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Southland District Council's magazine

Southland District Council is on track to deliver \$40 million of capital works projects in the 2020/2021 financial year.

Project delivery manager Nick Hamlin says SDC is aiming to complete around 140 projects in the 2020/2021 year.

“A big chunk of that is the Te Anau wastewater project and the government stimulus funding work for various three waters projects across the district. That’s a \$13 million project over two years.” (See page 24)

Refurbishing the Winton library/office is another “big chunky project” on track to be completed by Christmas this year.

He says the amount of work delivered by Council is tracking up every year. Next year the projection, depending on budgets being approved in the Long Term Plan, is to deliver 160 to 180 projects. “There’s a huge amount of work going into the planning of that at the moment.”

Council is able to deliver more projects because of internal changes to its project delivery method.

“SDC’s got its own dedicated project management team,” Nick says. “It’s something quite different for a local government organisation. It’s been running for a couple of years now very successfully.

“As we’ve moved forward we’ve changed the way we’ve done things. Because of the quantum of projects rather than the scale, we’ve looked at how we can package projects up to be more efficient.

“It’s been a massive team effort,” he says. “Our ability to deliver these projects comes down to an entire team effort from across the SDC organisation – from activity managers to communications to our community partnership leaders and our communities.



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\$40m of project delivery targeted

“There’s definitely been a lot more focus in the last few years on that up-front planning, which has enabled us to deliver more. We get the concepts, the costings, the consents sorted well before we’re actually ready to start. That’s played a major part in our ability to deliver projects, and we’ve got to keep ramping that up.”

One of the innovations this year was setting up a panel of four main contractors to deliver around \$4 million to \$5 million of three waters stimulus funding projects. Council went to market to attract tenders from contractors interested in being on the panel based

on their ability to resource and deliver the work, along with their rates, resources and local suppliers and contractors. This panel has allowed us to advance the works quickly to meet the requirement of the funding and provide critical renewals to community infrastructure.

“The system’s working incredibly well,” Nick says. “It’s quite a different delivery model.

“We’re engaging early with our market, so that our contractors and suppliers can understand what’s required.

“It’s something we’re looking to do with our 2021/2022 works programme – engaging early with the market so they can understand what work’s coming through SDC and we can see what resource is available.”

Another big piece of work not in the stimulus funding package is the Lakefront Drive watermain renewal in Te Anau. This \$1.5 million project is under way now.

Te Anau wastewater project is “progressing pretty well and tracking to the budgets set” despite some universal issues with delays in international supply of materials and products, due to Covid constraints.

A contract has just been let, too, for a \$600,000 footpath replacement programme throughout the district.

When you're toiling over a jigsaw puzzle it's pretty darn satisfying when the pieces click together.

It's a process that takes focus and patience – which feels like an apt comparison for our Southland district at this unique point in time.

It's undeniable that the Covid pandemic has impacted us all, to varying degrees. As we strive to recover, the reality is the overall effect remains unknown, particularly from a social perspective. We've got businesses mothballing or shutting the doors completely and that's incredibly tough for all of us to witness.

I disagree with the word “pivoting”, which central government has become fond of using. As we've heard from our ratepayers here in the south, it's very hard to pivot when you don't have anything to pivot to. And if you try, then you discover a lot of challenges logistically courtesy of that viral fiend.

It's very important to focus on the opportunities we have, not what we have lost. We often refer to endless opportunities in our Council documents – we need to embrace that now more than ever.

At some stage we've got to get serious about looking forward. We can't keep meandering along and thinking everything is just going to come right. We have to pull up our sleeves and progress this for our generations coming through.

We have opportunities to embrace that have the potential to propel Southland ahead. The pieces of the puzzle are there – we just have to make them all fit.

Initiatives such as aquaculture. Since first mooted in 2014, Council has invested a considerable amount of time into increasing our knowledge of this exciting industry. There's the prospect now to go forward but the regulatory side is slowing things down. Following the release of the Randerson report into New Zealand's resource management system, hopefully soon we will learn we can speed up the consent process.

The Milford Opportunities Project masterplan is in the final stages of development and set to be released in June. It will be fantastic to absorb its contents and ultimately put the plan in motion.

You only have to chat to our building team to know there is plenty happening throughout the district, which bodes well. Residential buildings are still very much a focus for people. With borders remaining closed here and around the globe, Southlanders are investing in alterations, buying a new home or supporting their kids to get on the property ladder.

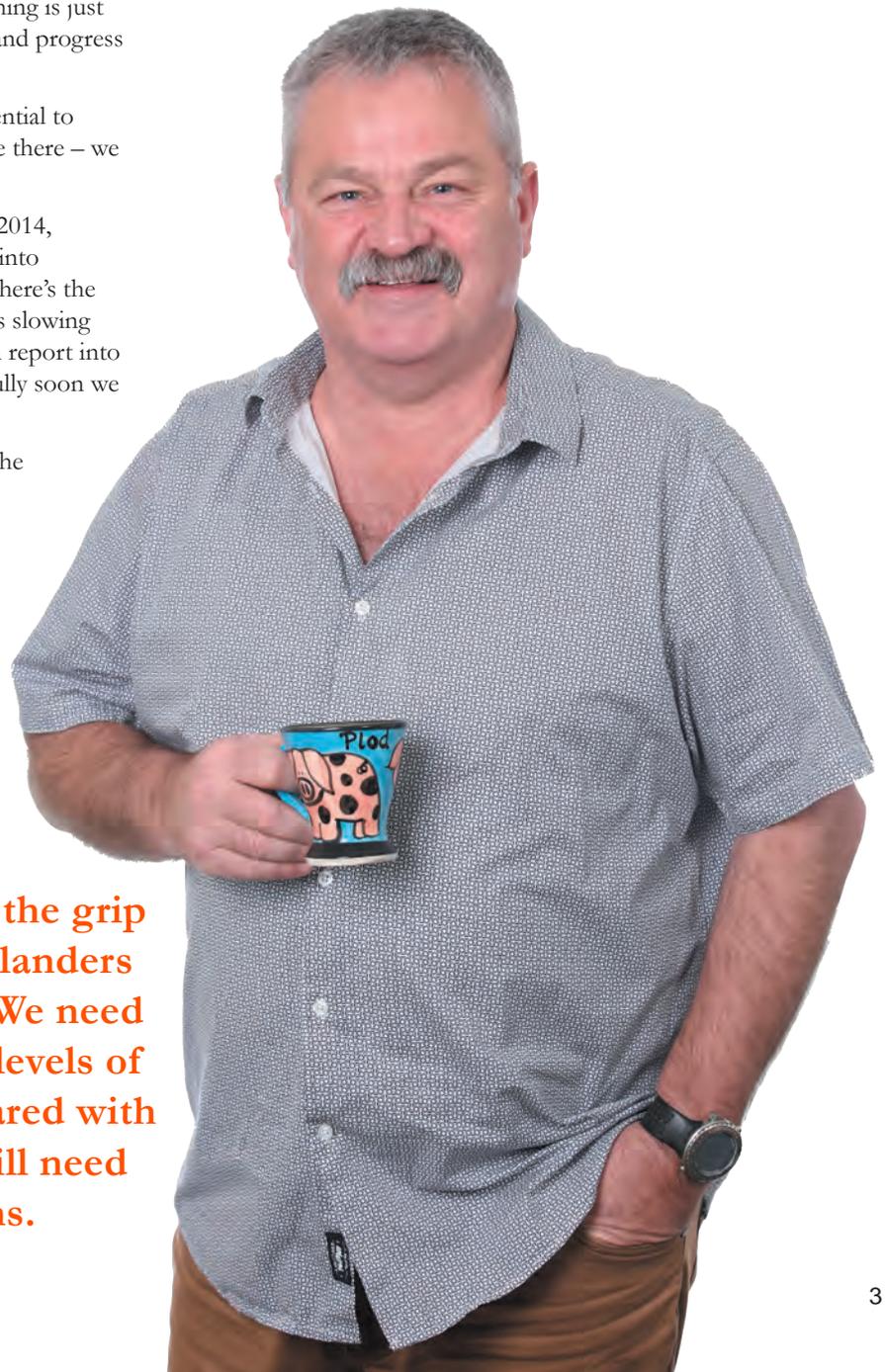
With the world still caught in the grip of the pandemic, some Southlanders have opted to venture home. We need to ensure our district has the levels of service expected when compared with other locations. So Council will need to make some robust decisions.

Our Long Term Plan 2021-2031 is set to be adopted by Council on 23 June. We have now completed the consultation phase of this three-yearly process. While there's no denying the proposed rates rises needed to achieve the content of the LTP have been met with concern, we have appreciated the honest feedback received at the LTP drop-in sessions held throughout the district, via social media and even just the casual chats that emerge organically while out and about in the community.

In particular, I extend Council's thanks to those ratepayers who have taken the time to make a formal submission so their voice is heard through the official channels.

Rest assured, Council places a lot of weight on these submissions, while balancing them with consideration of what would be deemed acceptable by those we haven't heard from – unfortunately, often the majority.

Yes, it's another tricky puzzle we need to solve.



It's time, Southland/Murihiku.

The name chosen for our current Long Term Plan process is no accident.

The consultation period has ended and it is now up to our staff and councillors to digest the submissions and feedback we have received and make decisions that are going to best serve Southland district over the next 10 years.

The proposals put forward in Southland District Council's LTP consultation document were driven by the need to face up to the challenges of maintaining our infrastructure to a level that our ratepayers are accustomed to. That means maintaining a road network that is one of the longest in the country, as well as continuing to make improvements that have been required to achieve good environmental outcomes.

It's up to Council now to deliver.

In many ways, this is a no-frills LTP. It's principally about doing the basics that need to be done, with a specific focus on roads and bridges.

I won't pretend that getting to this point has been an easy journey. Local government is required to provide a myriad of services, but they come at a cost that keeps rising. Many councils throughout New Zealand are grappling with the same issue we are: ageing infrastructure and rates affordability. It's a real bind to be in, and it inevitably leads to difficult conversations about the level of rates rises proposed.

We have known this day was coming for quite some time. Our previous Long Term Plan, in 2018, clearly signalled that important decisions would need to be made about how we address

the infrastructure deficit rapidly arriving on our horizon. That deficit has arrived. We are in the midst of it right now, with old wooden bridges and water pipes being replaced throughout the district as part of our business as usual.

But we know there is much, much more of this work required over the next 10 years and beyond, costing many millions of dollars. The time for deciding how we pay for that work is now – it cannot be delayed for another three years until the next LTP – and that's why we have put so much energy into encouraging ratepayers to make submissions over the past month or so.

I know people are busy, and that the workings of a local government organisation may not figure in the day-to-day thinking of many. A road is something you drive on, a tap is something you turn on to get water, and councils tend to come into the conversation only when something breaks.

But we take our responsibilities to provide these services extremely seriously, and this Long Term Plan is about delivering on a long period of deeply considered work.

Council will be deliberating in that context.

It's not a reflection of the process that it happens to be coming into effect during such a challenging time, post-Covid. It's important to remember that the LTP is a 10-year plan and we're currently dealing with the economic effects of a worldwide pandemic. We can't let the immediate necessities overshadow the longer view.

Another complication is that it has not been a uniformly difficult time for all of Southland.



Overall, the region has held up pretty well, even though there are particular areas that are hurting from the severe impact of loss of international visitors. It's a challenge that different parts of the district haven't been affected in the same way or to the same extent.

While Te Anau and Milford Sound/Piopiotahi have been particularly hard hit by the lack of international visitors, the Catlins and Stewart Island/Rakiura have balanced the ledger somewhat through increased numbers of domestic travellers taking the opportunity to see their own back yard. In fact, Stewart Island/Rakiura has been humming to capacity from the influx of visitors.

It has certainly helped the Southland region's resilience that its economy has diversified more than many people may have realised.

Our agricultural sector has continued to perform well, to the benefit of Southland and New Zealand as a whole. However, we look forward to the reopening of our international borders, in a safe way. Te Anau and Milford Sound will be following developments there with great interest.

Alongside this, there is plenty of activity around statutory reform being proposed and worked through by central government. Much of this will impact on territorial authorities including Southland District Council, although it is still too early in the piece to know exactly what the

new way of doing things might look like.

The overhaul of the Resource Management Act is one. Three waters reform is another. Both will have an effect on how we do business as a council but, especially in terms of water services delivery, a successful transition should be virtually invisible to ratepayers and consumers. When you turn on the tap or flush the loo, it should appear to the consumer that nothing has changed.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, the reality for local government is that potentially everything will change in terms of that service delivery.

The government has established a new water regulator, Taumata Arowai. At some point soon, perhaps later this year, councils will have to decide whether to join a new waters delivery entity, or to carry on providing water services on their own. It will be a big decision. The affordability of providing improved services that meet higher national standards will have to be weighed against the potential economies of scale that may become available to councils if they opt in.

We should all have a clearer idea towards the end of this year.

It's an exciting time to be a part of the local government sector. As an organisation, we could have the opportunity to choose our future. I'm quite optimistic. We have much to be getting on with.

It's time.

Future focus for community plans

Positive progress being made by Southland's community boards has impressed Council's community leadership team.

Each of the nine community boards has been tasked with developing a future-focused plan for their respective areas.

Community partnership leader Kelly Tagg says the process is proving rewarding for all involved.

"It has been fantastic to see the growth in each of the boards as they focus on creating a plan which respects the uniqueness of their communities while providing a tangible overview of the initiatives needed for community-led development," she says.

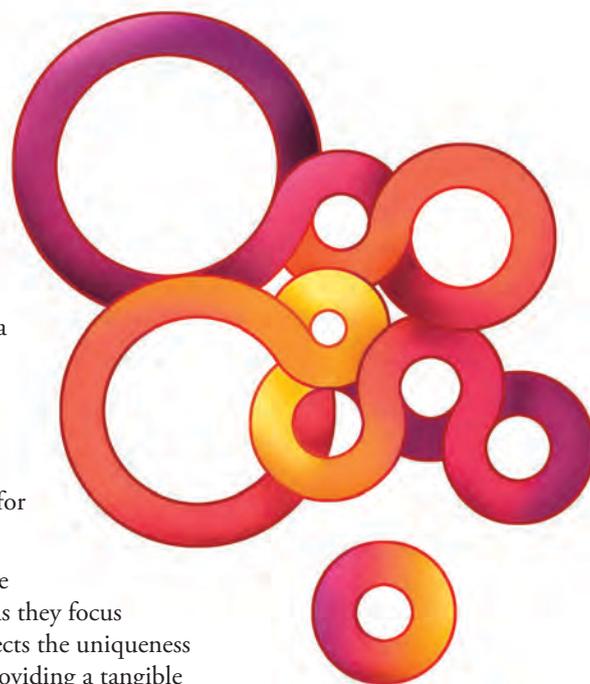
The plans outline each board's vision and the outcomes it is aiming to achieve, while also capturing a snapshot of the demographics of the area. The information has been collated following community consultation through meetings, surveys and externally facilitated workshops.

"Through this process, a real sense of identity has emerged which highlights the individuality of our communities," Kelly says. "As a result, some of the boards are really becoming pro-active in developing ways for their area to stand out from the crowd, which is awesome.

"Ultimately the boards can use their plans as a platform to connect and engage with their community with a new focus which isn't just about infrastructure.

"The community itself also has a role to play in bringing these plans to life. There needs to be buy-in from the people who we want to benefit most from them."

Reflective of Council's new governance structure, Council's community leadership team continues to partner with the boards on the development and implementation of the plans with the aim of the majority being published in July to align with Council's Long Term Plan.



Council's annual roading programme is tracking along nicely as the road reconstruction season winds down before winter.

Strategic manager transport Hartley Hare says work is progressing well, despite a couple of big years of work resulting from two flooding events and the accelerated bridge replacement programme.

The current bridge programme is well on track to finish by June. By then, 19 bridges will have been replaced in just over 12 months, after Council approved \$3 million of unbudgeted expenditure to do the work in 2019.

Going forward the draft LTP proposes to ramp that up. Replacing more bridges and rehabilitating more roads were two key issues consulted in Southland District Council's Long Term Plan consultation document. Consultation closed on 14 April and, based on public feedback, Council will then make decisions about whether to increase budgets to allow more road reconstructions and to replace more old bridges.

By the end of February Council had completed 775,500m² of reseals, out of its budgeted target of 1,020,400m² for the financial year ending June 30. As well, 8,268km of gravel roads had been graded, 61% of the targeted 13,600km.

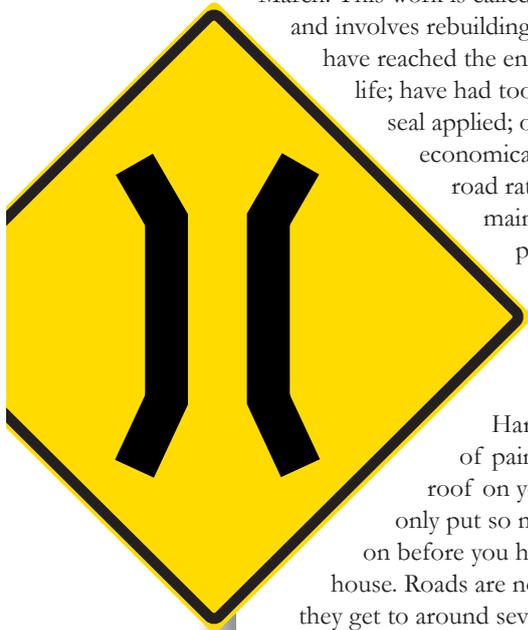
The road construction season is weather dependent and generally runs from October through to the end of March. This work is called road rehabilitation, and involves rebuilding sealed roads which have reached the end of their useful life; have had too many layers of seal applied; or where it is more economical to rebuild the road rather than continue maintenance. Road rehab projects cost on average more than \$400,000 per kilometre. It's an expensive business.

Hartley uses the analogy of painting a worn-out roof on your house. "You can only put so many coats of paint on before you have to re-roof the house. Roads are no different. When they get to around seven layers of seal on

them they become unstable and that black, slick surface happens, and then we have to rebuild them."

A current example is Rackles Hill, on Otautau Tuatapere Road. There's a slick and slippery section of seal on the hill that poses a potential challenge for motorists and the speed limit around this part of the road had to be further reduced from 70 to 50kmh.

The section has been resealed a number of times and is due for a full rehabilitation.





Safety first for district's roads and bridges

However, other sites around the district in worse condition were assessed to be higher priority and the Rackles Hill rehab could not be carried out this season, which has now finished as winter approaches.

“At the start of the season a section of road may be number five on the list, but the budget only goes as far as number four,” says Hartley. “That one’s going to miss out and become priority one or two for next season.”

“It’s a good example of why our budgets need to be increased,” says Southland District Council roading asset engineer Roy Clearwater, “because we’re going to see more and more of these kind of deficiencies around the network if we don’t invest appropriately going forward.”

The transport team also have to constantly reprioritise bridges in need of repair or replacement as ongoing inspections reveal new safety concerns that must be addressed urgently.

All 77 of the district’s posted bridges

– generally older wooden bridges built soon after World War II – are inspected annually. Of the 850 bridges in Southland District, 161 are expected to reach the end of their useful lives or require significant structural upgrades in the next 10 years and a further 22 in the 10 years after that. Hartley says all have been identified as “at-risk structures”.

Where the structural engineers identify areas of concern urgent action is required. This can range from further reducing the weight limit posting on the bridge to immediate closure.

“Everything comes back to safety,” says Roy.

The total project cost of replacing a small wooden bridge is around \$200,000. Because there isn’t the money available to replace all of them at once, Council’s transport team has developed a “matrix” to prioritise the order of replacement. It takes into account factors such as daily road movements, including heavy traffic, and whether

there is a suitable detour available.

The most recent bridge closed is on Nelson Road, at Lochiel. Hartley Hare says it was already identified as an at-risk structure that was nearing end of its life, but was a lower priority bridge because of the low traffic volumes (less than 200 per day) and the good detour available on the sealed Lochiel-Branxholme Road just 2km away.

All up, there are around 1200 bridge structures in Southland District Council’s road network (including stock underpasses) that require regular inspection.

Newer bridges are inspected in close-up detail at least once every six years (this is called a principal inspection), and get a less rigorous visual once-over (a general inspection) at least once every two years. Structural engineers contracted by SDC inspect more than 400 bridges a year, which includes the 77 posted bridges. As well, special inspections are carried out following extreme events such as floods and earthquakes.

“It’s ongoing,” says Hartley.

Timely boost

for Ryal Bush

The Ryal Bush war memorial is looking sharp in its new number ones and is standing to attention ready for its first RSA dawn service in 18 years.

Thanks to the efforts of Southland's unsung hero of war memorials Ann Robbie and former Ryal Bush resident Dave Collinson, the Ryal Bush monument has got the treatment it needed to be enlisted back into service.

Some paint, some filler and some general elbow grease has given the memorial a new lease on life.

Ann has been on a mission for two decades to find, salvage, restore and refinish many Southland war memorials, to preserve the legacy and honour those who served their country in conflicts.

She and Dave applied for assistance for this project through the Oreti Community Partnership Fund and were granted \$875.

Ann has formed an arrangement with Resene ColorShop in Invercargill, which supplied paint for the project. "We've stuck with Resene all the way. The roughcast (on this monument) takes a lot of paint, but we've had to repair it first."

The Makarewa Lions Club previously gave the memorial a spruce-up in 2003, but the prevailing south-westerly wind had blasted the paintwork and over time cracks had appeared in the fence.

Ann's son Logan, a builder, and her husband Peter filled in the cracks. "It's solid. There's no way that fence will

shift. That should see it through for another hundred years."

The work is timely, as the Ryal Bush monument is now back in the rotation of Anzac RSA service sites in the area, so should be used to hold a service once every four years. Ryal Bush had been dropped off the roster when the hall was demolished in the 1990s and has not hosted an RSA service since 2003.

The Lorneville RSA has now added Ryal Bush back into the rotation, rejoining Wallacetown, Makarewa and Waianiwa.

"It's quite special to get it back," says Ann. "It's a lovely memorial. It has a lot of family names of district people that are still around."

Dave Collinson's own father and uncle's names appear on the memorial. They both came home from the war, and it was Collinson land that the memorial was erected on. Dave's son James Collinson gifted the land to Southland District Council in 2002 and it is now formally known as Ryal Bush War Memorial Reserve.

There are other family names on the plaque that are still involved in the community – names like Wishart and Blakie – so there's a lot of personal connection to a memorial such as this one.

Featuring at the top of the

Ann Robbie and Dave Collinson at the Ryal Bush war memorial.



honours roll is R. C. Travis VC, DCM, MM and Croix de Guerre. The name of Dick Travis, New Zealand's famous Victoria Cross winner, appears on several memorial boards throughout Southland, and no doubt further afield. He worked at Ryal Bush for a time, and is remembered here.

An oak tree next to the memorial site was planted in 2015 by a member of Travis's family, who travelled from Opitiki to plant it during the commemoration of 100 years since World War I. That ceremony sparked the Ryal Bush community to request reinstatement to the Lorneville RSA's Anzac Day roster.

"We knew an oak would withstand the wind, because it's in a very open space there," Ann says.

About half a dozen members of the Ryal Bush community helped to repaint the monument, and Dave Collinson has been heavily involved alongside Ann in getting the memorial tidied up.

It is labour offered voluntarily for the benefit of the wider community.

Dave says "what we're doing here is nothing compared to the sacrifices made by the people on that board", a message repeated many times before by Ann.

"We can't comprehend what they went through," she says.

The benefits of having the community involved in these projects is that they stay involved, Ann says. "They take ownership of it and look after it. It becomes important to their community."



Dave Collinson tends to the oak tree planted in Dick Travis's honour.

* Restoration of the Isla Bank and Otahuti district war memorial at Calcium Cemetery, featured in the September 2020 First Edition, has been completed. It will be rededicated at an Anzac Day ceremony there from 1.45pm, hosted by the Otatau RSA.

HE AHA TŌ TIROHANGA?



WHAT'S YOUR VIEW?

Work to identify important landscapes and natural features in Southland is progressing – but we still need your input.

This work is about protecting Southland's incredible natural features and landscapes for our kids, our grandchildren and future Southlanders, and we want you to be part of the conversation.

Southland District Council has embarked on a three-pronged approach to identify the important landscapes and natural features in the district. A draft desktop study, which is yet to be reviewed, is highlighting some areas of potential importance, a cultural assessment is under way, and community views are still being sought.

Ultimately the work will result in a change to the natural features and landscapes chapter in the District Plan, and SDC's resource management policy planner Margaret Ferguson is quick to point out that a partnership approach will be taken to any change.

"We really want people to be part of the conversation, we want to know what you think is important and how we can work together to ensure these spaces remain special for generations to come," she says.

In the coming months, Council will be contacting people more directly about the work, as areas start to be identified as important to the district.

"Some work so far is identifying special areas within Southland that are important from a desktop perspective, so we'll be looking to contact people that might affect and see if they believe the data to be accurate.

"This presents a real opportunity to look after what we have now and into the future, so it's integral community views form part of this picture. It's about having a conversation, understanding what is worth looking after and then looking at ways we can do that together."

"As Southlanders we all have a responsibility to look after the land we have, and this work forms a really important part of that."

Make it stick
SOUTHLAND

To find out more visit the What's Your View section of www.makeitstick.nz, or email us at your.viewlandscapes@southlanddc.govt.nz.

Southland District Council, alongside Invercargill City Council and Gore District Council, is proud to launch a new scholarship aimed at enhancing the leadership capabilities of former refugees, working migrants and international students living in the Southland region.

The Southland Newcomer Leadership Scholarship has been developed in recognition that there is an opportunity for more newcomers to hold leadership positions in our community and business sectors.

“Newcomers who arrive in Southland are highly skilled and motivated but getting started in a new country is hard,” says Southland District Council community liaison officer Megan Seator. “Sometimes all that’s needed is the opportunity to make a few connections and gain confidence in their new environment.”

The scholarship will enable participants to attend the Southland Chamber of Commerce’s Leadership Academy, which is a part-time programme run over eight weeks aimed at building leadership capabilities. At the completion of the programme graduates will have the skills, connections, and confidence to be leaders in their receiving community.

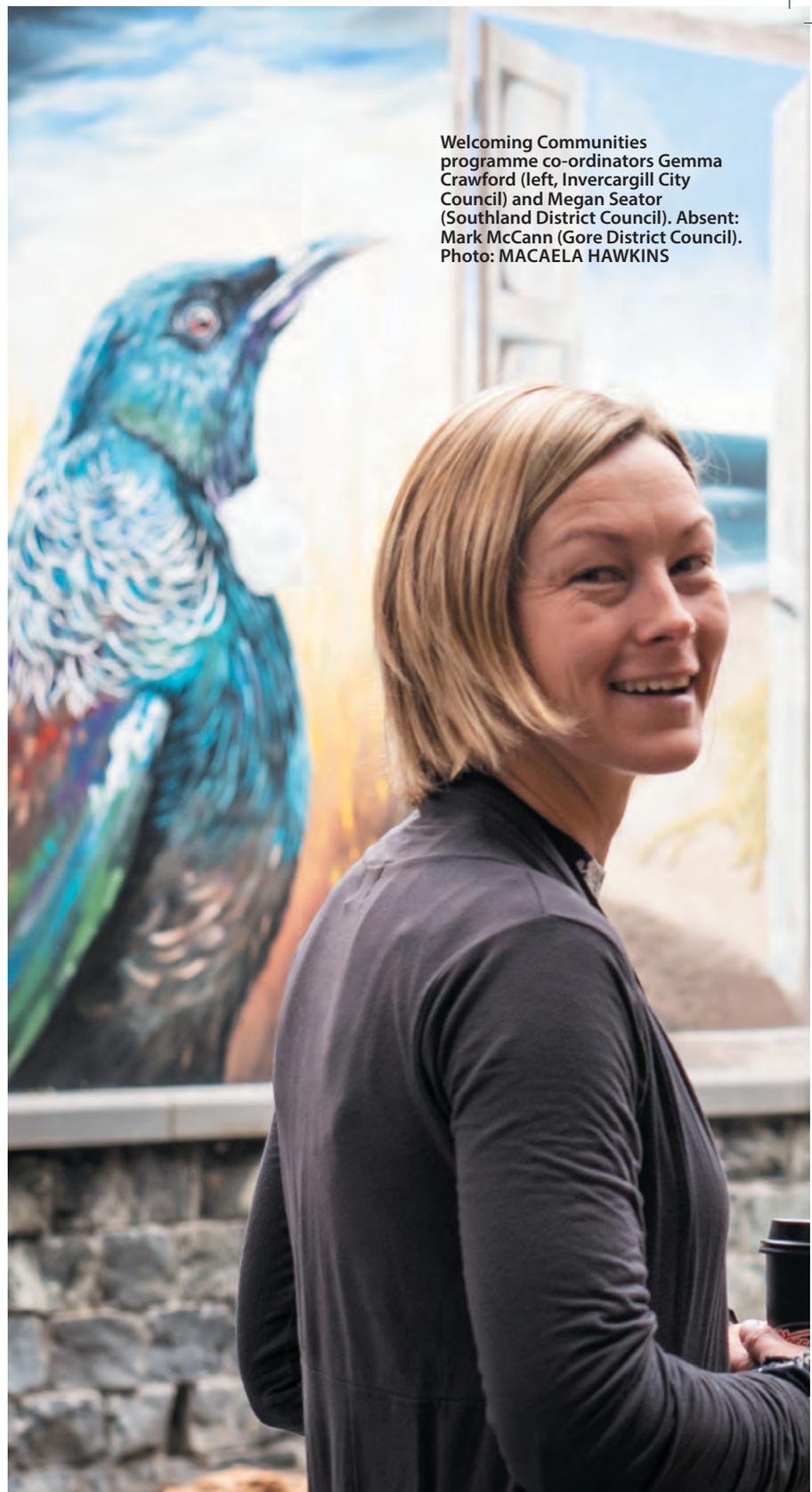
“We would love to see more newcomers involved in volunteering in our communities,” says Megan. “Volunteers are a crucial part of keeping our rural towns going and building social cohesion in our communities.

“We have hundreds of community organisations, clubs, and charitable trusts across Southland, many in dire need of skilled volunteers needing people to step up and take on leadership positions. We hope that recipients of the scholarship will help fill this need.”

Resourcing for this scholarship comes from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s Welcoming Communities programme funded by the Immigration Levy collected from visa applications.

“Anyone who has applied for a New Zealand visa will know it’s a costly exercise. Someone from the Philippines applying for a skilled migrant category visa can expect to pay nearly \$4,000.

Welcoming Communities programme co-ordinators Gemma Crawford (left, Invercargill City Council) and Megan Seator (Southland District Council). Absent: Mark McCann (Gore District Council). Photo: MACAELA HAWKINS



GROWING LEADERS IN COMMUNITIES



“It’s great to see some of this money being made available to councils to deliver programmes that help support newcomers to settle into their new communities.”

* Applications for the Southland Newcomer Leadership Scholarship will be considered on an ongoing basis throughout 2021. Application forms are available on the Southland District Council website or by phoning 0800 732 732.



Welcoming Communities is led by Immigration New Zealand in partnership with the Office of Ethnic Communities and the Human Rights Commission. It brings together local government and communities to make the places we love welcoming for everyone.

Southland District Council is a formally accredited “established community” under the national Welcoming Communities standard.

Southland District Council is committed to seeing newcomers to the District settled and integrated successfully into their new lives.

Southland District Council is committed to embracing and celebrating the District’s cultural diversity and to building and strengthening a cohesive and culturally connected community.

Garston Hops gain Altitude



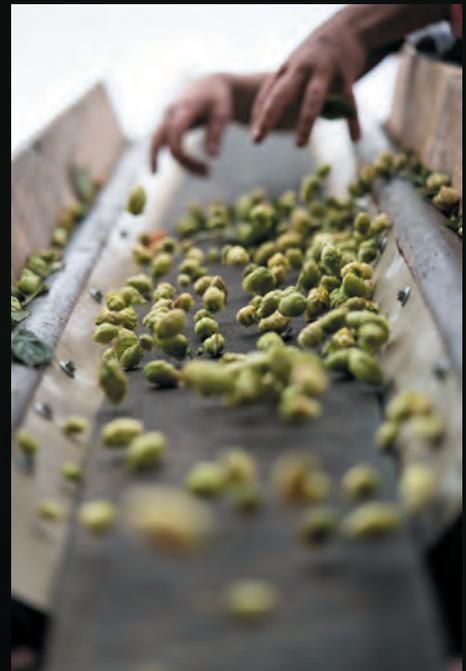
By Lyn McNamee

Queenstown's Altitude Brewing company served up a treat when they brought customers and friends to the Garston hops harvest in late March.

After informative talks from Garston Hops owners James and Lizette McNamee and Altitude brewer Elliott Menzies, around 40 visitors examined the fragrant vines.

Down the road, on the Naylor farm, they watched the newly built hop harvester in action and even helped out on the sorting conveyor. A late barbecue lunch was washed down with Altitude Brewing's pilsener, brewed with 2020 Garston hops.

Most of New Zealand's Nelson-grown hops are snapped up by the big breweries or exported. Boutique breweries such as Altitude are forced to spend up large on imported hops from America or Europe, so Elliott is delighted to have access to Southland hops grown just 45 minutes from the brewery door.



Photos: MACAELA HAWKINS

Preparing for a new role with Emergency Management Southland



Simon Mapp

Just a simple conversation with Simon Mapp is enough to motivate someone to get emergency planning off their to-do list and into reality.

“Being prepared for an emergency isn’t just about having your grab bag ready, it’s about having a plan and practising putting that plan into action,” he says.

“Planning and practising allows you to react in an emergency because you’ll go back to what you know.

“It’s really quite simple to make a plan, it doesn’t take a lot of time and it can save your life and those of others around you.”

It’s fitting that Simon has this level of enthusiasm when it comes to being prepared for an emergency. He’s in preparation mode himself – getting ready to take on the role of group controller at Emergency

Management Southland (EMS); the organisation responsible for the delivery of civil defence and emergency management responses throughout the region.

Simon is no stranger to emergency management.

For the past six years he has been an alternate controller, which means he’s stepped in to help out during states of emergency, including the 2020 floods and when a national state of emergency was declared due to Covid-19 – one month telling people to evacuate due to the flood risk, the next telling people to stay at home due to the national lockdown.

He’s also gained plenty of experience from a varied career history which includes 16 years as a police officer, including search and rescue responsibilities, and the past eight years as compliance manager at Environment Southland.

“At the end of the day, my passion is in helping people,” he says.

“There is a great team at Emergency Management Southland, with really capable people – they showed how good they are during the floods last year – and I’m really looking forward to learning as much as I can from them.”

EMS was established by the four councils – Southland District, Invercargill City, Gore District and Environment Southland – and is responsible for the 24/7 operation of the emergency co-ordination centre which facilitates planning and operational activity during an event.

Former group controller Angus McKay left earlier this year to take up a job as a chief controller with the Ministry for Primary Industries in Wellington.

Remembering Frana Cardno



A colourful memorial to the life of New Zealand's longest serving female mayor now stands proudly in Te Anau.

The three totems commemorating the life and achievements of the late Frana Cardno are in the former Fergus Square, which has been renamed Cardno Reserve.

Frana Cardno CNZM QSO JP served as Mayor of Southland District from 1992 until 2013, becoming the longest-serving female mayor in New Zealand's history. She died on 23 April 2015, and her long-time friend, Irene Barnes, suggested a memorial be erected in her hometown.

On Mrs Barnes's instigation Council agreed to rename Fergus Square and Mayor Gary Tong, who succeeded Mrs Cardno, paid for the memorial from his mayoral budget.

Southland District Council graphic designer Donna Hawkins designed the totems.

"I wanted to capture Frana's love and appreciation of art, colour and nature," Donna says. "She was only one person, but she achieved a lifetime of work and dedication to Southland. On many occasions and in many situations she stood bold and proud, just as her memorial does today.

"Every single part of Frana's memorial has meaning. It is about great respect.

"The three totems represent navigating the path of life – beginning, a middle and an end. Her personal life, her Council life and her love of life."

Committed to serving her community, she devoted her time to a variety of local organisations including Community Trust South, Venture Southland, the Regional Identity Southland Trust and the Women's Refuge Trust; and she was presented with the Rotary Jean Harris Award for Otago-Southland for Leadership for Women.

In 2001, Mrs Cardno was awarded a Queen's Service Order for public services and a United Nations Certificate of Recognition to recognise her as an outstanding woman in local government.

She received the Local Government New Zealand Excellence Award for outstanding contribution to local government and was appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to local government in the 2014 New Year honours.

"I wanted something special for the seats to reflect (her husband) Murray and Frana, rustic and natural, where people could come together, sit, talk, reflect, watch the stars and dream," Donna says.

The wood is from Murray's man shed, donated by son Paul Cardno, and the totems feature a special collection of photos from Barry Harcourt, a close family friend.

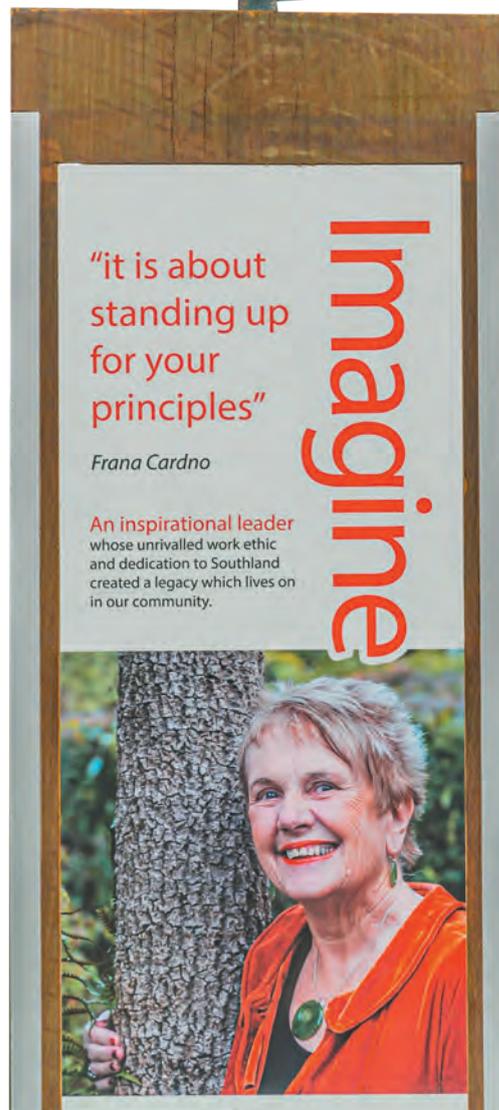
"The back of the totems is Fiordland National Park, one of Frana's achievements – Te Wahi Pounamu," Donna says. "The background is a painting I painted. Her favourite colour was every colour, bright, happy and vibrant, everything Frana wanted for her communities. The silver down the side reflects negative and positive and brings balance."

The placement of the structure is significant, Donna says. "It's placed so that when you are reading it you can see Frana's house in the background and it is framed by a southern rata that blooms a vibrant red. The park itself has a special feel and on a starry night, it's like the trees reach the stars – hence the translation (translated by Ngāi Tahu) on the Cardno Reserve sign: Te wahi e tutaki ana nga whetu ki nga rakau – Where the trees meet the stars.

Te Anau prompted Mrs Cardno's first foray into politics when she lobbied for a library in the town. It sparked a 35-year contribution that initially included 11 years on the Te Anau Community Board.

Her memorial in Cardno Reserve is a joint effort by the SDC communications team in collaboration with staff, family and friends. The glass domes on top of the totems were designed by Macaela Hawkins and created by Escape Glass in Invercargill. Creations Signs was involved in the construction.

"Frana loved Te Anau and her home," Donna Hawkins says. "She always boasted that she could see her mountain from her kitchen table. She always referred to Mt Titiroa as her mountain."



OUR SOUTHLANDERS



The Mossburn Volunteer Fire Brigade officer corps (from left) Station Officer Travis Naylor, Station Officer Grant Reid, Chief Fire Officer Lance Hellewell, Station Officer Rachel Naylor and Deputy Chief Fire Officer David Stalker. Absent: Senior Station Officer Damian Daly.



FIGHTING FIRES FOR THE COMMUNITY

By Chris Chilton



John-Kurt Burnett (left) gets a taste of command during a training exercise at Mossburn, with Ollie Trusler and Craig Drummond.



Station Officer
Travis Naylor calls
in the fire trucks
on training night.

In any community there are few voluntary roles that do more to protect the safety and wellbeing of its people than the local fire brigade.

Like many rural outfits the Mossburn Volunteer Fire Brigade serves its catchment with pride and professionalism, coming running to answer the call every time that familiar siren sounds. It has been a backbone of its community since 1956, and can boast a relatively large contingent of members who have served for more than 20 years.

Jim Guyton has been there the longest of them all, notching up a remarkable 50 years in the Mossburn brigade, 33 of them spent as the chief fire officer, from 1973 until 2006. Having retired now from frontline duty, Jim is still an active and well-respected member.

Station officer Grant Reid says that for a relatively small brigade in the grand scheme of things, the Mossburn crew prides itself on its performance. In bigger centres a brigade could be called out 600 times a year. "We go to 50 a year on a big year and yet we can foot it with them."

There are nearly 2,000 volunteers serving in 90 fire brigades throughout Southland and Otago who freely give their time to serve their communities. Nationally, there are over 11,500 volunteers, making up more than 80% of Fire and Emergency New Zealand's active staff.

At the time of writing there are 26 members in the Mossburn brigade. Along with a solid core of vastly experienced firefighters, there is a good base of younger members coming through.

"There are some very talented people in the brigade," says chief fire officer Lance Hellewell. "They're very knowledgeable. When you ask them to do something you don't have too many problems. They're very capable."

"We're pretty well off at the moment numbers wise. It's like any town. People move away, change jobs. We've been pretty lucky lately, we've been pretty stable."

"It's not something we take lightly. We've worked hard to get members. We pride ourselves on being a brigade that's attractive for people to come. We encourage members to get out there and do things that are available through the fire service."

"There are opportunities to go and attend courses, and go and do national events. A lot of brigade members have done that."

Camaraderie within the group is strong. They support each other and celebrate each other's numerous achievements.

Tonight, Travis Naylor has been awarded his red helmet, which signifies promotion to the rank of station officer. The crew greet the announcement with a round of applause in the changing room at the station.

"There's quite a lot of work involved in getting to a station officer's position," Lance says. "It's not just something you earn by time. It involves dedication and training."

For the Mossburn brigade, training is every Wednesday evening at 7pm. They'll work on the many aspects of their job, from medical skills to familiarisation with their specialist gear. To keep their edge sharp, members drill real-life scenarios that replicate some of the widely varied challenges they may be called on to deal with in an emergency.

Tonight it's a chemical spill in the Farmlands car park. Station officer Grant Reid is playing the role of the victim, who has been covered in an unidentified chemical and is behaving erratically from the effects. Two crews run the response drill three times, giving young member John-Kurt Burnett a taste of commanding a unit in an emergency. This experience is invaluable training for the young volunteer, who is preparing for a four-day officer's course in Rotorua.

As the two members who have most recently been on courses themselves, Grant and Travis have been responsible for helping to prepare "JK" for Rotorua. Training is the key, the senior officers agree. "The worst thing you can do is go up there unprepared," Grant says.

"We're one of those brigades that doesn't like to send people away to fail," Lance says. "We'll push them to get as much training as they can. It makes a big difference when they get there."

Development of younger or more inexperienced members is crucial to developing continuity, skills and leadership in the tight-knit brigade, which works both ways, Lance says.

Exit



◀ Rachel Naylor's red helmet signifies the rank of station officer. Firefighters Tommy McKerrus (right) and Dan McMillan drag Zac Manson to safety during a training drill. ▶



“It’s about passing on the knowledge that we’ve learned over the years to them, then they learn new things when they’re away on their course and they bring it back and pass it on to us. You never stop learning.”

While there is a lot of training involved, somewhat surprisingly being a member of the Mossburn brigade does not require a massive commitment of time. Even Deputy CFO David Stalker, who does a lot of the computer admin work for the brigade, estimates he spends just three to five hours a week on the brigade. For other members it might only be two hours a week, training on a Wednesday night, unless they’re preparing for a competition, in which case individuals will put in extra hard yards.

“We’ve got a very good officer’s group,” Lance says, but “the whole crew is actually excellent,” station officer Rachel Naylor adds.

The brigade has a good spread of members from both within the township and throughout the surrounding rural community. For instance, Travis Naylor lives halfway between Mossburn and Lumsden. With such a spread-out community, raising the alarm across multiple platforms is critical.

“We’ve got three ways of communicating,” says Rachel. “We carry a pager, we’ve got a text alert and then

we’ve got the town siren” which can be heard over 5km away.

The biggest fire the brigade has attended in recent times was the blaze that destroyed the Mossburn Diner on 31 July 2020. Four volunteer brigades joined the effort to fight the blaze, which gutted the landmark café on state highway 94, the main road through Mossburn.

“We don’t get structural fires very often,” Rachel says. “That was quite a substantial fire for us.”

The majority of call-outs are for vegetation fires, car accidents and medical events, emphasising one of the most vital and personally challenging aspects of being a volunteer firefighter.

“It’s never a nice thing (attending an accident),” says Lance. “But it’s something you maybe become a little bit hardened to after a period of time.”

He considers that the brigade members are probably lucky that the majority of accident call-outs involve tourists or people they don’t know, “so you can be a little more detached from the actual event.”

There is a career path available for volunteers who are keen to pursue a fulltime role with Fire and Emergency NZ. For example, Mossburn senior station officer Damian Daly works for FENZ in a role that provides support for brigades throughout Southland.

This year the Mossburn brigade will be carrying out home safety checks throughout the community, to make sure local people are doing all they can to protect themselves and their property from fire, in terms of escape planning and correctly installed smoke alarms.

Lance says the contribution a volunteer brigade such as Mossburn’s makes to a local community is huge.

“When you’re having a dark moment or your worst moment happens and you hear that siren it’s a relief when you know that someone’s coming to help. I think that’s what motivates people to join the brigade.

“It’s not so much about having the flash gear or the nice trucks, although that helps. It’s about helping your community.”

In return he says the community is very appreciative of the brigade’s work and they are very well supported. “They always pass on their congratulations when members get honours and always say thank you.”

Check before you clear

Southland District Council is urging Southland property owners to check with Council before clearing or modifying any indigenous vegetation.

“A simple online check of the District Plan, or a phone call to Council before you do any clearance, could help save incredibly significant native plants and animals,” says monitoring and enforcement officer Erin Keeble.

“There are rules about clearance within the District Plan and they’re there for a reason, but there are also permissions within it – we’re asking you to check whether your proposed clearance is within the rules before you go ahead with it.

“Sometimes there is confusion over what is native to New Zealand and what should be protected, and things like bracken, manuka, tussock, matagouri and coprosma can come under that bracket. We also understand there are sometimes challenges with weeds within the native bush area, and Council can give you advice about this.”

Erin, like many Southlanders, is passionate about the environment and knows how lucky we are to have such significant native flora and fauna within the district. She points to species such as long-tailed bats, which live in the district, and have a threat ranking of nationally critical.

“We’re so lucky to have these types of species here but if you cut down their habitat, what do they do?” she says.

“National parks do offer animals like this a habitat, but the habitat outside of those parks is integral – it’s part of an ecosystem and native fauna need every piece of it they can get.”

The loss of biodiversity, often caused by unauthorised clearance of native bush, trees and vegetation, can lead to ongoing impacts.

“Areas of vegetation can protect soil from erosion, which in turn can protect areas from flooding – so by clearing it, you are increasing flood risks and in some situations that won’t only affect your property but neighbouring properties as well,” Erin says.

“Even if you think you are just cutting a few trees down, that can have a huge impact as those trees could have been providing shelter and protection for other native flora and fauna. It’s all linked.”

Erin says a key concern is that once indigenous vegetation is cleared, it can take decades to get it back.

“Council takes unauthorised clearance of indigenous vegetation seriously, and we will enforce rules within the District Plan. But ultimately, we don’t want it to come to that – we want to help and support people to look after what they have.”



CHECK IT OUT FIRST

If you plan to clear trees, bush or scrub on your property, either check it is in line with the District Plan or give Southland District Council a call first. We can help ensure your plans fit within the rules in the District Plan.

Give us a call on 0800 732 732 or visit www.southlanddc.govt.nz to take a look at the District Plan.

Building partnerships

Southland District Council's building control department has formed a new team to manage changing compliance demands.

Since January this year an experienced, lean team of around 5.5 fulltime building staff have been focused on the many facets of building compliance, and have been working closely in partnership with the local building industry in a new legislative environment.

The team incorporates a wide array of skills and knowledge.

The team is led by Simon Tonkin, and includes Elle Dickson (senior building compliance officer), Lance Patterson (senior building control officer acting as Building Warrant of Fitness audit specialist), Adam Grice (building compliance officer) and Keri Thompson (building compliance co-ordinator). Stuart Sharp provides part-time building compliance support in Te Anau.

Simon says team members will upskill each other in their various specialties to broaden Council's building compliance knowledge base and provide wider coverage of the workload.

The overarching principle is that public buildings should be safe for people to use, Simon says. This includes pool safety, fire safety, a building's Warrant of Fitness and its earthquake-prone status, amongst other things.

There are around 1,400 potentially earthquake-prone buildings in the district that the Council team will have to inspect in the next few years. Priority townships proposed by the team for initial inspection are Wyndham, Otautau, Riverton and Winton, because of their high number of older buildings with unreinforced masonry, which could fall and cause injury or death in the event of an earthquake.

Building solutions manager Julie Conradi adds: "From a community perspective there's an assumption that Council is monitoring compliance and keeping us safe so this team is about living up to that expectation."

The compliance team's guiding legislation is the Building Act 2004. This can include both building work that requires a consent, and work that doesn't.

Work that you can do without a Building Consent is outlined in schedule 1 of

the act, but that too has created a significantly increased workload for Council's compliance activity.

It is important to know that if you have carried out building work on your property, including sewerage and stormwater systems, that require a Building Consent but you have failed to get a consent then you need to apply for a Certificate of Acceptance. This should only happen in an emergency but you can inherit building work that does not have a consent when you buy a property. It is important to notify Council of this and work with the team to ensure the building work is safe.

If you own a pool of any shape or size you need to inform Council. Your pool will be added to the pools register and will require a safety inspection every three years.

It is a massive job staying on top of compliance and the related legislation changes, and the compliance team aims to be more proactive in following up on non-compliant building work. Ultimately, one of the spinoffs from this should be increased public awareness of building guidelines.

"There are rules to follow that aren't being followed," says Julie, "and we've now got a team in place to ensure that we monitor this and educate our community."



The old museum building in Wyndham is an example of the potential risk posed by unreinforced masonry in the event of an earthquake.

with local industry

“Our journey as a council is evolving and to an extent I think legislation evolving has impacted on this, because there’s a little less certainty in the community about what you do need a consent for and what you don’t.”

“If we’re not monitoring what the community is doing and addressing non-compliance how is the community going to learn?”

The team is here to stay, says Julie. “Compliance is a greater focus of legislation so the way legislation is changing there’s a greater reliance in ongoing compliance being in place.”

A change in the government’s approach is that Council is no longer the “one-stop shop” of building compliance, Simon says. Licensed building practitioners and engineers are independently qualified and recognised professionals, as are IQP’s (independent qualified persons who maintain safety systems), “so we’ve got everyone working together in partnership”.

These professionals each have a key role to play in ensuring the building stock within Southland is safe and fit for purpose. While Southland District Council still has involvement in monitoring compliance, it does not work in isolation.

“I think it’s really interesting that the government has said you’ve got all these facets of compliance,” says Simon. “It puts a bit of the responsibility back on to the engineers and the licensed building practitioners, along with Council. It’s like a three-pronged approach.”

Another feature of the new regulations is that a prospective homeowner can apply to a council to carry out certain work without a Building Consent, and

the council can approve this if it meets all the criteria.

“We’re not here to be the quality check for the industry,” Julie says. “We’re here in partnership with industry.

“We operate assuming that the professionals in the industry are doing their job well. However, sometimes the community doesn’t realise that they need professional input for their project. It is these projects that we will identify and work with the owner and industry to achieve a safe outcome.”

- If you are not sure whether your project requires a Building Consent, or you have completed work on your property without a consent and want to ensure it is safe, book a free 30-minute meeting with our team to discuss your project and Council requirements by emailing building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz.

Remember, the more information you can provide when you request your meeting, the more prepared the team will be to answer your questions.

For all building inquiries

Please email us on building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz, or phone 0800 732 732.

Please note that we will not accept building inspection bookings directly through individual inspectors.

To book a building inspection, email building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz or phone 0800 732 732 at least 48 hours, and preferably 72 hours before you require an inspection.

The call taker will require the person requesting the inspection to provide the building consent number, the address of the property the work is being carried out at, the type of inspection required, the day the inspection is required and the contact details of the person who will be on site.

The building inspector will contact the person who will be on site before 5pm on the working day preceding the day that the inspection is due to take place, to confirm the time of the inspection.

It is imperative that the stamped consented drawings are on site to allow the inspector to carry out their inspection.

How it works

If you need an inspection on a Thursday, contact us no later than 5pm on the Monday beforehand, and preferably earlier than this. See the table.

Book inspection no later than 5pm on	Inspection day following booking
Monday	Thursday
Tuesday	Friday
Wednesday	Monday
Thursday	Tuesday
Friday	Wednesday

SDC’s building solutions team receives a lot of communication. We highly value our contact with our customers, but so we can efficiently process and record it all we ask that all inquiries regarding inspection notices be emailed to us at: building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz.

CYCLISTS EXPLORE SOUTHERN TRAIL

Southland's Around the Mountains Cycle Trail has hosted cyclists from throughout the country with two major tours trekking through the area recently.

It's a welcome boost with counters on the trail confirming a 25% increase overall on the 2019/2020 season.

The Great Southern Brevet, staged in late January, featured a 1,100km bicycle journey around the South Island, starting and finishing at Lake Tekapo.

During their time in the south, participants explored the trail from Walter Peak through to Garston.

The epic Tour Aotearoa odyssey last month bolstered cyclists in the area as they ventured from Cape Reinga to Bluff.

The gruelling 3,000km journey started in February with cyclists embarking on the adventure in waves to follow a set course via 30 photo checkpoints which had to be completed between 10 and 30 days.

Each rider was tracked

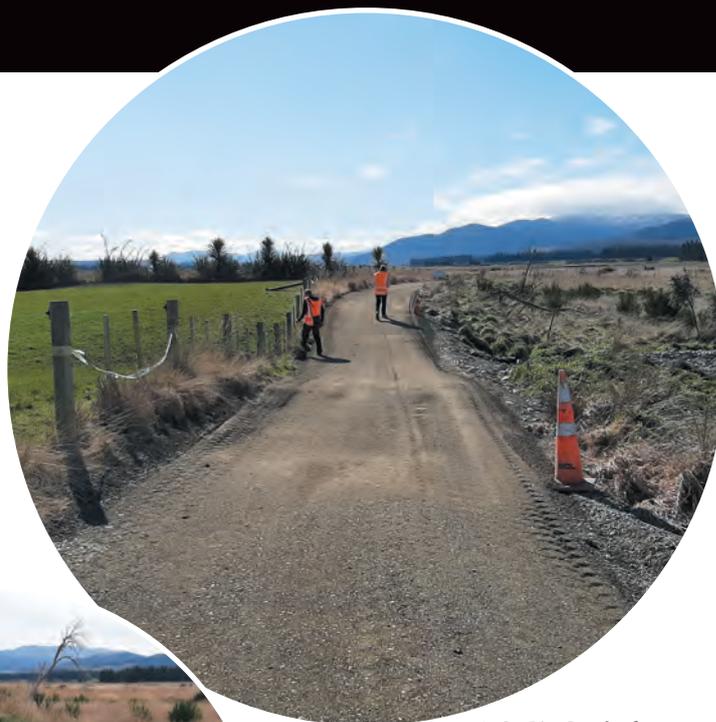
electronically, allowing others to monitor their progress.

The busy cycling season has been hailed a success by ATMCT manager Susan Mackenzie.

"It has been fantastic to see so many riders enjoying not only the Around the Mountains experience but the famous southern hospitality which goes with it," she says.

"We appreciate the businesses along the trail who partner with us to ensure all of our cycling tourists feel welcomed and supported while they are in the region."

Positive feedback from cyclists is testament the trail is a popular addition to the NZ Cycle Trails network.



▲ So Big Creek after



◀ So Big Creek before

Some quotes received on completed surveys include:

- **Great trail and I find something new each time to enjoy.**
- **The track is great and has great options especially if you only want to do some of the track. You are not restricted to completing the whole thing.**
- **Amazing countryside and easy biking for fun.**
- **Great outdoor experience, beautiful countryside, friendly people.**
- **The best maintained cycle trail I've been on.**

On the promotional front, the trail reached new heights – literally – with Air New Zealand's Kia Ora magazine including it as one of Southland's Top 10 Must Do's after flying into Invercargill Airport.

Anyone who has been on the trail this season is encouraged to complete a short survey at www.aroundthemountains.co.nz so this community asset can continue to be enhanced.

FUTURE OF WATER SERVICE DELIVERY

Committing to phase one of central government's proposed three waters reform was a "no-brainer", for Southland District Council's general manager services and assets Matt Russell, but how the next phase will play out is still unknown as work to progress the proposed reforms continues.

Central government is proposing to establish a new national water regulator, Taumata Arowai, and create a number of multi-regional entities to manage the delivery of three waters services, removing this function from territorial authorities.

Last year Southland District Council signed a memorandum of understanding with the Crown, which committed the organisation to engaging in discussions with central government about the proposed reforms. It also meant Council must provide a high level of information about its three waters delivery, such as the age and condition of assets, compliance and consenting information, resources, funding and levels of rates among other key data.

That commitment meant Southland District Council was granted \$13.53 million in stimulus funding, which has allowed it to embark on a significant programme of renewals and upgrades of water networks throughout the district.

Says Matt: "We are already working closely with local government partners across Otago and Southland to better understand

the central government proposal and look to the future of service delivery opportunities and efficiencies. Committing to phase one, for us, was a bit of a no-brainer. The stimulus funding we received has enabled us to accelerate some investment in our three waters infrastructure."

Southland District Council has 11 drinking water supplies, 13 rural or stock water supplies, 22 stormwater networks and 19 wastewater networks, which could all be managed by another entity in future.

While that would signal a significant change for Council, Matt is hopeful the implications for the community would not be so large.

"If Council opts to support the proposed reforms, it is anticipated that from a community perspective there should be no significant change to level of service at face value – for example, when you turn on the tap potable water will still flow.

"From our perspective, the most significant area of focus is ensuring equitable access to services. We want to ensure the voice of smaller, rural communities isn't lost in the larger entities alongside the larger, more populous urban areas and we want to ensure that's at the fore of any future decision-making arrangements."

More detail on central government's proposals is expected soon and a public campaign about the proposals is scheduled for later this year.

after significant wet-weather events.

Investigations into the sewerage pipelines have started and contractors have been assessing CCTV footage of small priority areas of Winton's network, to get a better understanding of additional flows entering the system.

Council asset manager wastewater Dave Inwood is one person to get the slightly unenviable task of evaluating the footage, but he's hoping it will offer a good assessment of the pipe condition, and evaluate the rainwater and groundwater entering the sewerage system.

"We're hoping an initial pilot study will give us a good snapshot of the additional flows, so we can consider ways we might be able to reduce it. This will be a large project in itself, including property site inspections," he says.

Resource consent for the Winton wastewater treatment plant expires in 2023. Council staff, alongside consultancy firm GHD and a working group comprising representatives from a range of sectors, have been looking into options for future treatment and disposal opportunities.

Work to date indicates if treated wastewater needs to be disposed of to land – which is an option for the community to consider – the daily flow rates will need to be reduced by 20 to 25%.

"The required reduction is significant, but we believe is achievable over time," Dave says.

A range of options for the future of the Winton plant are currently being discussed, and community input will be sought once a shortlist is confirmed.

Pipe footage to reveal vital information

Closed circuit television footage of sewer pipes may not sound like the most appealing viewing but, for Southland District Council, it's set to play an integral part in better understanding the wastewater network in Winton.

Recent monitoring of Winton's wastewater

network identified a high rate of inflow and infiltration in the wastewater network. That means a lot of water is entering the wastewater network that probably shouldn't be. The volume of water coming from the network and requiring storage, treatment and discharge is stressing the process, particularly

Much-needed upgrades for Southland water networks

Millions of dollars of government funding is going underground, as work to upgrade and renew some of Southland's water mains, stormwater and wastewater networks starts to flow.

Southland District Council received \$13.53 million in stimulus funding from the government after opting to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Crown regarding three waters reform.

The funding means Council can ensure critical infrastructure gets much-needed improvements and has been spread widely, with a programme of work starting in February this year and set to continue into 2022.

So far a new pumped sewer has been installed along Princess and Carroll Streets in Riverton. Work is also under way to replace the stormwater main in Waianiwa, and the rising water mains in Eastern Bush/Otahu Flat and in Otautau, with projects scheduled to be complete by May.

Work to replace water mains in Tuatapere and upgrade a small section of the stormwater network in Te Anau (on the corner of Mokonui Street and Town Centre) should get under way in April, and work is due to start on a water main replacement along Rocks Highway in Riverton in May.

Further water main renewals are also scheduled in Lumsden and Ohai, and other projects include a sewer upgrade in Caswell Road, Te Anau, upgrades to the stormwater networks in Orepuki, Wyndham,

Stewart Island and on Towack Street in Riverton, and additional water main renewals in Tuatapere, Riverton and Te Anau.

Council has also committed \$1.5 of stimulus funding towards a regional condition assessment which will assess the condition and capacity of the district's sewer and stormwater networks. It is hoped a district-wide programme will get under way in May.

Southland District projects funded through the government's three waters stimulus package include:

Complete:

- New pumped sewer in Riverton (Princess/Carroll Streets)

In progress:

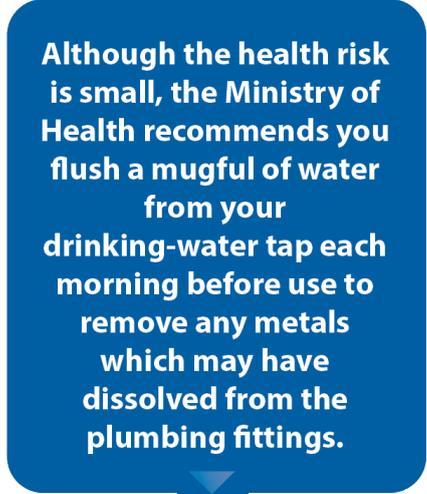
- Waianiwa stormwater upgrade
- Eastern Bush/Otahu Flat rising water mains replacement
- Otautau water main renewals

Upcoming:

- Tuatapere water main renewals
- Te Anau stormwater upgrade (corner Mokonui Street and Town Centre)
- Lumsden water main renewals
- Ohai AC water main renewal
- Stewart Island stormwater upgrade
- Orepuki stormwater upgrade
- Caswell Road (Te Anau) sewer upgrade
- AC water main renewals in Tuatapere, Riverton and Te Anau
- Condition and capacity assessment



Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.



Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends you flush a mugful of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals which may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.



We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Mobile Library Timetable



April - June 2021

Athol	Shop	Noon-1pm	Tues	11-May	8-Jun	6-Jul	3-Aug	31-Aug
Balfour	Tavern	4.30-5.30pm	Tues	27-Apr	25-May	22-Jun	20-Jul	17-Aug
	Tavern	1.30-3.00pm	Thurs	13-May	10-Jun	8-Jul	5-Aug	2-Sep
Blackmount	Wairaki Stn	11.30am-12.15pm	Mon	10-May	*	5-Jul	2-Aug	30-Aug
Dacre	Hall	9.00-10.00am	Fri	30-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	20-Aug
Dipton	School	11.00am-Noon	Tues	27-Apr	25-May	22-Jun	20-Jul	17-Aug
Drummond	School	10.30am-Noon	Wed	28-Apr	26-May	23-Jun	21-Jul	18-Aug
Edendale	Car park	1.00-4.00pm	Fri	14-May	11-Jun	9-Jul	6-Aug	3-Sep
	School	10.30am-Noon	Fri	30-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	20-Aug
Fortrose	Picnic Area	3.00-4.00pm	Fri	30-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	20-Aug
Garston	School	1.30-2.30pm	Tues	11-May	8-Jun	6-Jul	3-Aug	31-Aug
	Village	2.30-3.30pm	Tues	11-May	8-Jun	6-Jul	3-Aug	31-Aug
Glenham	School	1.00-2.00pm	Fri	30-Apr	28-May	25-Jun	23-Jul	20-Aug
Gorge Rd	Hall	11am-12.30pm	Tues	4-May	1-Jun	29-Jun	27-Jul	24-Aug
Hauroko Valley	School	1.00-1.30pm	Mon	10-May	*	5-Jul	2-Aug	30-Aug
Heddon Bush	School	1.30-2.30pm	Wed	28-Apr	26-May	23-Jun	21-Jul	18-Aug
Hedgehope	School	11am-12.30pm	Fri	23-Apr	21-May	18-Jun	16-Jul	13-Aug
Hillside School	School	11am-12.30pm	Thurs	22-Apr	20-May	17-Jun	15-Jul	12-Aug
Invercargill	SDC Office	9.30-11.30am	Thurs	6-May	3-Jun	1-Jul	29-Jul	26-Aug
Limehills	School	9.15am-10.30am	Thurs	22-Apr	20-May	17-Jun	15-Jul	12-Aug
Longbush	Kindergarten	9.00-10.00am	Fri	14-May	11-Jun	9-Jul	6-Aug	3-Sep
Mossburn	RSA	9.30-10.30am	Tues	11-May	8-Jun	6-Jul	3-Aug	31-Aug
	School	1.30-3.30pm	Tues	27-Apr	25-May	22-Jun	20-Jul	17-Aug
Nightcaps	Johnston Rd	9.30-10.30am	Mon	10-May	*	5-Jul	2-Aug	30-Aug
Ohai	Com Centre	2.00-4.00pm	Thurs	22-Apr	20-May	17-Jun	15-Jul	12-Aug
Orepuki	Main St	3.00-4.00pm	Mon	10-May	*	5-Jul	2-Aug	30-Aug
Otara	Hall	2.30-4.00pm	Wed	5-May	2-Jun	30-Jun	28-Jul	25-Aug
Pukerau	School	9.30-11.30am	Wed	12-May	9-Jun	7-Jul	4-Aug	1-Sep
Rimu	School	10.30-11.30am	Fri	14-May	11-Jun	9-Jul	6-Aug	3-Sep
Riversdale	Com Centre	11am-12.30pm	Thurs	13-May	10-Jun	8-Jul	5-Aug	2-Sep
	Com Centre	2.00-4.30pm	Thurs	29-Apr	27-May	24-Jun	22-Jul	19-Aug
Riverton	BUPA Village	2.00-4.00pm	Thurs	6-May	3-Jun	1-Jul	29-Jul	26-Aug
Roslyn Bush	Playcentre	9.15-10.00am	Tues	4-May	1-Jun	29-Jun	27-Jul	24-Aug
Ryal Bush	Com Centre	2.30-4.00pm	Fri	23-Apr	21-May	18-Jun	16-Jul	13-Aug
Te Tipua	School	9.30-10.30am	Fri	23-Apr	21-May	18-Jun	16-Jul	13-Aug
Thornbury	School	1.00-2.00pm	Wed	21-Apr	19-May	16-Jun	14-Jul	11-Aug
Tokanui	Main St	1.30-4.00pm	Fri	7-May	4-Jun	2-Jul	30-Jul	27-Aug
	School	9.30-11am	Mon	*	24-May	21-Jun	19-Jul	16-Aug
Waianiwa	Hall	3.00-4.00pm	Wed	21-Apr	19-May	16-Jun	14-Jul	11-Aug
Waikaia	School	9.00-10.30am	Thurs	13-May	10-Jun	8-Jul	5-Aug	2-Sep
	Com Centre	10.15-11.30am	Thurs	29-Apr	27-May	24-Jun	22-Jul	19-Aug
Waikaka	Com Centre	2.00-4.00pm	Wed	12-May	9-Jun	7-Jul	4-Aug	1-Sep
Waikawa	Hall	10am-Noon	Fri	7-May	4-Jun	2-Jul	30-Jul	27-Aug
Waimahaka	Hall	11.30am-1.00pm	Wed	5-May	2-Jun	30-Jun	28-Jul	25-Aug
Wallacetown	Com Centre	9.00am-Noon	Wed	21-Apr	19-May	16-Jun	14-Jul	11-Aug
Wendon	Hall	Noon-12.30pm	Thurs	29-Apr	27-May	24-Jun	22-Jul	19-Aug
Wendonside	Hall	9.30-10.00am	Thurs	29-Apr	27-May	24-Jun	22-Jul	19-Aug
Woodlands	Shop	2.00-4.00pm	Tues	4-May	1-Jun	29-Jun	27-Jul	24-Aug
	School	2.00-4.00pm	Mon	*	24-May	21-Jun	19-Jul	16-Aug

* denotes public holidays

Southland District Libraries Ph: 0800 732 542 Email: winton.library@southlanddc.govt.nz

Southland performing ahead of expectations

A new report reveals a positive outlook for Southland post Covid-19, with a population increase predicted and a full economic recovery likely by 2025.

The Southland region post-Covid Scenario Analysis Report was commissioned by Great South from economics consultants Infometrics.

It shows that with work able to continue during lockdown the primary sector and construction industries bolstered Southland's economy, putting it 6% ahead of the New Zealand economy.

Great South chief executive Graham Budd says while the report's outlook is heartening, the impact of a lack of international travellers on the tourism and hospitality sector has to be acknowledged.

"An increase in domestic tourism has helped, but in areas like Te Anau and Fiordland that have traditionally relied heavily on international visitors, the impact is severe."

Along with the impact on tourism, which is expected to suffer for some time, there would be other challenges ahead for the region, with the report noting labour and skills shortages, and a housing shortage as barriers to full recovery and growth.

The report outlines three recovery scenarios. At worst case, Southland should be 70% back to normal by 2025 and in best case it would be 100% back to normal economically.

"At this stage we're seeing quite a strong recovery based on export commodity prices and construction, so I would think the 70% prediction will be well surpassed," Graham says.



The report also predicts Southland's population will increase to between 108,800 and 111,300, up from the pre-Covid population figure of 102,600.

"Like the rest of New Zealand, we're finding that a lot of Kiwis who were overseas when Covid hit are returning home. That's great, but attracting skilled migrants into the region will also be essential."

The report, which factors in the continued operation of the Tiwai Point aluminum smelter until late 2024, is designed to assist regional decision making and inform future strategies for Southland.

"In many ways it reinforces our collective focus on economic diversification, carbon emissions and options for alternative land use," Mr Budd says.

A full copy of the report can be found at greatsouth.nz

Fresh start for Southland's RTOs

The severe impact of Covid-19 on tourism businesses in Southland is unrelenting, especially in Te Anau and Fiordland where international visitors have historically accounted for nearly 80% of annual business.

This was the primary catalyst for a review of Southland's regional tourism organisations (RTOs), which saw Great South begin operating both the Southland and Fiordland RTOs from 1 April this year.

Both RTOs underwent a name change to Visit Fiordland and Visit Southland, with Visit Fiordland replacing Destination Fiordland, allowing an opportunity to better align tourism development and promotional activity across the whole Southland region.

Destination Fiordland proudly operated as a membership organisation for many years with core operational funding provided by Southland District Council (SDC) and members funding marketing activity.

With the severe financial impacts on member businesses, this was no longer viable, so SDC is now contracting Great South to provide these services for Fiordland.

Funding for the Southland RTO is provided to Great South from all funding shareholders: SDC, Invercargill City Council, Gore District Council and Environment Southland.

Great South chief executive Graham Budd says it is important to note there is no new organisation with the change and no cost to ratepayers for rebranding.

A Visit Fiordland office in Te Anau will house Great South team members, while management and other support will be provided from Great South's Invercargill office.

"While things currently remain very tough in the visitor sector we have to now start looking ahead to a recovery of international tourism and how to best position ourselves for that."



Preparing for



registration

2021

It's nearly time to update your dog tags.

Dog registration begins in June and over 6,300 owners throughout the district will be receiving re-registration forms in their inbox or mailbox.

It's important to let us know if there are any changes relating to your dog to ensure the information you receive is correct. Simply go to www.southlanddc.govt.nz/dogchanges to update online or contact our friendly customer support staff on 0800 732 732.

Council's dog control team has reviewed its registration records and believes some dog owners have registered their dogs as working dogs, when they are not working dogs (by legal definition).

Some dog owners will be getting a phone call from dog control within the next couple of months confirming that their dogs have been registered correctly.

Check out the working dog criteria on page 29.



MICROCHIPPING TIMETABLE

AREA	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
Invercargill Office (car park)	Wednesday, 7th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 2nd 11.30 – 12 noon	Wednesday 7th 11.30 – 12 noon
Otautau Office (at rear)	Tuesday, 13th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 1st 11.30 – 12 noon	Tuesday 6th 11.30 – 12 noon
Lumsden Railway (at rear)	None	Wednesday, 5th 11.30 – 12 noon	Wednesday 9th 11.30 – 12 noon	Wednesday, 14th 11.30 – 12 noon
Riverton Office	None	Tuesday, 4th 11.30 – 12 noon	Tuesday 8th 11.30 – 12 noon	Tuesday, 13th 11.30 – 12 noon
Winton (opposite SDC Office)	Thursday, 8th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 3rd 11.30 – 12 noon	Thursday, 8th 11.30 – 12 noon
Te Anau Office (at rear)	None	Thursday, 6th 11.30 – 12 noon	Thursday 10th 11.30 – 12 noon	Thursday, 15th 11.30 – 12 noon
Wyndham Office (at rear)	None	Tuesday 11th 2.00 – 2.30 pm	Tuesday 15th 11.30 – 12 noon	Tuesday 20th 2.00 – 2.30 pm

All dogs eligible to be registered with the Southland District Council can be microchipped for free.
All dogs must be registered by three months of age.

Working Dogs



The following classes of working dogs are defined by the Government in the Dog Control Act.

Class	Evidence Required
Stock dogs, that are kept principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock	<p>The following breeds are considered by Council to be used as stock dogs in the District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any "Collie" breed • Huntaway • Heading • Australian Cattle Dog • Kelpie • Maremma Sheepdog • Any of the above crosses <p>No supporting information is required. A Dog Control Officer will be notified of any registrations for other breeds. The Dog Control Officer may request a demonstration of the dog working, when it is of age.</p>
Disability assist dogs	<p>Photo/copy/scan of certification that the dog is a disability assist dog from one of the following organisations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assistance Dogs New Zealand 2. Hearing Dogs for Deaf People New Zealand 3. K9 Medical Detection New Zealand 4. Mobility Assistance Dogs Trust 5. New Zealand Epilepsy Assist Dogs Trust 6. Perfect Partners Assistance Dogs Trust 7. Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind Incorporated
Government dogs	<p>Photo/copy/scan of documentation from one of the following Government Agencies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Police 2. Customs Service 3. MPI (Fisheries, Forestry) 4. Ministry of Defence 5. Department of Conservation 6. Department of Corrections 7. Aviation Security Service 8. Civil Defence Emergency Management
Pest dog	<p>Photo/copy/scan of the pest management plan under the Biosecurity Act 1993.</p>
Dog owned by a licensed Property Guard, for work under that legislation	<p>Photo/copy/scan of property guard approval documentation.</p>

It is an offence to knowingly make a false statement in a dog registration application form. Any person doing so is liable to receive an instant \$750 infringement notice.

DO ONE THING



We are all aware of the environmental harm rubbish creates when it is not correctly managed.

There are rubbish 'rafts' in our oceans, sea life and birds get tangled in rubbish or mistake plastic particles for food, contaminants leach into our waterways and greenhouse gases are emitted into the atmosphere.

The Southland region buried approximately 58,000 tonnes of rubbish last year, with about 30% coming from households. WasteNet research indicates if households had reduced, reused, recycled or recovered our rubbish, we could have saved 5,000 tonnes from going to landfill.

In March, WasteNet Southland partnered with New Zealand's Waste Free Warrior, Kate Meads, and offered residents free access to Kate's online waste workshops.

"Being more aware of what happens with our waste, and taking actions

to reduce our waste is a key focus for the WasteNet Councils" says WasteNet Southland senior waste officer Donna Peterson.

"We hoped residents would be interested in learning why waste is a problem and simply daily actions they can take to reduce it"

Residents had the choice of three workshops:

- **WASTE FREE LIVING** – learn why waste is a problem, introduce sustainable household products available, and how easily you can reduce waste at home.
- **WASTE FREE PARENTING** – practical and cost effective tips on how you can reduce waste at home especially with young children in the home
- **FOOD LOVERS MASTERCLASS** – learn why food waste is a problem and techniques to reduce it such as "first-in first-out", meal planning and save money on your grocery bill.

"This is the first time we have offered the online format," says Donna.

"Normally we bring Kate down to Southland and present her workshops in person. However, given the uncertainty of hosting events in a Covid-19 era, we chose to trial her online version."

More than 90 residents registered and watched the pre-recorded workshops with 30% participants living in the Southland district. The workshops have been well received, with 91% of participants "loving" the online format. One participant commented "I learned so much from this. Having the workshop in the online format was convenient as I could watch during the day as I had time."

Kate's workshops reflect her philosophy of "do one thing".

"We don't have to be perfect, we just have to do something to make a difference. You would be surprised how easy it is to reduce waste," says Kate.

Here is an example of tips learned by participants:

- Skip the single-use plastic produce bag and replace it with a cloth produce bag
- You cannot recycle almond milk containers
- You can replace plastic food wrap, by using beeswax wraps or a container
- Cloth nappies do not have to be hard to use, and while the set up cost for modern cloth nappies is high, in the long run they work out cheaper (especially if you have more children)
- You can have a waste-free lunchbox – use leak-proof containers, buy in bulk to reduce packaging
- Use up old cheese by grating it
- The freezer is your friend, you can freeze everything (including eggs)
- Plan your meals around what you already have in the pantry, fridge and freezer.
- Buy in bulk when you can, and use your freezer
- Skip fast fashion trends and buy and wear preloved clothing.

If you would like to learn more about what happens with our rubbish, visit wastenet.org.nz.

WasteNet also has daily waste tips on its Facebook page – WasteNet Southland.

SIX SIMPLE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO REDUCE YOUR FOOD WASTE

PLAN YOUR MEALS AND BUY WHAT YOU NEED

SHOP WITH A LIST

STORE YOUR BREAD IN THE FREEZER

DON'T PEEL YOUR VEGETABLES

STEW FRUIT OR MAKE SMOOTHIES

TAKE YOUR LEFTOVERS FOR LUNCH

SDC Grant Funding

Southland District Council has a range of scholarships and grants available for residents of Southland District.

Full details, criteria and application forms are available on our website: southlanddc.govt.nz > My Council > Funding & Grants

For more information on any of these funds and scholarships, call Shanin Brider on 0800 732 732.

Community Partnership Fund

Administered by each of the nine community boards and available to support projects in their respective areas. Closing dates and application forms can be found online at southlanddc.govt.nz/cpf.

District Heritage Fund

Available to support the conservation of heritage collections and encourage the development and application of professional museum standards. Applications close 31 March and 30 September.

Creative Communities

Available for arts and cultural projects and initiatives which stimulate and strengthen local arts activity and participation.

Applications close 31 March and 30 September.



Sport NZ – Rural Travel Fund

Available to assist with transport expenses associated with participating in regular local competitions. Ages 5-19.

Applications close 31 March and 30 September.



District Initiatives Fund

Available for projects of a larger scale which benefit the whole region, or at least two community board areas. Applications close on 31 March and 30 September.

SDC Scholarships/ Bursaries

Centennial Bursary

Two scholarships valued at \$2,000 each, awarded annually. Applications close 20 December.



SDC Eric Hawkes Memorial Outward Bound Scholarship

Two scholarships in this category: one for 18 to 26 years and one for 27 years and over. Applications close 20 December.

Valmai Robertson Arts Scholarship

Contestable fund of up to \$2,500 annually. Applications close 20 December.



Other opportunities

Northern Southland Development Fund

Available for the development of initiatives which benefit the residents of the Northern Southland Development Fund area (represented by the Southland District Council Five Rivers ward and the Dipton Community Levy area). Applications close 31 March and 30 September.

Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Fund

Available to support activities and facilities for the benefit of visitors to Stewart Island; and activities and facilities that mitigate the adverse effects of visitors on the environment. Applications close 31 March each year.

Ohai Railway Fund

Available for residents of the former Ohai Railway Board area, for the development of community facilities, programmes and other activities, tertiary education and employment training. Applications close 31 March and 30 September.

John Beange Fund

Available to support recognised community groups or organisations and individuals within the Wyndham area, or for projects for the benefit of residents within the Wyndham area. Eligible purposes include assistance occasioned by age, illness, congenital defect, accident or other misfortune, as well as the advancement of education and learning. Applications for 2021 close on 30 September.

Contact us



All offices: **0800 732 732**

District libraries: **0800 732 542**



0800 732 329

sdc@southlanddc.govt.nz

southlanddc.govt.nz



MILFORD OPPORTUNITIES

UPDATE ON MILFORD OPPORTUNITIES

Completion of the Milford Opportunities masterplan is the focus now, as all the work and feedback comes together to enable the governance group to consider and decide on the final plan.

The governance group has received all of the workstream reports which enables it to make the decisions on the masterplan recommendations. These reports provide extensive background on areas such as mana whenua, tourism, infrastructure, hazards, governance and more, as well as identification of the ideas that form the masterplan. All feedback from the public and stakeholders has been considered as part of the creation of these reports and recommendations.

The governance group will meet in April to receive the final masterplan, which will then be given to government ministers for discussion in April.

The aim is to release the masterplan to the public in June and at that point stage two finishes. There is another stage left in the project after this, which is the implementation of the masterplan by government, if it chooses to do so. Detailed feasibility assessments, consultation and engagement are likely to be required in stage three to move into implementation.

Meanwhile, the final report on the October engagement survey is complete now and can be found at milfordopportunities.nz/assets/Projects/October-2020-engagement-feedback-summary.pdf

