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THE FIRST EDITION
Southland District Council's magazine

Record year ahead for district projects

Southland District Council is raring to go as it launches into a record year of work.

With the 10-year Long Term Plan (LTP) for 2021 to 2031 having been adopted by councillors on 29 June, project delivery group manager Nick Hamlin says around 48.2M of projects are on the books to be carried out in the 2021/2022 financial year. It will be the biggest annual programme of capital works Council has ever undertaken.

“Three years ago we were completing around \$18 to \$19 million of capital work. Last year we reached around \$30 million,” he says. “It’s been a big step up over the last three years in regards to how much SDC has committed to and delivered.

“And then we’ve effectively got around \$40 to \$50 million year on year for the next 10 years. It’s exciting.”

The work this year comprises around 165 projects, spanning in value from \$2,000 to \$2 million, covering everything from localised beautification plantings, lawnmowing contracts and playground equipment replacements right through to multi-million-dollar sewerage scheme upgrades.

The increased investment is directly related to the huge amount of infrastructure Southland District Council operates over a massive geographical area, which has to be maintained and renewed, as well as the rising costs of doing the work.

All up, Southland District Council owns and maintains approximately \$2.2 billion of roads, bridges, footpaths, water supply

and treatment systems and community facilities, spread over more than 30,000km², the largest land mass of any territorial authority in New Zealand.

To put it into context, Invercargill has one wastewater treatment plant, whereas Southland District Council owns 19.

Nick says, “it’s a big challenge to maintain all that infrastructure out there, to service those regional towns and areas.

“I think the biggest challenge for Southland District Council is not so much the value but the quantum of projects.”

However, he’s confident that Council is in good shape to keep putting “runs on the board” early in the current financial year.

“We’ve got some really good systems in place,” Nick says.

Internally, the most significant improvement Council made was setting up a dedicated project delivery team about two years ago. Nick says this kind of team is a rarity in local government organisations in New Zealand.

“Having that resource in house has made a massive difference. That’s allowed us to have a really strong focus on delivering those capital works programmes.



Nick Hamlin, project delivery group manager

“We do a lot of engagement with the local contracting and supplier markets to make sure they’re aware of what SDC’s doing in the region and so that we can understand their capacity and set up projects that service the market.”

A major innovation was selecting a panel of four main contractors who have an overview of Council’s works programme, so they are able to make sure they have resourcing available for the projects they know are coming.

“This allows us to be very quick and effective in regards to getting work out to market and ensuring work is completed on time,” Nick says.

“Our works programme is reasonably well identified, reasonably well advanced,

Southland District Council’s Long Term Plan 2021-2031 was adopted at a meeting in Council chambers on 29 June.

While the long term plan (LTP) sets out Council’s plan for the next 10 years, it is reviewed every three years to make sure it is still relevant and accurate.

The LTP identifies the outcomes we want for our community; how we will move from where we are now to where we want to be; and how we will deal with the challenges along the way.

It sets out work programmes, identifies the costs and budgets, and informs ratepayers how our performance in achieving these targets will be measured.

In the years between LTPs being adopted, Council remains publicly accountable through its Annual Plan and Annual Report.

Cover art:

A bridge layout plan prepared by structural engineers WSP Opus. Despite a funding shortfall, maintaining the district’s 5,000km road network will remain a major portion of SDC’s work programme over the next three years.

Magazine design Produced by
Gloria Eno Southland District Council
communications team

2021/22 PROJECTS (BY COMMUNITY BOARD AREA)

FIORDLAND

Community Facilities	8
Sewerage	5
Transport	9
Water Supply	6

\$10.1M
28
Projects

ARDLUSSA

Community Facilities	6
Sewerage	1
Stormwater	1
Transport	7

\$2.4M
15
Projects

TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE

Community Facilities	9
Sewerage	2
Stormwater	1
Transport	3

\$2.6M
15
Projects

NORTHERN

Community Facilities	4
Transport	7
Water Supply	1

\$561K
12
Projects

WALLACE TAKITIMU

Community Facilities	6
Sewerage	1
Transport	7
Water Supply	1

\$2.2M
15
Projects

ORETI

Community Facilities	16
Sewerage	2
Stormwater	1
Transport	3
Water Supply	1

\$2.5M
23
Projects

WAIHOPAI TOETOE

Community Facilities	13
Sewerage	1
Stormwater	2
Transport	9

\$2.2M
25
Projects

STEWART ISLAND RAKIURA

\$2M
11
Projects

Community Facilities	6
Sewerage	1
Stormwater	1
Transport	3

ORAKA APARIMA

Community Facilities	13
Stormwater	2
Transport	3
Water Supply	3

\$1.4M
21
Projects

* The total of \$48 million shown on the next page includes \$22 million of district-wide transport projects, which have yet to be allocated.

already in pre-planning and scoping and has been out to community boards for signoff, so we're reasonably confident that despite what may happen at central government the bulk of our projects should be reasonably well set up for the year ahead."

The project delivery structure has created greater flexibility to manage additional work, such as central government's stimulus funding package for the so-called "three waters" projects – drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

In 2020, Southland District Council received \$13.53 million of funding from the government, after opting to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Crown regarding its three waters reform.

The agreement signalled Council's intention to be part of further discussions with the government about three waters reform, and to submit relevant information about our three waters operation.

The funding has enabled Council to carry out critical improvements to infrastructure throughout the district, with a total of 20 projects identified, ranging from replacement of asbestos cement (AC) water main pipes to upgrades of stormwater and sewer systems.

At the end of the 2020/2021 financial year on 30 June, a total of 10 projects, worth about \$4.8 million, had been completed. The stimulus package work has to be finished by 31 March 2022.

Council strategic water and waste programme manager Joe Findley says those were mostly smaller projects, and in the next two months residents would see an increased spend on

Community Facilities	81
Sewerage	13
Stormwater	8
Transport	51
Water Supply	12

\$48.2M

**165
Projects**

bigger projects, mostly "the direct renewal of failing AC infrastructure".

The old asbestos pipes are being replaced with high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes. Joe says, "I'll be surprised if they're not still there in 200 years."

Longer term, Council aims to replace 2km a year of AC pipes over the course of this 10-year plan, or 20km in 10 years, valued at \$15 million.

As well as the government-funded stimulus work there are a number of other large three waters projects in progress, including sewerage scheme upgrades in Winton and Manapouri and replacement of 2.4km of AC water main pipes in Lakefront Drive, Te Anau.

Consent for five wastewater treatment plants in Southland district are up for renewal in the next three years and extensive work on what these will look like is under way.

With new regulations and environmental, cultural and social considerations to consider, the current method of disposing of treated wastewater to water (which is common at most Southland district plants), is unlikely to be supported long term and new solutions are required.

The process to get new consents across a large number of wastewater treatment plants is not simple, and stakeholder engagement is playing a critical part in this. Work on the future of the Winton plant has been ongoing for close to 12 months, and conversations on the Manapouri scheme have also started. Work also needs to begin on consents for the Edendale/Wyndham, Balfour and Oban treatment plants.

Disposal of treated wastewater to land comes with its own set of criteria, challenges and expenses, and work across the next 12 months will be focused on ensuring the most suitable

and practical solutions that are acceptable from environmental, cultural, social and economic perspectives are explored before new consent applications are submitted and design and build phases begin.

Some of the bigger projects in the LTP are district-funded through rates paid by all Southland ratepayers, while others are locally funded through the nine community boards' targeted rates.

"There's been really great engagement by the community boards in the works programme, and we enjoy working with them and delivering their projects," Nick says.

Work is constantly being prioritised depending on a number of factors, he says, including urgency of replacement of key pieces of infrastructure and available funding. "We look at it in terms of the risk factor of when that asset needs to be renewed."

Council's plans for roading projects over the next 10 years had to be re-evaluated as the current long term plan budgets were nearing completion.

All Southland District Council's roading work is 52% funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency in a three-yearly funding cycle. For the 2021-2024 cycle SDC applied for funding to carry out around \$100 million of work, focusing on more bridge replacements and road rehabilitations. However, just three weeks before the Long Term Plan 2021-2031 was scheduled for adoption, Waka Kotahi advised Council that because its national funding pool was over-subscribed it could not fund the full amount sought. Instead, Council received an allocation of \$85 million, a \$15 million shortfall.

This has resulted in a number of bridge renewals and road rehabs being deferred



until the next three-yearly funding round in 2024, when it is hoped that more funding from Waka Kotahi is available. In the meantime, Southland District Council is making representations to central government arguing Southland's case for a higher level of road maintenance funding, as roads and bridges are considered vital to the health of the region. They connect our widespread communities and support the movement of goods and access to services around the district, providing significant economic and social benefits.

The unexpected funding shortfall does not mean, however, that Council cannot carry out any road works over the next three years. The \$85 million SDC received is more than the \$78 million received in the previous funding allocation in 2018, which means Council can continue a maintenance programme, including reseals and grading, focusing on critical areas.

There is some uncertainty, however, over the programme of footpath renewals that had been budgeted for in earlier drafts of the long term plan for 2021-2031. This work has historically been funded by the individual community boards, but in the three years of the previous long term plan Waka Kotahi contributed extra money which enabled more footpath replacements. In the 2020/2021 year more than 1.7km of footpaths in 10 townships throughout the district were able to be replaced because of the additional funding.

Council's roading team will now have to discuss with the nine community boards how they would like to proceed, as the projected increase in work is not covered by Waka Kotahi's constrained funding.

With such a large volume of projects ahead Council staff are going to be flat out working to complete them, but Nick Hamlin is upbeat about the task ahead. While the project delivery team is at the sharp end, he acknowledges the "entire team" approach that is enabling Council to carry out such an ambitious programme, from activity and asset managers to the property team and communications.

"There's a lot of work going on in the background that ensures these projects are being set up well."



Sarah Greaney

Chair, Fiordland Community Board

What is a key highlight from the first six months of the year?

The Community Board is excited to have the Long Term Plan signed off to allow implementation of the Community Future Plan which has been worked on over the past three years. We finally have funding in place to get on with doing what needs doing in our community.

What do you see as the most important project or initiative for your community board in the immediate future?

The outcomes of the Milford Opportunities project will have significant impact on the Fiordland region once announced. In addition, gaining additional central government support through a variety of funding initiatives including the Tourism Infrastructure Fund, mental health funding, Kickstart funding and other mechanisms will all help put Fiordland back on its feet. There are both short term and longer term projects that have positive ramifications for the area – now it's all about successful implementation.

What are you most looking forward to in the next six months?

- » Starting to implement aspects of the Long Term Plan and delivering on what we've said we will deliver
- » Enabling and supporting small businesses to survive by continuing to advocate for our region through local and central government relations
- » We've talked the talk for long enough. Now it's time to walk the walk
- » What is something people may not know about your community board area, or a town within it?

Milford Sound is not actually a sound, it's a fiord as it was carved out of glacial erosion. It is the only fiord in New Zealand able to be accessed by road. It's a two hour drive from Te Anau – a fact not often appreciated by visitors who often turn up in Te Anau with totally unachievable drive times to get to their cruises.

COMMUNITY BOARDS UPDATE



Graeme Stuart

Chair, Oraka Aparima Community Board

What is a key highlight from the first six months of the year?

The first stage development of the Bath Road Reserve with the establishment of a walking track and carparking.

What do you see as the most important project or initiative for your community board in the immediate future?

We have two projects - the second stage of Bath Road Reserve including land scaping and plantings and the new toilet block for Taramea Bay and development of a playground and activity area at Talls Point.

What are you most looking forward to in the next six months?

The aforementioned projects being completed in time for visitors to enjoy in the coming summer season.

What is something people may not know about your community board area, or a town within it?

All have their own attractions - Colac Bay for its surfing, Thornbury has a world class Vintage Machinery Museum, Riverton for its unique arts and shopping opportunities as well as cafes, Te Hiko Heritage Museum and Taramea Bay as a safe family beach.

Nominations sought for SDC community service awards

Nominations are now open for the annual Southland District Council community service awards.

Community liaison officer Tina Harvey says the awards are designed to recognise outstanding contributions.

“This is a fantastic opportunity to honour and celebrate those people in our communities who truly go the extra mile to make a difference.”

Community members may nominate an individual or group who have provided a significant contribution to their community board area through leadership, volunteering, or community service.

“Given the challenges which have been faced over the past 16 months, we expect there will be many people in the community deserving of this acknowledgement and it would be great to see nominations flooding in,” Tina says.

Nominees’ contributions could be in education, youth, health, sport, heritage, arts, culture, environment, social wellbeing or similar sectors.

“The scope is really vast, as we appreciate there are so many facets throughout the Southland district which all contribute to making it a great place to live, work and play. Ultimately, it’s the people who really have a positive impact.”

Nominations close on 30 September 2021. Southland’s nine community boards will then consider any nominations received and allocate up to two community service awards from their respective areas.

Nomination forms are available from council’s area offices or online at www.southlanddc.govt.nz/my-council/community-service-awards/



Award criteria

- Any person or group residing within the Southland district, who by their significant and outstanding contribution to their community board area through leadership, volunteering, or community service, is eligible to be nominated for a community service award.
- The definition of ‘significant and outstanding contribution’ focuses on the quality of service and does not preclude individuals on age or length of service.
- Nominees’ contribution to the community may be in education, youth, health, sport, heritage, art, culture, environment, social wellbeing, or similar sectors.
- Joint awards (ie, partners and groups) are acceptable and can be considered as one nomination.

Nomination process

- There will be one nomination round per year closing 30 September (special exceptions may apply in extraordinary circumstances).
- Members of the community can nominate individuals by submitting the prescribed application form to Southland District Council before 30 September.
- Late nominations will not be accepted and will be deferred to the next nomination round.

As the old saying goes,
'If you fail to plan, you plan to fail'.

The adoption of Council's Long Term Plan 2021-2031 cements our direction and provides a clear blueprint to follow as we embark on an ambitious but absolutely necessary works programme.

Thank you to those who submitted or made valuable comments to make your views counted. While we had that unfortunate poke with a sharp stick from NZTA which forced us to rejig, as a whole the LTP process was a positive because we received the message loud and clear to just get it done.

Now it's time for action as we all move Southland forward.

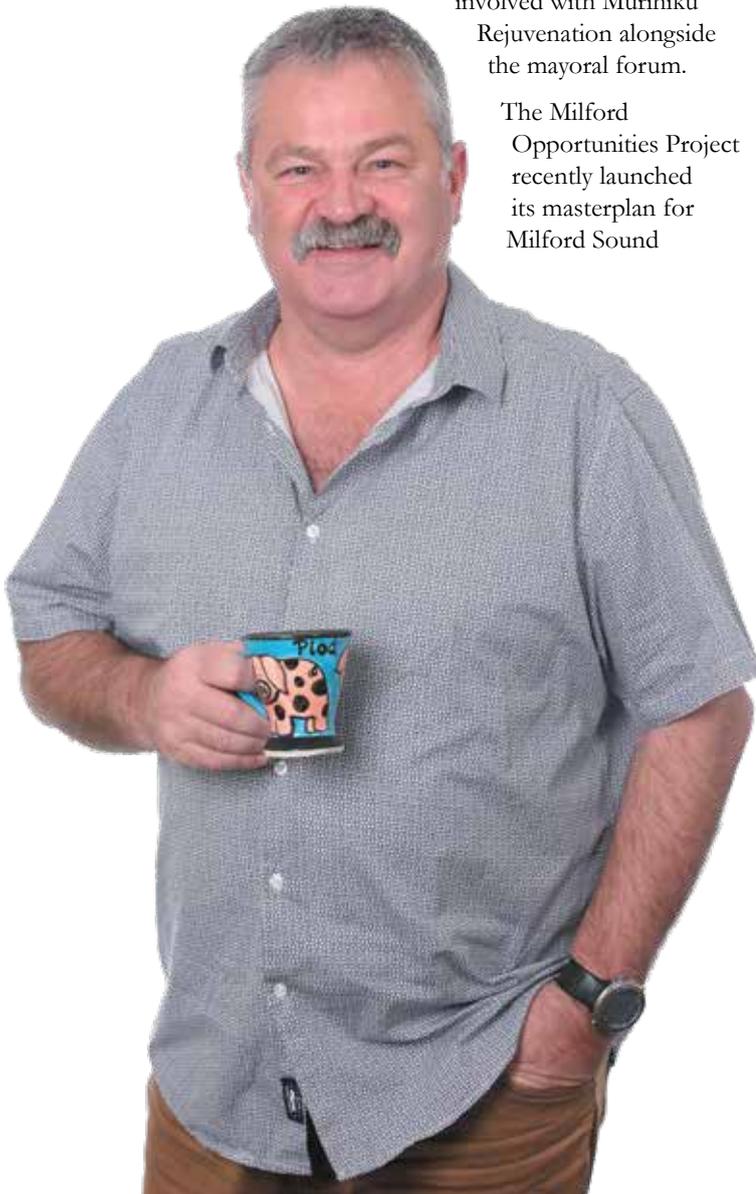
I know Council staff are rapt and chaffing at the bit to crack into the vast array of projects which have been identified. I applaud the proactive approach taken with a recent promotion to recruit the contractor and supplier resources needed to deliver the volume of works.

Ultimately we want to support local business and keep Southland money in Southland.

When you take stock of everything on the radar and add it up, there sure is plenty happening here in the deep south – both from a practical and a strategic perspective.

It's been fantastic to be involved with Murihiku Rejuvenation alongside the mayoral forum.

The Milford Opportunities Project recently launched its masterplan for Milford Sound



Piopirotahi which incorporates the visitor experience to and from Milford to Southland and the surrounding areas. It contains some exciting recommendations and I look forward to watching stage three – implementation – get under way.

The dreaded Covid pandemic is still having an impact nationwide. It will take time for areas like Fiordland to recover and it's been interesting to see where kiwis are flocking to as they opt to explore their own backyard.

Stewart Island Rakiura is bursting at the seams sometimes and it would appear Doubtful Sound is attracting more interest than its traditionally more popular neighbour Milford. I hear good reports of visitors lining up to explore the Milford and Routeburn tracks which bodes well.

National initiatives which will have an impact include the Three Waters Reform, Future of Local Government and the health review.

I was asked recently for my views on the low female representation in elected positions across all three Southland councils.

While four of the 12 elected councillors around our table are female, individuals standing for office is not something a council can control or regulate. The current Council is made up of candidates selected through the democratic local body election process – regardless of gender.

Southland District Council is very aware of the importance of diversity of representation and we are always reviewing what can be done to further encourage people to stand.

People have busy lives and while they may represent their communities through a range of other organisations, local body politics can be very time consuming. It can open one up to criticism, and sometimes absolutely abhorrent behaviour, especially through social media. No doubt that can be a deterrent. It takes a brave person to stand up in front of a community and say "pick me" to represent you.

It's up to an individual to step up. I certainly encourage people to consider a role in representation and ensure the local voice is not lost, at both local and national level.

The call for nominations in the Oraka Aparima Community Board by-election ended with no nominations forthcoming. I find that disappointing. It's a shame that there are plenty of people doing positive things in their communities who for whatever reason won't commit to the next step and put themselves forward for election. However, once again, it's a choice.

When it comes to putting the local in local government, elections are just 14 months away. It might be time for people to think about standing for their communities and, in some cases, walking the walk.

Over the next few months decisions will need to be made about the role local councils play in the delivery of three waters services.

Much discussion about the potential changes is focused on the structure, governance and funding of any new arrangements. There are also questions being asked about the implications for local democracy and the future role for local government, with some seeing the changes as a commentary on the performance of councils since the reforms of 1989.

While these are all valid talking points, it is important not to lose sight of the underlying need for change in water services.

The three waters, as they have come to be known, are drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Providing these services is currently a role of territorial authorities such as Southland District Council.

A generation or so ago, good-quality drinking water was so readily accessible it was probably taken for granted. You could drink the water from streams, rivers, lakes, bores and even off your roof. A town's water scheme consisted of pumps, pipes and tanks; water treatment was seldom necessary.

Wastewater treatment has been an essential component of daily life for centuries. In the recent past, with easily accessible and cheap land, large ponds for basic treatment were the order of the day, usually with discharge to the nearest waterway. These wastewater schemes of pipes, pumps and ponds were cheap to operate and were considered acceptable.

Stormwater systems, where they

were built, were designed to keep surface water off streets, properties and out of houses. In many urban centres the stormwater system was deliberately designed to handle overflows in the wastewater system to prevent sewage flowing through people's homes in the event of blockages. Stormwater systems have to be able to cope with sudden downpours and were usually designed to be at least 10 times the capacity of wastewater systems for the same area. Stormwater systems relied on gravity to flow to waterways or soak holes.

Those were the old days. Much has changed.

Sourcing drinking water has become much more difficult as the region experiences greater demand. Water now needs to be treated and compliance with the drinking water standard is necessary. This is more complicated, costly to operate and has a higher risk than before.

Wastewater treatment and disposal methods designed 50 years ago are no longer fit for purpose. There is a growing awareness that the receiving environment can't withstand current discharge methods, especially when seen in the context of all the other pressures on the environment that have come from land use. Formerly, too, due consideration was not given to the cultural implications of these practices or the effects on natural food sources for tangata whenua. We look through a wider lens in modern times.

Stormwater systems are going to need a rethink. The predicted changing weather patterns will see increased demands placed on these systems and serious consideration will be required to deal with any contaminants that have been collected in the stormwater before it is discharged.

The future of the provision of these services is going to be costly and increasingly difficult. When addressing the increased complexity and cost, size and scale will become fundamental issues for individual councils to grapple with – particularly in the design, procurement and staffing of these high-risk and technical activities.



There is a reasonable question to ask. Can an average territorial authority afford to deal with all of this on its own? This is essentially the question that central government has been working on with the three waters reform.

The government is proposing to create large entities to provide these services in the future. It wants to ensure the three waters infrastructure assets stay in public ownership, but be governed by skills-based boards. For Southland District Council, that would mean joining an entity that looks after much of the South Island.

By comparing the costs of a council acting alone in the future with the benefits for ratepayers of joining the larger entities, the reform programme has been careful to check that the benefits would be real and not imagined.

Because the sector was concerned that central government might not have a complete understanding of what local government does, Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) has been working with the government on behalf of councils to ensure that the reforms could actually work. LGNZ assembled a technical advisory group from highly experienced people from across local government to represent the sector in the technical stuff. This group has done excellent work on your behalf.

Some people are uneasy about the proposed changes.

One issue is the matter of who will decide the future arrangements.

LGNZ has been consistent in its approach. While it has been working on behalf of councils it will not make decisions about the future of three

waters on your behalf. How those decisions will be made was not clear at the time of writing this, but whether the decisions are made by councils or central government they will be made by people who have been elected to lead.

Another key issue is the matter of ownership of assets – the treatment plants, the pumps, the pipes and so on.

The proposal is designed to keep assets in public ownership but they would transfer away from direct local government control.

What would that mean for councils in the future? Obviously this would affect council's balance sheets and range of activities. The government has established a fund to ensure that none will be worse off and there are also provisions for a transition.

The government has also set up an independent review called the Future for Local Government. This group is having a fresh look at the role of local democracy and has started to engage with councils.

While the three waters topic will get a lot of attention in coming months, it's far from the only major work being done at the moment. Council adopted our Long Term Plan in June and we are preparing to deliver a record programme of work for residents and ratepayers across the district in the coming year.

The support of our communities is incredibly important to us. We are working hard to streamline our lines of communication between community and Council, and we would like to enable our community boards to be more efficient in the way they go about their business.

We rely on our communities to provide direction, and we are ultimately accountable to them. Communication is the key. It serves nobody to make conversations more difficult than they need to be.

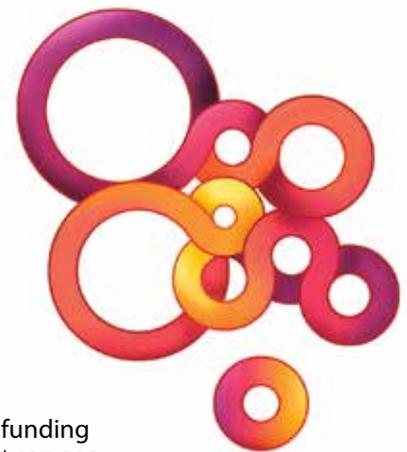
Whatever decisions are made about three water delivery over the coming months, your Council is committed to local democracy and working together for a better Southland.

Community Partnership Fund has *positive impact*

More than 100 initiatives throughout Southland have benefited from the introduction of Community Partnership Funds.

With a focus on community-led development, each of the district's nine community boards are now tasked with administering their own Community Partnership Fund.

In its inaugural year, 115 grants, totalling \$299,608, were approved by the community boards. A total of 134 funding applications – with requests totalling \$607,888 – were received across the 17 funding rounds held.



“The boards enjoyed being in a position to assist their communities by financially supporting an array of projects.”

- community liaison officer Megan Seator.

“It also gave them the opportunity to connect and engage with the various groups.”

An analysis of the applications received shows the most frequently applied for projects were for community services and facilities (43 applications). This included projects relating to pools, non-Council-owned halls, community events and community gardens.

Following this were projects for children and youth (34 applications), including those being undertaken by schools, playcentres and toy libraries.

This was followed by projects relating to sport (20 applications), including rugby clubs, golf clubs, pony clubs and bowling clubs.

A smaller number of applications were received for environmental, heritage and arts-related projects, as well as for social services.

RMA: Change is coming

An exposure draft of new legislation designed to replace the Resource Management Act (RMA) has been released, with environmental limits and outcomes set to play a key part in the district's future.

In February 2021 central government announced it would repeal and replace the RMA, with three new laws to replace it – the Natural and Built Environments Act (NBA), the Strategic Planning Act (SPA) and the Climate Adaptation Act (CAA). The public now has the opportunity to look at what the Natural and Built Environments Act could look like with the release of the draft exposure bill.

This is not the full bill but is a look at key aspects of the act, which include the purpose of the act, what it seeks to achieve and the types of plans that will be created to bring the act to life. The proposed key outcomes of the act relate to topics including protection of outstanding natural features and landscapes, significant indigenous vegetation and cultural landscape, and the establishment of housing in urban areas.

The proposed act will require one Natural and Built Environment Plan per region, which will be prepared by a planning committee comprising representatives from regional and territorial local government, central government (the Minister of Conservation) and mana whenua.

Southland District Council manager environmental planning Marcus Roy says the exposure draft of the act provides an early look at key aspects of the legislation.

“The new legislation will require environmental limits to be established across key domains and issuing consents based on what is appropriate with the limits,” Marcus says.

“Previously consents were issued based on potential effects, which is quite different. It's good to see that our initial work to identify outstanding landscapes is in line with where the proposed legislation is heading.”

After going through due process it is expected the NBA will become law by the end of 2022, with the SPA and CAA following in 2023.

To read more about the proposed RMA reform see www.environment.govt.nz

A legacy of looking after the land is well and truly thriving at Mark and Deborah Hamill's Gorge Road farm.

The 301ha property is a credit to the Hamill family who call it home, and to a tradition of caring for the land that dates back to 1888.

The farm is fondly known as Folly's Farm because when William John Hamill bought it, the purchase was branded a “folly” due to it being a huge bush block with boat-only access.

Today, the property is a flourishing dairy farm, after a conversion from sheep and beef in 2008. Across the farm more than 40ha of native bush is fenced off. There are two regenerated wetlands, and an oxbow lagoon that has become a sanctuary for hundreds of eels, and tui, bellbirds, wood pigeons. Even kaka and falcon have made homes on the property for a time.

Mark and Deborah Hamill and their three children, Blair, Joshua and Emily, have continued a practice of caring for the land which has been passed down through generations.

FARMING

“Native bush has been fenced off for decades – its's always been seen as the right thing to do,” Mark says.

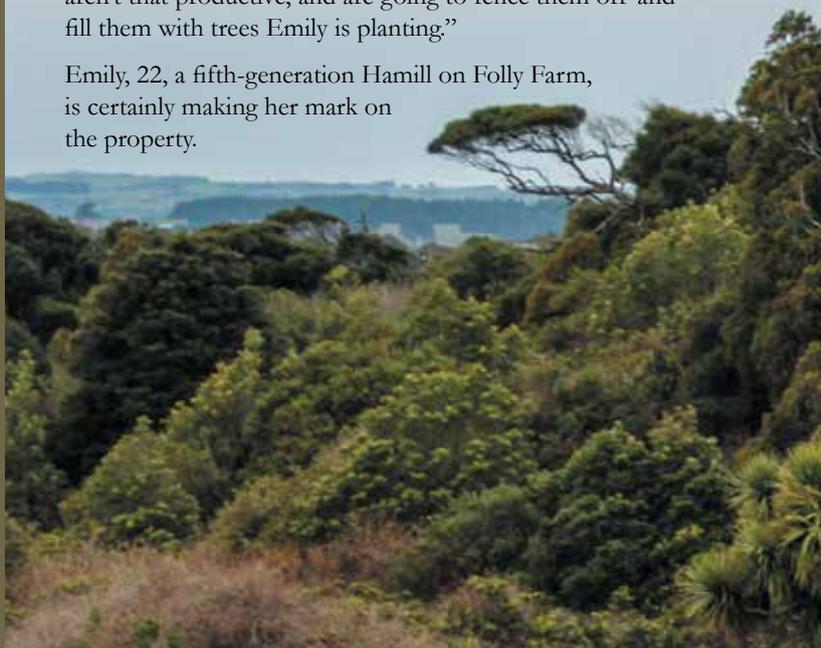
When the couple converted to dairy for farm succession reasons, they built lanes around trees and ensured any mid-paddock trees remained, aware of their importance as bird corridors.

They look to both the past and the future when it comes to on-farm environmental activity.

“As a family, we're looking after our farm, we're protecting it ... it's home for us and it's home for the generations ahead of us.”

Mark agrees. “We really want to enhance it for the next generation. We're taking off little corners, little pockets that aren't that productive, and are going to fence them off and fill them with trees Emily is planting.”

Emily, 22, a fifth-generation Hamill on Folly Farm, is certainly making her mark on the property.





Emily, Mark and Deborah Hamill on their Gorge Road farm.

FOR THE FUTURE

On spotting some regenerating ribbonwoods alongside the lane to the cow shed, she saw an opportunity.

“I got some planter bags and separated them - they were densely growing. I had 50 of them to start with, then got another 50 and it went from there. There were other species too, like fuschias, wineberries and cabbage trees too ... It ended up being 900 I bagged up within a few months,” she says.

Alongside her father, she has planted more than 400 of the trees across the farm, with more than 400 in her home nursery yet to be planted, and she has more than 70 seed trays too. They have also planted more than 50 fruit trees, fencing off an area that was getting muddy with cows coming up to shelter and turning it into an orchard.

Mark and Deborah have a shared philosophy. “If you don’t know what you’ve got, you don’t know what you’ve got to lose.”

They have a register of birdlife that has been seen on farm, a

list of fish and insects – which includes the rare gollum galaxias – and a log book of native trees on the property.

“We’ve got a really good handle on the flora and fauna on our farm. When you know what you’ve got you don’t want to lose it,” says Mark.

Southland District Council manager environmental planning Marcus Roy says the multi-generational legacy of environmental awareness and activity on Folly Farm is brilliant, and deserves to be highlighted.

At a time when proposed new regulation is hitting the headlines, with the government’s proposed National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity drawing much attention, it is important to consider the good work already happening within the district, he says.



Southern firefighters honoured

The heroic efforts of a group of Southland firefighters have been recognised with a prestigious award.

Principal rural fire officer Timo Bierlin (Invercargill), deputy principal rural fire officer Hamish Angus (Te Anau), Graeme Appleby (Drummond), and Alan Jones, Kenneth Keenan, Nigel Milne and Brodie Butcher (all of Hedgehope) received the New South Wales Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation from Mayor Gary Tong at a special presentation in May.

Dubbed 'Black Summer', the 2019-2020 NSW bushfire season was the worst in history, claiming 26 lives, including six firefighters, and destroying 2448 homes, 5.5 million hectares of land and over a billion animals.

When a plea for help came from their Australian counterparts, the Southland contingent never hesitated, flying across the Tasman to take up the fight. The Southern district provided personnel for six deployments, spread out from November 2019 to February 2020.

"We sent some of our finest southern wildland firefighters."

Mr Bierlin says.

"With the Anzac spirit in mind and a 'we are stronger together' attitude, we left our families and Southland behind to face the red demon.

"It is not about what's in front of us – it is all about what is left behind, the things we want to protect. Every single day we gave our best to protect and preserve lives, properties and wildlife. And I dare to say, every single one of us made a difference.

"We saw things and have been in situations that we won't forget for a long time. But we also gained valuable experience and skills that we brought back home to Southland, contributing to making our communities stronger and helping protect what matters.

"That's why it was important to me to celebrate this day here at Southland District Council. Southland is our home and Southland and its people are what we protect."

Mr Bierlin says the NSW Premier's Bushfire Emergency Citation symbolises mateship, teamwork, volunteering and helping when times are tough.

"It's a meaningful commemoration of a bushfire season Australia won't forget. No-one could be more proud of his people than I am to see these guys receive this award," he says.

He paid tribute to their wives and partners.

"In the heat of the battle we often forget to recognise and reward the people behind our firefighters ... it's not easy sharing your partner with the fire. A tree is only as strong as its roots and will topple easily when they are weak."

Timo, Hamish, Graeme, Alan, Kenneth, Nigel and Brodie – Southland salutes you. #ourheroes



Award-winning firefighters Graeme Appleby, Hamish Angus, Alan Jones, Timo Bierlin, Kenneth Keenan, Nigel Milne and Brodie Butcher.

A unique Riverton landmark in Southland/Murihiku's rich heritage awaits the next phase of its existence.

Te Whare Kohikohi – also known as Kohikohi's cottage – is regarded as nationally significant. The category 1 heritage building is a rare example of a pre-Treaty of Waitangi dwelling, and a tangible reminder of early intermarriages between Māori and pakeha along the coast of Foveaux Strait/Te Ara a Kiwa.

The cottage was the first permanent residence built in Riverton, first known by Māori as Aparima and later by European settlers as Jacob's River.

It was built in 1837 by whaling leader and prominent landowner Captain John Howell for his wife Kohikohi, the high-ranking Māori daughter of Centre Island/Rarotoka chief Horomona Pātu.

Their union had great mana for both Māori and European settlers, who recognised the need to form strategic alliances, including through marriage – Māori to secure trade opportunities and maintain control, and Europeans to secure occupancy beyond the lifespans of their whaling operations.

Captain Howell and Kohikohi had two children – George and Sarah Ann Howell – before Kohikohi's untimely death in 1841, from unknown causes. She was buried at her ancestral home on Rarotoka.

George Howell and other family members lived in the cottage at various times over the years. It remained in the ownership of Kohikohi's ancestors until 2006, when it was gifted to the Southland Heritage and Building Preservation Trust by Neville Wilson, the great-great grandson of Captain Howell and Kohikohi.

Although the trust is primarily a funding organisation, its first priority was to conserve the cottage. After a lengthy building project the structural restoration has now been completed. The work was carried out by Tony Lawlor Building Ltd, of Invercargill.

Restoration began in 2009, and was split into three stages, each separately funded. Stage one was to engage a conservation architect, stage two involved shoring up the

Next phase for historic cottage



Te Whare Kohikohi



Neville Wilson in Kohikohi's cottage.



Lyndal Ludlow

exterior and stage three was developing the interior.

Since 2014 Southland District Council community liaison officer Kathryn Cowie has secured funding for the project, first in her former role at Venture Southland and latterly at Council.

The project has been supported by a range of funders, including Community Trust South, the Lottery Environment and Heritage Fund, the Stout Trust, Southland Regional Heritage Committee and Oraka Aparima (formerly Riverton) Community Board.

Now that the building project is complete, the next phase is to pass guardianship of the cottage on to more permanent custodians.

Lyndal Ludlow, chair of the Southland Heritage and Building Preservation Trust, which currently owns the cottage, says they are looking for a group in the community to take on the upkeep of the building and to explore opportunities to further develop the cottage as a visitor attraction and/or educational resource.

These ideas were outlined as far back as 2018, in a concept plan prepared for the trust by heritage advisor Rachael Egerton. They could include installing interpretation panels, multi-media displays and other historic artefacts that tell the "huge amount" of stories of early settlement in the area, and using the space as an artist's residence.

"In its entirety, it's quite an attractive package," Lyndal says. "We just need to get it out to a group of people who can do that for it."

The 48th annual Riversdale Arts mixed-media exhibition attracted people from all over the region to pore over the stunning artworks on display.

The rural township was a hive of activity for what is the biggest event held in the Riversdale Community Centre each year, bringing widespread benefits to the community.

The hall was transformed into a vibrant arts hub, pop-up shops opened to greet the throngs of people arriving by the busload, and large school groups from around the area visited daily. A gift shop well stocked with eye-catching crafts, prints and small pieces ensured that even if visitors weren't in the market for one of the exhibition pieces, they could take an affordable piece of art away with them.

Works of all shapes, sized and media were on display.

There were 82 artists exhibiting this year, with most of their work for sale. Invited artists can exhibit up to six pieces, while local artists can display two each. Artists from as far away as Auckland had pieces in the exhibition.

Renata Karena, from Queenstown, was this year's guest artist in residence. He was fully booked tattooing in the hall during this year's exhibition. Riversdale Arts past president Christine O'Connor said there had been a lot of interest from people watching Renata work, many of whom had not seen a tattoo artist in action before.

As well as leaving his artistic mark on clients' skin, Renata also had five



Art in the Community

Outstanding New Zealand art had Riversdale buzzing during July.



artworks on show, mostly ballpoint pen and acrylic on plywood. All his pieces were sold.

As a token of appreciation Riversdale Arts presented him with a kākahu – a traditional hand-woven cloak – titled Tihitihi, which was crafted by club president Kerryn Miller. Kerryn also had the honour of winning the award for best member local artist.

During the week-long exhibition art classes were well supported, with skills in wire sculpture, linocut printing, acrylics, willow work, felting and stitch art being taught.

Kerryn, who farms at Mandeville, is in her third year as president of Riversdale Arts and is passionate about the event.

The exhibition is about as big as it can

get now, Kerryn says, but the quality of artworks on show continues to rise.

Artists are invited to submit work by the organising committee who, with the exception of paid administrator Jann Robertson, are all enthusiastic volunteers. "Jann's fantastic," Kerryn says. "I don't think we could do it without her now."

The committee gets a lot of help from the community to help set up the hall each year.

"It's a group effort. Once this one finishes we start again, organising the next one. It's ongoing."

The exhibition is supported by a lot of sponsors, with main funders including Community Trust South, the Southern Trust and the New Zealand Creative Communities Scheme, administered locally by Southland District Council.

A feature of the show is the Emerging Artist Award, which has a \$1,000 prize put up by Riversdale Arts. It was set up to attract younger people to the exhibition and to promote youth art in Southland. Young artists aged 13 to 25 in the Community Trust South area are eligible to enter.

This year's award went to Olivia Reihana, 18, of Tapanui, for her strikingly original acrylic piece, *Anatomy*. She received her \$1,000 prize at the well-attended gala opening night. Arrowtown artist Emily Johnston, 15, received special mention for her watercolour, acrylic and pencil piece entitled *Bugz*.

Past president Christine O'Connor praised the originality and execution of both



Clockwise from top left: Eryn from Balfour, with the sign she designed for Yum Café; Kerryn Miller's flax cloak, Tihitih; Renata Karena's Maunga; Olivia Reihana's Anatomy.

artworks, saying they really stood out.

Eight finalists were selected this year, judged by Christine along with Jim and Marcella Geddes, from Eastern Southland Gallery.

An added drawcard for visitors was the pop-up Yum Café set up in the community centre's Lions Club meeting room run as a fundraiser by the Balfour Home and School group. Hearty home-made food and KAOS coffee kept visitors well sustained

during the 10-day event.

Organising the exhibition each year is "a big job by a small number of people," Christine says, "but when you get to this stage you realise it's all worth it.

"Then, after weeks of setting up, in one night it's all gone. We like to sell as much as we can so we don't have to send it back.

"It's a big thing in the community. This is the biggest event in the hall for the year. We're here for two weeks by the time we set up and clean up and what not."



Robert and Linda Jones have opened their hearts and their homes to hundreds of children over the past three decades. In September the Winton couple will bring up 30 years of foster parenting.

Puzzles are laid out on the table as a bright, bubbly three and a half-year-old giggles and hides the last piece from Robert, the man she affectionately calls “Grandpa”.

A smiling six-month-old lies on the carpet, toy in hand as Linda, or “Granny”, prepares to get him ready for a nap.

For close to 30 years, this has been life for the Joneses; sharing their love, their time and their home with children who need it.

“It was something we’d talked about before we got married,” Linda explains.

“We’d seen a family in need where we lived and it was something we talked about. Then we got married and had our own children – three in three years – so fostering was put to the side for a while.”

When the Jones’ children were aged nine, 10 and 11, a neighbour broached Linda about becoming a carer for an adult with an intellectual disability. Interested, Linda went along to some training. As it turned out, they had found someone else to take that role, but there was a need for someone to care for a young boy with an intellectual disability.

“Here it was, this fostering (caregiving) thing coming up again ... working with people with intellectual disabilities was something I was interested in, so that was how it started,” Linda says.

Robert was on board from the start.

“I probably didn’t go to the same amount of trainings as Linda... well, someone had to look after our kids... but I really was on board from day one. When we’d seen these wee kids in need, back before we were married, fostering was just something we’d always talked about and it just went from there.”

The nine-year-old boy ended up staying with the Jones family for three years before returning to his mother, and it was the start of what would become an incredible experience.

In the early years most of the children who came into their care had a level of special needs. The couple admit it was difficult at times, but acknowledge it as incredibly rewarding and something which brought their own family even closer.

“In those first years if we hadn’t worked as a family or a team we wouldn’t have got through it,” Linda says.

“Even now we rely on our kids to help out and if we didn’t have their support we probably wouldn’t be able to have two (children).”

“Our kids were marvellous. Caring for children with special needs, it can be hard, but it is also very rewarding and you really see results – little improvements just from giving them that extra time. I think it probably enriched our kids’ lives in some ways, by having them in their lives.”

The Joneses have numerous stories of children who have spent time in their home.

Young boys who came to stay, aged five and seven, for respite care, who would go on to credit the Joneses for their family eventually ending up happily together.

The two sisters, of a family of five, who would come back to visit in their late teens and pore over photo albums the Joneses had kept.

Eventually, the Joneses put their names down to care for babies, aged under

18 months; wanting to ensure the children were younger than their own grandchildren. How long they stay varies, but Robert and Linda prefer the longer-term care.

When they are ready to leave – either to return to a parent or parents, or to a permanent home – Linda always puts together a scrapbook with photos of their time together.

“It’s a real mixed feeling when they leave because you’ve come to the end of the journey. You’ve played an important role for that child, kept them safe, helped them grow and develop into a little person. You know you are handing them over for the better and know we’re too old to keep them, but underneath it does break your heart, the parting,” says Linda.

Robert adds: “You forge real relationships with them, and some you have a real bond with. We still keep in touch with some. One wee boy, well we just got on so well. We lost touch for a while after he left, but then got in touch with the social worker to see if we could pick him up from daycare for a couple of hours. We weren’t even sure if he’d remember us as it had been about six months, but he saw us and let out this big shout of Grandpa and just came running up to us.”

Robert says caregiving is almost a chance to parent again – with the benefit of hindsight.

“Because we’re later on in life, there’s no rush to have the beds made ... the toys on the floor don’t matter,” he says.

“Back then (when our kids were young) it seemed important to have the floor tidy in case someone came, but now there’s always toys out and it doesn’t seem so important. It’s about making the most of it while you can, spending time with the kids and not worrying so much about things like the housework.”

And so, 30 years on, is there any chance of the Joneses calling it a day?

“We’ve done that three times, we have tried to retire,” says Linda, before adding “although, we didn’t actually take our name off the list.”

“I can’t really imagine life without at least one child here. As long as that need is there it is hard to turn away.”

“In the last 42 years, since our eldest daughter was born, Santa Claus has only missed our house about twice,” adds Robert.

“It’s not everyone’s cup of tea, but the joy it brings has been worth every bit. When I get home from work and there’s a little person just so happy to see you, with a big ‘Grandpa’, it’s pretty special.

“We don’t see it as special or heroic, we’re just looking after kids that need some time and some love ... and it helps when you’re a big kid at heart!”



ROBERT & LINDA JONES

By Jerrie Valli



15 HOURS ON THE TRAIL

Fleur Douglas couldn't imagine a more perfect backyard.

After moving to Kingston two years ago the passionate long-distance runner discovered the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail right on her doorstep and it's been a daily jaunt ever since.

Donning her sneakers and clocking up the kilometres roving the trail has provided plenty of time to conjure up ambitious challenges – and she ticked off her greatest achievement to date in May when she completed a gruelling 100km trek.

Fleur ran from the junction on Mavora Road, near Centre Hill, back home to Kingston – 100.47km to be exact.

"I adore the trail and run on it every day. I couldn't wait to try for the big triple figure on it," she says.

"It was one of those rare runs – and I've only ever had one other – where everything goes well. Just over 15 hours end to end, stunning weather, trail to myself the whole way – everything was just perfect."

It was a triumph that stemmed from adversity.

"I had spent a year training for the Tarawera 100 Miler run and it went badly when I tore a muscle in my hip at the 65km mark and had to stop. It was the first time I haven't finished a race," Fleur says.

So a new goal was set, which proved excellent motivation during her recovery.

"It was definitely satisfying to come back from injury and achieve that – I went through a pretty low patch and psychologically it was quite hard," she says.

"Everyone thought I was crazy trying to do 100km by myself instead of in a race environment."

She wasn't always alone on her quest, with friends surprising her at various stages and running sections.

"By the time I got near the end it was dark. But a group of friends appeared and we had the music blaring. It was so cool and we created our own atmosphere."

Alpine Start Café, at Kingston, even set up aid stations along the route and crafted a medal to celebrate the achievement.

Fleur is eager to see the cycle trail continue to evolve as an asset.

"It's an incredible playground – we are truly privileged to have it," she says.

"It's stunning. I don't understand how the Otago Rail Trail gets so much attention when our one is much more beautiful.

"I find it really, really peaceful out there. You can see for miles and it's the classic Southland view of rolling hills and countryside."

Naturally she would love to see a running race set up in the future.

"It's the perfect length. You could run an event with a variety of distances to accommodate all runners."

Fleur embarked on running seven years ago.

"I have the least inspirational story about how I started running. I literally thought one day 'if I go for a run, I wonder how far I could go?' and so I went for a run," she says.

She was soon clocking up long distances, including seven Kepler Challenges.

"When you run short distances you have to go fast and who wants everything going past in a blur?" she says.

"I love the adventure of it. It's not about how fast you go or how long it takes. It's about the journey and the sense of achievement when you finish.

"You spend a lot of time in your own head space. I'm an only child and I think they make good long-distance runners because we're used to entertaining ourselves."

It takes more than wintry conditions to deter Fleur from the trail – always accompanied by her loyal cocker spaniel, Loki – and she is relishing the move down the lake from Queenstown to Kingston.

"We are culturally Southland here – that's how we like to describe it," she says.

"No matter what direction you go here, there are lots of natural playgrounds to explore."

Rail treasure RESTORED



An historic railway carriage recovered from a western Southland farm nearly a year ago has been restored to its former glory.

The A class passenger car, number A199, underwent painstaking restoration work in a yard in Lumsden after it arrived there in September last year.

On Wednesday, 21 July 2021, it was lifted by crane and transported the short distance to its new permanent home in the Lumsden Railway Precinct.

A199 was lowered on to recently purchased and restored 1885 bogies (wheel set chassis) behind the TR diesel locomotive and carriage A525 that is on lease from Southland District Council. It joined the two V class locomotives, V126 and 127,

salvaged from the mud of the Mararoa junction near Lumsden early in 2020.

A199 was built by New Zealand Railways at Addington, Christchurch, in 1883, and was recovered from Wairio on 8 September 2020 by the Lumsden Heritage Trust. It is being fitted out as an information kiosk, telling stories of the area's rich railway history.

Trust chair John Titter is delighted to see the latest phase of the Lumsden Railway Precinct development has come to fruition.

“This entire project has involved a lot of work by a dedicated ‘A team’ of contractors, businesses and supporters, and without them the trust would not have been able to achieve this latest milestone.”



Lumsden carpenter Gordon Lawrence did all the joinery and timber work on the passenger car and an “enthusiastic group of volunteers” were involved in stripping and repainting the interior.

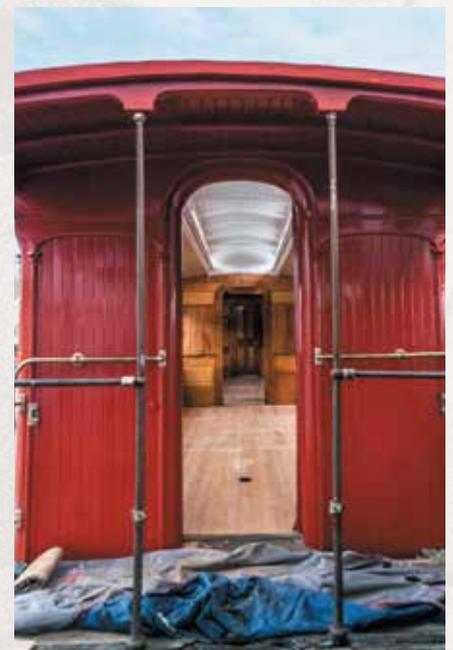
Mr Titter says the carriage has been taken back to “as close to original condition as we could”.

It was moved into position by contractors from Smith Crane and Construction and Southland Machine Hire, and will now have its final embellishments added in the form of interpretation panels, photographs and displays telling the story of the entire fleet of rolling stock now housed as a visitor attraction in the centre of Lumsden.

The existing precinct building on the platform at Lumsden will be extended to protect and conserve the refurbished carriage, with Jason Gorton Building Ltd doing the building work and Coresteel Buildings Southland providing the steel structure.

This part of the project has been paid for as part of the original funding secured by the Lumsden Heritage Trust for the recovery and display of the V class engines. Funders include the Lottery Grants Board, Community Trust South, Northern Southland Development Fund, Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand, Communities Initiatives Fund and the Regional Heritage Fund.

* In June the Lumsden Heritage Trust won the Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand's P J Dillicar Award for its V class locomotive recovery project.



Up to code

WITH JULIE CONRADI



Keep your kids safe

Our building team are required by law to check on the safety of swimming pools, spas and hot tubs. The rules are designed entirely to ensure the safety of our children. Little inquisitive people have a natural tendency to want to explore new places, and, sadly, a pool in your backyard can be the most dangerous place in the world for them.

The pools we know about are inspected once every three years. However, it's highly likely there are others we don't know about. We'd like to know about them.

We encourage people who own pools not on our radar to get in touch with us to arrange an inspection. At the moment we're not looking to take the enforcement and infringement line. We'd rather get your pool safe first, and ensure the fences and gates around them offer the right protection to keep kids safe.

A recurring issue we're noticing is the gates on fenced pools not latching properly. The rules says that if you hold your gate open 150mm and let it go it should swing closed and latch lock itself. Try it. Does it latch? Make sure it's shutting and locking properly to keep your kids safe.

Another thing pool owners should keep an eye on is trees or other plants growing near their fences – anything that could help kids to get a leg up to climb over the fence and put themselves in harm's way. Keep vegetation near your pool fences trimmed, and protect your children.

Earthquake-prone buildings

As many of you will already be aware, we've been doing some work to identify earthquake-prone buildings in the

district. As a result of feedback received from the community we're focusing initially on four priority areas: Winton, Riverton, Otautau and Wyndham.

We've just begun inspecting buildings in the main streets of these townships. Our plan is to inspect one town a month, and we hope to have this work completed by the end of the year.

Affected building owners in these areas have been sent a letter notifying them of a visit from members of our team.

Once this phase of inspections has been completed we'll concentrate on working through the rest of the district in a staged approach.

BWoF audits

Life safety systems such as fire alarms and emergency lighting are designed to assist in the safe running of a building. A building with specified life safety systems is issued a compliance schedule by Council. The compliance schedule requires a building owner to supply a Building Warrant of Fitness (BWof) to Council annually. Building Warrants of Fitness are written confirmation that a building's life safety systems are working correctly.

Building owners are required to engage an IQP (independent qualified person) to carry out inspections on all the specified systems listed on the compliance schedule.

We carry out on-site auditing, to ensure the owners and IQPs are complying with the requirements outlined in the compliance schedule. These inspections are carried out by SDC once every three years. There are approximately 720 buildings in the district that need to be audited.

Whether the building's on a farm, any other private property or a public building, a BWof is about community safety. When things go wrong, people's safety is at risk.

If we haven't received your renewal BWof paperwork by the renewal date we will send you a notice to fix, which incurs an additional fee.

To avoid this make sure your BWof documents are forwarded to us before the due date.

If you're not sure whether your building is compliant, or you're having trouble booking an IQP to do your inspection, please give us a call on 0800 732 732. We'll be happy to work with you before it gets to the point where we have to issue an infringement notice.

New fees structure

We've had to increase our building control fees and we've received a lot of calls from customers wondering why.

Previously, ratepayers were subsidising a large portion of our building work across Southland. This wasn't fair to those ratepayers, as the costs of doing this work were rising.

The SDC building team's work is not for profit. The increased fees this year were necessary to cover the costs and ensure we deliver prompt service to the industry and cover only the minimum cost of doing business.

During the past 12 months our building team received a lot of feedback from the industry that our level of service wasn't meeting the needs of the community. We have increased our level of service and, unfortunately, this means that the cost has also increased.

We apologise for the impact that this fee increase has on you and your clients.

Talk to us

Every day the building solutions team gets a lot of calls, emails and questions about building issues. We really value the opportunity to talk to customers about what's going on in the industry. We both benefit from having a good chat, whether it's one on one or in a group setting.

If you'd like a member of our team to come to your meeting to talk with your group or organisation about building industry changes, trends and costs, we'd be more than happy to.

We'd love to connect with you. Just give us a call on 0800 732 732 or email us on building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz

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.

CELEBRATING MATARIKI

Winton's Ivy Russell Reserve came alive with light, colour and art in a community celebration of Matariki in June, with hundreds of people enjoying the spectacle.

Co-ordinated by Weka Pre-School, alongside Winton Kindergarten, Winton Blue Duck Early Learning Centre and Southern REAP, the evening was an opportunity for the community to come together, with an art trail set up around the reserve featuring creations from Winton pre-schoolers and local children, all lit up by thousands of lights.

The 7 hectare reserve, which includes extensive native plantings,



provided the canvas for what proved a very successful evening, as hundreds of Winton families made their way around the trail, glow sticks in hand.

Weka Pre-School owner/manager Rochelle Robins says the pre-school traditionally celebrates Matariki with children and their families and this year the experience was opened to the wider Winton community, which proved a huge success.

"The journey of Matariki not only gives the children opportunity to understand and reflect about a period within our yearly cycle where the sky gives us insights into the celebration of cultural myths and legends, but also astronomy and its meaning, bringing science and culture alive together," she says.

The inclusion of the children's artwork was a meaningful and popular addition to the evening.

"Children are creating masterpieces every day, so this was a wonderful chance for them to showcase some of these, adding to the lights and colour on show. Their contributions were amazing and it allowed them to be so proud publicly, as they got to see their art on display within the reserve."

Community spirit was further on show with Weka Pre-School teachers and parents providing soup and buns, the Winton Lions Club providing a sausage sizzle and Winton Rotary ensuring there were plenty of glow sticks.



GRADER DANGER!



Our roading contractors have reported some near misses between their graders and other vehicles on Southland roads.

Quad bikes and children on bicycles, in particular, have caused grader drivers some scary moments. There's a big difference between 18 tonnes of grader and 400kg of quad bike, so it's not a good idea to get too close.

If a grader's moving you should keep your distance, and if it's reversing make sure you're far enough back that the driver can see you in the rearview mirror.

Graders have reversing cameras but sunstrike and dirt can obscure the driver's visibility and, if you're too close to the rear of the grader, chances are you're out of the driver's line of sight. Check out the staged photo, which gives an indication of the limited rear view a grader driver has.

Leith Compton, the grader driver who took the photo, says the grader wasn't on a Council road at the time. "It was in a farmer's laneway doing private hire work and I had stopped on a lunch break when the farmer agreed to use his four-wheeler to demonstrate an incident that had occurred the day before on Council road, when I came very close to a major accident."

To pass a grader, make sure you have 100 metres of clear visibility throughout the entire manoeuvre and, if the road is narrow, wait for the grader driver to pull over to let you pass.

Our contractors have been told to be extra vigilant on Southland roads. We need you to play your part too. Please stay safe and keep your distance.

Remember: if you can't see the driver, the driver probably can't see you.

Working in partnership is proving the key to success for Road Safety Southland.

Road user safety advisor Maureen Deuchrass says connecting with agencies such as the New Zealand Police, ACC and Plunket is having a positive impact in the community.

"I feel really proud of what we have done, and continue to do, as a result of these partnerships," she says.

"Working together truly is the Southland way and that's how we get a lot of traction down here where other regions tend to struggle."

Road Safety Southland delivers a range of programmes that target several important audiences, including young drivers, mature drivers, young road users, motorcyclists, fatigued drivers and high-risk drivers. They are designed to educate, engage and empower all road users with the aim of reducing fatalities and serious injury.

"We all see value in the programmes which we have developed together. There's a mutual respect and trust and, ultimately, we are saving lives as a result of our efforts."

Southland area road policing team leader senior sergeant Hua Tamariki says Southland police have a strong partnership with Road Safety Southland.

"We are closely aligned in our prevention work and messaging to reduce trauma on our roads," he says.

"Maureen is an asset to this relationship and we see her, and the role that

she occupies, as an equal partnership to Southland Police in our shared efforts to achieve better outcomes for all Southlanders who use the roading network.

"I encourage our members to engage with Maureen when they bring new and innovative ideas to the table in terms of road safety. She will always engage with our people and more often than not will support projects, both big and small, under the umbrella of road safety.

"Moving forward, it's critical that Southland Police continues to foster, grow and work equally alongside our partner agencies. The Road Safety Southland and police partnership can be viewed as a strong foundational model to look towards when attempting to bring all stakeholders to the table to achieve long-term positive outcomes."

Kathryn Impelmans, injury prevention programmes manager at Whānau Āwhina Plunket, says the partnership has improved safety outcomes for the most vulnerable of road users – our children/tamariki.

"The collaborative approach taken by Road Safety Southland has significantly enhanced our ability to develop new and innovative programmes as well as maintain in a sustainable

Road Safety Southland's Maureen Deuchrass with the Community Driver Mentor Programme Award.





Road Safety Southland's Maureen Deuchrass with the Community Driver Mentor Programme Award.

DRIVING GREAT PARTNERSHIPS

way programmes such as Bright Sparks and child restraint programmes," she says.

"Working along a wide range of partners means we have opportunities to extend our reach in the community, share ideas, increase our knowledge, discover new ways to deliver safety messages and all be sharing the same messages.

"Programmes developed in conjunction with Road Safety Southland are always high-calibre, evidence-based programmes targeting road safety issues of greatest concern and achieving positive change."

Testament to the quality of initiatives being developed, the life-changing Drive My Life programme was recently judged the best of its kind in New Zealand.

The Driving Change Network voted Drive My Life the best programme out of 12 entered nationally to win the Community Driver Mentor Programme for 2021 at an awards ceremony in Wellington.

Drive My Life, a community mentoring driver licensing programme, was launched in 2018. It is a referral-based initiative to empower vulnerable and at-risk participants through the graduated licensing system. It is geared towards helping young members of the community who are unlicensed for a

wide range of social or economic reasons to become safe road users.

The programme was developed by Road Safety Southland, police and ACC, and is delivered in Southland, Wakatipu and Fiordland, in partnership with Southern REAP. Volunteers with full licences work with participants until they are ready to sit and pass their drivers licence test.

Last year, 510 people were referred to the programme, with 271 engaged and 239 on a waiting list. 163 earned their licence with another 57 continue to strive towards it.

"We continue to walk alongside these people as long as it takes," says Drive My Life co-ordinator Jonelle McDowall.

"We don't give up. You're with us from day one and we will stay with you until you successfully pass your licence."

Passing the drivers licence test gives programme members the confidence to succeed in other walks of life, for instance to go out into the community to apply for jobs or further their education.

"Our programme is full of stories like that," Maureen says.

"We're really stoked to win this award. It gives us a lot of cache. We can say we're the best in the country."

OTHER SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- **RYDA** – providing secondary school students with the tools, habits and motivation to stay safe on our roads as both drivers and passengers.
- **Street Smart** – a practical course for young drivers staged at Teretonga.
- **SADD** – Students Against Dangerous Driving.
- **Staying Safe** – Mature driver workshops aimed at building confidence for senior road users.
- **Bright Sparks** – a road safety programme for kindergartens.
- **Seen and Safe** – delivered by Plunket to support the correct installation of child restraints, and empower families to become first role models in road safety.
- **Stop-Revive-Survive** – a fatigue stop run at Easter.
- **The Right Track** – an educational programme aimed at aberrant driver behaviour.

WATER SERVICES

It's an exciting time for Southland District Council's water and waste team, as millions of dollars' worth of work gets under way throughout the district – all with no impact on rates.

In 2020 SDC 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 agreement signalled our intention to be part of further discussions with the government about three waters reform, and to submit relevant information about our three waters operation.

The funding has not only allowed us to carry out critical work to infrastructure throughout the district, but has enabled us to develop more efficiencies in our delivery models.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORK SO FAR INCLUDE:

Working alongside ICC to establish a contractor panel

SDC and ICC have established a contractor panel to deliver the work the stimulus funding is supporting. Four contractors were appointed to the panel after a request for submission was released to the market in 2020. The panel model has enabled a streamlined procurement process to take place and, between the panelists, a huge cache of work is underway throughout Southland and Invercargill. It has been a positive step toward the councils working collaboratively to gain efficiencies in delivery of projects and is working well.

25 projects supported by government funding

A condition and capacity assessment is under way

This will assess the district's sewer and stormwater assets

COMPETED WORK SO FAR INCLUDES:

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

IN THE PIPELINE:



Stimulus funding update

- Waianawa stormwater upgrade
- Eastern Bush/Otahu Flat rising water mains replacement
- Otautau water main renewals
- Part-funded early procurement of critical plant for the Te Anau wastewater upgrade project
- Te Anau stormwater upgrade
- Curio Bay water supply upgrade
- Replacing pressure vessels in two pumphouses for the Mt York rural water scheme
- AC water main renewals in Riverton Rocks and Te Anau
- Woodlands stormwater upgrade

PROPOSED THREE WATERS REFORM

Southland District Council is wading through a lot of information to better understand what the future may hold for water services in Southland. The government has announced plans to amalgamate all New Zealand councils' water services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) into four publicly owned multi-regional entities. Under the proposals, Southland would be part of an entity covering most of the South Island, excluding Nelson and Marlborough. Council-owned three waters infrastructure would be merged into the new entity.

Southland District Council group manager services and assets Matt Russell says staff are working through the information provided by government and are seeking clarity on how calculations and figures have been arrived at in the proposals. Further information is expected in the coming weeks and, at this stage, councils will have until the end of the year to opt in or out of the proposed reforms. Between now and then, Council will look to keep communities updated as more information becomes available.

WORK SET TO START SOON INCLUDES:

- Riverton water main renewal (Havelock Street, Riverton)
- Tuatapere water main renewals
- Lumsden water main renewals
- Ohai AC water main renewal
- Towack Street stormwater upgrade

FURTHER WORK TO BE RELEASED INCLUDES:

- Stewart Island Rakiura stormwater upgrade
- Orepuke stormwater upgrade
- Caswell Road sewer upgrade
- Wyndham stormwater upgrades

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



August - December 2021

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

* denotes public holidays

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

Kick-start for tourism

Tourism businesses in Southland that have been hit hard by the loss of international visitors are able to apply for money from a pool of government kick-start funding.

The \$200 million Tourism Communities: Support, Recovery and Re-set Plan is aimed at assisting five communities, including Southland, that were most affected by the loss of international tourism as a result of Covid-19-related border closures.

The other areas are Queenstown Lakes, Kaikōura, Mackenzie and Westland.

In Southland, Great South is the lead agency tasked with delivery of funds to eligible businesses.

Bobbi Brown, general manager tourism and events, says Great South worked with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Enterprise (MBIE) to broaden the scope of businesses able to apply for kick-start funding.

“While this funding was originally for Fiordland businesses only, Great South has been able to advocate that the funding includes all eligible businesses located in the Southland district.”

“It has been really good that this time, MBIE and the minister have let us fine-tune the terms of the fund in partnership with them.

“This is not at the detriment of Fiordland businesses who, of course, remain the priority and will be focused on first and foremost with the roll-out of the funding package. The additional businesses in Southland district have been allowed for financially in the overall package.”

An eligible business can receive a financial contribution to a maximum

of \$60000 depending on their size, turnover and situation.

“This is really going to help struggling businesses out there who have seen a 50% decrease in turnover in their 2019 financial year to kickstart their operations when international visitors return,” Bobbi says.

Funding is available in three streams:

1. A \$10 million Business Advisory Support fund (up to \$5,000 per business) to enable businesses to receive expert advice and support such as whether to change their business to target a different market, down-scale their tourism business or exit the market.
2. \$10 million in grants for businesses to implement the advice received through the Business Advisory Support fund or satisfactory alternative provider (up to \$5,000 per business).
3. \$49 million Tourism Kick-start Fund, to contribute towards existing tourism businesses being prepared for the return of international visitors. The grant will be calculated based on two weeks of pre-Covid-19 revenue set at two weeks of average revenue for 2019.

For example:

- if your revenue in 2019 was \$60,000-\$260,000 you would receive \$10,000
- if your revenue in 2019 was more than \$260,000 you would receive two weeks’ revenue up to a maximum of \$50,000.

Bobbi says Great South is focused on trying to make applications as business-centric and friendly as possible to try to get businesses through the process and in receipt of financial support.

“As a government fund, there are significant checks and balances to access the funding and we are currently upskilling key staff and recruiting new staff to support the roll-out.”

Applications formally open at the end of August, but Bobbi says Great South will work with any businesses to help them establish whether they are eligible. More information is available on the Great South website: greatsouth.nz/business-services/tourism-support

Expressions of interest can be made by emailing tourismsupport@greatsouth.nz



Te Anau - Southland, New Zealand
PHOTO: Videocopter

Great South's Amie Young with her Dark Sky Project Bright Star Award.
Photo: GREAT SOUTH



Bright star of Dark Sky promotion

Great South destination development manager Amie Young was awarded the Dark Sky Project Bright Star Award at the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand's annual conference in Wellington in July.

A 'bright star' recognises contributions to the promotion of astronomy and dark skies within New Zealand, and the award itself is in the shape of an astrolabe, an ancient instrument used to make astronomical measurements.

Amie has been working on dark sky tourism opportunities for Southland since June 2017 through her role at Great South.

Royal Astronomical Society president and Aoraki McKenzie International Dark Sky Reserve chairperson Steve Butler says dark skies are much "more than just a job" for Amie.

"It's great to see somebody who starts in a role become passionate about the work they're doing and then take it so much further."

Amie was instrumental in Stewart Island/Rakiura becoming the world's southernmost International Dark Sky Sanctuary in 2019, working with stakeholders to ensure its sustained success, and leading the preparation of an application to the International Dark-Sky Association.

She has led the continued support for dark sky protection and astro-tourism in the region, with the development of dark sky-focused events, education initiatives and marketing, and a Dark Sky Ambassador training course offered on Rakiura, which resulted in the island's first stargazing tourism operation, Twinkle Dark Sky Tours, launching in April 2021.

Amie is now working with the Fiordland community on the potential for Fiordland to achieve International Dark Sky Park accreditation and has held some training in Te Anau.

She is honoured to receive the award.

"I'm passionate about dark skies," she says. "It's fantastic to see our reputation as a stargazing destination grow, with visitors increasingly coming to the region to experience our night sky."

"The majority of Southland has limited light pollution, which means there are many opportunities for dark skies. Rakiura and Fiordland in particular have exceptional night skies."

"I would encourage Southlanders in all areas to celebrate the night sky and make dark sky-friendly lighting choices for their homes and businesses."

SHORT STUFF

Cr Duffy receives medal

Long-serving Southland district councillor and former deputy mayor Paul Duffy received his Queens Service Medal from Governor-General Dame Patsy Reddy at a ceremony in Wellington in May. Cr Duffy QSM, a farmer from Edendale, was recognised in the 2021 New Year Honours for his outstanding services to the community and local government over many years. He is in his seventh term as a district councillor, having first been elected in 2001. He is chair of the South Catlins Charitable Trust, the Southland Regional Heritage Committee and Arts Murihiku, as well as being a driving member of many community groups, committees and boards.



Moturau Moana gardens

An interpretation panel has been installed in the shelter at Moturau Moana gardens on Stewart Island/Rakiura. The sign tells the story of Miss Elaine Baker, the former owner of the property, where she lived, building a majestic home there in the 1930s. The house became a tourist attraction until, sadly, it was destroyed by fire in 1967. Miss Baker gifted her unique gardens to the New Zealand government in 1940, and they are now administered by the Stewart Island/Rakiura Community Board as a public venue. Moturau Moana means “leafy grove by the sea”. The property is located on Braggs Bay Road, overlooking Halfmoon Bay. Melinda Barnsdale has taken over the role of caretaker of the gardens, taking the reins from local identity Elaine Hamilton, who tended to the gardens for more than 20 years.



Welcome to Te Anau

Next time you're heading to Te Anau, you won't miss the striking new welcome signs. These were created and installed at the instigation of the Fiordland Community Board and are located at the three entrances to the township – from Mossburn, from Manapouri and from Milford Sound.



Unveiling at Athol

A new returned servicemen memorial seat was unveiled at Athol before a large crowd on Anzac Day. The seat, outside the Athol Memorial Hall, commemorates the service and sacrifice of people from the Athol area during two world wars. The seat was researched by Esmay Raynes, designed by Council graphic artist Donna Hawkins and built by Creation Signs of Invercargill. Hokonui kaumatua Darren Rewi blessed the seat, which was formally opened by Cr John Douglas. Pictured from left are Cr John Douglas, Darren Rewi, Esmay Raynes and Anzac service organiser Nigel Black.

Dipton sign

A trio of interpretation panels telling the history of Dipton and highlighting points of interest was unveiled earlier this year. The project to create the sign was initiated by the former Dipton Community Development Area Subcommittee, and the final chair of the CDA, Mike Smith, was on hand to cut the ribbon, alongside former Dipton resident and prime minister Sir Bill English. AD Design, of Invercargill, was commissioned to design the three panels, which are mounted on "Oreti bluestone" (greywacke) rocks harvested from the Dipton quarry and used in the construction of the Dipton-Lumsden railway line.



National role for librarian

Southland District Council technical services librarian Amber Nicholson has been appointed to the national governance council of the Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA), representing the Murihiku region of Otago and Southland. LIANZA Te Rau Herenga o Aotearoa is the professional body for library and information professionals throughout New Zealand. "I am grateful to LIANZA Murihiku for the opportunity to represent the region," Amber says. "Giving back to the profession is important to me and I look forward to gaining experience and getting involved." Amber joined the organisation in 2013, and served on the LIANZA Murihiku committee from 2014 until 2017.

MICROCHIPPING TIMETABLE

AREA	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV
Invercargill Office (car park)	Wednesday, 4th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 6th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Otautau Office (at rear)	Tuesday, 3rd 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 5th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Lumsden Railway (at rear)	None	Wednesday, 8th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 3rd 11.30 – 12 noon
Riverton Office	None	Tuesday, 7th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 2nd 11.30 – 12 noon
Winton (opposite SDC Office)	Thursday, 5th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 7th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Te Anau Office (at rear)	None	Thursday, 9th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 4th 11.30 – 12 noon
Wyndham Office (at rear)	None	Tuesday 14th 2.00 – 2.30 pm	None	Tuesday 9th 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.

RECYCLING RIGHT

Recycling has huge advantages for the environment, but only when it's done right.

Increasingly in Southland district, items are turning up in yellow-lidded bins that cannot be recycled.

Items such as nappies, ashes, clothing and even microwaves and vehicle engines have been thrown in yellow bins in the district. Abusing the recycling service creates real problems for those who have to deal with it.

In Southland, recycling is sorted by hand so, if items that can't be recycled end up at the recycling centre, people have to deal with it manually and it's often not a pretty task.

At its worst, whole trucks bound for the recycling centre have had to be diverted to landfill because the load is too contaminated. This not only costs ratepayers, but has a significant negative impact on the environment.

Southland District Council operates a three strikes policy and people who continue to offend will be notified in writing. If you don't get it right, you can expect a letter in the mail, often accompanied by a photo of the offending object.

Let's get it right, Southland



WHAT can GO IN YOUR YELLOW BIN

✓ **GLASS**
JARS AND BOTTLES



✓ **CLEAN CANS AND TINS**



✓ **POLYSTYRENE**
non-food grade



✓ **PAPER AND CARDBOARD**



✓ **CLEAN PLASTIC PACKAGING**



PLEASE MAKE SURE

- Items are empty, clean and dry
- Lids, cap, bottle neck rings, film lids, pumps and triggers are removed and placed in general rubbish
- Plastic bottles, metal cans and tins are not flattened
- Paper and cardboard are flattened

Keep these items out of your recycling bin:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Ashes (hot or cold) × Black polystyrene × Car parts & scrapmetal × Ceramics, porcelain & crockery × Clothing, fabric & shoes × Cutlery × Drinking glasses & pyrex × Engine oil containers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Food & garden waste × Furniture × Garden hose × Gas bottles × General rubbish × Household appliances × Light bulbs × Liquids | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × Mirrors × Nappies & sanitary items × Paint & chemicals × Meat trays × Styrofoam × Toys × Tyres & rubber × Window or windscreen glass |
|--|---|---|

* For household recycling information for Stewart Island/Rakiura see www.southlanddc.govt.nz

LARGER ITEMS

Larger items that can be re-used can be given a second life through Southland District Council's re-use sheds.

Wyndham, Winton, Lumsden, Te Anau, Otautau and Riverton transfer stations all have re-use sheds. It's free to drop off items, but it's at the attendant's discretion as to what items can be left there. In simple terms, the item must be in reusable condition. The items are then available free to anyone who wants them.

The Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre (RRRC) operates a second chance shop, where you can leave all types of items which are then sold at an affordable price to cover the centre's

operating costs. Televisions, fridges, sports goods, second-hand windows, clothes, shoes, books and many other items are all available, so be sure to check it out.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

If you're unsure about what to do with a used item, check out WasteNet Southland's orange pages at wastenet.org.nz. The orange pages offer practical information on how to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of your unwanted materials and rubbish.

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.

SDC Grant Funding

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



GETTING STUCK IN

Teenagers and preschoolers joined forces to solve a muddy problem at Ivy Russell Reserve in Winton.

When the kids from Winton Kindergarten's Bush Kindy group discovered mud had appeared near the shelter they use during their weekly excursions to the reserve, an impassioned plea prompted the youth council into action.

The high school students organised a truckload of gravel to be donated by the good folks at McGregors Concrete and joined their younger counterparts in true Bob the Builder-style to get the job done in June.

"Can we fix it? Yes we can!"

Armed with wheelbarrows, shovels and even a miniature sandpit digger, four-year-old "apprentices" Aayan, Adam, Luke, Charlotte, Ella, Harper, Alex and Lenora donned their high-vis and got to work carting the gravel and spreading it on-site.

They were ably assisted by SDC youth councillors Emily Thomson, Olivia McMillan and Rebecca Burnett, from Central Southland College, and Thomas Black, from Aparima College, along with teachers, parents and SDC staff.

The end result was a revamped area ready for fun.

The youth councillors enjoyed the chance to make a difference in the community.

"I was so excited to get behind the Winton Kindergarten with the Southland District Youth Council," says youth councillor Bryce Dykes, who was involved in planning the working bee. "With the help of SDC staff and the kids, we made the green space for 'bush kindy' safer for generations to come.

"I think that initiatives like this are great for our community and we are going to continue to help make our home, together, a better place."

Emily enjoyed getting stuck into a task to make it a reality.

"I absolutely loved being a part of the Winton kindy project and it was great to be getting involved with the community," she says.

"It felt really good to be doing something hands-on making a real difference in the local community.

"Having the chance to talk to the kindy kids was really cool as it was awesome to understand how much the Ivy Russell reserve means to them."

Olivia McMillan felt it was a great way for the youth council to connect.

"It shows them we are listening and eager to help. The children were such great wee workers to help us shovel and wheel the gravel. I think my favourite part had to be simply seeing their eyes light up when they saw their new and safely improved hut," she says.

The troops then ventured further into the forest and continued their stellar efforts preparing the 'Bush Kindy Castle' for Matariki celebrations the following week.

Bush Kindy has been running at the reserve regularly for the past eight years, with the youngsters developing an array of creative spaces to explore. It's fantastic to see our community assets being enjoyed.

Winton Kindergarten is no stranger to working with local government. Late last year a proactive group of pupils visited chambers and submitted to councillors about earthquake-prone buildings.