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THE FIRST EDITION

Southland District Council's magazine



A desire to celebrate, protect and enhance Southland district's open spaces is behind a planned seven-year \$5.4 million project that will create benefits for current and future users.

The investment is the largest so far on the district's open spaces and is designed to positively transform how residents and visitors connect with nature across the south.

Southland District Council manages 813 hectares of open spaces, a mixture of undeveloped natural and recreational areas, parks and reserves, playgrounds, gardens, sports fields, and walkways. While some, such as the Te Anau lakefront, Taramea Bay or Dickson Park, are in or near urban areas, and others, like Kowhai Reach or Kamahi Reserve, are open spaces that are a destination site, they all share a common theme: they provide vital places for people to connect with nature, to come together, and to spend quality time.

SDC open spaces lead Angie Hopkinson is excited by the opportunities the project will bring to communities across the district, and the transformational potential it offers.

"It's not about a heap of new parks – we already have a suite of beautiful open spaces. We want to celebrate them, appreciate and promote the ones we have. This project gives us a chance to future-proof them, and work with the community to hear how they currently utilise them and wish to utilise them," she says.

"It's a huge body of work but there's a real opportunity to develop some exciting legacy projects for future generations.

"It is a seven-year project – and it will take seven years – yet, at the same time we're saying it's the start of a long-term approach and we want our communities to look back and see the transformation of the little steps that combine into the big project. We also want to partner with mana whenua on this project."

One thing that excites Angie is that community involvement will be a critical driver of success. Whether they're individuals, or part of a community



Taramea Bay, Riverton

group, runaka or a school, or have a passion for an area, the people of the district will have the chance to use the project to enhance the space they love.

"I think that's really powerful because there's the potential for an area to be transformed into an open space that everyone wants to visit."

The project has been developing since 2014, when it was recognised a direction for the future of SDC's open spaces was needed – and it is overdue. An Open

Spaces Strategy was developed, with the goal to celebrate the district's natural spaces, protect and conserve them, create cultural connections, make them safer, increase awareness and access, and activate them.

The planners developed a vision that they would become a treasured network of open spaces that celebrated and enhanced the natural environment and were appreciated by current and future generations.

During the 2018 LTP Long Term Plan process, \$5.4 million was committed to bring the vision to life. Since then there's been extensive engagement with community boards, the Youth Council,

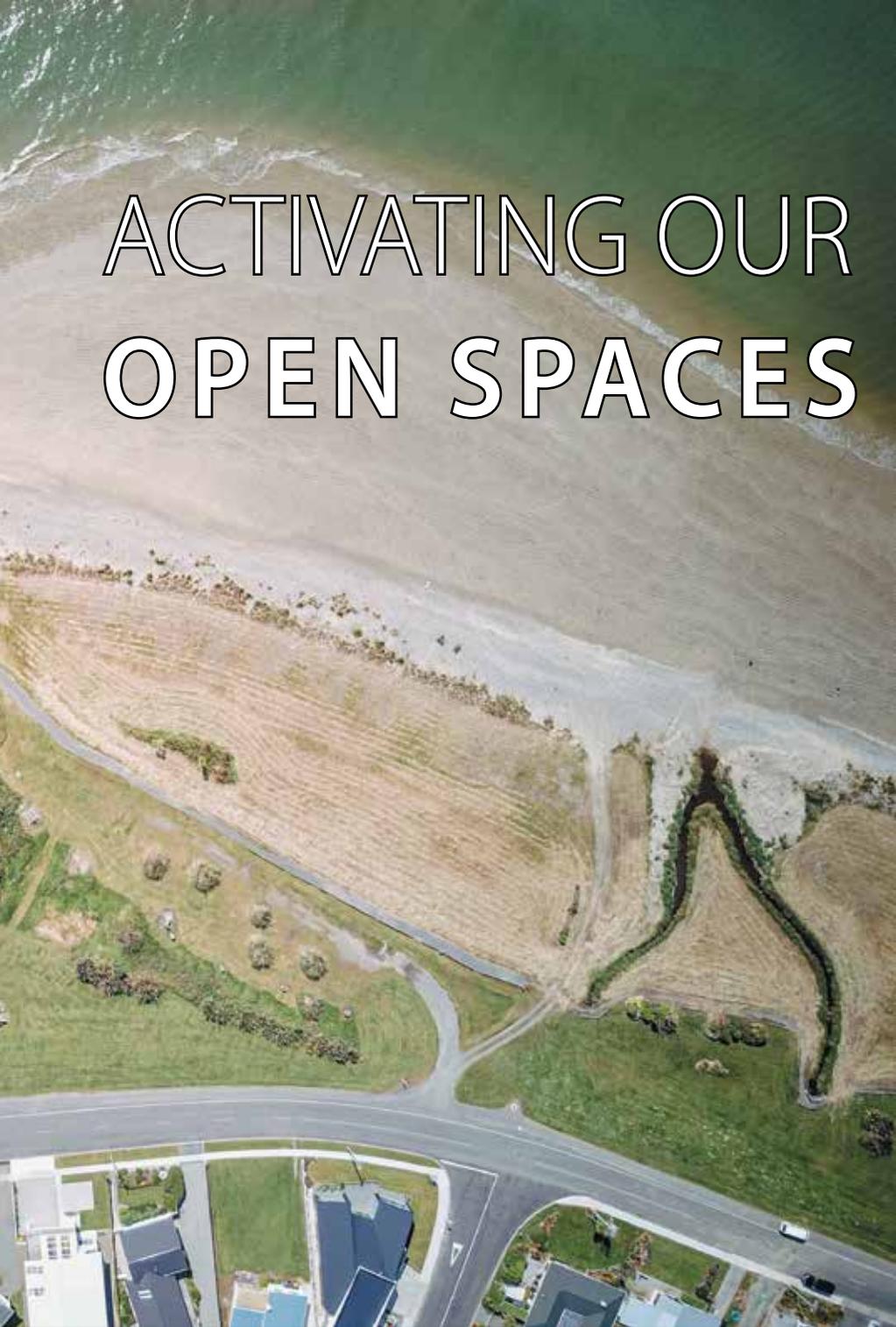


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ACTIVATING OUR OPEN SPACES



and with communities online to develop a plan that will be effective and efficient, while ensuring the vision can be achieved, Angie says.

Given the scale of what's proposed and the size of the district, the project has been split into three delivery methods:

1. Through a partnership with Active Southland, an activator role will provide key oversight that connects to communities while feeding back insights into what an area of the district might need.
2. A community grants programme available for up to \$50,000 for groups with projects to enhance our open spaces projects.

3. Creating destinations out of key areas – potential examples include the Lumsden Railway Precinct or Mores Reserve. Creating strategic projects such as updating our digital information in a simple way for all our open spaces so both locals and visitors know what is available where.

Active Southland chief executive Brendon McDermott says the organisation is pleased to be partnering with the SDC. "Activating open spaces across the Southland district aligns perfectly with our vision of 'everyone active, every day' and we're excited about the range of ways we can support SDC with their strategy."

Angie says the activator role provides a critical connection between communities and Council and linking with Active Southland provides additional options for obtaining invaluable insights.

"It's our job while we're out promoting and activating our spaces and enhancing them, to take the insights from our communities back to make sure we're actually focusing on the things the community values, and the things the community wants to enhance."

Angie explains that if a promotional day was held at an existing open space or a playground, then the activator would run the activities but also work on getting to know the community and clubs or groups, and discovering how people interact with the space.

Obtaining that feedback first-hand to make sure they're targeting the right type of projects to deliver in the future was a critical component of the strategy and would help identify opportunities for connection and partnership, she says.

"By being in that community, they might find there's already a group of really dedicated parents that might have had an idea for years.

"Then we can connect them with that person who has already done what the parents want to, and we can determine how it can be supported as a project or through money from the contestable community fund."

That contestable fund is an important component of the strategy that will enable community groups to secure money to develop the things they value in their area, Angie says.

It's not necessarily about creating more parks or reserves or playgrounds, but for groups to look at what they could achieve, undertake critical planning, and drive their project forward. That's why the fund is available over the seven years, she says.

"We've got so many people in our district who do a huge amount of work in a volunteer nature or through community groups or schools, so we want to allow those groups who have the ideas to come to us and say: 'this is what we want to do'.

"We can say, 'yes, cool, this meets the provisions of open spaces and that definitely will enhance the open spaces we already have so you can go off and do that'.

“We need to know when to step forward and do, and when to step aside and support,” Angie says.

The fund could also provide an opportunity to secure additional funding from other organisations, creating even more opportunity for success.

“By putting our funding at the fore and showing we’ve done due diligence, we think it will support any funding applications made to external funders,” she says. “It’s going to be really exciting; it’s going to be a very cool thing to look back on.”

The third part of the strategy is developing some of the district’s open spaces into destinations of their own, Angie says.

“It might be site-based where we believe it’s the destination site for the region. Or it might be a strategic project, such as telling our stories and telling the history of an area – and, of course, the history of an area might be through mana whenua, or through our whaling or goldmining history.

“There are all sorts of different stories to be told around the district and we want to do a better job of telling those.”

Some of the possible projects were already known because they had been suggested through the LTP process or from community boards but had sat idle because of a lack of funding and resources.

“We’re looking at things that are beyond our normal day-to-day budgets and ability.”

Lumsden is one area appropriate for development because, through community drive and community-led development, a railway precinct has been created. The playground and the freedom camping space also mean people travel to that area.

“So, for example, with the playground upgrade that’s due there, we’ll try and tie in with the railway theme and think about the connectivity of that whole site.”

Another example might be a popular recreation area that needs an update and it is recognised this could be achieved by bolstering a group undertaking pest control, enhancing the area with new fencing, developing



Lumsden Railway Precinct



Mores Reserve, Riverton

a partnership with a planting team to beautify the area through new plantings or gorse removal, and telling the area’s story with the mana whenua and community, Angie says.

“For other areas, we might look at increasing the accessibility side of things so everyone can access and participate in play and recreation.”

Another goal was to see art, culture and heritage pieces included in spaces.

“It could provide an opportunity to go to an open space and see a carving or an art piece that enhances and complements what we have,” she says.

“We want to take our spaces from what we traditionally do with them – we mow them, we trim trees, and we tend the gardens – to really saying, ‘what are these spaces and what could they provide in terms of wellbeing for

our people and connecting them to our communities?’” Angie says.

“We already know how special Southland district is. We’re biased but it’s the most stunning part of the country. There’s so many special taonga out there and SDC has responsibility for a lot of it, so we just want to do the spaces justice and enhance them and make the community proud.”

Spring is synonymous with new life and colour. I'm sure I'm not the only one looking forward to the coming months after what has been a challenging winter.

The new season coincides with the upcoming local government elections and we have good reason to look beyond 8 October towards the next triennium.

It is fact that after election day we will have some new blood in Southland district's elected membership, some new faces around our various governance tables and, with that, some new ideas about how we can continue to make Southland a special place to live and visit.

Change brings vitality and adds to the rich tapestry of democracy. That's never a bad thing.

That is most certainly not to diminish the contributions made by those who are standing down, whether they have served on Southland District Council itself or one of our nine community boards.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the outgoing elected members. They've done an extraordinary job over one of the most difficult three-year periods that local government has ever seen.

They've tackled the challenges of numerous reforms and Covid and consistently made good decisions on behalf of the district. The role of the elected members is essential to ensure local voices are heard.

On that, I encourage all of you to play a part in the October local elections, whether that's through standing for election yourself or turning out to vote for your new representatives. Your communities need you to do your bit, as do we all.

I fundamentally believe that local communities will always want their voices heard when decisions are being made about their future, irrespective of what shape local government may take following the government's current Future for Local Government review.

In my view the future for local government revolves, quite simply, around people – their needs, their

aspirations, their health and wellbeing.

Now's not a bad time to reflect on the state of the district as we head into a triennium of new opportunities.

Few could deny the challenges that business owners, especially small business owners, have faced while trying to restart following Covid.

When all the businesses that had to slow down or stop because of the pandemic lockdowns and restrictions are simultaneously trying to restart at the same time there is inevitably going to be an abundance of resourcing pressures, particularly around staffing. We're seeing that in Queenstown's hospitality industry, where people are being turned away from near-empty restaurants that aren't sufficiently staffed to serve them. Or in Te Anau, where hospitality businesses doing their best to provide a great experience in trying circumstances are still copping ill-considered flak from customers.

Perhaps those people who complain should reflect on the fact that they are able to visit these beautiful places again with a little more empathy and appreciation.

That said, the southern economy is robust and we have got through the past two years quite well. Southland's economy, and its people, have a special resilience. We should collectively celebrate that we've done as well as we have.

Despite a slight reduction in Fonterra's forecast dairy prices for 2021/2022 to a midpoint of \$9.30 per kilogram of milk solids, it's still the highest forecast farm gate milk price in the co-op's history, and long-term projections remain strong.

Likewise, meat prices have doubled in the past 10 years due to strong global demand for protein, which is great news for southern meat producers but perhaps not so great for domestic carnivores.

Inflation is a concern – it's having an effect on all of us. The cost of inputs is skyrocketing, and this translates into higher costs for consumers.

Here in Southland we have historically low unemployment rates, and without a change to immigration settings this may continue for some time.



Nationally, in March 2022, the unemployment rate was 3.2%, the lowest level ever recorded by Stats NZ. In Southland, the 2018 Census showed unemployment in Southland district was even lower, at just 2.1%.

Great South continues to make a positive contribution to southern business, employment and tourism with a range of initiatives. The organisation has been particularly proactive in its support of the Fiordland community, which has felt the Covid-related downturn in tourism more than most in our district.

It was excellent that Council's application to the Tourism Infrastructure Fund for a district-wide Matariki project was accepted. The project will involve creating and installing nine pou whenua (carved posts) at locations around Southland representing the nine stars of the Matariki constellation. The idea is that the posts will serve as wayfinders, encouraging people to visit the other pou locations throughout the district. It's another exciting opportunity to work closely with mana whenua, an area in which I believe this Council is really lifting its game.

Despite the obvious and ongoing challenges of recent years, there's a lot to like about where we're at just now.

Council adopts ANNUAL PLAN for 2022/2023

Southland District Council adopted its Annual Plan for 2022/2023 on 22 June 2022.

Every three years, we adopt a 10-year plan, which is referred to as the Long Term Plan (LTP).

In the years between LTPs, an Annual Plan is developed to address any variances from the LTP, to confirm service levels and budgets for the year, and to set rates. Year two of our LTP 2021-2031 serves as the base for the Annual Plan 2022/2023.

All councils are required by legislation to prepare and adopt an Annual Plan for each financial year before the start of the new financial year. The Annual Plan is not audited.

Our Annual Plan for 2022/2023 did not have any significant or material variances from what was outlined in year two of the LTP 2021-2031. As a result, it was agreed by Council to not go out to the community for formal consultation.

Instead, we provided information about what was proposed for the 2022/2023 Annual Plan in the March edition of The First Edition, Council's triannual ratepayers' magazine, and used social media and the SDC website to update the community on the Annual Plan process.

The average rate increase for 2022/2023 financial year was set at 9.25%, compared with the 8.31% proposed in the LTP 2021-2031. This increases the proposed total

rates collected in 2022/2023 by \$0.5 million, from \$58.7 million to \$59.2 million. The main reason for the rates increase in the Annual Plan compared with year two of the LTP is an increase in the interest rates charged on loans associated with capital works projects.

It is important to note that the figure of 9.25% is an average only. In real terms, rate rises will vary across the district depending on a wide range of factors, including the location of the property, the services households receive and how their rating value has changed compared with other properties, from the recent revaluation.

In discussing the progress of the Annual Plan 2022/23 in March 2022, staff identified an average rate increase of 9.22%. As noted above this has now increased to an average rate of 9.25% as a result of a targeted rate set by the Northern Community Board for local swimming pools.

The adopted Annual Plan includes the funding impact statement (rates section) for the 2022/2023 financial year; amendments to fees and charges; and bringing forward the use of \$1 million from the strategic asset reserve to fund increases in the roading programme that match the increased Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency funding available.



Having a teacher that makes a great impression on you sticks with you for the rest of your life.

This is something the students in a science investigation class at Menzies College, Wyndham, are all too familiar with. These dedicated students, along with their diligent science teacher Kit Hustler, have been working hard to monitor and try to protect the endangered giant kōkopu that reside in the nearby Oxbow lake in the Wyndham Reserve. It is only a stone's throw away from the classroom.

Kit, along with Rodney Trainor, a collaborator from the Hokonui rūnanga, has been helping students who might be struggling with the academic skills traditionally learned in schools. They have developed a programme that allows students to get out of the classroom, and take a step into the environment surrounding them. They are learning valuable life skills as well as doing their bit to protect the giant kōkopu.

The fish is a threatened species in the genus Galaxias, found only in New Zealand. It is a mainly lowland species, commonly found in slow-flowing streams, wetlands, lakes, and lagoons. Most populations have an amphidromous life cycle, with larvae going to sea soon after hatching and returning about four months later as small juveniles, up to 5cm long. Juvenile giant

kōkopu form a small part of the annual whitebait catch. Adult giant kōkopu grow up to 40cm long.

In 2018, Kit embarked on this programme based on his studies with banded kōkopu in Auckland. Upon moving down south and hearing there was a possibility of giant kōkopu in Southland, Kit set out to find them in the oxbow in the Wyndham Reserve. Much to his delight, a giant kōkopu was caught the first night the nets were set.

The students gather water samples to monitor the pH levels, seeing what affects the kōkopu, and monitor their breeding pattern and population. Any giant kōkopu caught are photographed, weighed and released. Each kōkopu has a unique set of spots, similar to a fingerprint – no two are the same. This provides long term monitoring of individual fish, in terms of the length of their life span, growth rates, breeding status and whether they live in the same place or not.

Not just focusing on the native wildlife in the Oxbow, the students have been working hard to remove a great portion of broom trees taking up space in the land near the Oxbow. Not ones to shy away from hard work, boys from the class spent eight weeks clearing out land near the reserve. With the help of Rodney and his efforts with local corrections facilities, hundreds of propagated trees have been given to the school and wider community, and planted in this area.

Students in other science classes at the school have been monitoring rats and mice around the Oxbow and other classes have been monitoring and trapping possums. These activities are part of an exposure to the “NZ pest free by 2050” initiative.

The programme has been a great success, with a major change noted in the students' abilities, confidence and work in other areas of the school. Kit is quick to mention that he takes zero

Caring for the kōkopu

From right: Kit Hustler, Bridget Elliott and Rodney Trainor.



credit for the success of the students as they are left to their own devices, and make their own mistakes to learn from.

“The idea behind it is to try and build up their confidence and get them to believe they can do this stuff,” Kit says.

“What we're trying to do is instil a sense of confidence in these kids and the emphasis is, it doesn't matter if you fail. It's how you deal with the failure that's important.”

At the beginning of the course, Kit noted how apprehensive some students were to take charge and conduct their own learning, as if they were afraid of making mistakes and waiting for instruction. As they got into their studies of the giant kōkopu, the increase in their confidence was astounding. The students believed they could do anything they put their minds to. This mindset led to the students winning the Southland Community Environment Award, for Environment action in education, in 2018, a significant moment for them, as usually they aren't the ones nominated for awards.

Kit recalls: “We went to the dinner at the hotel, the first time they'd ever been to a dinner. They were all very nervous. And I said, ‘Guys, if we win this, I'm not making a speech, you are’.

“So, we actually won it ... and that made a massive difference to them, in terms of it's the first time they've ever won anything. It wasn't a sporty thing, it wasn't academic. It was actually doing something in the environment.”

Southland District Council (SDC) graduate open spaces planner Bridget Elliott says: “The student-directed focus of this project is amazing. We will definitely be looking at how we can harness this as our relationship with Menzies College continues to grow.”

Currently SDC has a memorandum of understanding with Menzies College that allows the students to partake in these sorts of environmental activities in SDC reserves.



Rakiura Museum/Te Puka o Te Waka and the Rakiura Heritage Trust have come away with a gold award in the Tourism and Leisure Category of the New Zealand Commercial Projects Awards 2022.

Rakiura Heritage Trust members Margaret Hopkins and Bruce Ford were invited by Amalgamated Builders Ltd to collect the award at a ceremony held in Christchurch this year.

Trustee Margaret Hopkins says “Rakiura Museum/Te Puka o Te Waka was a wonderful project to be involved in and we are very grateful to the fantastic team at Amalgamated Builders Ltd (ABL) for their careful planning, logistics and attention to detail.

“Building anything on Stewart Island is not easy and every aspect has to be carefully planned to avoid transport difficulties and material supply holdups. The professionalism of the ABL team was evident throughout the project and the building was finished to a very high standard.”

Rakiura Museum/Te Puka o Te Waka was designed by architects Raja Hidzir and Julian O’Sullivan (Opus Architecture, later WSP) and was complicated because of the constraints of the small triangular-shaped section. ABL managed the build well and it was finished on time and within budget.

The rich design narrative is supported by its strong connection with the ocean, maritime history, local iwi, community and environment. It was a fruitful collaboration that resulted in a building that captures the bicultural history and aspirations of the Stewart Island Rakiura community.

“The look of the building is stunning and it is proving to be very functional. The Rakiura Heritage Trust team are finding the storage room and workroom a huge improvement for the care and storage of its collection and



Rakiura Heritage Centre trustees Bruce Ford and Margaret Hopkins.

the exhibition gallery designed by Sally Papps is a wonderful asset for tourism on Stewart Island Rakiura,” says Margaret.

This award is the second for Rakiura Museum. WSP Architecture also won an award in New Zealand’s Southern Architecture Awards’ public building category in 2021 for the Rakiura Museum design.

Visitor numbers to the museum have been steady despite two Covid-19 lockdowns and the lack of overseas tourists, with over 23,000 visitors to the museum in the 18 months from December 2020 to May 2022. In a visitor survey undertaken by Great South in 2021, the museum was ranked the second most popular tourist attraction after Ulva Island.

Rakiura Heritage Trust chair Anita Geeson says, “the museum plays a vital role in giving visitors both a historical and cultural background to the place they are visiting. Interest in family history is also a growing trend and the museum is able to assist with enquiries about ancestors and locations of interest.”

The trust wishes to acknowledge the support from community funders including the Stewart Island/ Rakiura Visitor Levy, Southland District Council District Heritage Fund, Southland Regional Heritage Committee, Community Trust South and Sanford’s 10 Cent Salmon Fund.

Gold award for Rakiura Museum

Photo: Graham Warman

Hard yards for project delivery

Roading and three waters infrastructure renewal featured prominently in Southland District Council's capital works programme during the 2021/2022 year.

In a year punctuated by a "perfect storm" of rising prices, material supply delays, high demand for contractor resource and illness, Council was able to deliver crucial gains in core infrastructure.

The roading team completed \$3.4 million, amounting to 9km, of road rehabilitations. These are defined as replacements, or restoration of strength to, sections of sealed road where other forms of maintenance and renewal are no longer economic.

Council roading asset manager Roy Clearwater says it was particularly pleasing to be able to meet the target for rehabs.

As well, \$2.4 million of new bridges were built by year's end. This equated to four of the programmed six new bridges, with the remaining two set to be completed in the first quarter of the current 2022/2023 financial year.

Another major project completed was the \$350,000 safety improvement of the intersection of Two Chain Road and Riversdale Waikaia Roads. Historically, there had been a number of high-severity crashes at the intersection, including two fatalities.

However, Council's reseal programme has been affected dramatically by the rising price of bitumen, which has "skyrocketed exponentially", Roy says, along with increased costs for labour, plant and materials. This is illustrated in road reseals, where around 820,000m² of road reseals were completed, short of the 870,000m² programmed in the Long Term Plan (LTP).

"It wasn't through lack of trying," Roy says. "It cost us the same as what we'd usually spend plus a little more to deliver less. I think this year is going to be more challenging."

Meanwhile, Council earned recognition from Crown Infrastructure Partners

(CIP), which oversaw the national three waters stimulus programme on behalf of the Department of Internal Affairs, for its successful delivery of more than \$13 million of three waters projects, which was over and above SDC's LTP capital works programme.

SDC was one of only six councils nationally to receive plaudits from CIP, which classified SDC as "green light".

Strategic manager water and waste Grant Isaacs says "we got really good kudos."

Council received \$13.53 million in stimulus funding from the government in 2020 after opting to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Crown regarding three waters reform. The funding enabled Council to embark on a significant programme of renewals and upgrades of water networks throughout the district.

Like many organisations throughout New Zealand, though, Southland District Council felt the impact of a turbulent 12 months.

In its Long Term Plan, (LTP), Council committed to carrying out a record programme of \$45 million of capital works projects in 2021/2022. At the time of publication the costings were still being calculated, but acting group manager-project delivery Brendan Gray said it was likely that the final tally would be around \$10 million short of the target, with much of that work being carried forward into the first quarter of the current financial year.

While the Covid-19 restrictions had had a major impact on many New Zealand industries, there was a range of factors involved. Delays in sourcing construction materials, freight holdups, and major flooding in the North Island had all played a part.

Contractors and consultants had been "up to their eyeballs in work ... then their staff were getting Covid as well," he says.

"We had a couple of months where the entire industry stopped. Trying to gain traction after shutdowns of that magnitude was just a step too far.

"It was the perfect storm."

Council's project delivery had ramped up pace considerably since New Zealand moved from red to orange traffic light status in April 2022, and although he did not yet have the full data it looked like there would be about \$5 million of projects committed that would be delivered in the first quarter of the current year, up to September.

"Had we been operating over a full 12-month environment that work would have been potentially delivered in May, June and July – traditionally our biggest months for delivery."

Consequently, the 2022/2023 programme will need to be revisited, which is likely to happen early in 2023, when the new Council and community boards are bedded in following the October elections.

Council has been able to make some gains through smart procurement, packaging projects together rather than putting them out to tender as individual pieces of work, which brings efficiencies and cost savings.

"To try to keep that local contractor involvement and to keep them in the market we are sensibly keeping some of those smaller contracts out of packages. It's a fine balancing act between keeping that local contractor involvement and achieving scale of economy that we really need to provide those cost savings for ratepayers."

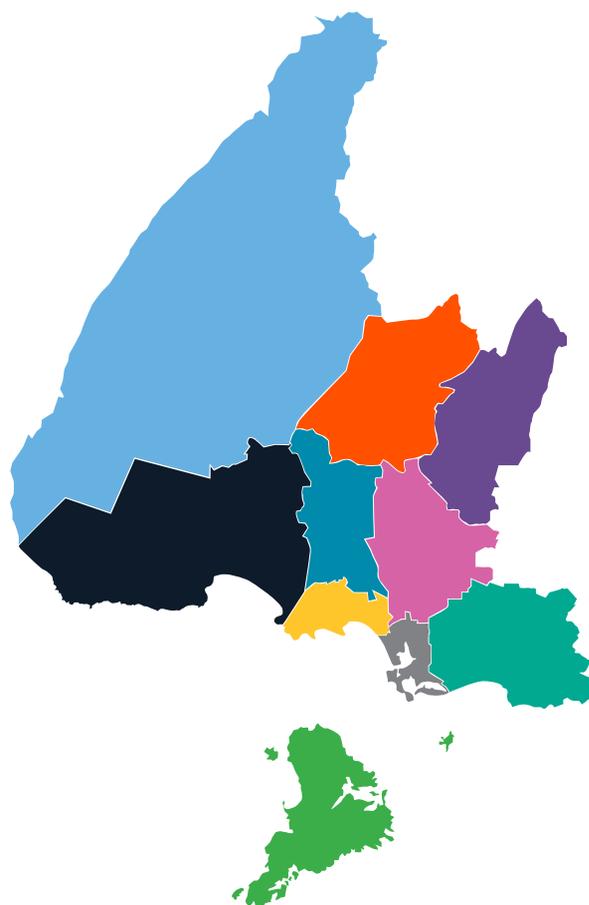
Brendan says he is proud of the "awesome" project delivery team, who despite the challenges have delivered a wide variety of projects.

There's always a sense of pride in a job well done, he says.

"There's huge buy-in for the team and they're very, very proud when it all goes to plan ... the pre-work is all done really well and the engagement with the community is done really well. It just makes the job flow.

"But and there's that human factor. You're not just ticking off a job, you're providing something beneficial for the community. The team want to make a good job a great job for the community."

Projects in your area for 2022/2023



*Roading, water and waste projects are district funded. Where this work is localised, we have included it in the list of projects scheduled in your community board area.

*This project list will be reviewed early in 2023

DISTRICT WIDE	
AROUND THE MOUNTAINS CYCLE TRAIL	
Improvements \$159,353	Continuous improvement programme \$20,620
IT	
Core system replacement and integration of core business systems \$846,541	
OPEN SPACES	
Open spaces strategy capital development \$619,877	
ROADING	
Resurfacing \$5.3M	Pavement rehabilitations \$4M
Bridge renewals \$3.25M	Footpaths \$750,000
WASTE SERVICES	
Solid waste integration into IPS-IT \$10,300	
WASTEWATER	
Completion of oxidation pond desludging - Nightcaps and Lumsden \$414,000	
WATER SUPPLY	
Replacement of asbestos cement pipes - end of life \$890,100	Acufold manifolds and check valves - district wide \$112,815
Mobility field inspection integration - IT \$51,750	Advanced asset management - IT \$31,050
IPS metering module and anomaly reporting - IT \$10,350	Asset master data corrections and validation - IT \$5,175

ARDLUSSA
Stage 2, Riversdale wastewater treatment plant upgrade \$2M
Wetwell and pump station renewal - Riversdale \$285,000
Consent renewal preparation - Balfour wastewater treatment plant \$207,000
Road seal extensions - Scotswood Street and Cleadon Street, Waikāia \$130,000

FIORDLAND
Water treatment plant upgrade - Manapouri \$1.4M
Runway surface rehabilitation - Te Anau Airport Manapouri \$1.3M
Water supply reticulation renewals ahead of time - Te Anau \$552,828
Sanitising physical works - Te Anau Basin Rural Water Supply \$517,500
Rising main renewal - Kakapo Rural Water Supply \$350,000
Renew Pearl Harbour boat ramp - Manapouri \$317,000
Urban development of town centre, lakefront and boat harbour - Te Anau \$257,500
Wastewater treatment plant consent renewal preparation - Manapouri \$200,000
Replace hall roof and spouting - Manapouri \$103,000
Water supply consent renewal preparation - Te Anau \$77,625
Village Green playground equipment replacement - Manapouri \$48,547
Lions Park playground equipment renewal - Te Anau \$43,775
Refurbishment of Queens Reach boat ramp - Te Anau \$41,200
Upgrade information kiosk at Te Anau entrance \$20,600
Recarpeting - Te Anau Airport Manapouri \$16,137
GPS upgrade - Te Anau Airport Manapouri \$10,748

NORTHERN
Wastewater treatment plant upgrade, stage 2 – Riversdale \$2.1M
Wastewater wet well and pump station renewal - Riversdale \$285,006
Wastewater treatment plant consent renewal preparation - Balfour \$207,000
Toilet renewal - Athol \$111,356
Recreation reserve playground equipment replacement - Lumsden \$102,911
Maintenance - Five Rivers Hall \$61,800
District metering areas - Lumsden/Balfour \$52,526
Change stormwater soakholes - Mossburn \$51,540
Toilet maintenance - Mossburn \$50,000
Renew stormwater soakholes - Riversdale \$28,092
Painting - Lumsden community housing \$23,667
Stormwater catchment upgrade investigation - Lumsden \$20,580
Transfer station concrete pad strengthening and shed painting \$16,995
Village Green playground equipment replacement – Garston \$6,994
Update signage – Garston information kiosk \$2,000

ORAKA APARIMA
Toilet renewal - Princess Street, Taramea Bay \$292,700
Backwash process changes, treatment plant - Riverton \$150,000
Playground equipment replacement - Taramea Bay, Riverton \$82,400
Mores Reserve toilet refurbishment - Riverton \$51,450
Install new surfies' changing room - The Trees, Colac Bay \$30,900
Painting - Colac Bay Hall \$30,870
Harbour refurbishment - Riverton \$29,841
Playground equipment renewal - Orepuki \$26,643
Stormwater outfall improvement investigation - Taramea Bay \$25,725
New cemetery wall - Riverton \$10,300

ORETI
Investigation and replacement of stormwater main – Winton \$514,500
Turbidity and pH monitoring/correction - Winton water treatment plant \$207,000
Toilet renewal - Dunsdale recreation reserve \$206,000
Wastewater treatment plant consent renewal preparation - Winton \$200,000
Drill Hall disposal - Winton \$102,900
Medical centre roofing and LED lighting - Winton \$77,175
Tankered water filling point - Winton \$70,000
Maternity centre painting - Winton \$51,450
Hall toilets refurbishment - Dipton \$41,160
Centennial Park tree and hedge removal, new fence - Winton \$35,000
Install electric blinds, Memorial Hall - Winton \$20,600
Repair, refurbish Centennial Park grandstand – Winton \$20,580
Tree removal, stage two - Winton \$20,580
Walkway investigation project - Wallacetown \$20,580
Development programme, Ivy Russell Reserve - Winton \$15,000
New cemetery wall – Wallacetown \$10,300
New cemetery wall – Winton \$10,300

STEWART ISLAND RAKIURA
Renewal - Golden Bay wharf \$1.75M
Renewal investigation - Golden Bay wharf \$468,215
Consent renewal preparation - wastewater treatment plant \$207,000
Stormwater improvements - Oban \$257,250
Sewerage treatment plant scheme renewal preparation \$207,000
New walking track stage 2, Horseshoe Bay Road \$153,740
SIESA transmission renewal programme \$123,480
Main wharf infill investigation project \$102,900
SIESA generation renewal programme \$88,494
Balance of pumps to stage 1 sewer pump stations \$59,555
Refurbish toilets - Oban, Braggs Bay, Moturau Moana \$30,870
Tracks development - Baker Park \$20,600
Refurbishment - Fred's Camp Wharf \$14,406
Improve non-slip mesh - Little Glory Wharf \$2,058

TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE
Water supply upgrade - Eastern Bush \$2.6M
New toilet installation, Jack and Mattie Bennett Memorial Park playground - Tuatapere \$206,000
Community housing roofing - Tuatapere \$72,100
Shelter area development, stage two - Monkey Island \$51,500
Toilet refurbishment - Monowai \$50,000
Toilet refurbishment – Te Waewae Lagoon \$17,687

WAIHOPAI TOETOE
Consent renewal preparation - Edendale/Wyndham wastewater treatment plant \$1.6M
Edendale-Wyndham multi-use track \$412,000
Water supply consent renewal preparation - Edendale \$51,750
Reserve management plan - Curio Bay \$50,000
Tree removal - Ferry Road (Edendale) and Malta Street (Wyndham) \$30,870
Playground equipment renewal - Wyndham \$18,500
Transfer station concrete pad strengthening and shed refurbishment - Wyndale \$16,955
New cemetery wall – Edendale \$10,300
New cemetery wall – Woodlands \$10,300
New cemetery wall – Wyndham \$10,300

WALLACE TAKITIMU
Complete wastewater treatment oxidation pond desludging - Nightcaps and Lumsden \$414,000
Water supply water main renewal, Sinclair Avenue - Nightcaps \$113,850
Water supply consent renewal preparation - Otautau \$51,750
Toilet refurbishment – Ohai \$30,870
Paint netball pavilion - Otautau \$25,725
Transfer station concrete pad strengthening and shed refurbishment - Otautau \$16,955
Paint exterior Holt Park toilet - Otautau \$10,985
Investigation project Holt Park extension – Otautau \$10,290
McGregor Park playground equipment replacement - Nightcaps \$5,900 (may be deferred until 2023/2024)

There's not too much road in Southland district that Graeme Hall doesn't know.

In his role as Southland District Council's community facilities officer-building assets he has got the district covered as he checks in on the progress of local contractors tasked with updating, sprucing up or otherwise improving the 32 Council-owned halls and 69 community housing units scattered throughout the district.

He's overseen around 120 improvements projects in nearly 12 years at Council, averaging 10 a year, benefiting local communities with improved community facilities.

more than he's in it.

"Seventy percent of the day I'm out in the field," he reckons.

With so much work to go around, he likes to give local contractors a crack at tendering. The cost is a major consideration but, as Graeme says, "cheapest is not always best".

"We can be a wee bit flexible on projects but generally they're budget driven."

Graeme has a long memory of the contractors he's worked alongside over the years. He's met them all. He can name contractors who worked on specific jobs years ago, and respects quality workmanship when he sees it.

The contractors who work on jobs overseen by Graeme are familiar with

the sight of his silver Mitsubishi Triton pulling into the car park. He likes to call in to see how each job is going and have a quick chat about the project before jumping back into the ute and heading off to the next site. It's not unusual for him to clock up several hundred kilometres in a day.

He got the keys to his trusty Triton work ute in June three years ago and has clocked up nearly 130,000km in that time. "You do the maths."

In late May, First Edition rode shotgun on one of Graeme's road trips, which took us from Wyndham to Tuatapere to Dipton to



Contracts all over the district

In the 2021/2022 financial year alone, the bigger projects in Graeme's spreadsheet included:

- Dipton Memorial Hall: exterior painting
- Lumsden SDC office/library: lighting
- Ohai community housing: roofing
- Orepuki Hall: exterior recladding
- Oreti Plains Hall: new heatpumps
- Riverton SDC office/library: internal refurbishment
- SDC community housing: improvements to meet Healthy Homes requirements
- Te Anau Library: internal repaint and new carpets
- Tokanui Memorial Hall: painting
- Tuatapere RSA Memorial Hall: flooring
- Wyndham Hall: kitchen upgrade

Graeme enjoys the job. "I never get sick of it," he says. "Every day's a new day. There's always something different."

With so much landscape to get around overseeing various community facilities projects, Graeme is out of the office

Graeme Hall (right) chats with painter Bernard from Henderson Construction at the Wyndham Hall.



Winton, and points in between.

First stop was the Wyndham Hall, where the kitchen was getting a major makeover. New joinery was being installed, including a mobile island bar, new kitchen equipment including oven, rangehood, steriliser and tapware, new rollerdoors for the serveries, LED lighting and a repaint.

Several Southland contractors were involved in the project, which has since been completed, including locals Wyndham Electrical and Eunson Plumbing, Nigel Molloy Joinery from



Winton and Henderson Construction from Invercargill.

Bernard from Hendersons was painting the kitchen on the day we dropped by.

“We’re using good old semi-gloss – she’ll take the wear and tear,” says Graeme.

The Wyndham Hall had its exterior painted a couple of years ago, and asbestos was removed from an internal wall several years ago. That will be resealed and painted in the future.

Nigel Molloy Joinery of Winton has done the joinery work. “We get good



service and good results from Molloy,” Graeme says.

Next, we stop off at the Tokanui Memorial Hall, where Graeme casts his eye over the newly repainted exterior, which was done by Keith Moore, from BH Moore Painters, of Winton.

Then it’s across Southland to the Tuatapere RSA Memorial Hall. Olphert Contracting has recently put a thick gloss urethane on the hall floor, which literally glows from the light streaming through the high windows. About four or five years ago the interior was painted by Barney Bennett, from Tuatapere Handyman Services. It has had new lighting, carpet and heat pumps, as well as some floor remediation.

Moore from Winton also painted the exterior of the Dipton Hall, our next stop. Within the past two years Thwaites Aluminium has put in new windows and more is planned, with an upgrade of the

toilets scheduled for this year. Longer term, heating, internal painting and an upgrade to LED lighting are planned. The hall is used by the local gymnastics group and Playgroup.

The final stop for the day is Winton, where Graeme drops in to have a chat to community housing tenant Mrs Davis, who has had a rangehood, heatpumps and a bathroom steam extractor fitted. This is part of an ongoing programme to have all 69 Council community housing units up to Healthy Homes regulations.

Another job ticked off in July was the internal repaint and improvements in the Riverton office/library. Contractors involved in this work were Riverton painter Tim West, Riverton Electrical, Regal Floors (carpet) and Laser Invercargill (heatpump and LED lighting). “We got rid of those old fluorescent tubes – they’re the scourge of the earth,” Graeme says.

A similar job was completed in the Te Anau library, with Regal Floors laying new carpet, Te Anau Joinery installing new benchtops, and Butch Sproull doing the painting. “We’ve used Butch a lot,” Graeme says.

On the way out of Winton, we stop to look at the toilet block at Moores Reserve, which was repainted by Council’s community facilities team over three days in May. It was a rare group project for the team, who more typically manage projects and contract out the work.

“Nothing’s been normal this year,” explains Graeme, with delays caused by Covid illness and lockdowns, contractor unavailability, and material supply delays.

Council work scheme supervisor Chris Klein and assistant Keriana Miller have been a “godsend” to Graeme this year, he says, helping with remedial carpentry, shifting furniture and so on.

Currently, there are 155 approved local contractors on SDC’s books. Approved contractors can sub-contract other contractors not on this list. The primary (approved) contractor becomes responsible for all health and safety requirements.

- If you wish to become an approved contractor, contact healthandsafety@southlanddc.govt.nz
- Contractors can receive regular updates on upcoming work by emailing ContactProjectDelivery@southlanddc.govt.nz





Members of the Riverton Fire Brigade. Station chief Jeremy Raines is in the blue shirt standing third from left.

Fighting fires a family affair

What does it take to become a firefighter? A good sense of humour, according to Riverton Fire Brigade chief fire officer Jeremy Raines.

The Riverton brigade is a small but mighty fire station currently operating with 12 firefighters, when the optimal number should be sitting at 18. They are encouraging the public to “Come say giddy” and join their team of dedicated volunteers.

Volunteer firefighters are the backbone of any community. This was seen in March last year, when the Riverton Fire Brigade raised money for mental health by running a marathon on a 1.75km track starting at the station and heading down the main street every hour on the

hour for 24 hours, clocking up 42km by the end of it. All funds raised went back into the local community. The Riverton community went all out to support their local firefighters and the generosity from them was outstanding. In total, the event raised over \$3,600, all going back into the community.

Riverton’s firefighters are always seen popping up in the township; they are even known to help local businesses in stocktaking. For the past five years, the Riverton Fire Brigade has also been involved in the annual Sky Tower stair challenge, which raises money for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer New Zealand. This is a tough challenge in which firefighters from around New Zealand head to Auckland and run up the Sky Tower stairs in their full

firefighting equipment, weighing around 25kg, climbing 328 metres of steps to the top.

For Jeremy Raines, being part of the volunteer fire brigade isn’t just about putting out fires and volunteering for their community.

“We’re a family and you can tell by all the interactions and banter,” he says. “I got to learn so much about who I am and actually learn some life skills, to take back to your family, take back to friends and even take it back to work.”

Originally, Jeremy joined the fire brigade around 10 years ago to get to know people, as he was new to the Riverton area. Even at that time the brigade was struggling to find eager volunteers. Now that Jeremy is the station chief, a position he has held for just over two years, he has taken matters into his own hands and created a sign in the station window saying, “Help your community, volunteers needed!”

“We have a window out the front, that’s how we’re advertising. We’ve got two guys that have come through the door on that, which is brilliant. On the Fire and Emergency New Zealand website

you can find out anything you need for any local brigade. My number is up on the window if you want to come and say giddyay. Give me a ring.”

To become an operational firefighter there are two courses to complete, the first one being a first aid course that teaches more advanced skills like CPR and oxygen therapy. Once that course is completed there is a week-long firefighting course. This tests the skills learned over the past six months of training with the brigade. Fire and Emergency NZ pays volunteers 100% of any wages lost when attending a fire qualifying course.

As always, there’s a little bit of book work and some level of fitness is required. “It’s nothing out of the normal from

day-to-day exercise, or a walk around the park or something like that,” Jeremy says. “Seriously, it’s not a hard job. Anybody can volunteer. Everybody is here to help.”

The Riverton Fire Brigade receives help from Invercargill’s firefighter trainers who travel to Riverton to conduct courses. At the time of writing there were a few new recruits going through their training and they turned out in support of the most recent call-out the brigade attended. To show how much the Riverton Fire Brigade means to the community, one of the local churches delivered some well-earned treats after the call-out, even taking into consideration any dietary requirements.

With any volunteer group comes hard work but also celebrations. This year, the station will be celebrating its 75th

jubilee in October, when they will also be holding their annual honours night to present awards for service to the Riverton Fire Brigade.

Secretary Karen Drummond, who has grown up with firefighting in her family, says it will be a time to celebrate all the hard work from the volunteers by awarding medals for service. To keep the camaraderie alive, station trophies are awarded for achievements such as “most social”.

If you’re interested in joining the close-knit Riverton Fire Brigade and enjoy a bit of banter, visit the crew at the Riverton Fire Station or give Jeremy a call on 021 536 504.



Steady progress on bridge replacements

Council's transport team continues to make progress replacing the district's ageing wooden bridges.

Strategic manager-transport Hartley Hare says the number of restricted bridges has reduced in recent years.

In the 2021/2022 financial year posted bridges on Caird Road, Dipton Flat Road, Dipton Mossburn Road and McBride Road were replaced and their postings were removed. New bridges on Grey Road and McDonald Road were still to be completed.

There are 63 posted bridges in the district and Council is making steady progress replacing them. However, there will always be other bridges that reach the end of life in the current 10-year period.

All posted bridges are inspected annually to determine the maximum weight and speed limits they can safely support. All other bridges in the network are inspected on a three-yearly cycle.

"There isn't enough money or resourcing to replace all now, but we have a 10-year plan to deal with all of them," Hartley says.

A posted bridge is a bridge that doesn't meet class 1 loading, which is the

equivalent of a standard laden truck and trailer. Generally, these are old wooden structures from the 1940s and 1950s that weren't designed to carry the weight of modern heavy transport.

To reduce the wear and tear, these bridges are posted with a reduced maximum weight allowed on the bridge, often with associated speed restrictions. For heavy freight operators, this can add kilometres to their routes as they are required to take detours.

"We understand the disruption and difficulties of having restricted bridges in our roading network and we are working steadily on a programme to replace them," Hartley says.

"We do have increased budgets in this LTP but it is still a challenge to prioritise spend across the network.

"Strategic decisions also have to be made regarding bridge replacements. For instance, bridges with no alternative access (detour) would be a priority, but



that also has to be weighed against the number and types of traffic movements."

Hartley asks that road users respect the postings in the meantime. Observing the speed limits and weight restrictions extends the life of the bridge in its current state. It continues to enable vehicle access in the meantime, rather than the alternative, which is immediate closure until the budget allows for repair or replacement.

To see the full list of posted bridges, go to Council's website:

southlanddc.govt.nz/my-southland/roading/bridge-restrictions/



Congratulations are in order for Road Safety Southland's road user safety advisor Maureen Deuchrass.

Maureen's work at Road Safety Southland has been recognised in this year's national Supporting Excellence in Road Safety Awards with the VTNZ Community Award.

She is quick to recognise the award is reflective of all the partnerships Road Safety Southland has, especially with New Zealand Police, ACC, Plunket, Southern REAP and Age Concern.

During Road Safety Week, which ran from May 9 to May 15, Maureen and her partners ran many campaigns, and competitions on the Road Safety Southland Facebook page, with this year's theme being Superheroes. Through radio and print advertising, people were directed to the Road Safety Southland Facebook page to nominate their own Road to Zero (R20) Superheroes. R20 Superheroes are people who display safe driving and help influence others to do the same, along with first responders, roading teams, victim support, breakdown crews, mechanics and all road users who are actively trying to make our roads a safer place.

New Zealand has committed to critical action on road safety under Road to Zero, a strategy where the vision is no-one is killed or seriously injured on our

roads. A target of reducing annual deaths and serious injuries by 40% by 2030 has been set. As it stands, there is an average of one person killed every day on New Zealand roads, and another seven who are seriously injured.

During Road Safety Week, Maureen from Road Safety Southland worked hard with R20 Superheroes from NZ Police and Plunket to carry out roadside checkpoints. They found that of the 14 child restraints that were checked 10 were installed incorrectly, and there was a significant number of children sitting in the front passenger seat, a huge risk to children's safety when travelling. Plunket donated a child's restraint, which was given during the roadside checks.

Another way Maureen promoted Road to Zero, was through Road Safety Southland's sponsorship of the Southland Sharks and the Southern Steel. Tickets to both games were available via social media, encouraging the public to share ways they were Superheroes on or near the road. Road Safety Southland's mascot, Glo-Bro, promoted get home safe messages at both Sharks basketball and Steel netball games.

Recently, Maureen invited representatives from education, NZ Police, iwi and SDHB to a hui to begin the process of developing a local initiative similar to the successful The Right Track. The new programme will focus on at-risk, young and inexperienced drivers and their whanau, with the goal of making them safer road users.

An advertising campaign to promote safety while outdoors in the autumn months, Get Your Glow On, ran during Road Safety Week and throughout May to encourage people to use hi-vis vests and straps

while out and about in the evenings. Road Safety Southland gave out some hi-vis gear through a competition on its Facebook page. There were some very heartfelt comments Maureen came across, including: "My Dad passed away 5 weeks ago and left me his e-bike which I have yet to ride. But when I do, I'll be sure to be wearing bright clothing and hopefully a new high vis strap." More hi-vis gear was supplied throughout Southland with Fiordland College and Te Anau School receiving Road Safety Southland-branded hi-vis gear.

Road Safety Southland is working with Active South and ACC to create and develop e-bike safety sessions that will be offered throughout the region. Maureen is also working alongside Invercargill City Council's parking department and NZ Police to help reduce the chaos at some targeted schools, as well as supporting Southland District Council to reduce speeds past rural schools.

The award-winning Drive My Life programme run by Road Safety Southland, along with partners Southern REAP, NZ Police and ACC, continues its goal to empower vulnerable at-risk members across the region. Drive My Life provides a supportive environment to gain the knowledge and skills essential to obtaining a driver's licence. Drive My Life is not just about getting a licence, it's about making safe drivers, and the ripple effect is even more rewarding.

Southland District Council is proud to support Maureen, a driven individual working hard to improve road safety in our region.

Maureen Deuchrass



Road safety work saluted

Your vote, your voice, your choice.

A small tick can make a big difference in the 2022 local government elections.

In October, a new mayor, ward councillors and community board members will be elected to represent you.

Your vote can help shape Southland's future, so make sure you're enrolled to vote.

Local government is in a space of major change and we need passionate and committed leaders to steer Southland through the next triennium. From our ageing infrastructure to the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, our district has an array of challenges to contend with.

Add into the mix the three waters, local government and Resource Management Act reforms, as well as climate change, and we are facing a transformational period of significant proportions.

We need the right people in the right roles. Who do you see leading our district?

Voting for this year's elections will open on Friday 16 September 2022 and close at 12 noon on Saturday 8 October 2022.

If you're enrolled, we will send you voting papers in the mail.

Why you should vote

You have a voice and it needs to be heard. Healthy democracy depends on it.

We want more Southlanders and communities to be represented, so make your vote count.

Your elected representatives will be called on to make decisions that have an impact

on many aspects of your life and your community, so it's important to have your say on what matters to you. These include:

- the rates you pay and the services and assets they pay for
- investment for vital infrastructure
- having a say on how we monitor and protect our natural environment
- play spaces for children in your local parks
- visiting libraries or hiring a community hall
- rules around where you can walk your dog
- the quality of water from your tap and at your local beaches
- local development and a thriving community
- a range of other services, like checking buildings are built properly, restaurant health rules and alcohol licences.

How to enrol

Get ready to vote in the 2022 Southland District Council elections.

First, you have to be enrolled with the Electoral Commission. You are automatically enrolled to vote in the 2022 local government elections if you're a Southland resident and are already on the parliamentary electoral roll for the general election.





If you're not sure if you are enrolled or your details have changed, simply head online to www.vote.nz or call 0800 36 76 56.

To be eligible to vote you must:

- be 18 years old or older
- currently live in New Zealand
- be a New Zealand resident, permanent resident, or citizen
- have been living in New Zealand continuously for 12 months or more.

To enrol you must verify your identity and will need one of the following documents:

- New Zealand driver licence
- New Zealand passport
- your RealMe verified identity.

If you have changed address, be sure to update the Electoral Commission. When voting papers are returned as undelivered, the Electoral Commission removes you from the electoral roll. You can check and update your details at elections.org.nz/enrol or by calling 0800 36 76 56.

Voters who own property within a local council area, but who usually live outside this, can apply to go on the ratepayer roll. They will then be able to vote in the area where they pay rates, and the area where they live.

To go on the ratepayer roll, you need to apply to the electoral officer for the local council area in which you own property but do not usually live. The electoral officer will send you a form to complete, sign and return so they can check your eligibility.

If you are registered on the unpublished roll, you will need to apply to the electoral officer at your local council to receive your voting papers.

Overseas voters can take part, but must ensure that they are correctly enrolled with an overseas postal address in order to receive their voting papers. Voting papers for local elections cannot be downloaded.

General roll or Māori roll? The roll you are on may affect the way you vote in local elections.

If you're on the Māori roll and your local authority has a Māori ward or constituency, you'll vote for a candidate in the Māori ward.

Contact the Electoral Commission if you:

- have any queries about enrolling
- need to update your details

- want to check your electorate/ ward / local board area
- have changed home address.

Visit the Electoral Commission website vote.nz or phone 0800 36 76 56.

How postal voting works

If you are an enrolled voter, you'll receive a voting information pack in the mail.

Voting papers will be sent to all eligible voters from Friday 16 September 2022 to Wednesday 21 September 2022.

To make sure your voting papers are sent to your current address, you need to have either enrolled or updated your address before Monday 12 September 2022.

If your voting pack does not arrive in the post, call the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822 to be posted out a special vote.

Once you have voted, you can drop off your voting papers to a number of locations throughout the district, including some libraries and service centres, or pop it in the post in time to meet the deadline.

Important dates for voters

- **Final date for enrolling or updating your details:** 12 September 2022
- **Voting papers are posted out to enrolled voters:** 16 September - 21 September 2022
- **Last day to post your voting papers (ballot boxes will still be open):** 3 October 2022
- **Election day (voting closes at 12 noon):** 8 October 2022
- **Official election results announced:** 14 October 2022

If you want to know more, head online to southlanddc.govt.nz or check out the **Vote Murihiku** Facebook page.



Odd Fellows in Otautau

NGĀ TAONGA
O MURIHIKU
HISTORICAL TREASURES IN
SOUTHLAND'S MUSEUMS

By Briar Kilsby

You've heard of secret societies, the mystery surrounding them and the Freemasons. But have you heard of the Manchester Unity International Order of Odd Fellows (MUIOOF)?

An interesting Southland artefact from the Otautau Museum is a dispensation document and membership board from the MUIOOF dated 31 July 1913, when the order was established in Otautau.

When the dispensation board arrived at the museum after the 1992 opening, the front was completely illegible. Laurence Le Ber, conservator for the Otautau museum, spent many hours gently removing layers of dust and dirt, working on small sections at a time. Using deionised water, Laurence revealed an all-seeing eye, and the letters F, L and T inside chain links referring

to Friendship, Love and Truth – the foundations that the Odd Fellows had been built upon - and the lodge number 9242.

“The Eye of Providence” was symbolic to the Odd Fellows, representing what they believed as God always watching over humanity, which dates back to the Eye of Horus in Egyptian mythology. The dispensation board was only brought out at meetings and could be opened only at specific times in the ceremony – so it's considered a very important artefact.

Along with the dispensation board, volunteer Tania Beck brings out a small embossing hand-press that belonged to the MUIOOF lodge in Otautau. The inscription reads: “Otautau Lodge, Southland District, M.U.O.F.S. 9242 Otautau New Zealand”.

In the small township, it seems as though the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) was in full swing before the formation of MUIOOF in 1913, as there was a lodge running in Riverton as far back as 1864, by the Order of Odd Fellows under the Manchester Unity jurisdiction. It appears that at some point, the Manchester Unity came to

Otautau and combined with the IOOF where some of the members of the earlier IOOF group transferred over to the new combined MUIOOF lodge.

The Otautau Lodge's history is thought to span over 24 years, as after 1937 the local lodge all but disappeared. Historical researcher Suzi Best thinks this may be due to World War II. In 2022, it is estimated there are still approximately 4,000 members in the lodge, most of them in the North Island.

New Zealand's Odd Fellows did not originate here. Rather, the first New Zealand Lodge began in the middle of the sea around 1842. Its history begins on the ship Martha Ridgeway on its voyage from Liverpool to Nelson on Monday 4 April 1842, with one Thomas Sullivan and a like-minded group of men who discovered they were all involved with Manchester Unity back in the United Kingdom. To make the long days pass while at sea, the nine men attended meetings onboard their ship-based lodge, which they nicknamed ‘Strangers Refuge’. Three days after docking in Nelson, the first meeting was held and the Nelson Lodge was formed. This marked the beginning of Manchester Unity, International Order of Odd Fellows – New Zealand's oldest friendly society.

Laurence sheds some light on some of the lodge's more curious traditions. “If you go back before that (1842), to the time of the French revolution in the 1790s, the English were paranoid that ‘we're going to get a revolution here’. So, when working people started to group together and the government got really anxious and thought, ‘they're plotting against us’, this is why the masons and groups of people have all these secret ceremonies, because the government started putting spies into them.”

“If you didn't know the secret handshake, you were a spy,” says Tania.



Tania Beck and Jo Massey inspect the historic Manchester Unity International Order of Odd Fellows artefact.



The MUJIOF dispensation document and membership board.

Laurence continues: “They would often have a skeleton and people think that’s really spooky, but the idea with that is that it’s a ‘memento mortis, remember death’.

“Whatever we do in life we’ve got to be accountable.”

“Sooner or later we’re going to die,” adds Tania.

“And we’re going to be accountable,” says Laurence. “So be good to your fellow man.”

So, were the Odd Fellows odd people?

One of the speculated explanations for the ‘odd’ name is that it came from the group of people who started the society, in England in the 1700s. The trends of the time considered it to be odd for common labouring men to associate themselves to form such a group that would provide social unity, fellowship and mutual help for each other. This

was before trade unions or health insurance were available to help those in need and families who were struggling. They began to accept the name and incorporate into the title of ‘Odd Fellows’.

Another reason could be the original Odd Fellows were men who worked in less popular trades and didn’t have the security in numbers to form unions and look after the sick, like the masons did. They worked in various ‘odd jobs’, and the work they did for their society formed into different lodges where they developed their own philosophies. From there the name stuck, creating the Odd Fellowship.

* Information sourced from historical researcher/family historian Suzi Best’s research on Odd Fellows in Otautau. If you would like to know more about the history of the Odd Fellows in Otautau, Suzi is currently writing a book, *Between River & Stream*, coming soon.



Laurence Le Ber explains “The Eye of Providence” logo.

Otautau Museum getting makeover

Otautau's museum has been closed since Covid, but you'd be wrong to think there's nothing happening behind its stern 1908 brick façade.

Inside the former Otautau Court House a small team of passionate volunteers are working hard to re-organise the Otautau Museum's impressive collection and tidy up the historic building's interior.

In retrospect, Otautau Museum and Heritage Trust chair Tania Beck would probably agree that the closure when the pandemic hit in 2020 was quite timely. It gave the trust the opportunity to give their collection, and the inside of the building, a much-needed makeover.

First, there were issues with some of the collection record-keeping. "We've got a storeroom and there was stuff out there on the shelves which was all labelled but when we looked into it further we realised there were a few discrepancies," Tania says.

The trust contracted Otautau historian, archivist and researcher Suzi Best from Best Artistic Enterprises Ltd to do this painstaking work, with help from Jayne Wilson.

"Suzi's going through the collection and trying to tie up the paperwork with each item and then researching the provenance of each item. It's a huge, huge job."

It was supposed to have been finished at the

end of June. "When she started she thought there were nearly 500 items, but that turned into way more than that because there was a lot of stuff that had been brought in and left and nobody put any documentation with it."

Once all the items have been catalogued the boxes currently stacked through the museum's display rooms can be put on shelves and stored properly and the museum can reopen.

Second, there were problems with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust category 2-registered building itself, including rotting wooden window frames and borer.

"We took the opportunity to do those while we were closed," Tania says.

"There's still an awful lot of work to do ... It's a big job, especially when you're working with volunteers. People can only do what they can do."

Tania herself is flat out working on their farm, as well as having a part-time role at Central Southland College in Winton and doing all the admin involved with being chair of a museum trust. She estimates she puts in around a full day a week working for the museum.

She has been chair of the trust since 2018, and feels acutely the responsibility of improving the collection and the building. The Otautau trust is in the somewhat unusual

position of being responsible for both, but Tania relishes the challenge. "I love old buildings."

In its early years, members of the historical society, like many others around the country, would have done their best to keep detailed records, but would not have had access to the resources available today, including the internet. Now the mostly volunteer-run museums scattered throughout the Southland region can call on professional expert support.

Southland's roving museums officer Jo Massey is helping Tania and her team to sort through the Otautau collection, pass on storage techniques and develop the records. "Jo's awesome," says Tania. "She's helped us pack to New Zealand museum quality standard."

Laurence Le Ber is also a welcome regular visitor. He works two days a week with Project Ark, which is an ongoing project to catalogue Southland's heritage collections, digitise them and share them online. The project began as a pilot in 2018 as a collaboration between Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Gore District Council. It is funded by their combined heritage rates and overseen by the Southland Regional Heritage Committee.

Work at the museum is funded by grants, including Southland Heritage and Building Preservation Trust, the Southland Regional Heritage Fund and Southland District Council's District Heritage Fund.

While the museum is closed, Tania wants to paint and do some maintenance work on the main exhibit room. There's also the storeroom to set up. The museum has been given some of Riverton museum Te Hikoi's surplus shelving, "so we're now able to re-organise our storeroom and get that up to a better standard as well.

"That's the key – get this place open again," she says.

They hope to do this by the end of 2023, to coincide with Otautau's 150-year celebrations.



SDC says reform process flawed

Southland District Council has asked government to push pause on the process of the draft Water Services Entities Bill, until more information and detail is available.

The bill, part of the three waters reform, is the first in a series of bills which will establish the four entities to run three waters services across the country. It follows on from the first stage of the reform, the setting up of a new water services regulator, Taumata Arowai, which enforces drinking water standards and will be responsible for wastewater and stormwater standards in 2024, when the entities are proposed to take over day-to-day running of three waters.

Council said in its submission material it was strongly opposed to the three waters reform process as it stands presently.

“We have always accepted the need for reform, but believe the reform process is severely flawed in several areas,” the submission says. “Our first concern is with the assumptions and data used to back up the reform. The assumptions are clearly incorrect and we pointed this out, with no response from the Minister.

“From the beginning of the reform up to this bill, information on process and detail has been lacking, which means we have not been able to communicate and engage with our communities who own the assets.”

Council said in its submission it believes the bill needs to be suspended until there is more information and the two planned water bills are combined into one so Council and other submitters can submit

with all the information and detail in front of them.

Council has frequently asked for more information from the beginning of this reform process to not only go through its decision-making of whether to support the reforms or not, but also to have enough information to share with its communities and to seek their feedback.

The three waters services are the Council-owned infrastructure network and processes used to treat, transport, and discharge drinking water, wastewater and stormwater.

The reforms are proposing to shift the current 67 council-owned and operated three waters services into four new publicly owned entities to manage the future delivery of these services. These new entities will be publicly owned by councils as the sole shareholders on behalf of communities, with strong protections against any future privatisation, the government says.

The entities will have joint strategic direction and oversight through regional representative groups (and subcommittees) made up of local government and mana whenua to ensure the entities are driven by community expectations and priorities, the government says.

They will be financially separate from councils with a greater ability to borrow to fund long-term infrastructure and will have independent competency-based boards that will run the day-to-day management of the entities and oversee the maintenance and renewal of the infrastructure, the government says.



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.



EARTHQUAKE PRONE BUILDING INSPECTIONS



Council has to undertake assessments on certain buildings under the provisions of the Building Act 2004.

The act provides councils with timeframes to complete assessments on certain commercial, industrial and accommodation-type buildings. Not included in these assessments are farm buildings or residential buildings, people's houses, bridges and monuments.

Southland District Council had to first decide whether there were any priority areas. These are areas of buildings that may have high vehicle or pedestrian traffic. This assessment went out for public consultation in 2021 and it was decided that the main streets of Winton, Riverton, Wyndham and Otautau were priority areas.

The assessments on these priority areas have been completed and the owners of buildings in these priority areas have been sent letters requesting an engineer's report or a letter stating that no further action is required in terms of the earthquake legislation.

Other buildings outside the priority areas are now being assessed. Owners of buildings that may fit certain criteria – such as being pre-1935, having unreinforced masonry or being three storeys or more high – will receive a letter stating Council staff will assess their building and let them know whether they are to provide an engineering report for their building to Council.

When Council staff receive these engineering reports they will determine

from these reports whether a building is earthquake prone or not. If the building is deemed earthquake prone the owner will be sent a notice advising the timeframe for which the owner is to have the building structurally upgraded. The timeframe in the medium seismic zone is either 12.5 or 25 years, dependent on the construction and the level of failure of the building.

Council has until July 2027 to complete assessments on all buildings within the district.

The priority areas had to be assessed by July 2022 and this has been completed.

FOR ALL BUILDING INQUIRIES

To book a building inspection, contact us 72 hours before you require an inspection.

Email: building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz

Book online: go to the SDC website and select 'Request a building inspection online' from the home page

Phone: 0800 732 732

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

Plasterboard/GIB substitutions

In November 2021, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) updated and re-released its product substitution guidance, to help the sector make good choices when substituting alternative products to those specified on the building consent.

You can find the general MBIE product substitution guidance at www.building.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/building-code-compliance/certifications-programmes/product-assurance/product-substitution.pdf or visit

Southland District Council's website here: www.southlanddc.govt.nz/my-property/building-consent/notices-and-news/

This includes examples of how substituting a different plasterboard product could be undertaken as a minor variation to the building consent.

In order to gain the best traction possible, MBIE has also written to the two peak bodies that represent architects and designers, Te Kāhui Whaihanga NZ Institute of Architects (NZIA) and Architectural Designers New Zealand (ADNZ). MBIE has asked that they encourage their members to:

- be familiar and make use of the MBIE guidance
- specify alternative plasterboard products where plasterboard is being used for generic wall-linings and does not require specialist performance
- specify short-supply specialist products only where those products are required to achieve certain performance levels required by the Building Code
- be flexible in how they design to relevant bracing, fire or water protection standards given product availability in the market. This will facilitate the use of a wider range of plasterboard brands in the sector as well as a wider range of design options that may not require the use of specialist plasterboard at all.

SHORT STUFF

Matariki flags

Southern Southland townships looked smart flying their new Matariki flags.

The Waihopai Toetoe Community Board arranged for these flags to be put up to celebrate New Zealand's new public holiday, Matariki, on 24 June.

The flags pictured were at Wyndham. There were flags flying at Edendale, Woodlands, Tokanui and Gorge Road as well.



Each of these towns has flag mounts traditionally used for such events as Anzac Day, Christmas and Waitangi Day.

Community board chair Pam Yorke says community organisations are most welcome to use the flag tracks, by getting in touch with a community board member. "We can advise where to get the flags and the process around this."

EMS team out in the community



It has been a busy time for Emergency Management Southland between weather warnings and the dreaded Covid but the team is back into the swing of things.

EMS staff were out and about around Southland during Schools Week. During this week they went to different schools to educate students on earthquake, tsunami and emergency preparedness with their earthquake simulator trailer. The trailer simulates a magnitude 5 earthquake and provides a realistic but safe environment to practise drop, cover and hold. Schools that would like to participate in the next schools week can get in touch with the EMS team at ems@cdsouthland.nz.

Over the past five years EMS has been helping Southland communities develop Community Response Groups and produce Community Response Plans. These groups have been a huge help to EMS.

During the February 2020 floods these groups supported the response by setting up 26 community emergency hubs across the region and when the pandemic hit they provided important intelligence directly into the EMS Emergency Co-ordination Centre,



which enabled them to respond to welfare needs in different areas.

EMS team leader-response Craig Sinclair says: "By coming together to develop Community Response Plans you will ensure you're as ready as possible for any adverse event which may affect your community, and help plan for you and your family."

Did you know your community has a plan? Head to the Emergency Management Southland website cdsouthland.nz/ and click on "Your District" or, better yet, come along to one of the meetings.

Upcoming meetings are posted on the Emergency Management Southland Facebook page. Follow the page for updates. facebook.com/cdsouthland

Co-ordinated Incident Management Systems (CIMS) is the format used by emergency management organisations to respond to emergencies. The system was agreed to by all New Zealand emergency services in the 1990s. It is now in its third version, with the latest version giving welfare a higher priority than it used to have under the system.

At the beginning of the year EMS had to postpone a couple of courses due to Covid but courses have since been run in Otautau, Stewart Island Rakiura, Te Anau and Invercargill. Two more courses are planned this year in Invercargill and Gore.

Community partners are a big part of this training and EMS has had a great response from them. These courses enable communities to be

better prepared for emergencies and give them the knowledge to make a difference in response.

EMS group manager and group controller Simon Mapp says the EMS team is working hard to get back towards some kind of post-Covid normality. However, they have experienced sicknesses and setbacks with response advisor Jason Ten Hoorn Boer leaving the team.

Along with the other New Zealand civil defence emergency management (CDEM) groups, EMS is working closely with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to assist with adjustment and changes to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act (CDEM Act 2002), known officially as the Regulatory Framework Review ("Trifecta") Programme. The trifecta programme can be found online at: civildefence.govt.nz/cdem-sector/regulatory-framework-review-trifecta-programme/

This work will consolidate and bring into practice a number of changes proposed by a technical advisory group that looked at better response to emergencies and bring the 2002 act more in line with current community requirements.

EMS is working on a regional hazard risk assessment report to inform its new group plan. "We have been using information from our partner agencies to form a better understanding of the hazard profile of the Southland region," says Simon. "Once completed we can review current group plan information to update the Southland CDEM Group Plan."

Mobile Library Timetable



Sep - Dec 2022

Athol	Shop	Noon-1pm	Tue	27-Sep	25-Oct	22-Nov	*
Balfour	Tavern	4:30-5.00pm	Tue	13-Sep	11-Oct	8-Nov	6-Dec
	Tavern	1.30-3.00pm	Thu	29-Sep	27-Oct	24-Nov	*
Blackmount	Wairaki Stn	11.30am-12.15pm	Mon	26-Sep	*	21-Nov	*
Dacre	Hall	9.00-10.00am	Fri	16-Sep	14-Oct	11-Nov	9-Dec
Dipton	School	11.00am-Noon	Tue	13-Sep	11-Oct	8-Nov	6-Dec
Drummond	School	10.30am-Noon	Wed	14-Sep	12-Oct	9-Nov	7-Dec
Edendale	School	10.30am-Noon	Fri	16-Sep	14-Oct	11-Nov	9-Dec
	Car park	1.00-4.00pm	Fri	30-Sep	28-Oct	25-Nov	*
Fortrose	Picnic Area	3.00-4.00pm	Fri	16-Sep	14-Oct	11-Nov	9-Dec
Garston	School	1.30-2.30pm	Tue	27-Sep	25-Oct	22-Nov	*
	Village	2.30-3.30pm	Tue	27-Sep	25-Oct	22-Nov	*
Glenham	School	1.00-1.30pm	Fri	16-Sep	14-Oct	11-Nov	9-Dec
Gorge Rd	Hall	11am-12.30pm	Tue	20-Sep	18-Oct	15-Nov	13-Dec
Hauroko Valley	School	1.00-1.30pm	Mon	26-Sep	*	21-Nov	*
Heddon Bush	School	1.30-2.30pm	Wed	14-Sep	12-Oct	9-Nov	7-Dec
Hedgehope	School	11am-12.30pm	Fri	9-Sep	7-Oct	4-Nov	2-Dec
Hillside School	School	9.15am-10.00am	Thu	8-Sep	6-Oct	3-Nov	1-Dec
Invercargill	SDC Office	9.30-11.30am	Thu	22-Sep	20-Oct	17-Nov	15-Dec
Limehills	School	1.30pm-2.30pm	Thu	8-Sep	6-Oct	3-Nov	1-Dec
Longbush	Kindergarten	9.00-10.00am	Fri	30-Sep	28-Oct	25-Nov	*
Mossburn	School	1.30-3.00pm	Tue	13-Sep	11-Oct	8-Nov	6-Dec
	RSA	9.30-10.30am	Tue	27-Sep	25-Oct	22-Nov	*
Nightcaps	Johnston Rd	9.30-10.30am	Mon	26-Sep	*	21-Nov	*
Ohai	Com Centre	11am-Noon	Thu	8-Sep	6-Oct	3-Nov	1-Dec
Orepuki	Main St	3.00-4.00pm	Mon	26-Sep	*	21-Nov	*
Otara	Hall	2.30-4.00pm	Wed	21-Sep	19-Oct	16-Nov	14-Dec
Pukerau	School	9.30-11.30am	Wed	28-Sep	26-Oct	23-Nov	*
Rimu	School	10.30-11.30am	Fri	30-Sep	28-Oct	25-Nov	*
Riversdale	Com Centre	2.00pm-4pm	Thu	15-Sep	13-Oct	10-Nov	8-Dec
	Com Centre	11am-12.30pm	Thu	29-Sep	27-Oct	24-Nov	*
Riverton	BUPA Village	2.00-4.00pm	Thu	22-Sep	20-Oct	17-Nov	15-Dec
Roslyn Bush	Playcentre	9.15-10.00am	Tue	20-Sep	18-Oct	15-Nov	13-Dec
Ryal Bush	Com Centre	2.30-4.00pm	Fri	9-Sep	7-Oct	4-Nov	2-Dec
Te Tipua	School	9.30-10.30am	Fri	9-Sep	7-Oct	4-Nov	2-Dec
Thornbury	School	1.00-2.00pm	Wed	7-Sep	5-Oct	2-Nov	30-Nov
Tokanui	School	9.30-11am	Mon	12-Sep	10-Oct	7-Nov	5-Dec
	Main St	1.30-4.00pm	Fri	23-Sep	21-Oct	18-Nov	16-Dec
Waianiwa	Hall	3.00-4.00pm	Wed	7-Sep	5-Oct	2-Nov	30-Nov
Waikaia	Com Centre	10.15-11.30am	Thu	15-Sep	13-Oct	10-Nov	8-Dec
	School	9.00-10.30am	Thu	29-Sep	27-Oct	24-Nov	*
Waikaka	Com Centre	2.00-4.00pm	Wed	28-Sep	26-Oct	23-Nov	*
Waikawa	Hall	10am-Noon	Fri	23-Sep	21-Oct	18-Nov	16-Dec
Waimahaka	Hall	11.30am-1.00pm	Wed	21-Sep	19-Oct	16-Nov	14-Dec
Wallacetown	Com Centre	9.00am-10.00am	Wed	7-Sep	5-Oct	2-Nov	30-Nov
	School	10.10am-11.30am	Wed	7-Sep	5-Oct	2-Nov	30-Nov
Wendon	Hall	Noon-12.30pm	Thu	15-Sep	13-Oct	10-Nov	8-Dec
Wendonside	Hall	9.30-10.00am	Thu	15-Sep	13-Oct	10-Nov	8-Dec
Woodlands	School	2.00-4.00pm	Mon	12-Sep	10-Oct	7-Nov	5-Dec
	Shop	2.00-4.00pm	Tue	20-Sep	18-Oct	15-Nov	13-Dec

* denotes public holidays

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



Amie Young

Opportunities in agritourism

Sharing the Southland way of life with visitors – international and domestic – is at the heart of agritourism in our region, says Great South destination development manager Amie Young.

“International borders are open, visitors are looking for something different and it’s a great time to be thinking about diversifying and making the most of the opportunity.”

Great South held workshops around the region earlier this year for anyone wanting to develop an

agritourism product. Featured guest speakers were Laura Koot from Real Country, Kingston, and Tom O’Brien from Welcome Rock Trails, Garston, along with marketing expert Marijke Dunselman.

“It was pleasing to see participants looking at options to diversify their income and plan for the future.”

Agritourism products and itineraries within Southland are featured on Great South’s promotional website southlandnz.com, which includes farmstays, tours, gardens and

paddock-to-plate food experiences.

“There really is a lot of scope to what an agritourism product could be and we already have some great options on offer.

“It’s a great way to bring the benefit of tourism into rural communities and shares the Southland way of life.”

Sustainable tourism helping Southland meet Net Zero 2050 emission targets

A new pilot programme is under way to help tourism operators to improve their sustainability.

The Murihiku Sustainable Tourism Programme pilot is a 12-week programme initially limited to a small number of participants, but the plan is that it will be repeated in the future.

Great South destination development manager Amie Young said the approach taken to the pilot was a holistic one.

“We really want to support and lead our sector to improve sustainability and reduce carbon emissions but there’s more to it than that.



Roscos Milford Kayaks. Photo: Great South

“Visitor experience, environment, host communities and economic perspectives are all taken into account.”

The pilot programme is based on the internationally accepted principles of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council and Tourism Industry Aotearoa’s Tourism Sustainability Commitments.

International insights from Expedia Group (2022) show 90% of consumers looked for sustainable options when travelling, three in five opted for environmentally friendly transportation or accommodation, and half would be willing to pay more for sustainable options.

Great South also runs Carbon in Business workshops which are open to businesses from all sectors, including tourism.

Another significant recent emissions reduction project for Great South was managing a joint project with EECA to transition boilers within Invercargill using fossil fuels including LPG, coal or diesel to low-emission energy sources, which it is hoped will be available Southland-wide in the future.

MICROCHIPPING TIMETABLE

AREA	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Invercargill Office (car park)	None	Wednesday, 5th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 7th 11.30 – 12 noon
Otautau Office (at rear)	Thursday 8th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 1th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Lumsden Railway (at rear)	Wednesday, 7th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 2nd 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Riverton Office	Tuesday, 6th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday 3rd 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Winton (Wemyss street)	None	Thursday 6th, 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 6th 11.30 – 12 noon
Te Anau Office (at rear)	Thursday, 8th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 10th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Wyndham Office (at rear)	None	Tuesday 4th 2.00 – 2.30 pm	None	Tuesday 13th 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.

Work progressing well on TIF projects

In July 2021, Southland District Council received funding from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment's Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) for projects in the Fiordland area.

The funding was secured to upgrade the boat ramp, toilets and car park at Pearl Harbour in Manapouri and to upgrade the access road and toilets at Frasers Beach, Manapouri.

Additional funding was granted for the replacement of two boat ramps in Te Anau and a new public toilet at Te Anau Terrace.

Work was progressing well on the first of the boat ramp replacements at Steamers Beach, Te Anau, with the second one planned at Te Anau Terrace to be started immediately afterwards.

The photos show the installation of a coffer dam, which allows for dewatering of the ramp in order to begin construction of the new ramp.

The toilet renewal at Te Anau Terrace was to begin in early August, with the project expected to be completed in early September.

The location of the new toilet near the flying fox



on Waiau Street, Manapouri, has been decided and the resource consent application is being amended to reflect this. It is anticipated this work will coincide with the proposed Frasers Beach toilet upgrade.

The toilet renewal at Pearl Harbour is due to start in September and be completed in October.

The Pearl Harbour boat ramp, gabion wall replacement and View Street car park upgrade was being tendered at the time of writing this article and it is anticipated this work will be completed around November 2022.

SDC project delivery manager Brendan Gray says

“The TIF funding has been a huge help in reducing the overall impact of the funding requirements by the community and the upgrades will ensure this popular visitor and tourist spot is in prime condition for the future.”

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 Kathryn Cowie 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.

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 31 March.

Contact us



All offices: **0800 732 732**

District libraries: **0800 732 542**



funding@southlanddc.govt.nz



southlanddc.govt.nz



This artwork by Connor Chamberlain was commissioned by the Tuurama Trust for educational resources for Matariki.

TIF funding of Matariki project

Southland District Council has received funding from the Tourism Infrastructure Fund towards creating a Matariki wayfinder project.

As a result of the funding, Council will work with mana whenua to create nine pou whenua (carved posts) around the district to signify the nine stars of the Matariki constellation. Each will be

supported by an interpretation panel that tells the story of Matariki.

The pou will act as wayfinders, encouraging people to visit the other parts of the region in order to complete the story. They will be co-designed with Te Ao Marama and the Murihiku runanga.

The project will be 50% co-funded by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's Tourism Infrastructure Fund and 50% by Council through its open spaces budget.