Western Roding Limited was awarded contracts to rehabilitate 1.72km of Pahiwi Balfour Road and 1.59km of Wilsons Crossing Road.

Sixteen tenders were received for the three contracts.

The work on all three roads is being done earlier than planned because of an increase in the wear on these roads related to logging and dairy traffic.

Council chief executive David Adamson said the works form part of the ongoing maintenance of the District's 2,000km of sealed roads.



## SIGHT SAFETY RAILS AT UNDERPASSES TO BE APPLICANT'S RESPONSIBILITY

*Sight safety rails at stock underpasses will soon have to be funded by those building the underpasses.*

Council assets and services group manager Erik Barnes said Council has funded the erection of sight safety rails parallel to the road crossing the top of new stock underpasses for several years.

"We did this to ensure the road user was made aware, for safety reasons, of the localised narrowing of the road," Mr Barnes said.

However, this assistance has been reviewed by Council recently following the increasing number of claims for sight railing and escalating costs. The original purposes for this assistance, as far as can be ascertained, have been superseded by the Building Act requirements which

now place the need for safety railing on the owner.

The erection of sight safety rails needs to meet Council's standard to ensure district-wide consistency and provide the appropriate measures of visibility and its correct placement for the road user.

"Council will honour current permits and commitments but advises that applications to install stock underpasses from 30 June 2011 will require the applicant to fully fund the supply and erection of the sight safety rails in accordance with Council's standards," Mr Barnes said.

These standards will be provided at the time the building consent is issued and these standards for the design of the sight railings are described within Council's Roding procedures.



## BUILDING DEMOLISHED

*A dangerous building in Wyndham has been demolished to protect the public.*

Southland District Council building control manager Kevin O'Connor said Council had worked hard to try to save the building, both with the present owner and also with possible purchasers, but was left with no choice apart from demolition.

Council last year received a report of falling masonry from the building in Balaclava Street on to the footpath in front of it. The two-storey building already had a dangerous building notice on it because of a structurally inadequate stairway, and inadequate fire safety requirements.

Staff investigating found plasterwork from the parapet had fallen to the footpath below, potentially endangering the public. Further investigation revealed the general deterioration of the structural brickwork and the parapet's connection to the building was failing.

"The plasterwork of the parapet is in a poor state of repair as is the structural brickwork of the building in general. The separation of the parapet from its supporting brickwork clearly presents a significant and potentially life-threatening hazard to the general public using the footpath below," Mr O'Connor said.

Council has worked with the owner to try to get remedial work done on the property, but nothing has been forthcoming and the owner is unlikely to be able to fund any work.

A hoarding was put around the building preventing anyone using the footpath in front of the building.



*above and bottom left: The building in Wyndham being demolished.*

"We don't like creating holes in the main street of Wyndham, but have been forced to take this action through lack of cooperation from the building owner.

"We have very important responsibilities under the Building Act to maintain public safety and this building in its current state represents a very significant hazard to the public which requires urgent action," Mr O'Connor said.

Council will make every attempt to recover all costs from the building owner.

## WORKING2GETHER AVAILABLE

Southland District Council's building control, resource management and environmental health departments are combining to put out a newsletter about current issues in those areas called Working2gether.

The third edition of Working2gether will be out in April and builders, sub-contractors, planners, surveyors and anyone interested are encouraged to sign up on line to receive the newsletter via email.

Those interested can go to [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) and sign up for the newsletter or you can email Lyndon Paul directly on [lyndon.paul@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:lyndon.paul@southlanddc.govt.nz)



What we do now can make

a **WORLD**

of *Difference*

## WHEELIE BIN ROLLOUT IN APRIL

Work is progressing well on the introduction Southland District's new rubbish and recycling two-bin collection service and is on track for starting on 2nd May.

The service will be administered through Wastenet, a shared service arrangement between Southland and Gore District Councils and Invercargill City Council.

The new service will provide properties with two new 240 litre bins, one (red lid) for rubbish and one (yellow lid) for recycling. The red bin will be emptied every fortnight and the yellow bin every alternative fortnight.

The new bins are the same size as the current bin, however there is also a very limited supply of smaller 140-litre bins, which are available to elderly and physically impaired residents who feel they may not be able to manoeuvre the larger bins. Eligibility will be assessed on a case by case basis, Council water and waste asset manager Ian Evans said.

The cost of the new service, although not yet finalised, is likely to be \$231 plus GST, which is slightly less than Council previously anticipated because more people have chosen to have the two bins. This cost is not additional to what is paid now, rather it replaces the current charge, in the same way the two new bins replace the current bin, Mr Evans said.

The new bins will be delivered during the month of April and Council is encouraging landlords to tell their tenants about the new service.

"As the current service continues up until the last week in April we are also telling people not to put the new bins out for collection until the week starting 2 May.


and we are sending everyone information about delivery days and whether their first week is recycling or rubbish collection," he said.

"As a few collection days have changed we are sending everyone a comprehensive list of all areas which details collection arrangements for the first month. It is important that everyone checks the list so as they know when to put their bin out" he said.

An information pack will also be delivered with the new bins. This will include a brochure detailing information, such as what can and can't go in each bin and a calendar to remind people which bin to put out.

Arrangements are also being made for the collection of the current wheelie bins, which belong to Northern Southland Transport Holdings. These bins will be collected during the last week of the current service (25-29 April).

*If you have any queries about the new service please contact us on 0800 732 732 or visit our website at [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) and read the full list of frequently asked questions.*



The paper used in every issue of *First Edition* is made up of 50% recycled fibre, which consists of...

- 35% pre-consumer and 15% post-consumer recycled fibre.
- 50% of the paper used is Elemental Chlorine Free (ECF) and derived from renewable resources.
- In addition the bleaching process for each page is chlorine and toxin free.
- And of course once you are finished with this issue why not recycle it.

# RECYCLING ONLY

please clean plastics, tins and cans. Flatten cardboard

no rubbish in this bin  
fortnightly collection

## GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



## METAL cans & TINS



## PAPER & CARDBOARD



## POLYSTYRENE (WHITE ONLY)



## PLASTIC BAGS, PACKAGING, CONTAINERS, BOTTLES, TRAYS & LIDS



To make recycling as convenient as possible, many of the Council's community recycling facilities are open 24/7.

# Recycling Centre Opening Hours

**GARSTON** – 9 Garston-Athol Highway, open 24 hours, 7 days per week

**LUMSDEN** – Oxford Street, open 24 hours, 7 days per week

**MANAPOURI** – Hillside Manapouri Road, open 24 hours, 7 days

**MOKOTUA** – 12 Clearwater Road, open 24 hours, 7 days

**MOSSBURN** – Mossburn Lumsden Highway, open 24 hours, 7 days

**OTAUTAU** – Transfer Station – Otautau Drummond Road, open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, Sunday 10-12 noon, (daylight saving hours – Thursday 6-8pm)

**RIVERSDALE** – Community Centre Carpark, open 24 hours, 7 days

**RIVERTON** – Transfer Station – Havelock Street, open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Sunday 3-5pm and Saturday 11-1pm and 3-5 pm

**TE ANAU** – Public place bins – Bligh Street (outside school) and Lion Park, open 24 hours, 7 days

**TE ANAU** – Transfer Station – Te Anau Manapouri Highway, open 2-4pm daily (Easter to Labour weekend) and 2-6pm the rest of the year

**TOKANUI** – McEwan Street, open 24 hours, 7 days

**TUATAPERE** – King Street Domain, open 24 hours, 7 days

**WINTON** – Transfer Station – Florence Road, open Monday, Wednesday 2-5.30pm, Friday 12-5.30pm, Saturday 1-5pm or 11-5pm (daylight saving hours) and Sunday 2-5pm or 1-5pm (daylight saving hours)

**WYNDALE** – Transfer Station – Edendale Wyndham Road, open Monday 11-1pm and 4-6pm, Wednesday 4-6pm, Thursday 7-8pm (daylight saving hours only), Friday 4-6pm, Saturday 11-12.30pm and 4-6pm



# Recycle



**no!!**

## KEEP THESE ITEMS OUT OF YOUR RECYCLING BIN:

Ashes (hot or cold)  
Black polystyrene  
Car parts & scrapmetal  
Ceramics, porcelain & crockery  
Clothing, fabric & shoes  
Cutlery  
Drinking glasses & pyrex  
Engine oil containers  
Food & garden waste

Furniture  
Garden hose  
Gas bottles  
General rubbish  
Household appliances  
Light bulbs  
Liquids  
Mirrors  
Nappies & sanitary items

Paint & chemicals  
Meat trays  
Styrofoam  
Toys  
Tyres & rubber  
Window or  
windscreen glass

Putting the wrong or unclean items in your recycling bin could contaminate an entire truckload of recyclable material, meaning it can't be recycled.

Put this bin out:  
- by 7.30 am on your fortnightly collection day  
- as close to the kerb as possible



## HAPPENINGS IN TOETOES

Cr Paul Duffy



*A family friend staying in Southland for some respite after losing her home and contents in the Christchurch earthquake commented on how beautiful the countryside is and how good the weather and the roads are.*

It is great to hear visitors to our area say these. While everyone will agree about our landscapes, there can be some debate about the weather and although a lot of resources go into maintaining our roads it is probably fair to say that not every road is in good condition every day.

The effects of the Christchurch earthquake will impact on all of New Zealand through the financial cost of rebuilding and repairing their infrastructure and also through more stringent building codes for both new and existing public buildings.

In Wyndham one of the historic main Balaclava Street buildings has been demolished. Although not the result we want to see, we must weigh up the costs of retaining such buildings against the risks to people's safety.

There will be future debates about the preservation of our heritage buildings and how that can be funded.

Council staff are doing a great job of compiling information panels for our cemeteries in Southland District.

As well as Balfour, Dipton, Eastern Bush, Old Otautau, Fortrose and Mokoreta completed we have Wyndham and Waikawa in the Toetoes Ward among the others being worked on currently.

The filming of the movie "Two Little Boys" in Southland including the South Catlins should be positive for our area as well the Southland segment of the upcoming "Coast" series by publisher and nature photographer Craig Potton.

Visitor numbers through the Southern Scenic Route appear to have remained steady compared to other parts of the country. There is good work being done at Venture Southland and by volunteer promotion groups to promote our region without a lot of cost.

The new combined Wyndham and Edendale water and sewerage project is virtually completed. Although this was able to be achieved through Ministry of Health subsidy it has been a significant cost to the local ratepayers. It will, however, prove to be a very good investment for the future. As with everything Council does, it is difficult to balance the benefits of any investment against the implications on people's rates.

## CYCLE TRAIL GAINING SUPPORT

Cr John Douglas



*In July 2010 the Ministry of Tourism announced funding approval of \$4 million to construct the Around the Mountain Cycle Trail. The total estimated cost is \$8-9 million.*

We believe the \$4 million will get us from Walter Peak through Mavora Lakes to Mossburn.

Recently our project team made a presentation to the Community Trust of Southland for additional funding to complete the trail in one hit. Unfortunately the trust has just informed us there are insufficient funds to satisfy our request in this year's budget, and has invited us to reapply in 12 months.

While the idea of a Cycle Trail through Northern Southland has gained widespread support, we have had opposition from Fish and Game Southland. It has suggested an alternative route down the Mararoa River. We believe that riding down the Oreti Valley with its amazing views, natural landscapes and proximity to the river itself will create the "Milford Sound" of cycle ways.

Our intention is to build a Grade One cycle way (easy gradient) in order to attract the widest possible customer base, appealing to the "mature" age group with disposable income.

The full benefits will only be realised once



the trail is completed to Kingston, a goal we intend to achieve over time.

Recent work has concentrated on actual route definition, land casements, bridge and groin designs, toilet and shelter locations. We are currently obtaining landscape, ecology and marine reports.

Once to hand, our resource consent application will be lodged and we expect that to be no later than early April.

The consent is likely to be publicly notified which will allow any member of the public to submit on the proposal. We expect Fish and Game will submit in opposition, but I invite those of you in support to express those views once the application is notified.

I believe we have an excellent tourist product in the Cycle Trail but quality must be of the highest standard so as to ensure an outstanding experience for the cyclists.

We must get it right first time as our best advertisement will be from those who have thoroughly enjoyed their cycling holiday.

I understand the frustration some people are feeling over the apparent slow progress, but I can assure everyone that the project team of Rex Capil (Venture), Wayne Heerdegen (SDC), myself and project manager Mike Barnett are working hard to produce a quality product that will deliver positive economic and social benefits to all those towns along the trail.

# DISTRICT ORGANISATIONS GRANTED OVER \$70,000

A new combined fund has been created from the amalgamation of the Southland Amenity Fund and the Southland District Council Community Development Fund.

The new fund, called the Southland District Council Community Initiatives Fund, will be effective from the 2011-2012 year.

Rex Capil from Venture Southland said the new fund was created by the Allocations Committee because many of the grants

it was seeing could fit into both of the present funds' criteria.

A combined fund would help community organisations only having to complete one application form and would take away any confusion as to what fund to apply to.

Administration would be simplified as well. The fund would receive \$108,890 a year from Council.

Meanwhile, a total of \$72,882 was granted to various Southland organisations through the Council allocations committee.

AMENITY FUND					
Athol Memorial Hall	\$250	Lions Club of Wyndham	\$500	South Catlins Development and Environmental Charitable Trust	\$500
Balfour Primary School	\$250	Mokoreta-Redan 150 Year Committee	\$250	Te Anau Rodeo Club	\$250
Dipton Community Baths Trust	\$250	Mossburn Rugby Club	\$500	Thornbury Vintage Tractor and Implement Club Inc	\$1,000
Eastern Bush Hall Committee	\$500	Orepuki Trust	\$500	Tokanui Memorial Hall	\$500
Hokonui Hall Society	\$250	Riversdale Lions Club	\$500	Tuatapere Promotions Inc	\$500
Kapuka South Recreation Reserve	\$1,000	Toi Tois Tokanui Lions Club	\$500	Waimahaka Public Hall Inc	\$250
Lions of Stewart Island	\$500	Rotary Club of Fiordland	\$1500	Wendonside Hall Society Inc	\$500
Winton Golf Club Inc	\$250	Lumsden Playground	\$500	Garston Playground	\$500
Mossburn Playground	\$500	Balfour Playground	\$500		
					<b>TOTAL \$13,000</b>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND					
Balfour Primary School	\$750	Mokoreta-Redan Centennial Hall Society Inc	\$1,000	Spring Flower Show Committee – Te Anau	\$1,000
Browns CDA	\$569	Mossburn Rugby Club	\$1000	Taramea Management Committee	\$1,000
Central Southland Toy Library Inc	\$200	Orepuki Cemetery Trust	\$750	Anau Rodeo Club	\$1,000
Drummond District Bowling Club Inc	\$1500	South Coast Craft Group	\$300	Te Anau Scout Club	\$1,000
Fiordland Netball	\$1000	Northern Southland Development Charitable Trust	\$1,000	Thornbury Vintage Tractor and Implement Club Inc	\$1,000
Garston CDA	\$750	PowerNet Tour of Southland	\$1,500	Toi Tois Tokanui Lions Club	\$750
Kapuka South Recreation Reserve	\$1,000	ReGeneration Trust	\$1,100	Tokanui Memorial Hall	\$1,000
Lumsden Cricket Club	\$750	Riversdale Lions Club	\$750	Tourism Catlins	\$1,000
Lumsden and Areas Activities for Miniature Bodies Society (LAAMBS)	\$500	South Catlins Development and Environmental Charitable Trust	\$750	Venture Southland on behalf of Southland Community Swimming Pool Groups	\$1,950
Lions Club of Wyndham	\$750	South Catlins Promotions	\$200	Tuatapere Promotions Inc	\$1000
Waimatuku Southern Scenic Highland Pipe Band (A)	\$1000	Waimatuku Southern Scenic Highland Pipe Band (B)	\$1500	Waimatuku Southern Scenic Highland Pipe Band (C) Interest Free Loan for 5 years	\$10,000
West Catlins Preservation Inc	\$1000	White Hill Windfarm Classic	\$1000	Winton Croquet Club	\$500
Winton Golf Club	\$500	Winton Scout Group	\$1000	Wyndham Historical Society and Museum (A)	\$500
Waimatuku Southern Scenic Highland Pipe Band (B)	\$500	Wyndham Promotions and Business Association	\$1000	Lions of Stewart Island	\$750
Mokoreta-Redan 150 Year Committee	\$1000	Wyndham Rugby Club	\$500		
					<b>TOTAL \$47,619</b>

SPARC RURAL TRAVEL FUND					
Aparima College	\$300	Fiordland Swimming Club	\$300	Lorneville Pony Club	\$300
Otara Pony Club	\$900	Southland Boys' High School - Cricket	\$900	Winton Athletics Club	\$300
Winton Cricket Club (Central Western)	\$900				
					<b>TOTAL \$3900</b>

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES NEW ZEALAND SCHEME					
Invercargill Garrison Band (aka Ascot Park Hotel Brass)	\$558	Invercargill Garrison Band (aka Ascot Park Hotel Brass)	\$714	Southern Districts Arts Trust	\$900
Southern Districts Arts Trust	\$1,000	Heather Wilkins on behalf of Athol	\$300	Southland Teachers and Judges	\$800
Foveaux Harmony Chorus	\$500	Venture Southland	\$500	Riverton Community Arts Centre Charitable Trust	\$1000
Riverton Community Arts Centre Charitable Trust	\$700	Shakespeare in the Park Charitable Trust	\$500	Otautau New Life Centre	\$450
Northern Southland Creative Arts Inc	\$441				
					<b>TOTAL \$8,363</b>



## *Our Southlanders...* BILL MOSS

**Riverton stalwart Bill Moss devised a crafty plan to mask his intentions at the last community board elections.**

He knew if news he wasn't seeking re-election filtered into the community, someone would persuade him to continue his tenure. After all, 15 years' dedicated service and the experience that brings has made him a valuable asset.

"I thought 15 years was long enough ... you've got to get new ideas coming in," Bill said. "I didn't let on I wasn't standing. I even went down and got a nomination form so people wouldn't catch on."

Since retiring to Riverton with his wife, Shirley, in 1988, Bill has played an active role in the seaside town and was the inaugural chairman of the Riverton Concept Plan when it was first mooted.





"It was a big project but the day we opened we were debt-free," Bill said.

Born and raised in Invercargill, Bill ventured north to Wellington to earn his trade as a photo engraver before returning home to work at Craig's in 1953.

The job involved preparing illustrations for an array of books and publications, including photographs each day for the two local newspapers, The Southland Times and The Daily News.

"One came out in the morning and the other one in the afternoon so we were kept very busy ... and if there was an accident or a fire, we'd get called back in to work on the photograph," Bill recalled.

"The royal visit when the Queen came we worked day and night – it damn near killed us and we were pleased to see her go."

Bestowed life membership of the Graphic Art Plate Makers Federation was testament to his lengthy career in the industry.

Now 80, Bill continues to proudly represent the Riverton community, continuing his involvement with the Southland District Council as a member of our Friendship Committee.

"It was the original concept plan designed to look after the whole Riverton ward," he said.

"I read in a book once 'if you live in an area, you should be prepared to put a bit of work into it' and that's a philosophy I've adhered to.

"I didn't want to just sit in a chair and go rusty."

Thoroughly enjoying his own time on the Riverton Community Board, Bill encouraged more people to seek election.

"We need more people to put their names forward but, as a whole, we're champion knockers in New Zealand and that deters some people," he said.

"There's a lot of gonna's and not many doers."

He believed the future of our communities depended on it.

"It's not about how it affects us, it's how it's going to affect future generations," Bill said.

During his own time on the board, Bill particularly enjoyed his role as community housing liaison.

"I miss the flats and the people," he said.

A life member of the Riverton Senior Citizens, the opening of the organisation's new premises in 1994 was a significant achievement.

*"The Lions Club is good because you get out and do something. The more involvement you put into something, the more you get out of it. I'm always proud," Fred says.*



## NEW ACTION PLAN IN PLACE.

*The Inclusive Communities Strategy, and an Action Plan were adopted by Council on 28 January 2009.*

Substantial progress was made on the Action Plan over the ensuing 18 months, including:

- Building Control staff undertaking Barrier Free training.
- Review of Council's website for ease of use and e-government standards.
- Listing walkways with wheelchair access on the website.
- Creating a register of interest groups and individuals to consult with on inclusiveness.
- Creating a list of individuals, groups, and staff able to assist in translation (foreign languages, Maori, sign language, Braille etc).

Early this year a review of the Strategy was completed, including seeking submissions on potential changes and a new Action Plan.

Five submissions were received, and staff also met with interest groups. Overall, feedback was very positive. The Strategy has been an effective way to engage with the community, and to improve the services Council is providing.

### Key Components of the Plan

The 2011 Action Plan has been endorsed by Council, and incorporated into Council's business plan. And already some progress has been made.

Frontline departments, including Libraries, Area Engineers, and Area Officers are investigating options for formal Disability Awareness Training. In particular, Area Engineers are likely to access barrier free training, and Libraries are looking into improving their skills in dealing with people with intellectual disabilities.

The feasibility of providing burial services for the Muslim community in District cemeteries is being investigated with the Multi-Nations Council.

A number of submissions were received relating to improving the inclusiveness of playgrounds, one in particular highlighted some practical and affordable options that are already in place in some of the District playgrounds. This submission has been forwarded with a covering memo to

all of our Community Boards and CDAs, with the intention that these ideas can be included in deciding on projects for the 2012 Long Term Plan.

Submitters identified a number of issues with township design, such as kerb cuts, tactile pedestrian crossing markers, and covered walkways. Council agreed that improving these features over time would be of significant benefit. Consequently, the rules regarding footpath verandahs will be clarified as part of the District Plan review, and street design issues will be addressed as part of the renewal/replacement programme

Council Offices are also to be made more user-friendly, with new doors to be installed in the Otautau office, and an evac+chair to be purchased for the Invercargill Office (enabling people with disabilities to be evacuated by staff in the event of an emergency)

The consultation process was also a useful opportunity to promote the services we already offer, including display space in libraries and offices for interest groups.

## LETTING OFF STEAM

Council chief executive David Adamson (left) takes on Riverton Councillor Rodney Dobson in the traction engine racing at the Thornbury Vintage Tractor and Implement Club's 55th Anniversary weekend.





## EDENDALE NEEDS ANOTHER BOARD MEMBER

*The Edendale Community Board is on the lookout for a new member.*

Only five people put their name forward at election time in October last year.

So there is one vacant seat waiting to be filled by a community-minded individual eager to become one of 82 dedicated local politicians throughout the district.

Council has a firm philosophy that local decisions should be made as close to the community as possible, so this enables community boards to have a significant influence on the nature and character of the town and locality they represent.

Tasked with dealing with local issues under delegated or recommendatory delegations, community boards also provide local input to Council on district issues.

Decisions on water supply, sewerage, drainage, reserves, footpaths, street lighting, camping grounds, traffic management, waste management and many other local activities can all be made by community boards.

They are also involved in the preparation of and recommendations on local rates.

Please contact chair Lyn Gutsell if you are interested.

The Wallacetown and Wyndham Community Boards will have a full board for the next three years after one nomination was received for each of them in the byelection at the end of last year.

Electoral Officer Phil Culling said no election is needed as each of the boards had one vacancy and the two nominations filled them. Stephen John Geary is the new board member for Wyndham and Rae Wilson is the new board member for Wallacetown.

## LEARN TO SWIM PILOT FOR CENTRAL SOUTHLAND CHILDREN



*About 900 Southland youngsters are learning potentially life-saving skills in a Learn to Swim pilot project launched in Central Southland last month.*

Funded by Sport Southland through its KiwiSport Fund and Water Safety New Zealand, the project initially involves Year 1–8 students from 11 schools – Drummond, Hedgehope, Hillside, Isla Bank, Limehills, Lochiel, Heddon Bush, St Thomas Aquinas, Winton, Waianawa and Wallacetown.

Sport Southland sport manager Peter Dunne said he was delighted to see the initiative become a reality.

“Very early in the piece we identified investment in a Learn to Swim programme in rural Southland would be an excellent use of KiwiSport funding,” he said.

“We have had a great model in place in Invercargill through the ILT and ICC-supported programme for four years now and we want to mirror that in rural Southland to give consistency in terms of what students pay and the quality of instruction.”

Contracted by Water Safety NZ to coordinate the programme, Sport Southland share the administration role with Southern REAP (Rural Education Activities Programme). Venture Southland has also provided valuable knowledge regarding community pools in the district.

The project provides 10 lessons per student with lead instructors Michelle Anderson and Luciana Garcia.

“There is no question in our minds the project will be well received and prove to be of great benefit to young rural students,” Dunne said.

“We will learn a great deal from the pilot and look forward to hopefully expanding the programme to include all rural schools later in the year.”

Water Safety New Zealand general manager Matt Claridge applauded the programme.

“The big issue faced by schools across the country is getting children in the water and exposing them to quality learn to swim education,” he said. “This new programme will achieve that and, like Sport Southland, our intent will be to further develop this programme to the point where all rural Southland students have the same opportunity.”

The Central Southland programme was similar to others Water Safety New Zealand were establishing nationwide through the Sealord Swim For Life initiative – the main focus of which was to manage the regional delivery of swim and survive education in schools through working with Regional Sports Trusts and Territorial Authorities.

# EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

**More than 10 Southland District Council staff have helped out in the response to the tragic Christchurch earthquake on February 22.**

Staff have travelled to both Christchurch and Wellington (to the National Crisis Management centre) to provide assistance and have also worked at the Emergency Management Southland Emergency Operations Centre which has been open since February 22 and will remain so while the National State of Emergency is in place.

Council chief executive David Adamson said he was pleased with staff's willingness to help out with the Christchurch response.

"This has often involved staff being away from their families for extended periods and working long hours in stressful conditions, but everyone has done so without complaint.

*The Christchurch situation has shown just how devastating a natural disaster can be and it is very important for the Southland community to lend its support to the Canterbury area, Mr Adamson said.*

This also provides staff with valuable experience should a similar situation occur in Southland in the future.

The majority of the staff have been building control officers, who have been evaluating houses and buildings and providing information to residents hit by the damaging earthquake. Those who went to Christchurch were Steve Keil, Lance Patterson, Lyndon Paul, Alan Wild, Kevin O'Connor and Peter Meikle.

Lyndon said he went to Christchurch to provide assistance to Civil Defence Canterbury in carrying out assessments on residential buildings damaged from the earthquake. This was to ensure the safety of people remaining in their homes and that there was no immediate risk of harm or health issues as a result of this to the occupants.

Operation Suburb's goal was to evaluate 50,000 homes in the most affected area in the eastern suburbs.

"Our role was to keep residences in their homes wherever possible. Christchurch has learnt a lot from the September earthquake and how they responded to this second event. Clear instructions were given at the team briefs of our role and what we had to do and what support services we had at our disposal," he said.

A recommended inspection time of ten minutes per house was given to assess the damage and check on the welfare of the people.

"A high percentage of the areas I completed were only about 30% occupied as many families had left Christchurch to be with family and friends in a safer environment or just to get away from the sleepless nights caused by their trauma or the ongoing aftershocks."

A range of damage was found from chimneys down, liquefaction through houses and many homes without sewer and water services and some still don't have services today.

The emergency response was superbly run and credit must go to the Civil Defence Canterbury and the Department of Building and Housing representatives in the way they managed this. "Experience gained from this situation was invaluable to me for the knowledge gained in dealing with a large scale emergency and just being there to provide reassurance to the people brings a certain amount of satisfaction."

Engineers, including Bevan McKenzie, have also been away to help contractors reinstate water and sewerage services, environmental health officers, including Michael Sarfaiti, have been inspecting premises and the communications manager, Louise Pagan, worked in the Emergency Operations Centre at the Art Gallery helping to get information out to the public and at the emergency centre in Invercargill.

Michael Sarfaiti said he received a call from the National Crisis Management Centre in Wellington requesting urgent Environmental Health Officer assistance for the Christchurch effort on the Saturday following the quake.

On Sunday the small team of 10 EHOs from around NZ met with MAF Food Safety division which coordinated the food safety response. The EHOs were paired off and each team allocated an area to visit food businesses in that area. Michael's team was allocated the Addington area.

The key food safety issues that food operators had to manage



were water (the whole city was on boil water notice), limited sewage service, power cut affecting frozen and chilled food storage, and liquefaction resulting in dust mounds beside some shops.

A challenge was telling all the cafes that that they could no longer use their espresso machines, unless they could be supplied with treated water via a separate container. This news was not welcomed by cafe managers but it was accepted - MAF Food Safety stood firm on this issue as espresso machines do not boil water for 3 minutes which was the standard advice.

Key messages that the EHOs were promoting were disinfection of food contact surfaces, the use of hand gels, the washing of salads in treated water, and restrictions on the use of tap water. Many food premises restricted their menus to thoroughly cooked foods only, which greatly reduced the likelihood of food illness. Sushi bars were the highest risk, MAF Food Safety came close to issuing a directive to close them all.

“Even though I felt I was going to the great unknown, it was amazing how quickly we were able to organise ourselves into a very effective response unit. I’d do it again in a flash,” Michael said.

Meanwhile Dianne Williams and Janet Thomas have been or are in Wellington at the national centre helping out there, and Bruce Halligan has been working at the Southland operations centre as controller.

Dianne said she felt very privileged to have been asked to head up to the National Crisis Management Centre and that was thanks to Bruce Halligan.

*“It was a great experience and I learnt a lot from an actual incident where the pressure is a little more urgent than an exercise.”*

The crew of people (MCDEM, Ministry of Civil Defence) GWRC, (Greater Wellington Regional Council) DIA (Department of Internal Affairs) and also people like me from all over New Zealand who volunteered their time, it was great to work with people who are professional hard working and dedicated.”

Council has also been conscious that while supporting the Christchurch effort, business as usual needs to continue within Southland, and other SDC staff have also stepped up when their colleagues have been away in Christchurch and Wellington. Council staff are also raising funds for the earthquake relief, wearing Canterbury themed red and black outfits, selling red and black coloured baking and collecting donations, with more than \$1000 raised so far.



## FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMMES GAINING MOMENTUM

Council’s Environmental Health Officers have begun introducing the new templated food safety programme (FSP) to Southland’s retail food premises.

This programme is voluntary at the moment but is part of the Food Bill which is before Parliament.

Currently if you run a food business you can either operate under the Food Hygiene Regulations or adopt a Food Safety Programme instead.

The advantage of template FSP is that it allows the operator to adopt a risk-based approach to food safety. For example, developing time/temperature procedures that ensure chicken is always cooked properly, and periodic monitoring of cooling/reheating of dishes against recommended guidelines.

This level of food safety management greatly reduces the likelihood of food illness.

Congratulations to the following Southland District food premises that are working under the new system: Any retail food outlets that would like to participate in the new system are encouraged to contact an Environmental Health Officer. Examples of food premises that are eligible include restaurants, clubs, dairies, taverns, elderly person homes, mobile shops, caterers, and takeaways.



- The Bafe Limited
- Gypsy Kitchen
- Keplers Restaurant
- Lazybones Cafe
- Lumsden Hotel
- Niagara Falls Cafe
- Otautau Diner & Takeaway
- The Pavilion
- The Postmaster Bakery & Cafe
- Te Anau Club

# Training to survive



**Motorbike riders have been encouraged to brush up on their riding skills in the past few months.**

Drivetech, along with ACC and Road Safety Southland, have been running motorcycle courses, which started in February.

ACC Injury Prevention Consultant Nic Miller said that even for the most seasoned motorbike rider, training increases the likelihood of survival when faced with an out of the ordinary situation on the road.

"Even if you've been riding for years, other vehicles and bad or changeable weather conditions can mean that riders are faced with sudden and life-threatening hazards out on the road," Nic said. "Taking a training course ensures that you're prepared for anything that either another vehicle or Mother Nature throws at you."

Brian Frew, Drivetech Manager and instructor, said any rider who has not had some kind of training - and doesn't have the right skills - is a crash waiting to happen.

"Many motorcyclists in New Zealand only have the basic skills required to sit their licence without really learning to ride properly," Mr Frew said. "Training is about getting the technical knowledge, along with the practical skills, to confidently control a motorcycle and understand the way this sophisticated piece of machinery works. Both are critical to having the best possible chance of surviving unexpected situations on the road, as well as



improving things like confidence and cornering to get more fun out of your two wheels."

The full-day courses cover a range of topics and feature both theoretical and practical elements. Courses will be run by qualified trainers that offer vast experience ranging from dirt and road riding to racing.

"Some of the things we focus on include a motorcyclist's road position, protective gear essentials, motorcycle control, counter steering, cornering and braking exercises, all of which are critical for motorcyclists to master," Mr Frew said.

"Not only does training help keep riders safer on the roads, it also makes riding more fun. Many of our participants, even the most experienced riders, say that after a day's training they have learnt a lot, feel more relaxed and confident on the road so they can have a great time out there."

To find out more about training courses, you can contact Drivetech Ltd, at 156 Longbush South Road, No 1RD, Invercargill or phoning 0508 2 37483 or 2304 326. For more information on keeping safe on your motorbike visit [www.rideforever.co.nz](http://www.rideforever.co.nz)

## ACTIVE TRANSPORT BEING ENCOURAGED

**Road Safety Southland and Sport Southland are encouraging parents and children to get to school actively at least once a week.**

Road Safety Southland schools co-ordinator Maureen Deuchrass said active transportation includes walking, cycling, skating and scootering.

"We're trying to reduce the growing trend of a "backseat generation," which is leading to inactivity, childhood obesity, and a disconnection from the community. Instead of riding in a car, we hope to see children and their friends and caregivers outside walking or cycling to school at least once a week every week," Ms Deuchrass said.

Six schools from the Southland region were selected depending

upon location and current transport trends to participate in the inaugural WOW (Walk or Wheel) week which was held in March. The schools are Matura, Wyndham, St Teresa's Bluff, Windsor North, Fernworth and New River Primary.

Schools have the opportunity to win two lots of books, worth \$400, which are on active transport for the school library. These have been sponsored by FeetFirst and HEHA. Team members from the Steel and Sharks, along with Road Safety Southland and Sport Southland staff visited schools to encourage activity and participate in schoolwide event. Strider, an active transport mascot, also visited.

# CEMETERY MEMORIAL SIGNS PROGRESSING

***It is a slow process researching the historic records and cemetery history, but with the help of the community and relatives of those buried in the cemeteries we are making progress.***

Many hours of hard work culminated in the opening of the Old Otautau Cemetery Sign in December last year.

Southland District Council staff worked closely with Otautau Lions Club members, particularly Fred Dalley and Jenny Ritchie, to research the details of all those buried in the cemetery to ensure the sign was accurate.

The cemetery also was tidied up by contractors, pleasing the more than 50 people who turned up to watch District Mayor Frana Cardno open the sign.

Visitors from as far afield as England were at the ceremony and family members of those buried in the cemetery and remembered on the sign said how pleased they were to be able to find their relatives now. They thanked Council for the initiative shown in building the sign.

Mrs Cardno said the sign was an important history of the area, and Council planned to create a sign for every cemetery in Southland so that each community had its story told.

Council has now opened signs in Balfour, Fortrose, Mokoreta, Dipton, Old Otautau and Eastern Bush. Two further signs are about to be erected at Waikawa and Wallacetown, and Wyndham, Riversdale, Riverton, Orepuki and Lumsden signs are being worked on at the moment.

Eastern Bush's cemetery now has a sign that tells visitors who and where people are buried. The sign was erected by the Eastern Bush Cemetery Trust in conjunction with Southland District Council late last year and was welcomed by the community at an opening in December.



Photo above: Mayor Frana Cardno and Otautau Lions Club Member Peter Ayson at the opening of the Old Otautau Cemetery sign. Photo below: Mayor Cardno with Eastern Bush Cemetery Trust Member Lincoln Moffat at the opening of the Eastern Bush Cemetery Sign



## SUPPORTING CULTURE WITHIN LIBRARIES

Southland's Festival of the Arts will again feature a Readers & Writers Alive! programme.

The Dan Davin Literary Foundation and Invercargill City Libraries work together to organize this programme on an annual basis. This year will feature Jenny Patrick author of the Denniston Rose series and numerous other novels including Landings and her latest Inheritance which starts in the Southland Museum and Art Gallery.

Another of Jenny's recent publications is *The Very Important Godwit*, a children's book written by Jenny and her husband Laughton Patrick. This book comes with a CD of songs about the Godwit's journey from New Zealand to Alaska and back again. On Friday 13 May from 1.30pm -2.30pm Jenny & Laughton will be at the Winton Library to present a Story & Song

event for junior school aged children (5-8years) using the book and CD. Song tracks and music sheets will be available for participating schools.

Following this at 3.30pm at the Winton Library Jenny will give a talk about writing historical novels. Jenny will also be keynote speaker at the Book Lovers Dinner on Thursday 12 May in Invercargill. Tickets for this are \$40 and include a two course meal.

Other Readers & Writers events in 2011 include a poetry reading with local poet Lynley Dear, former Southlanders Tim Jones and Kay McKenzie Cooke and Christchurch poet Joanna Preston. Joy Cowley will also visit on Saturday 7 May to do a story time for children followed by a talk on writing for children.



The Poetry Wall will also be a feature of this year's events. For more information please see the Southland Festival of the Arts brochure, the Readers & Writers Alive! brochure or visit [www.dandavin.org.nz](http://www.dandavin.org.nz)

## TAKING A FRESH LOOK AT MOKORETA VALLEY'S PAST

*Solving mysteries from the past may not have been George Taylor's initial motivation behind writing a book on the history of the Mokoreta Valley but it's been a project that has enabled him to unravel obscurities from times gone by that would have otherwise been left forgotten.*

Comprised of approximately 250 pages, George's historical book on Mokoreta Valley will include over 200 photographs, maps and other documents that will piece together a comprehensive and accurate history of the region. First settled by the Anderson family in 1859 and then broken up for closer settlement in 1882, Mokoreta Valley has a fascinating historical background that is sure to astound those with a connection to the area.

"The 1882 auction of the land is most likely a Southland record in terms of the number of land titles auctioned in one sale, with over 300 town sections and farms offered," said George. "A lot of history was previously lost under a mountain of old newspaper pages but can now be accessed with the click of a website search function, opening up the past for a fresh look.

"Families can now be traced through the births, deaths and marriages website and people can complete the information which family members have willingly supplied."

Together with Donna Hawkins from the Southland District Council and Bruce Cavanagh from the Gore Heritage Centre who have been instrumental in helping to correct the Mokoreta Cemetery Record, George's work on compiling past records



for the book led to the resolution of an unmarked grave in the cemetery during his research. Ten year old Flora Keeler's grave was identified after investigations took place into the circumstances leading to her death over 110 years ago. George then began his search for any living relatives belonging to the girl and found one of her nephews, Bill McIntyre, who lives in Winton.

Although uncovering stories from the past like this was something that always interested George, it was the Mokoreta jubilee celebrations that took place last year that spurred him into writing the book which he hopes to have completed by Christmas time.

Still very much a work in progress, George encourages anyone who has photographs or information to contribute to the book to get in touch with him. It's been the generosity of people in the community with their time and willingness to assist him that has provided George with his unique insight into Mokoreta Valley's past.

"The Mokoreta Jubilee Committee has also been very helpful along with my parents and many other individuals and their help is very much appreciated."

If anyone would like to register for a book or has information on Mokoreta Valley, they can contact George on (03) 206 4255.

# Mobile Library Timetable

## May 2011 – Sept 2011



* denotes a public holiday								
Athol	Shop	1:00 - 3:00	Mon	30 May *		4 July	1 Aug	29 Aug
Balfour	Tavern	9:30 - noon	Tues	24 May	21 June	19 July	16 Aug	
		6:00 - 8:00	Tues		7 June	5 July	2 Aug	30 Aug
Blackmount	School	11:00 - 12:00	Mon	23 May	20 June	18 July	15 Aug	
Colac Bay	Foreshore	12:30 - 2:00	Thurs		9 June	7 July	4 Aug	1 Sept
Dacre	School	11:30 - 12:30	Fri		10 June	8 July	5 Aug	2 Sept
Drummond	Tavern	3:30 - 5:00	Thurs	2 June	30 June	28 July	25 Aug	
Edendale	Car Park	2:00 - 4:30	Fri	27 May	24 June	22 July	19 Aug	
		2:00 - 4:30	Fri		10 June	8 July	5 Aug	2 Sept
Feldwick	Hall	9:30 -10:30	Mon	23 May	20 June	18 July	15 Aug	
Five Rivers	Hall	3:30 - 5:00	Mon	30 May *		4 July	1 Aug	29 Aug
Fortrose	Picnic Area	2:30 - 4:00	Thurs	19 May	16 June	14 July	11 Aug	
Garston	Main Street	10:30 -11:30	Mon	30 May *		4 July	1 Aug	29 Aug
Glenham	School	11:30 - 1:00	Thurs	19 May	16 June	14 July	11 Aug	
Gorge Rd	Hall	9:00 -11:30	Tues	17 May	14 June	12 July	9 Aug	
Hauoko Valley	School	1:30 - 4:00	Mon	23 May	20 June	18 July	15 Aug	
Hedgehope	Hall	10:00 -11:30	Fri	3 June	1 July	29 July	26 Aug	
Longbush	Kindergarten	9:00 - 10:00	Fri	27 May	24 June	22 July	19 Aug	
Mokoreta	School/Hall	9:30 - 10:30	Thurs	19 May	16 June	14 July	11 Aug	
Mossburn	RSA	2:00 - 4:30	Tues	24 May	21 June	19 July	16 Aug	
		2:00 - 4:30	Tues		7 June	5 July	2 Aug	30 Aug
Orepuki	Main St	2.30 - 4.00	Thurs		9 June	7 July	4 Aug	1 Sept
Otara	Hall	2:00 - 4:00	Wed	18 May	15 June	13 July	10 Aug	
Pukerau	School	9:30 - 11:30	Wed	25 May	22 June	20 July	17 Aug	
Rimu	School	9:00 - 11:00	Fri		10 June	8 July	5 Aug	2 Sept
Riversdale	Hall	11:00 - 1:30	Wed		8 June	6 July	3 Aug	31 Aug
		2:00 - 5:00	Thurs	26 May	23 June	21 July	18 Aug	
Roslyn Bush	Playcentre	1:00 - 2:00	Fri	3 June	1 July	29 July	26 Aug	
Ryal Bush	Comm Centre	2:30 - 4:00	Fri	3 June	1 July	29 July	26 Aug	
Te Tipua	School	11:00 - 12:30	Fri	27 May	24 June	22 July	19 Aug	
Thornbury	Shop	9:30 - 11:00	Thurs		9 June	7 July	4 Aug	1 Sept
Tokanui	Main St	10:00 - noon	Wed	1 June	29 June	27 July	24 Aug	
		1:30 - 4:00	Fri	20 May	17 June	15 July	12 Aug	
Waianiwa	Hall	1:30 - 3:00	Thurs	2 June	30 June	28 July	25 Aug	
Waikaia	Comm Centre	3:00 - 5:00	Wed		8 June	6 July	3 Aug	31 Aug
		11:00 - 12:30	Thurs	26 May	23 June	21 July	18 Aug	
Waikaka	Main St	2:00 - 4:00	Wed	25 May	22 June	20 July	17 Aug	
Waikawa	Hall	10:00 - noon	Fri	20 May	17 June	15 July	12 Aug	
Waimahaka	School	10:00 - noon	Wed	18 May	15 June	13 July	10 Aug	
Wallacetown	Com Centre	9:00 - noon	Thurs	2 June	30 June	28 July	25 Aug	
Wendon	Hall	9:00 - 10:30	Wed		8 June	6 July	3 Aug	31 Aug
Wendonside	Hall	9:30 - 10:30	Thurs	26 May	23 June	21 July	18 Aug	
Willowbank	School	12:30 - 1:30	Wed	25 May	22 June	20 July	17 Aug	
Woodlands	Shop	2:00 - 4:00	Tues	17 May	14 June	12 July	9 Aug	
		2:00 - 4:00	Wed	1 June	29 June	27 July	24 Aug	

Any queries, requests or renewals: please telephone the Winton Library 0800 732 542.

Note: the following areas have fortnightly visits: Balfour, Riversdale, Waikaia, Mossburn, Edendale, Tokanui, Woodlands.

Renewals can be made by email to: [wintonlibrary@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:wintonlibrary@southlanddc.govt.nz)

## DEEP DEMOCRACY

A friend came back from jury service – it takes a while for 12 people from different backgrounds to all agree on a verdict. We're so used to thinking that we only need the majority to agree for something to be decided.

Majority rule, however, is not the original form of democracy.

Primitive democracy gathered all the people on the village green and the issue was discussed with everyone having a say. If they couldn't reach a point where everyone agreed with the decision, the village went away and came back the next day to discuss again.

Democracy meant to keep coming back until everyone felt heard, understood and willing to buy into the outcome.

As societies grew larger, for the sake of efficiency, pure democracy was watered down to "the greatest good for the greatest number." Gone was the principle of "for the good of all."

And we now live with the consequences of majority democracy – everywhere there are angry disenfranchised minorities. Some are terrorists threatening to blow up the rich and powerful, others are individuals who go berserk, or whole groups within society who slump powerless into welfare dependency or drugs and crime.

Everyone heard, everyone understood, everyone included, everyone empowered – is this an impossible dream?

Surely it's just not practical to get everyone together and wade through every concern?

There is a way: to bring together representatives of every viewpoint on an issue to sit together with the leaders of the community and say all that is in their hearts and minds. It's called Deep Democracy. It brings out past hurts, future



*Everyone included, everyone heard, everyone understood, everyone empowered – the dream of Deep Democracy visible at the Multicultural Festival. Photo by Corrina Housham.*

worries, people present and past, ghost issues that no one wants to bring up – all comes out. The method has been tried successfully in the Irish troubles, the Middle East and in every hot spot around the globe.

Is Deep Democracy just a dream?

In my role with Southland Spirit of a Nation I catch glimpses of it in action – the Vet South Quiz night bringing the Winton community coming together to fundraise for Christchurch, offering money for locals to perform "dares" including blokes waltzing together, singing solo and even shedding clothing. A cause unites us intensely.

I witnessed a moment of deep democracy at the Multicultural Food Festival at Invercargill, looking up and seeing the hall filled with the faces of peoples from all over the globe -it was travelling overseas without paying for a flight. And in that moment, it seemed that everyone from diverse backgrounds was one.

*Is deep democracy possible?*

*If we can dream it, then it's already becoming real.*

*Gerry Forde, brand co-ordinator Southland Spirit of a Nation.*

*Gerry's programme is managed by Venture Southland and supported by businesses, principally: Fonterra, WHK, Phoenix Services, E.H. Ball, H&J Smith, E.I.S, Arrow International, E. Hayes and Sons, Cunningham Construction and Fulton Hogan.*





## Southland has solar potential

SolarCity in partnership with Venture Southland is about to launch a solar hot water pilot in Southland District.

This is your chance to:

- Give us your opinions and feedback on solar via an online questionnaire found at [www.solarcitysouthland.co.nz](http://www.solarcitysouthland.co.nz)
- Participate by choosing solar hot water for your home – we are looking for 25 homes throughout the Southland region to pay for and install solar hot water that will be monitored for 12 months
- Participate by choosing solar hot water for your business – we are looking for 5 businesses throughout the Southland region

Southland has more solar capacity than Germany, a country that is one of the highest users of solar technology. The graph below illustrates the solar radiation potential of Invercargill by comparison to the larger solar markets nationally and internationally.

Southland Solar Hot Water Pilot is the third solar hot water pilot across New Zealand and SolarCity is delighted to be involved with the Southland region. SolarCity is in business for a purpose to help create a cleaner world, a sustainable future and to transform New Zealand to be 100% solar by 2020.

This pilot is supported by Southland District Council, Gore District Council and Invercargill City Council. The initiative is designed to accurately measure the carbon and energy savings solar can deliver to your community. We will build a detailed business case for the introduction of a Solar Saver Scheme to make going solar in the region cheaper and easier.



## NEW WALKWAY PROJECT

In 2009, the South Catlins Development and Environment Charitable Trust, along with the funding and support of The Community Trust of Southland, purchased a remnant forest block, adjacent to Waikawa-Curio Bay Road, with a vision to add it to the existing Recreation/Scientific Reserves at Curio Bay and create a public-owned walkway.

This vision is now coming to fruition, with the Curio Bay Walkway Project due to be publicly launched in the next few months.

This walkway will take visitors on an education walk through the living history of the forest; from young pole-rimu stands just starting their growth, through to the more established Kamahi and Rata forest, manuka wetlands and finally out to the Curio Bay Petrified Forest.



The environmental significance of this walkway is major as this site is reputed to be the only one in the world where a present day forest area exists in close proximity to an exposed Petrified Forest platform. This was identified by Mike Pole, following a study that he undertook between 1998 and 2001.

This exciting project adds another element to Curio Bay, which is already home to many geological and environmental attractions of international significance; 170 million year old fossil forest, special wildlife; yellow eyed penguins, hectors dolphins, little blue penguins, fur seals and sea lions. There is no doubting how special and unique Curio Bay is. The trust really wants to enhance what is already there for the enjoyment of locals and visitors while preserving the area for its future protection.

The Trust is planning on soon launching the Curio Bay Walkway Project – whereby people can make a donation to the project and in return their support will be acknowledged with the engraving of their name on one of the interpretation panels along the walkway. The walkway will be developed so that it is able to be enjoyed by all members of the community i.e. those with prams and wheelchairs.

The contributions will be used by

the community to; protect the forest for future generation, restore native species, fence and protect predators and stock, and develop and construct the walkway.

At present, the Trust alongside the local community is working on the stock proof fencing to create an immediate protection of the forest, and from there will be working on the official launch and creating awareness of the project. It is hoped that this walkway will complement the recent successful upgrade of the nearby Waipohatu Track which was undertaken by a number of local community groups. The Trust is also progressing with their plans for an upgrade of facilities at the Curio Bay Reserve which will address public toilet and camping ground facilities.





SOUTHERN RURAL FIRE

## BLACKMOUNT DEPOT OPENED

**The new rural firefighters' depot at Blackmount was opened on Saturday 12 February.**

Southern Rural Fire Authority principal fire officer Mike Grant said the purpose built building, which has cost about \$160,000, was opened by Southland District Council councillor George Harpur and Tuatapere Community Board chair Gray Robertson.

"This project would not have been possible without the significant sponsorship we have received from Meridian's Manapouri-Te Anau Community Fund, the Transpower Community Care Fund, the Community Trust of Southland, the National Rural Fire Authority, Dongwha Patinna and Pub Charities, and the number of small sponsors as well," Mr Grant said.

"It brings together both the rural firefighting team and the medical responders under one roof, and gives them a purpose built home.

"The team now has the ability to respond to emergencies in the district in a co-ordinated way."

Mr Grant also acknowledged the work of the volunteers, who basically managed any on-site work in the project, and the Robertson family who donated the land where the new depot sits. The new depot has three bays and an upstairs training room.

The southern authority undertook a review four years ago to look at what was needed in different locations and what it had. The authority has 28 localities in the district, which runs from Beaumont across to Naseby and south, where it has firefighting equipment and/or tankers and trucks. The Blackmount depot is the third building to be either built or upgraded in the district.

## SUPPORTING YOUNG SOUTHLANDERS

### Strengthening Parenting in Southland a key focus for strategy

A Southland-wide parenting strategy is the ultimate goal of one of several community outcomes projects being run by Our Way Southland. A Leaders' Forum held in September 2009 in Invercargill identified strengthening parenting as the most important regional issue for Southland.

"The forum was the start of a community-wide discussion about the significance of families and parenting for Southland, when leaders from various sectors of the community identified parenting support as the key issue facing the region", Community Outcomes Regional Coordinator Dr Aaron Fox says. "Being a parent is an important, complex and challenging task and what parents do can have a significant impact on outcomes for children and ultimately how those children become contributing members of the community. Our Way Southland is now helping business and volunteer sector representatives and central and local government agencies to work together to identify a way forward with this issue.

The first step towards a regional parenting strategy is to gain information from parents, caregivers and children and young people about what they value about parenting, how they feel the community values parenting, and what they feel they need most to support them. "We are looking at a range of ways to gather the voices of Southland families, including telephone surveys, focus groups and interviews. By placing the views of local families at the centre of this work, the regional parenting strategy, when developed, should reflect the very real needs of Southland families, rather than policy or service provision issues," Aaron says.

The Strengthening Parenting project is also looking to survey providers of parenting services in Southland. "As a parent myself, I can see the advantages of having a better understanding of who provides what services and where across the region, and in making this information more accessible." Aaron says.

Aaron believes that a greater focus on families in Southland will benefit all of the community. "Families are, after all, the building blocks of our society" he says.



If you would like to know more you can get in touch with Aaron by calling 0800 76 88 45 or email [aaron.fox@es.govt.nz](mailto:aaron.fox@es.govt.nz).

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Rural Fire Permits .....	<b>0800 773 363</b>
Email .....	<b><a href="mailto:sdcsouthlanddc.govt.nz">sdcsouthlanddc.govt.nz</a></b>
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