



SOUTHLAND ISSUES DISCUSSED AT FORUM

A Southland parenting strategy, a leadership academy and ensuring any future growth builds on our existing strengths are just some of the ideas that came out of a Leaders' Forum held in Invercargill last month.

More than 100 people from councils, businesses and volunteer organisations met to discuss the recently released outcomes monitoring report by the Our Way Southland project.

Community outcomes regional coordinator Dr Aaron Fox said the report used a variety of indicators to establish whether progress was being made towards each of the seven outcomes and the forum provided an opportunity for regional leaders to discuss if Southland was heading in the right direction and identify what key actions might be needed.

Seven well-known present and former Southlanders each spoke on one of the seven outcomes, with each highlighting issues.

Radio presenter 'Boggy' McDowell said the challenge is to get people excited about living in Southland and to get people to come and see the province. "We need to promote it, we need to recognise our top people ... I really like this brand: 'Southland – where the World's Your Oyster'."

Venture Southland Chairman Robin Campbell said economic and social matters are so intrinsically linked that they can never be considered alone. All people need to contribute to the economy, according to their desires and talents, but it is hard for people to rise above the norm set by their family and friends. "Nothing is more important than parenting."

Invercargill MP Eric Roy said Southland is leading the way from the bottom of the country and it punches well above its weight.

"Southlanders get on and do the job, solve the problem, invent the solution and don't care who takes the credit. "However, the biggest problem we have is the retention of talent."

Southland could become the most significant province in New Zealand because of its resources, but structural needs must be considered.

Environmentalist Jan Riddell sounded a note of caution concerning potential large-scale developments in Southland, asking why New Zealand is repeating the same mistakes made in Europe and the United States years ago. She explained the importance of focussing on potential environmental problems before economic projects are



even commenced, rather than just simply looking at solutions or ways to reduce the effects when the projects are completed – by which time it is really too late.

Attendees were then divided into seven groups, with each discussing one outcome to identify key projects/ideas which will move Southland forward. Everyone attending the forum then indicated which projects/ideas they felt were most important, and which should therefore be acted upon after the forum.

The key regional issues identified at the forum focussed on the future and what can be done now to ensure that the next generation of residents have a good platform to build on. Top of the list was the need to provide

support for parents and improve parenting skills to ensure that the next generation of Southlanders will have the best opportunities. Developing good leaders was also identified as a key issue, together with improving intervention and support for at-risk youth and ensuring that development is managed so that it doesn't destroy the things that people love about Southland.

Dr Fox said the Our Way Southland working group will now take the key ideas identified by the forum and work with key agencies to identify specific action plans and collaborative projects.

Further information on the Leaders' Forum will shortly be available on the website - www.ourwaysouthland.org.nz



Mayor Frana Cardno

SOUTHLAND'S FAIR SHARE

It's time to work together as a province to ensure we make a clear and distinct point at national level.

Lobbying Central Government has always been part of the Mayoral role, but I consider we are at a crossroads here in the south. Southland could play a pivotal role in the future, as it is a region rich in resources, not only the fertile land but also what lies beneath it.

I believe our communication skills are needed, particularly so at the moment, as the National Government is passing a lot of legislation and adopting a lot of policy that affects us all.

The recent \$8.7 billion national land transport funding package announced by Central Government means Council receives only get 0.8 percent, or \$72.26 million for the three year period. That means \$8.7 million less for maintenance and renewal works is being funded during the next three years over that requested in the Council's LTCCP. This will obviously lead to significant work being deferred with a resulting decrease in the standard of our roads.

Council staff work hard to build a roading programme which is both cost-efficient and looks after our roads and this reduction is really frustrating. Council staff also work long hours putting together a 10-year plan that includes extensive and thorough activity management plans. We have to ask what the point of these plans is if what we have decided is then thrown out by Government.

The funding not only affects us, but many of the other councils in the south as well. Invercargill City has had major cuts and Clutha District is suffering as well. Federated Farmers is right behind councils on this point and said in a letter to the editor that it has been lobbying for additional central government funding for local roads.

In fact, Federated Farmers and Council are working very closely on ensuring Government knows we need funding for our roads.

Over the years we have lost millions in various government budgets.

Road funding was meant to address issues of regional equity and help the provinces carry out work of regional importance, but that did not occur and instead road funding became another subsidy, which required local share funding.

We are also now looking at the changes to the Resource Management Act that have just been enacted. While many of these are actually positive, there is still a lot of work that is needed to make the changes.

The Government has also announced it is putting the drinking water subsidy scheme on hold again to enable a review. The scheme aims to improve drinking water supplies in small communities of fewer than 5000 people.

This delay is definitely an issue for Council as it causes problems for our programmed work, but the bigger concern is that if the rules are changed, some of Southland's communities will miss out on funding.

These communities will not be able to afford to fund their schemes themselves, and Council cannot afford to pay for them as it is ratepayers' money either way.

Everyone in our communities in New Zealand is entitled to fresh potable water, no matter where they live and I believe Central and local government have a responsibility to make this happen.

It is essential, therefore, that Southland stands up for itself and makes sure that any project that takes place in or close to our province has some major benefits for us. The profits need to come back to Southland so that we can continue to grow and build on what is already a great place to live.

Creative New Zealand Scholarships
Valmai Robertson Dance Scholarship

All dance types are eligible.

Scholarships are available to Southlanders living or owning property within the Southland District Council area

Phone Bronwyn 03 211 1426

Application forms and guidelines are available from all Council Offices.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2009

ONE VISION

Most people are fully aware that if you get involved early in a project you have a far better chance of influencing the outcome.

The District Council, in developing plans and policies, not only looks at tried and proven methods of communicating, but also looks for innovation. We, however, get frustrated at times as an issue we consider to be important to the community seems to attract little or no interest.

Most people don't get involved until a particular rule or bylaw impacts on their lifestyle directly. A recent example involved bylaws around dog control which defined the areas where people can exercise their dogs. Over winter in Southland days are short and opportunities to get outside are sometimes limited. However, due to the need to apply bylaws evenly and consistently what seems to have very little impact on anyone generates a reaction from the District Council under the bylaw.

The Dog Control Bylaw is an example of a document that is regularly put out to the public for comment. Changing demographics and growth in some of our communities mean the local communities wish to update their practices as appropriate as their community grows. It is interesting, however, that even though the Bylaw is notified to all dog owners we only get a handful of submissions.

At the risk of being repetitive I want to move on to what I consider to be one of the most important documents in Southland. Currently the Southland

District Council and Environment Southland are undertaking a joint project to rewrite the Southland District Council District Plan and Environment Southland's Regional Policy Statement, which are prepared under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Staff have been involved in a number of face-to-face meetings across the District and while some of them have been well attended, only 220 attended in total. These two documents have a major bearing on what the Southland environment will be like in the next 10-20 years. Not only will they cover land use, but they will also provide guidance for water, air, natural vegetation, the urban environment, rural environment and the interface of different land use types. The District Plan specifies what every landowner within the District can and can't do with their properties, and perhaps equally importantly what can and can't occur on adjoining sites. As their property is most people's biggest investment, it is worth taking an interest in this District Plan review process.

I cannot emphasise strongly enough that the earlier you participate, the easier it is to incorporate the broad community needs and aspirations.

Out of this work a number of issues have arisen that may need urgent attention. Council, in conjunction with Environment Southland and our neighbours Gore District Council and Invercargill City Council, are going to explore ways to develop guidelines which will help define best practice when it comes to draining



David Adamson

of the lands, developing wetlands and modifying vegetation in environmentally risk-prone areas such as the high tussock countries of inland Southland.

This issue is difficult to police, so Councils have decided that the development of guidelines and the associated environmental education on appropriate land management practices for these areas may be an approach that would protect some of our more vulnerable habitats from inappropriate development methods which can cause major issues such as waterway silting, topsoil erosion and loss of significant habitat for flora and fauna.

It needs to be recognised that agriculture is the backbone of our economy and there are a number of landowners who have developed significant blocks of land in a very environmentally responsible and sustainable way.

Council staff hope to work with those people who have had the experience, knowledge and vision when developing their properties to enable us to capture that knowledge and pass it on to others.

Centennial Bursary Scholarship

For all students commencing their first year of study

Scholarships are available to Southlanders living or owning property within the Southland District Council area

Phone Bronwyn 03 211 1426

Application forms and guidelines are available from all Council Offices.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2009

Planning for our *Future*

COMMUNITY DEBRIEF DEVELOPED

More than 220 people attended the nine Issues and Options forums held in Southland in June and July as a part of the initial consultation stage of the Regional Policy Statement and Southland District Plan review.



Southland District resource planner Luke McSoriley said the feedback from the forums and the additional 57 comments that were received from individuals, key stakeholders and other groups will now form part of an Issues and Options Community Debrief, which summarises key issues the community has raised.

“We are hoping to publicly release the Community Debrief during the week of 19 October 2009.”

In terms of the number of comments, the top five issues are biodiversity, water quality, water quantity, rural and land issues and energy and infrastructure.

“A quarter of the feedback was on the water papers.”

Environment Southland planner Walter Denley said the issues and options forums had given different communities, groups and individuals the chance to raise local issues that they wanted considered as part of the review.

Mr Denley stressed that people will have many more opportunities to be part of the review.

“This is just the start of the consultation process,” he said.

Planners from the Southland District Council and Environment Southland have been working together to update the key documents, more than 10 years after they first came into force.

The issues and options papers were the first round of pre-consultation.

The Councils agreed on the joint approach over a year ago because many of their issues are common to both regional and local planning. By working together, they are avoiding duplication and making it simpler for people to take part in the review of both the plans.

TALK TO COUNCIL BEFORE CLEARING NATIVE VEGETATION

Landowners wanting to clear native vegetation need to talk to Council first.

Under the Heritage 3 Rule of the Southland District Plan, landowners wanting to clear native vegetation on their property are likely to require resource consent.

Council resource management planner Luke McSoriley said that while most clearing and modification requires a resource consent, there are a few exceptions. It is recommended that landowners contact Council prior to undertaking any clearance so Council can confirm if resource consent is required.

When resource consent applications are lodged for the clearance of significant indigenous vegetation Council looks to work with landowners and other agencies to reach an agreement between all parties.

“If people work with us, in most cases we can come to an agreement where high value areas are set aside and protected and areas of lesser value are cleared,” Mr McSoriley said.

Many of the areas of indigenous vegetation that remain on private property in the district exist today as a result of the stewardship of generations of landowners.

However, changes in ownership along with land use change and intensification in recent years has been placing pressure on some of these remaining areas. In many instances these areas represent remnants of habitats which are now very rare in the Southland and sometimes national context.

While the Heritage 3 Rule forms the basis of the rules based approach for the protection of significant indigenous flora and fauna, Southland District Council has also adopted a number of non-regulatory approaches. This includes financial support for the Southland Biodiversity Co-ordinator and rates relief for formally protected areas.

The recently released document “Biodiversity Case Studies – Farmers Leading Biodiversity Enhancement in Southland” highlights the enhancement and protection work being undertaken by landowners and communities in Southland.

Please contact the Council’s Resource Management Department for a copy of this document or to discuss any proposals to clear areas of indigenous vegetation.



QUESTION SESSIONS ON PROPOSED PLAN CHANGES

Southland District Council will be holding two Q&A sessions in Te Anau in November to discuss the proposed plan changes to the Anau section of the Southland District Plan.

Resource management planner Luke McSoriley said the proposed changes follow on from the discussion document sent out to Te Anau ratepayers in June 2008.

“Council received 244 responses to the proposals in that document and the proposed changes received a lot of support,” Mr McSoriley said.

The first change seeks to expand the existing urban resource area of Te Anau to incorporate recently consented residential developments currently sitting outside the present urban resource area boundary. This will provide for future urban expansion near to the existing urban area.

The second proposed change seeks to expand the existing industrial resource area and relates to an area east of the existing area. If approved, this will provide additional scope for future industrial expansion and will include a recently consented industrial subdivision development.

The third proposal relates to the creation of a lakeside protection area and seeks to strengthen the height provisions in the current District Plan.

Currently, the limit in the urban resource area is 12 metres, but resource consent can potentially be sought and obtained for buildings higher than that.

“The proposed change would prohibit any exceeding of the 12 metre maximum, thereby sending a strong message that the community wishes to see development maintained at a maximum height of 12 metres beside the lake,” Mr McSoriley said.

Council staff have prepared reports which consider the alternatives, benefits and costs of undertaking each of the proposed changes.

There is also a fourth proposed plan change brought by private individuals, which Council has agreed to notify on behalf of the applicants. Mr and Mrs T E and A Buchanan have applied to change the plan to allow rezoning of their land to allow for a low-density residential development.

The 128.45-hectare property is on the south-eastern periphery of the township and is located presently in the Plains Rural Resource Area under the District Plan. The application seeks to rezone this land to Te Anau Residential B Resource Area.

The proposed changes are being publicly notified on October 17. This allows for any party to make a submission.

The proposed changes have been approved by Council’s resource management committee. The Te Anau Community Board had previously endorsed the proposals.

Once the proposed changes are publicly notified, any party is able to submit in relation to these changes and be heard by Council if they wish to do so.

The question and answer sessions will be held at the Te Anau area office on Tuesday, November 3, from 4pm to 9pm, and on Wednesday, November 4, from 10am to 1pm.

The closing date for submissions is November 23.



Economic

Lifelines

MEETING BEING PLANNED

Another meeting with contractors is being planned to discuss the new national code of practice for utilities' access to the transport corridor.

Since July this year Southland District Council has implemented the code to collectively manage all works that affect the roads within the Council's extensive roading network.

It is working with Gore District Council, Invercargill City Council, Clutha District Council and NZTA to develop a general consistency of specifications for works.

Council roading and corridor manager Michael Voss said the meeting with contractors will show them what changes and improvements have been made during the implementation phase, and to seek their feedback.

No date has been set but contractors who are interested in attending can contact Mr Voss on 0800 732 732.

The code has replaced the existing trenching bylaw and affects the subdivision and land development bylaw.

"The code standardises the differing design and installation between councils making for more seamless cross-boundary installations," Mr Voss said.

Council has already run a seminar to explain the new code to various Southland tradespeople and contractors, including those involved in providing water, waste, stormwater, reserves, telecommunications, power supply, gas and energy activities.

The code applies to all of Council's roading network, both rural and urban, and will also affect the railway and state highway corridors, which are not controlled by Council.

The code is available for downloading from www.nzuag.org.nz and forms and information are available on Council's website under Corridor Management.

ROADING CHALLENGES

The New Zealand Transport Agency recently released an \$8.7 billion National Land Transport Program to set expenditure levels for the next three years.

Southland District Council's share of this program is 0.8 percent or \$72.26 million for the three year period.

The funding approved was \$8.7 million less than the forecast sum included in the 2009/12 LTCCP for maintenance and renewal works. This represents a funding reduction of 12% over the levels of work required forecast in the Roothing Activity Management Plan, completed in November 2008.

Council asset manager Roothing Russell Hawkes said this will obviously lead to significant work being deferred with a resulting decrease in the standard of Southland roads.

The costs of road maintenance are heavily dependent on the price of oil and bitumen. Heavy vehicle kilometres travelled on Southland District roads have more than doubled in the last eight years with a resulting increase in the rate of deterioration of many roads. The combination of funding cuts, increasing costs and increasing road use are causing the Council significant concern. One likely outcome will be a reduction in the current standard of many roads over the next few years.

"We can't continue to meet the cost of maintaining all the roads to the same level. The costs to the ratepayer are rising to an unsustainable level.

"Unless we receive more funding from Central Government, the levels of service for roads will need to be varied."

Mr Hawkes believes that levels of service may need to be more specific to the road itself and be based on a strategic, rather than a general overview.

"That's going to mean some good data collection and understanding of our roads, but I think we are well on the way to doing that already within some of our contracts."

Any changes will not happen overnight and ratepayers will need to be consulted on any proposed changes, but submissions to the draft 2009-2019 LTCCP highlighted the need to do something, he said.

Meanwhile, several contracts have been let for pavement rehabilitation. Central Western Roothing Ltd was awarded the contracts for the rehabilitation of a 1.14km section of Hundred Line Road East and a 1.2km section of Clifden Blackmount Road, Wilson Contractors Ltd was awarded the contract for a 2.08km section of Gorge Road Invercargill Highway and the Roothing Company Ltd was awarded the contracts for a 960m section of Plains Station Road and a 1.2km section of Terrace Road.



USEFUL FEEDBACK

A building control customer survey sent out this year has given Council some useful feedback on its service.

The survey overall showed good results, with 71% satisfied with the overall building control service and 81% satisfied with staff performance. The survey was last conducted in 2007 and results were similar, but there was an increase in satisfaction with timeframes to process an application (up to 71% from 65%). Respondents were least satisfied with the processing costs (45%).

Respondents made some positive comments about staff friendliness and helpfulness and the information provided. Respondents also commented that they would like to see improvements in consistency (of interpreting regulations and rules), staff contact (especially by phone) and communication throughout the process, which Council has taken on board. Specific issues that have been identified in respondents' comments have been followed up.

A number of respondents said they are still waiting for final inspection on their building work after a long period of time.

Building control manager Kevin O'Connor said Council may not have received the appropriate documentation to advise it people are ready for a final inspection in some cases. However, the department will be working on improving timeliness of final inspections where documentation has been received.

Chief executive David Adamson said the results and comments people have made have been very useful.

"It is often believed that surveys are just sent out for reporting purposes and responses ignored which leads people to throw out the survey they receive in the mail. This is not the case. A survey is an opportunity to see where improvements can be made and Council goes through customer feedback and follows up particular issues that are highlighted."

1908 questionnaires were sent out by post to a random sample of those that made an application with the building department in 2008, with 380 returned, giving a margin of error of +/-5%. There was a prize draw for survey respondents and this was won by Joanne Crack, of Mokotua.

FARM BUILDING CODE REMOVED

The Southland District Council will be joining its neighbouring councils in requiring specific design for farm buildings in the near future after a new loadings standard was introduced recently.

The new standard, AS/NZS 1170, replaces the old NZS 1900 Chapter 11.2 Farm Building Code which was removed from B1 "Structure" of the Building Code in December 2008.

Numerous issues warranted the change as the standard was very old and no longer met Department of Building and Housing (DBH) requirements for being retained in the compliance documents.

The new loadings standard is able to specifically address farm building design and there are already many farm building designs available from prefabricators and kitset farm building suppliers.

The DBH advised that it would be interested in getting feedback about whether a new standard to replace the former NZS 1900 Chapter 11.2 for farm buildings would be useful to the industry.

This notice is intended to advise of the changes affecting the building industry and to let people know that there will be further notification prior to any implementation in the New Year.

A WORLD

of *Difference*

Climate Change



WATER SUBSIDY SCHEME ON HOLD

Southland District Council Mayor Frana Cardno is urging the Government to make a decision on the drinking water subsidy scheme and make it soon.

The Government announced last month it was putting the subsidy scheme on hold again to enable a review aimed at ensuring best use of the money in the scheme.

The scheme aims to improve drinking water supplies in small communities of fewer than 5000 people.

"This delay is definitely an issue for Council as it causes problems for our programmed work," Mrs Cardno said.

However, the bigger concern is that if the Government changes the rules, like it did with the sewerage subsidy, some of Southland's communities will miss out on funding.

"That really worries me, particularly as any changes will disadvantage communities that may not be in the high deprivation areas, but are certainly suffering at this time," she said.

The drinking water subsidy scheme originally had \$117.8 million in funding for 10 years from 1 July 2006.

About \$30 million of that had already been given out and applications for a

further \$27.5 million in subsidies have been received for the current round.

Included in that are applications from Southland District Council.

The townships that have currently been approved for Stage 1 subsidy upgrades are:

| STAGE 1 SUBSIDY UPGRADES | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Edendale | Wyndham | Riverton |
| Tuatapere | Ohai-Nightcaps-Wairio | Lumsden-Balfour |

Most of these townships will be two stage applications and Council are concerned that the second stage may not get approved if the Ministry change the criteria to qualify for subsidy monies.

The cost of improvements which would be applied for in the second stage applications range from \$100,000 to \$600,000 for each of these communities.

Other townships that would be affected by changes to the subsidy rules are:

| STAGE 2 SUBSIDY UPGRADES | | |
|--------------------------|----------|---------|
| Otautau | Winton | Te Anau |
| Manapouri | Mossburn | |

The cost of improvements for these townships would be in the range of \$250,000 to \$1,000,000. These applications are in the initial stages of being compiled except for Otautau, which was to be lodged this month.

The Government is saying the review should be completed early next year and the programme is then expected to reopen with new criteria.



Lake Te Anau

SOUTHLAND HOMES BEING ASSESSED

380 assessments of homes throughout Southland were carried out by the Warm Homes Trust during July and August 2009, and 205 installations of insulation and clean hit retrofits were made.

Of that, 71 assessments were carried out in the Southland District and 60 installations.


Southland District Council Warm Homes Trust representative Peter Thompson said it was pleasing to see the number of homes being retrofitted with insulation and/or energy efficient heating devices.

The Trust is also administering the Government's "Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart" programme. The Government programme provides funding to homeowners wishing to undertake insulation and clean heat retrofits through accredited service providers.

This is part of the Government's Budget announcement that it will spend \$323 million over four years to retrofit 180,000 homes with insulation and clean-heating devices.

Better insulation means our homes are warmer, cosier, and easier to heat. Warmer, drier homes bring health benefits, especially for those with respiratory illness or other conditions derived from living in cold damp houses.

The Warm Homes project team can be contacted on 0800 WARM SOUTH (0800 927676) to arrange assessments and installations if required. Through the various funding sources obtained by the Trust there are additional subsidies available for most people who apply.




To make recycling as convenient as possible, many of the Council's community recycling facilities are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Recycling Centre Opening Hours

- 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



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.

COMMUNITY ASPIRATIONS

There always seems to be plenty happening in the Te Anau Ward and I am so pleased we are starting to see some more evidence of the community's aspirations.



Cr Diane Ridley

We have just had the opening of the first hangar at the Te Anau Airport – Manapouri and congratulations to all those involved.

I know there is another hangar proposed to go alongside this one and I wish all those who have believed in this project and had the vision to look ahead the very best.

The Fiordland Health Trust has had many Trustees over the past 10 or more years and I know they will all be pleased to see the start of the new health centre.

By the time this goes to print, we will be underway and I wish to acknowledge all those people who have been involved in the long journey to get there. I have worked in the present building for all but a few months of its life and I know that the

new facility has been planned to enable us to provide functional space, with privacy, light, warmth and better flow for dealing with emergencies.

Destination Fiordland recently hosted its annual Tourism Awards and dinner, with Tim Cossar, the Chief Executive of TIANZ (Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand), the guest speaker. While tourism, like many industries, is going through a rough time during this global recession, there are always success stories. Congratulations to all the award winners.

Our local building inspectors tell me they still have plenty of work ahead of them, with continued applications for new dwellings and garages.

NEW HANGAR AND BRANDING FOR AIRPORT

The first hangar at the new Te Anau Airport – Manapouri was opened recently, with about 100 people attending.

The hangar is to be leased by Fiordland Aero Maintenance.

MGJV co-owner Richard McBride said the opening went very well, with lots of positive feedback about the hangar from operators and contractors.



"We are looking forward to starting the next one and are as excited as ever about being involved with the airport and investing in Fiordland," Mr McBride said.

Southland District Council group manager services and assets and airport chief executive Cameron McIntosh said Council congratulates MGJV on the new hangar and wishes it well with its plans for the next one.

Meanwhile a new logo has been created for the airport by Invercargill graphic artist Kath Andrews. The logo will help market the airport and create a brand.

Outward Bound

There are two scholarships in this category – one for 18 to 26 years and one for 27 years and over

Scholarships are available to Southlanders living or owning property within the Southland District Council area

Phone Bronwyn 03 211 1426

Application forms and guidelines are available from all Council Offices

OUTWAHU BOUND

ALL APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND AN INTERVIEW ON 21 JANUARY 2010.

COUNCIL MATTERS

Council was pleased to host local government minister Rodney Hide on his visit to the south recently. Mayor Frana Cardno thanked Mr Hide for taking the time out of his busy schedule to talk to a rural authority and gain some knowledge about it operates.

Items discussed included a description of Southland District, its community board structure and delegations, council issues such as roading, its commitment to community development and a look at what southern councils are already working together on.

"The discussion was open and frank and Mr Hide seemed to identify with some of our issues and was particularly enthused about our community board structure. I hope it is the start of ongoing regular contact with our Minister."

Prime Minister John Key spent a productive half-hour with Southland District Councillors and chief executive David Adamson recently.

Mr Adamson said the Council group spoke to Mr Key about several different matters, including an



Southland District Mayor Frana Cardno and Local Government Minister Rodney Hide share a laugh after a meeting at Council.

overview of the Southland District, shared services, tourism and the economy. "We didn't have a long time with him, but it certainly was productive as we were able to discuss some issues that have concerned Council," he said. "The Prime Minister was receptive and was aware of some of the matters."

RATES REBATE SCHEME REMINDER

Southland District Council wants to remind Southland ratepayers that some of them may be eligible for a rates rebate for the 2009-2010 year.

Council finance and customer service group manager Phil Culling said low income earners paying rates for their home could be eligible for up to \$550 off their rates.

Mr Culling urges people who think they could be eligible to talk to Council rates staff to find out about the scheme.

"The rebate is calculated on the person's income, rates and number of dependants, with the income eligibility \$21,910.

"However, if you earn more than that, you still may be entitled to a rebate, depending on the total cost of your rates and the number of dependants you have," Mr Culling said.

Those applying must be living in the home they are paying rates for as of 1 July 2009 so they must be the legal ratepayer.

The Government-funded rebate scheme is not available to those whose property is a farm or is used principally for commercial, industrial or business purposes or is a rental.

Application forms are available from Council Offices or can be downloaded from www.ratesrebates.govt.nz

Applications are through Council.

TREATMENT PLANT WORKING

It's all go with the Edendale-Wyndham joint sewerage scheme, with the treatment plant working and connections beginning to be made.

Council project engineer Bevan McKenzie said it will take about six months to connect all Edendale homes to the scheme.

About half the pipework is laid in Wyndham and all houses should be connected to the scheme by September 2010.

Council has been laying water reticulation pipes at the same time as the sewerage pipes and is now seeking prices for the water supply treatment plant, which should be completed by the end of March.



Our Southlanders...

JIM DIXON

It's early morning at Mores Reserve and the birds are singing – the chorus of tui, bellbird, fantails and pigeons resonates through the bush.

No one thinks much of that but it's only a few years ago the beautiful birdsong was at risk of not being heard in the seaside area.

Thanks to the foresight, resolve and hard work of firstly a group of three men – Warrick McCallum, Jim Dixon and Alan Broomfield – and then the group they established – the Aparima Pestbusters – the music is there alongside the regenerating bush.

Jim is the only one of the original three left, but is a man of quiet determination, spirit and enthusiasm, and will never let the flame go out.

"We enjoyed doing it so much, we felt really young.

"The work gave us a real high. We'd have lunch and the next minute we were gone again. We'd stand up there, look around, plant a tree and pull out some weeds. It was great fun... if one of us landed on all fours... that's two points ... four points..." Jim recalls.

Formed in 2002, the Aparima Pestbusters is a voluntary community group with the aim to ensure the "Return of the Birds."

Australian magpies were bombarding the Riverton area and the native bird rate was diminishing rapidly, Warrick thought enough was enough and got together with his two mates.

The trio sourced some traps and began their quest. Little did they know that their efforts and determination would eventually lead to the near complete eradication





He had caught 40 magpies in a week, Jim, who has caught 8739 magpies himself, said.

These honourable results make it that much more possible for a place of sanctuary, not only for birds, but for people too. Jim admits a special spot in his heart for the wee birds, the rifleman and the brown creeper, and loves nothing more than being able to go up to the reserve's observation points and look out at all the trees.

There are a few knockbacks, like plants being ripped out. "But all and all it's great to see the results," he said.

One result has been the strengthening of community spirit. Riverton people have brought into the concept, with noticeable cut out Tui signs designed to encourage bird feeding visible on many homes.

Community friendships have been created, bound together by a common conservational passion.

of pest plants and pest animals in Mores Reserve.

It's "something that clicked with us and we always enjoyed doing it," Jim says.

"The birds had just disappeared, but now the regeneration is amazing".

The bird song is getting pretty loud again.

As the years have gone by, more and more people have signed up to the group, which has won several environmental awards for its pro-active work.

Jim epitomises that pro-activeness, that Kiwi get up and go attitude. Every day, he can be seen toiling away at the reserve, checking on bait traps or planting a tree, and when he isn't at the reserve, he's more than likely making a trap.

And his trap building is legendary.

His nephew, who lives in Timaru, teaches his woodworking pupils how to make traps and "everyone in the area is getting interested", Jim said.

A chance encounter on a trip to Doubtful Sound also spread the word.

"I got talking to a man from north Canterbury who was mainly interested in magpies... I sent him a plan on how to build a cage and a year later he rang me up and said 'I've finally retired and made a trap.'"

New developments are always being talked about, with a plan being discussed with the Department of Conservation for the release of robins into the reserve.

What started for "comradeship, physical exercise and the end result", never ended there, Jim says.

Friendships continue to grow, birdsong now welcomes the arrival of each new day, and most importantly a seed has been planted for the future.



'Last of the summer wine' Warrick McCallum, Jim Dixon and Alan Broomfield



Environmental Health



DISEASES IN SPRINGTIME

In Southland, during springtime, there is a marked increase in some diseases which people can catch from animals, in particular the common diseases of campylobacter and salmonella.

This is caused to some degree by increased human contact with animals during lambing and calving. Symptoms of these two diseases include abdominal pain, diarrhoea, headache, fever and sometimes vomiting.

To become infected with one of these diseases a person basically has to swallow the micro-organism that causes it. This can be done in a variety of ways (for example, by drinking contaminated water), but in the context of lambing and calving, transmission is by hand-to-mouth or hand-to-food contact after handling infected animals or aborted material.

The most important thing you can do to prevent catching one of these diseases is to thoroughly wash your hands after handling animals or aborted material.

Avoid hand-to-mouth (for instance, through smoking or wiping your face) and hand-to-food contact during lambing and calving activities - unless your hands have been thoroughly washed first.

Also avoid taking contaminated clothing into the house. Overalls and gumboots should be left outside.

Listeria is an extremely serious disease for pregnant women and newborn babies.

One way of becoming infected with this disease is as described above, so it is best that pregnant women and new mothers do not get involved with lambing or calving activities. They should especially avoid any contact with aborted animal fetuses and sick or dead animals.

If you need any further information, please contact an Environmental Health Officer.

SELLING FARM PRODUCE AND RECREATIONALLY CAUGHT FOOD

Roadside stalls

There is no need for any licensing to sell any of the following at a roadside stall where they are produced on or adjacent to the land where the stall is:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Eggs

Any signs will need to comply with the District Plan in terms of size and clarity, and the stall itself must not exceed a size limit of 12m² nor be located on the road reserve.

Homekill and recreational catch

The Animal Products Act 1999 specifies that homekill and recreationally caught food, such as fish and game, must not be sold.

Although you can catch and eat your own wild food, you cannot sell it or trade it for profit because it has not been through an inspection system to ensure it is fit for human consumption. You eat recreationally caught food at your own risk.

You can share your wild game meat with family, friends or visitors as long as you don't exchange it for money or other goods or services. A restaurant can cook your meat, but again only for you and your immediate party. However, because no assurances can be given about whether the meat is fit to eat, you cannot donate, raffle, trade or sell wild game or game birds.

For example, you can't:

- give meat to your local school to raffle
- donate meat to a food bank
- sell the meat at a farmers' market.

For more information look up the following webpage www.nzfsa.govt.nz/consumers/hunting-collecting-fishing

creative communities NZ
Southland District

Art Scholarships

Open to all forms of art studies

Scholarships are available to Southlanders living or owning property within the Southland District Council area

Phone Bronwyn 03 211 1426

Application forms and guidelines are available from all Council Offices

APPLICATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER 2009



Roll on the 1950s

Momentum is building for an unforgettable Rural Heritage Day on 21 November at Invercargill's Donovan Park.

From the moment Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip open the event as part of their 1954 visit, participants and visitors will step back in time to the way we were in Southland during that decade.

All the old favourites will be in action - horses working alongside vintage tractors; children enjoying close encounters with farmyard animals and traditional trades and technologies bringing colour, noise and action to the day.

But there's so much more...

Rural Heritage Day caters for the whole family - with the emphasis on participation - have-a-go decorating sand saucers (for the very young) or butter-making (if you are a bit older).

Wear a 1950s outfit and be in to win great prizes. Enjoy 1950s yarns and quizzes in the Memory Lane marquee. Take part in the Elvis sound-alike and Marilyn look-alike competitions.

If you'd rather be entertained, then the main stage offers non-stop variety of music, dance and drama, 1950s style.

Illustrated story writing competition

Rural Heritage Day special guest Gavin Bishop, author of Piano Rock, will judge and present prizes for this year's children's story competition about 'The Way We Were in the 1950s'. Free starter kits and entry forms are available from Children's Services at the Invercargill Public Library or in digital format by e-mailing phil.becs@xtra.co.nz

A big thank you -

It would be impossible to organise an affordable family event on the scale of Rural Heritage Day without generous support from many community organisations and businesses - including the Southland District Council - thank you!

RURAL HERITAGE DAY
The Way We Were in the 1950s
 10am - 4pm Saturday 21 November 2009
 Donovan Park, Invercargill

Photo by the late Charles Smith
 Southland Photographic Society Archives

A family event to celebrate Southland's living history

ADULTS \$10
 Accompanied children under 16yrs FREE

Organised by The Southland Rural Heritage Trust www.ruratheritesouthland.co.nz

FLAX MILL OPEN DAY

The Templeton Flax Mill Heritage Museum is holding a demonstration on Sunday, October 25, during Labour weekend.

The flax mill, located near Riverton, was restored several years ago and is the only working historic flax mill left in New Zealand.

Former flax miller and Templeton Heritage Flax Mill Trust chairman Desmond Templeton restored the mill after it closed in 1972. The mill's machinery, along with restored machinery from another mill, is now in full working order and also serves as a heritage museum, telling the story of the industry.

The flax mill industry had as many as 44 flax mills in Southland at one stage, but during the 1970s synthetics took over and they all closed. Interest in flax fibre has picked up in recent years and in 2008, scientists built a surfboard using the native flax leaf (harakeke) as a fibreglass replacement, hoping to work towards a bio-based economy using natural, renewable resources.



Des Templeton during a demonstration.

The demonstration starts at 2pm and a donation of \$10 per car is requested.

There will also be the chance to buy flax fibre, at \$10 per kilo, and DVDs and books about the industry and processes.



REACHING THE TOP



Southland District Council has installed a mechanical lift at the Riverton Focal Point.

Council area manager Peter Thompson said the lift enables people in wheelchairs to reach the top platform on the focal point.

Council had received complaints about people in wheelchairs not being able to access the top platform on the focal point since it opened two years ago.

"Council has learnt some valuable lessons from this and we are working hard to ensure the issue does not happen again."

Dorothy Willis tries out the lift at the Riverton Focal Point.

PIRATE SHIP LAUNCHED

A crowd of over 100 turned up to the official opening of the new Riverton 'Pirate Ship', located at the Taramea Playground.

The Riverton Board wanted to install new playground equipment at the site that had the 'WOW' factor. After some board members found a 'Pirate Ship' structure on the internet, contact was made with the builders and design and costs were approved. It was officially opened on 12 September by Mayor Frana Cardno, the area also includes 5 carved logs, including a whale, a fish and a gull's head.



HELPING HAND FOR SOUTH CATLINS

Curio Bay's environment, wildlife and community are all getting a helping hand thanks to the projects and initiatives of the South Catlins Development and Environment Charitable Trust.

The trust began in 2002 when "locals and people with an environmental passion volunteered" their resources, project co-ordinator Juanita Thornton said.

Its aim is to "protect and create an environment that is preserved for the future" and the trust is now working on eight different projects, the final stage being the construction of a Natural Heritage Centre.

The centre will help protect the environment as well as enhance visitors' experiences to the area. Although the centre is the largest of the projects, "each step is a success in itself", Ms Thornton said.

The trust, with support from the Community Trust of Southland, recently bought a 15-hectare forest block near the yellow eyed and blue penguins. We are hoping to "facilitate this land into public ownership, redevelop the bush and create walkways which can be used as an educational tool".

The land will also protect and enhance the penguins' habitat, Ms Thornton said. Projects are moving along steadily.

The trust is also working with a landscape architect to upgrade the Curio Bay Holiday park, is realigning the road, which will make the entrance safer for wildlife, and the completion of the water treatment and sewerage system is in the approval stages.

"It's all but there", Ms Thornton said. "By having logical steps, we can tick each off" and work towards great results, she said.

The trust believes it is important to keep the community informed and makes it a point to provide consistent feedback. "It's hard to see what's going on from an outsider's view", Ms Thornton said.

Therefore, people who donate money and/or volunteer their time become a "Friend of Curio Bay" and subsequently part of a database, receiving updates regularly. A bimonthly newsletter is also sent out to the community, Ms Thornton said.



With help from the Ministry of Social Development, the trust has been able to fund Ms Thornton, who says co-ordinating this project is great, with "really good end results" and that "feel-good factor."

MILFORD COMMUNITY TRUSTEES APPOINTED

The Milford Community Trust recently appointed two new trustees, Paul Phelan and Andrew Welsh, both of whom are Milford residents.



The Milford Community Trust, established in 2007, aims to provide leadership and governance for the Milford community and comprises of seven trustees, who need to possess business knowledge, leadership attributes, and interest and involvement in the Milford community.

The newly appointed trustees successfully met requirements and bring to the community many years of combined experience and skill.

Mr Phelan (left), branch manager for Real Journeys, has more than 30 years of experience in the hospitality and tourism industry and a long connection with Milford Sound and the Fiordland area, having resided in the area since 1983.



Mr Welsh (above) a fourth generation Southlander, is currently Operations Manager for the Milford Sound Development Authority (MDA) and has had extensive experience in both emergency service sectors and asset management. He has also been appointed recently as controller for the Milford Sound Emergency Response Team (ERT).



DRIVER DISTRACTION DANGEROUS

Road Safety Southland community advisor Jane Ballantyne stresses the potential harm associated with driver inattention and welcomes the new 'Road User Rule' which will prohibit the use of handheld mobile phones while driving.

Driver inattention is the leading factor in most crashes and here in Southland, "driver distraction is a serious road safety issue, especially at intersections where full concentration is needed", Ms Ballantyne said.

A report by the American National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says nearly 80 percent of all crashes and 65 percent of all near crashes result from some form of driver distraction, cell-phone use and drowsiness being the primary causes. "Even scenery can take your attention away. When you're behind

the wheel, you need to focus on the task at hand in order to keep control of your vehicle", Ms Ballantyne said.

2008 saw Southland road fatalities hit a five year high, with 12 deaths and 89 seriously injured, according to New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) road crash figures.

The 'Road User Rule' change, which comes into effect on November 1, includes all motorcyclists, moped and scooter riders, and cyclists. The use of hand-free mobile phones and CB radios will still be permitted, as will

handheld phones in the case of emergency 111 calls.

Ms Ballantyne said drivers can reduce distractions in many ways, including turning cellphones off, taking regular breaks, asking passengers to be quiet if you're having difficulty concentrating, and making sure your car's windscreens and mirrors are clean. Drivers should also adjust all of the controls (radio/stereo) before starting the drive.

"Driving safely means paying attention to driving", she said.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

More than 200 people have attended the recent community meetings on the proposed Around the Mountain cycle trail.

Venture Southland community development group manager Rex Capil said he was really pleased with the large turnout at community meetings in Mossburn, Lumsden, Athol and Kingston held in the last week of September. "The feedback from people has been really positive and the community is right behind this project."

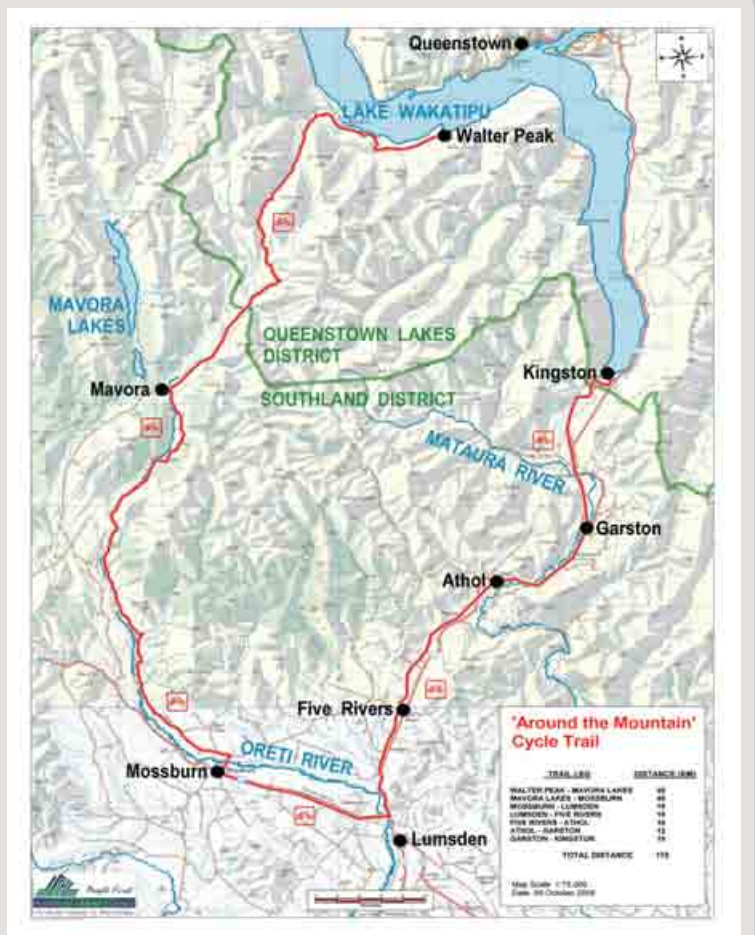
Mr Capil, who is driving the project, said he and Southland Mayor Frana Cardno also had a meeting in Wellington with Ministry of Tourism officials and that was also positive.

An engineering feasibility and construction cost study on the trail, which includes the possible route for the trail, has been completed by MWH. This study is funded by the Ministry of Tourism.

"Venture Southland, the Southland District Council, Environment Southland, Invercargill City Council and Queenstown Lakes District Council are at present working with the Ministry of Tourism on the development of this trail. The councils and Venture are also looking at a partnering trail from Lumsden to Bluff," Mr Capil said.

"We are looking at ways that individuals and the community can help with the development of the trail, including employment opportunities and research into local historical sites," Mr Capil said.

"Sections of the proposed trail are already popular cycle tours, with about 1000 international visitors a year cycling from Walter Peak to Mavora Lakes and onwards. We are also aware that a number of cycle tourists ride from Kingston through to Te Anau or the Catlins.



Map of the proposed cycle trail

A final decision on the trail will be made once the Ministry of Tourism and the local authorities have finished investigating fully the merits and viability of it.



SOUTHERN RURAL FIRE

NEW FIRE STATION

The new Drummond Volunteer Rural Fire Force fire station was opened on 1 October by Cr Brian Drummond.

Principal rural fire officer Mike Grant said the Drummond rural fire force was formed in 1996 as a specialised forest and rural fire team by a local forest company. It was equipped with a purpose built fire trailer, which has lived in many different locations around Drummond over the years until the construction of this building.

In 2003, Drummond came under the control of the Southern Rural Fire Authority and it now has its own home as well as a 4x4 response vehicle.

The cost of building the new fire station at Drummond was paid for by the Southern Rural Fire Authority, with members of the Drummond VRRFF assisting with labour during the construction of the building.

Other stations being built or rebuilt are the extended Waikawa fire station due in the near future and another new fire station at Blackmount over the next few months.



CAUTION URGED BY RURAL FIRE AUTHORITY

People planning to burn rubbish need to take extra care at this time of the year, Southern Rural Fire Authority principal rural fire officer Mike Grant said.

Rural fire staff and volunteers have attended several fires around Southland in the past month that have got out of control because people have lit fires without planning for the seasonal winds.

“We have attended fires at Pukerau, Wreys Bush, Ohai, Garston, Otapiri and Orepuki that were all due to burning when it is windy or not being aware of predicted windy conditions,” Mr Grant said.

Most fires are preventable and people must take notice of the weather conditions and the dryness of vegetation before they light fires.

“The next two to three months are generally the time when we see most of our out-of-control fires in the region and it all coincides with the seasonal winds,” he said.

“It all comes down to poor planning and people should be embarrassed about lighting fires in the winds we have been having.”

Mr Grant advises people to keep a close eye on the weather and ensure that there is three to four days of ideal weather after they have their burn-off.

“Burn-offs are an element of farm management that must be very carefully managed and planned for, just like many other aspects of regular farm maintenance.”

If there is large material, like tree stumps, to burn, it might be better to wait until early autumn when the weather is more stable. Some of the bigger fires in New Zealand have been caused by smouldering fires reigniting weeks after they were lit.



“It is essential to not leave fires to smoulder. You should extinguish them before you leave,” Mr Grant said.

For more information or to obtain a fire permit, contact the Southern Rural Fire Authority on 0800 732 732. Please allow up to five working days for permit applications to be processed.

Southern Rural Fire Authority 0800 732 732

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT LIBRARIES - THE BIG READ



Several Southland District libraries were actively involved with the national Big Read, held throughout New Zealand libraries and schools at 10.30am on Wednesday, 12 August. The picture book chosen for the Big Read this year was 'Itiiti's Gift' written by Melanie Drewery.

Guest readers from around the Southland community were invited to participate, with Ray Willett, a well-recognised member of the Te Anau community, reading at Te Anau;

Carole Power, new manager of Te Hiko, reading at Riverton Library and Boggy McDowell, well-known Southland personality and Classic Hits radio announcer, accompanied by his fine-feathered friend, Bertie Budgie, reading at Winton Library.

Other readings done around the district on different days during Library Week included Alison Beaumont in the Lumsden Library, librarian Jill McBride, who read to the Mossburn children at Mossburn School and librarian Jenny Marshall at the Otautau library.

Winton Library played host to 210 junior children from the following schools: Isla Bank, Limehills, Lochiel, Winton Primary, St Thomas' Winton and Central Southland Rural Primary.

An additional activity incorporated into the theme of the story was a musical interlude by 3 young singers from Balfour - Meghan Stokes, Tegan and Joel Lee who all captivated their audience with their beautiful singing. Meghan then went on to sing 'The Rainbow Song', ably supported by the children, who were invited to join in.

Children from local schools around the district were invited to participate in the event and it was most heartening to see so many schools and their teachers being actively supportive. Without this, these events would not achieve the level of success that they do.

Library Week is organized and supported by LIANZA, Library and Information Association New Zealand Aotearoa, the professional organization for the New Zealand library and information services sector.

SHREK IS COMING TO TOWN...
 Meet SHREK at the Winton Library...
 and hear John Perriam share his remarkable story.

Thursday 12 November, 12 noon - Winton Library, Weymss Street



Mobile Library Timetable

October 2009 - 8 February 2010



| * denotes a public holiday | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| ATHOL | Shop | 1:00 - 3:00 | Mon | * | 23 Nov | 21 Dec | 1 Feb |
| BALFOUR | Tavern | 9:30 - noon | Tues | 13 Oct | 10 Nov | 8 Dec | 19 Jan |
| | | 6:00 - 8:00 | Tues | 27 Oct | 24 Nov | 22 Dec | 2 Feb |
| BLACKMOUNT | School | 11:00 - 12:00 | Mon | 12 Oct | 9 Nov | 7 Dec | 18 Jan |
| COLAC BAY | Foreshore | 12:30 - 2:00 | Thurs | 29 Oct | 26 Nov | * | 4 Feb |
| DACRE | School | 11:00 - 12:30 | Fri | 30 Oct | 27 Nov | * | 5 Feb |
| DRUMMOND | Tavern | 3:30 - 5:00 | Thurs | 22 Oct | 19 Nov | 17 Dec | 28 Jan |
| EDENDALE | Car Park | 2:00 - 4:30 | Fri | 30 Oct | 27 Nov | * | 5 Feb |
| | | 2:00 - 4:30 | Fri | 16 Oct | 13 Nov | 11 Dec | 22 Jan |
| FELDWICK | Hall | 9:30 -10:30 | Mon | 12 Oct | 9 Nov | 7 Dec | 18 Jan |
| FIVE RIVERS | Hall | 3:30 - 5:00 | Mon | * | 23 Nov | 21 Dec | 1 Feb |
| FORTROSE | Picnic Area | 2:30 - 4:00 | Thurs | 8 Oct | 5 Nov | 3 Dec | 14 Jan |
| GARSTON | Main Street | 10:30 -11:30 | Mon | * | 23 Nov | 21 Dec | 1 Feb |
| GLENHAM | Hall | 11:30 - 1:00 | Thurs | 8 Oct | 5 Nov | 3 Dec | 14 Jan |
| GORGE RD | Hall | 9:00 -11:30 | Tues | 6 Oct | 3 Nov | 1 Dec | 12 Jan |
| HAUROKO VALLEY | School | 1:30 - 4:00 | Mon | 12 Oct | 9 Nov | 7 Dec | 18 Jan |
| HEDGEHOPE | Hall | 10:00 -11:30 | Fri | 23 Oct | 20 Nov | 18 Dec | 29 Jan |
| LONGBUSH | Kindergarten | 9:00 - 10:00 | Fri | 16 Oct | 13 Nov | 11 Dec | 22 Jan |
| MOKORETA | School/Hall | 9:30 - 10:30 | Thurs | 8 Oct | 5 Nov | 3 Dec | 14 Jan |
| MOSSBURN | RSA | 2:00 - 4:30 | Tues | 27 Oct | 24 Nov | 22 Dec | 2 Feb |
| | | 2:00 - 4:30 | Tues | 13 Oct | 10 Nov | 8 Dec | 19 Jan |
| OREPUKI | Main St | 2.30 - 4.00 | Thurs | 29 Oct | 26 Nov | * | 4 Feb |
| OTARA | Hall | 2:00 - 4:00 | Wed | 7 Oct | 4 Nov | 2 Dec | 13 Jan |
| PUKERAU | School | 9:30 - 11:30 | Wed | 14 Oct | 11 Nov | 9 Dec | 20 Jan |
| RIMU | School | 9:00 - 10:00 | Fri | 30 Oct | 27 Nov | * | 5 Feb |
| RIVERSDALE | Hall | 11:00 - 1:30 | Wed | 28 Oct | 25 Nov | 23 Dec | 3 Feb |
| | | 2:00 - 5:00 | Thurs | 15 Oct | 12 Nov | 10 Dec | 21 Jan |
| ROSLYN BUSH | Playcentre | 1:00 - 2:00 | Fri | 23 Oct | 20 Nov | 18 Dec | 29 Jan |
| RYAL BUSH | Monument | 2:30 - 4:00 | Fri | 23 Oct | 20 Nov | 18 Dec | 29 Jan |
| TE TIPUA | School | 11:00 - 12:30 | Fri | 16 Oct | 13 Nov | 11 Dec | 22 Jan |
| THORNBURY | Shop | 9:30 - 11:00 | Thurs | 29 Oct | 26 Nov | * | 4 Feb |
| TOKANUI | Main St | 10:00 - noon | Wed | 21 Oct | 18 Nov | 16 Dec | 27 Jan |
| | | 1:30 - 4:00 | Fri | 9 Oct | 6 Nov | 4 Dec | 15 Jan |
| WAIANIWA | Hall | 1:30 - 3:00 | Thurs | 22 Oct | 19 Nov | 17 Dec | 28 Jan |
| WAIKAIA | Hall | 3:00 - 5:00 | Wed | 28 Oct | 25 Nov | 23 Dec | 3 Feb |
| | | 11:00 - 12:30 | Thurs | 15 Oct | 12 Nov | 10 Dec | 21 Jan |
| WAIKAKA | Main St | 2:00 - 4:00 | Wed | 14 Oct | 11 Nov | 9 Dec | 20 Jan |
| WAIKAWA | Hall | 10:00 - noon | Fri | 9 Oct | 6 Nov | 4 Dec | 15 Jan |
| WAIMAHAKA | Hall | 10:00 - noon | Wed | 7 Oct | 4 Nov | 2 Dec | 13 Jan |
| WALLACETOWN | Com Centre | 9:00 - noon | Thurs | 22 Oct | 19 Nov | 17 Dec | 28 Jan |
| WENDON | Hall | 9:00 - 10:30 | Wed | 28 Oct | 25 Nov | 23 Dec | 3 Feb |
| WENDONSIDE | Hall | 9:30 - 10:30 | Thurs | 15 Oct | 12 Nov | 10 Dec | 21 Jan |
| WILLOWBANK | School | 12:30 - 1:30 | Wed | 14 Oct | 11 Nov | 9 Dec | 20 Jan |
| WOODLANDS | Shop | 2:00 - 4:00 | Tues | 6 Oct | 3 Nov | 1 Dec | 12 Jan |
| | | 2:00 - 4:00 | Wed | 21 Oct | 18 Nov | 16 Dec | 27 Jan |

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



Southland Spirit of a Nation co-ordinator Gerry Forde is out rousing spirits in our schools, pumping out the positives in the media, entertaining at community events, promoting new Southland merchandise and motivating businesses.

“Our Southland spirit is the key to community, schooling and business – tap into that motivation and anything can happen – I see it every day!” Mr Forde said.

Recently he spent the day at Garston School with principal Kathryn O’Loughlin looking at school projects, from scrub land turned into a native roadside reserve, a new playground, eco-hut and a friendship garden.

“The staff have even revived the outdoor ice skating rink – how cool is it that the kids get to go skating together creating lifetime memories.”

Later that evening Mr Forde helped with the Quirky Quiz night that brought the whole community together round items from the senior students including singing, musical instruments and skits.

Southland Spirit of a Nation runs a student leadership programme at the primary level with over 80 students gathering at the Velodrome for a motivational session in

April that is now bearing fruit.

The leaders at Lumsden School, William Humphries and Sophie Sangster, distribute weekly certificates for students who demonstrate the Southland Spirit of pride, teamwork and giving a helping hand. They posted on the Spirit Representatives Google Group that they had also presented the Anzac Day wreath on behalf of the school.

At every brand presentation, two banners are displayed to highlight images of the Southland spirit and the top ten business supporters – Fonterra (major sponsor), Phoenix Services, Cunningham Construction/Signature Homes, Deep South Ice Cream, EH Ball ITM, Quantum Print, Arrow International, Fulton Hogan, AWS Legal and H&J Smith. Part of the key brand message is “support local business.”

“Spending at a local business is like donating to a worthy cause that keeps everyone employed including the original spender,” Mr Forde said. Rather than let

fear put work on hold, he encouraged everyone to keep developing.

An attractive range of Southland merchandise is now available from Quantum Print in Invercargill and from H&J Smith’s stores at Invercargill, Gore and Te Anau. Southland tees make for excellent Christmas gifts for national and overseas posting and the Southland scenic calendar will soon be available, he said.

Southland Spirit of a Nation Key Points:

- Promotional Groups qualify for Merchandise Vouchers – ring Kathryn Cowie at Venture Southland - 03 2111 428
- Gerry Forde available as community event MC
- Businesses can identify with the campaign through sponsorship. Contact Gerry Forde, brand co-ordinator, 03 2111 421 or (021 516 393)



BUSY TIME FOR TOURISM STAFF

The Southland region attracts a range of international tourists who enjoy a variety of activities and contribute greatly to the local economy.

According to the Commercial Accommodation Monitor which tracks bed nights in commercial properties, 884,280 visitor nights were spent in the Southland region in 2008. 391,950 of these were domestic visitors and a further 492,330 were international. 2007 Ministry of Tourism Forecasts suggest that in total, 1.4 million visitor nights were spent in Southland with international visitors accounting for 487,900 of these and domestic travellers the remaining 914,300.

Venture Southland recognises the benefits such visitors bring to the region and have recently attended several events in an effort to entice more international visitors to Southland.

Tourism Marketing Manager, Lisa Buckingham spent the last two weeks of July in the UK and Europe on an IMA (International Marketing Alliance) trip co-ordinated by Tourism New Zealand. A total of nine IMAs and fifteen representatives attended the event. Lisa attended with Kate Rushbrook from Tourism Dunedin, the two were representing the Dunedin Southland IMA. Tourism New Zealand brought together product managers and frontline staff from a range of key wholesale travel companies. Meetings were held in London, Manchester, Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Munich. Product managers from Spain, Denmark and Ireland also travelled to London to

meet with the New Zealand delegation. Wholesalers play a key role in marketing New Zealand, producing brochures that are then sold in retail stores or online to the consumer. Venture Southland's aim is to inform product managers and frontline staff on all that Southland has to offer and encourage them to include Southland in more itineraries.

The Australian market provides Southland with the greatest number of international visitors so Tourism Marketing Co-ordinator, Kerry Smith recently spent six days in Australia on the 'Great New Zealand' Roadshow which was run by Kirra Tours, a key wholesaler in Australia. Venture Southland shared a booth with Destination Fiordland. Six cities were covered including Perth, Adelaide, Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Brisbane and each city included a two hour travel agent session and a three hour consumer session. The roadshow provided an excellent opportunity to upskill travel agents on Southland and encourage consumers to include Southland when planning their trip to New Zealand. A total of 28 operators and regional tourism offices attended the roadshow.

International visitors often rely on travel agents to book their holidays and many wholesalers utilise the services of an inbound tour operator. Venture Southland recently had a stand in Auckland at the Dunedin Southland Trade Day, an event that targets inbounders.

Tourism Marketing Manager, Lisa Buckingham; Invercargill i-SITE Manager, Kath Cook and Events & Conference Marketing Manager, Amanda Dowling all attended the Dunedin Southland Trade Day in Auckland on Wednesday 19th of August. The event targeted product managers and frontline staff from inbound tour operator companies during the day and then Professional Conference Organisers (PCOs) in the evening.

Businesses from Waitaki, Dunedin, Central Otago and Southland all attended the event. Southland stands included Venture Southland, Mohua Park Eco Cottages, Southern Aqua Adventures and Stewart Island Experience.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to promote Southland's product offerings to trade who sell to a wide range of markets. Interest in new product was high and many attendees were also looking to update their knowledge on existing product in the region.

Southland tourism operators are now preparing themselves for the summer season. There is some uncertainty how the recession will affect bookings but Venture Southland is confident the marketing efforts such as the IMA visits, roadshow and trade day will support attracting more international visitors to the region.

VENTURE SUPPORTING SOUTHLAND BUSINESSES

Venture Southland continues to provide business training for owners/operators and managers through a programme fully funded by New Zealand Trade and Enterprise.

The programme is open to owners and managers of small to medium enterprises employing fewer than 50 fulltime staff.

Upcoming training topics include:

- Understanding accounting
- Making the media work for you
- Minimising the risk of employing staff
- Lean office practices
- Food traceability
- Exit strategies from your business

After attending workshops, participants are eligible to spend up to one and a half hours with the topic expert and discuss their business. For more information or to register for our programmes, please contact Kendyl Kennedy on 0800 255 288.

The Business Mentors New Zealand programme makes available the skills and experiences of people who have proven themselves successful in business. A business mentor can help you to refocus and/or can help you with specific advice. Mentors act as coaches, not consultants and do not take the place of existing professional advisors.

To register for a mentor visit www.businessmentor.org.nz or call (03) 211 1400 for more information.

Venture Southland can also help you to access appropriate funding options for business sustainability, development and research and development programmes. There are no funds available for assisting general business start-ups.

For more information on what funding may be available for your business contact (03) 211 1400 or www.southlandnz.com



Business Mentors
New Zealand



DISASTER AWARENESS WEEK THIS MONTH

A major exhibition commemorating the 1984 floods in Southland and a supermarket survival items campaign have marked Disaster Awareness Week in Southland.

The Southland Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, together with the Invercargill City Council, Environment Southland and Southland District Council, organised activities aimed at raising awareness of Civil Defence and the need for people to be better prepared for disasters when they happen.

Southland faced the devastating effects of the 1984 floods and it is important that we as a province do not become complacent as floods, earthquakes and

other natural disasters could strike anywhere at any time.

The exhibition marked the end of the travelling roadshow on the 1984 floods which has spent time in Winton, Otautau, Tuatapere, Riverton, Te Anau, Lumsden, Wyndham and Gore.

The exhibition opened on October 10 at the Southland Museum and Art Gallery.

The exhibition will include photos from the January 1984 floods, with memorabilia and Civil Defence material, along with television footage from 1984. Come along and reminisce about the event which caused the worst flooding in Southland's recorded history and recall an event that was of great social significance for the province.

People were also asked to take the "Survival Items Shopping List" Challenge at New World supermarkets throughout Southland. Councillors and Emergency Management staff invited shoppers to buy three items off the checklist and in return they received a free recyclable shopping bag as well as a chance to enter the draw to win an Emergency Readiness Kit.

In the event of an emergency you and your family could be on your own for up to three days – are you prepared?

For more information on Disaster Awareness Week and Civil Defence Preparedness go to www.getthru.govt.nz or www.civildefence.co.nz

MY GET READY SHOPPING LIST



In a major disaster we may have to cope on our own for three days or more.

Emergency items we need for our home:

- Torches
- Portable battery powered radio
- Batteries for torch and radio
- Non-perishable food (enough for 3 days at least)
 - canned food
 - dried food
 - long-life milk
 - special dietary requirements
- Can opener (manual)
- Water storage bottles
- Plastic storage containers and plastic bags
- Emergency toilet
 - Plastic pail,
 - Toilet paper
 - large rubbish bags
- First aid kit or items to top up kit
- Essential medicines
- Wind and waterproof clothing
- Sun hats, sunscreen, insect repellent
- Strong outdoor shoes (for home and to keep at work)
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Face and dust masks
- Primus or gas barbecue
- Baby's emergency items
 - Food, formula and drink
 - Change of clothing and nappies
- Pet supplies
- Getaway bag (a bag that can hold essential items if you have to leave in a hurry – toiletries, change of clothing, important documents and photos)

Other items we may need

Find out how to get ready at www.getthru.govt.nz

CONTACT DETAILS



All Offices & Inquiries...0800 732 732

Fax 0800 732 329

District Libraries0800 732 542

Civil Defence (24HRS) ...0800 248 333

Rural Fire Permits 0800 773 363

Email sdc@southlanddc.govt.nz

Website www.southlanddc.govt.nz

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