



DECEMBER 2020

THE FIRST EDITION

Southland District Council's magazine

Council adopts Annual Report

Southland District Council's Annual Report for the year ended 30 June 2020 was adopted at a Council meeting on 18 November.

The Annual Report is one of Council's three main corporate performance documents, along with the Long Term Plan (LTP) and Annual Plan. It tells the public how well we did in relation to what we said we would do in our LTP and Annual Plan, how much it cost to do the work and how we paid for it.

Audit New Zealand gives its opinion on whether the financial statements fairly reflect Council's financial performance and position and comply with generally accepted accounting practice.

In an introductory message titled "Weathering the storm," Mayor Gary Tong and former chief executive Steve Ruru, who left SDC in October, note that it was a year of disruption and change, following the February floods and the global Covid-19 pandemic.

They say that a major part of Council's planning is to increase the resilience of communities in Southland District so that they are better able to meet the challenges that lie ahead. This is why community-led development is a major focus of Council's work.

The local elections held in October 2019 under SDC's new community governance system of nine community boards covering the entire District are listed as one of the key highlights for SDC during the past financial year.

The introduction of several new online services – including building consent applications and online processing, as well dog registrations and payments – is also highlighted as a key milestone during 2019/2020.

A recent trend of increased capital investment in infrastructure and services continued in the past financial year. SDC invested \$29 million in capital works in 2019/2020, most of it related to the Te Anau wastewater upgrade.

Council acknowledges the financial hardship experienced



by Southland tourism operators, along with the many other Southland District residents from whom we collect rates revenue, as a result of Covid-19. In an effort to assist, Council continues to offer to work with customers or ratepayers who are worried about their ability to pay their rates.

During the 12 months to 30 June 2020, SDC received \$80.5 million in revenue, and spent \$80.7 million, for a net deficit after tax of \$191,000.

Revenue was \$7.4 million more than was budgeted, mainly due to increased Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency subsidies, grants, forestry valuation and Council's share of income from WasteNet, which was not budgeted for. Total expenditure was \$4.3 million above budget, with emergency roading repairs following the February floods, consultancy costs associated with government-funded projects, and employee-related costs, featuring prominently.

The net value of assets owned by SDC ratepayers rose slightly from the previous financial year to \$1.6 billion.

Council's corporate performance lead Jason Domigan says it was a challenging year because of the impact the floods and then Covid-19 had on the organisation's ability to complete projects targeted to be undertaken in the year.

"We probably didn't get as much completed as we would have liked, but we boxed on and were still able to achieve a substantial number of projects."

* Full details on our performance during the 2019/2020 financial year can be found in the Annual Report on Southland District Council's website, southlanddc.govt.nz, or you can view the Annual Report at any SDC office.

Cover photograph:

Macaela Hawkins
Downtime for Mabel Hore and her loyal partner, Hammer, seen chilling out after what had been a busy first ever Garston School Pet Day for them.



Magazine design
Gloria Eno

Produced by
Southland District Council
communications team

MAYOR GARY TONG

With the benefit of 2020 hindsight, it's been a hell of a year.

The signs weren't great right from the start.

I came out of hospital in Dunedin on New Year's Day 2020 following a heart attack in November and the sky was like an apocalyptic horror movie scene. The bushfires across the Tasman had turned the sky orange and there was ash falling out of the thick, smoky air. At 1 o'clock in the afternoon it was so dark in central Dunedin that the streetlights were on and drivers had their car headlights on.

It was scary, and eerie.

I came home with the doctors' instructions to rest up ringing in my ears but very quickly we were thrust into a state of emergency when the February floods washed through our region. Stuff the heart attack, it was time to get back to work.

And then Covid-19 happened ...

It's been a short year for some, and a long year for others. The lockdown affected everybody to varying degrees – some Southlanders' livelihoods came to a grinding halt while others came through relatively unscathed.

I have to admit that my own health scare has given me a different perspective on life. I value my own health and the health of others. I don't suffer fools like I perhaps used to. I try to remain positive in everything I do because I know we're not here for a long time and we've got to make the most of it.

Plus it doesn't pay to dwell too much on what's already passed, when there are so many challenges lying ahead.

Ngāi Tahu will need our support as they make strenuous efforts to rebuild after the devastation to their tourism-related businesses caused by Covid; government-driven changes to the delivery of the three waters services will have a major impact on Southland District Council; and the future of Tiwai Point aluminium smelter will weigh heavily on all our minds in the coming months.

While all this is going on around us Council has to keep its focus on working for you, our ratepayers. Maintaining a level of service that you appreciate with a finite budget and growing and conflicting demands for expenditure is a delicate balancing act.

With this in mind we'll be talking with you in coming weeks and months and asking you where your priorities lie in terms of expenditure on current services.

Council's next Long Term Plan is due to be adopted next year, and it's a vitally important document for us, and for Southland District. It will chart the course for the next 10 years of our business, outlining what major projects we carry out, how much they will cost and how we will pay for them. We need your help to decide in which areas we put more of our resources, bearing in mind that more here could mean less there.

I warmly invite our young people to become more involved and influential in your communities. After all, you are our future leaders and ratepayers and much of the debt we will accumulate replacing our major infrastructure in the coming years will be intergenerational, so you will end up contributing your fair share to help pay for it.

I know that to a young person Council may seem a bit scary and unapproachable, but we're doing our best to change the image that we're all about the three R's – rates, roads and rubbish – and we really value hearing youthful perspectives.

Our Youth Council is a very fine representation of the District's young people. I've been very impressed hearing their submissions to the full Council and I genuinely believe they're making a difference. I'd love to see their positivity spread wider through our youth community.

As we approach the end of a trying year I'd like to thank the current crop of Southland District councillors for their conscientious efforts since the new triennium start last October. There's been spirited and thoughtful debate in the Council chamber and most of it has been livestreamed via SDC's Facebook and YouTube channels so you are able to see the wheels of democracy turning.

All the councillors are working very hard for their District, and linking well with the nine community boards covering Southland, which in turn are all working hard in their respective areas. The foundations for the future are well set now, I believe, and I look forward to seeing the results as Southland communities continue to chart their own course with the support of SDC.

Go and enjoy Christmas with your families, and spare a thought for those less fortunate.

See ya later 2020. Bring on 2021.

**Yours in Southland,
Gary**



Cameron McIntosh is looking forward to his new role working for the people of Southland District.

A born and raised southerner, he is excited to have been named as the new chief executive of Southland District Council, a position he admits he has long aspired to.

Cameron's appointment follows the resignation of previous chief executive Steve Ruru, who was in the job for six years.

He returns to SDC in the top job having previously worked at Council in the mid-1990s, when he was group manager services and assets.

Cameron grew up in Otatara, which was then in the former Southland County boundary, went to James Hargest High School and worked for

Cameron brings that same philosophy to his new position as chief executive of Southland District Council.

"It's particularly a role about people and culture, and organisational performance. It's a great opportunity.

"My immediate concern is for the community, and the struggles that some parts of our community will be having as a result of Covid-19."

Cameron is adamant that local government should do whatever it can to support the community through the pandemic fallout, "even if they're slightly different than the conventional services".

"I do think it's an unusual



Cameron McIntosh

a time in the meat industry, before completing a degree in biotechnology and bioprocess engineering at Massey University in Palmerston North.

After graduating, Cameron and wife Lisa went to England for five years. On their return he was drafted back into the meat industry, working for 13 years for Alliance Group.

Towards the end of that tenure he got his first taste of local government when he joined a Southland District Council reference group canvassing a road rating matter. "I quite enjoyed the experience and when the opportunity at SDC came up I took it."

He was group manager services and assets at Southland District Council for three years before a decade-long stint at Invercargill City Council, where he led a directorate that managed a broad range of services and assets and community services, from roads and three waters to the Invercargill Library, swimming pool and Southland Museum.

"What I soon discovered was that for me it wasn't about the technical nature of the degree," he says. "The real joy in the role was actually working with the people."

time, and I do also see the need to be partners with iwi and work with our neighbours, and with central government."

He is a great believer in the value of Council's new community governance structure of nine community boards covering the entire Southland District, a structure put in place following SDC's Representation Review in 2019.

Cameron is looking forward to attending board meetings and getting out into the District to engage with communities.

"I think most residents don't understand the complexity that a council, and particularly the elected members, find that they're dealing with between how to have a vision for a community, how to deliver that vision and then the constraints of the legislation.

"I think the community board structure is a real strength. We can use it to take stock of what's happening at a local level.

"It's a big job to make sure those boards are well resourced and well administered, but they've had a

terrific benefit for the community being connected to what's happening in its own area – actually having a stake in it.

"It will help to remove the perception that decisions are being made remotely in the Council chambers.

"I'm a great believer that the ideas about what's good for a particular community often originate within that community."

"I don't believe there's going to be a simple solution for all of Southland. It's just too big and too diverse to say, 'look, here's one fix'."

Southland District Council, like any local authority, is a multi-faceted organisation responsible for delivering a wide range of core infrastructure and services, as well as having the more holistic role of providing support for community development. Cameron has a very

clear and concise view of how all the moving parts should piece together.

“For me the reality is that the infrastructure enables the people. It enables the economies; it enables the social interactions. It’s imperative that infrastructure is there, but it’s actually for people.

“That’s one of the jobs that Council itself, and the elected members, are always grappling with – how do we find that balance?”

“The real role of a council is to balance those competing demands.”

Cameron takes the reins at Southland District Council at a time of great change in the local government sector, with central government driving reform of the three water services – drinking water, stormwater and wastewater – as well as new

legislative obligations in building control, resource management and the environment.

“When I joined local government about 14 years ago three waters reform was just around the corner,” he laughs. “It’s just part of the evolutionary cycle of local government.

“The wider implication of three waters reform from a consumer’s point of view is probably not much ...

“From a council point of view it’s working through the questions of is there a different way that these services could be provided – is there a different administration model, is it still the right thing for each council to govern its own water assets? At this stage we don’t know the answer to that.

“But there will be change, no question.

“This government has clearly signalled an intention to address some of the lingering issues from the past as well as the challenges of the future.”

When not immersed in local body politics, Cameron likes to spend his free time getting out and about, walking, biking trails and enjoying the opportunities in Southland and Central Otago.

“Southland’s a fantastic place,” he says. “There’s such a range of country. And it’s amazing to think that you drive out of the city limits of Invercargill and all the way to just about Kingston and you’re spending the whole time travelling through the Southland District.”

takes the reins at SDC

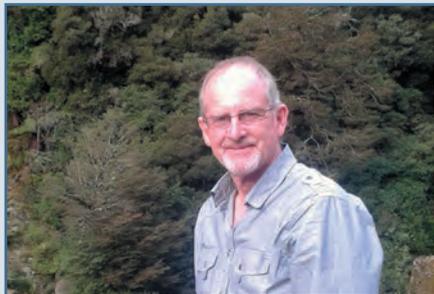


New Southland District Council chief executive Cameron McIntosh speaks at his mihi (formal welcome). Seated (from left) are Waihōpai rūnanga representative Michael Skerrett, Deputy Mayor Ebel Kremer, kaumatua Stewart Bull and Councillor Paul Duffy.

Community Board Profiles 2020

Throughout our District community board members are working hard for their respective areas. It's fantastic to see a range of initiatives under way through positive community-led development.

Our community boards are a diverse bunch with an array of skills – exactly as it should be. Let's get to know some of them.



Andrew Dorricott

Hometown: Wallacetown.

Board: Oreti

Occupation: Packing operator at Fonterra.

The best thing about our community is: Wallacetown is a friendly community and a great place to bring up families.

My favourite local place is: At home.

My aim on the community board is to: Give the local community a voice.

Our opportunities are: Endless and only limited to your imagination.

When I'm not working, you will find me: Relaxing or fishing anywhere in the lower South Island with my wife and family.



Clarke Horrell

Hometown: Waikaia

Board: Ardlussa

Occupation: Sheep and beef farming

The best thing about our community is: The diverse range of people who are supportive and friendly.

My favourite local place is: Waikaia pub

My aim on the community board is to: maintain and enhance our local features and amenities for the enjoyment of locals and visitors, now and for future generations.

Our opportunities are: endless if we work together for common goals.

When I'm not working, you will find me: enjoying family time, supporting children's activities and watching sports.

One thing you may not know about me is: I used to sit in an office and wear a suit to work every day in London.



Richard Clarkson

Hometown: Riversdale

Board: Ardlussa

Occupation: Mechanic/business owner

The best thing about our community is: The people.

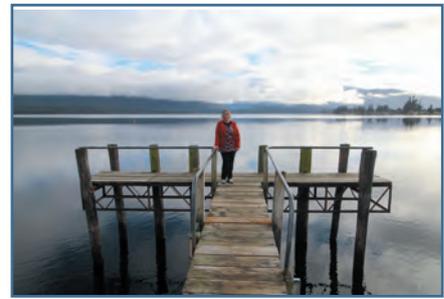
My favourite local place is: Piano Flat

My aim on the community board is to: To protect our local community and groups.

Our opportunities are: To grow our communities.

When I'm not working, you will find me: Kids sport, boating, outdoors.

One thing you may not know about me is: I am an identical twin.



Mary Chartres

Hometown: Te Anau

Board: Fiordland

Occupation: Retired

The best thing about our community is: I love the scenery and the friendly honest people.

My favourite local place is: Riding my bike or walking along the lakefront.

My aim on the community board is to: Be involved with the future development of the town.

Our opportunities are: To improve the flow of traffic around the town centre, as well as vehicle parking along the lake front.

When I am not working, you will find me: With my awesome grandchildren.

One thing you may not know about me is: I have lived in the area for 48 years.



Diane Holmes

Hometown: Otorohanga, King Country

Board: Fiordland

Occupation: Owner/operator Lakeside Service Centre RD Petroleum

The best thing about our community is: The community.

My favourite local place is: Going on the Faith Boat and the walk to Hidden Lake.

My aim on the community board is to: Ensure the community's voice is heard in decision making about the future of our beautiful region.

Our opportunities are: Making Te Anau and Manapouri great destinations for visitors in their own right and planning for growth of our domestic tourism market. Exploring what other significant industries and events might be viable to maintain and possibly expand our regional economy so we don't have all our eggs in the tourism basket.

When I'm not working, you will find me: Painting and attending the Manapouri Art Group, walking on tracks and trails or just hanging out with our cat Boo. I have a pretty green thumb when it comes to growing fruit and veges and am a dab hand (if I do say so myself) at making pickles, chutneys and sauces.

One thing you may not know about me is: I have a Manx cat called Boo.



Anne Horrell

Hometown: Tuatapere

Board: Tuatapere Te Waewae

Occupation: Farmer, ex-schoolteacher

The best thing about our community is: The people! Our people have always had a reputation for 'making things happen' – despite the downturn of the 80s, farming challenges and loss of services. Tuatapere people will not accept defeat, but continue to have initiative and creativity in keeping our community alive and progressive.

My favourite local place is: Home! Nicol and I are fortunate to live in the Alton Valley, a beautiful, sparsely populated valley with views of the Longwoods, the Takitimus and the Princess Range.

My aim on the community board is to: Try to reflect the needs of our community. My personal focus is the Tui Trails, which comprises a number of native bush walking tracks which interweave around the Tuatapere township. I am the chairperson of the Tracks Committee which includes members from the community board, Waiiau Area School staff, Tuatapere Police, Tuatapere and Districts Promotions Group, Tuatapere

Domain Board and others. We are all passionate about our local native bush walking tracks, recognising that it is unique to have native bush within our town boundary. So far we have installed beautiful track signs. Our latest initiative is to produce a map/pamphlet directing users of the tracks on a possible route and providing information on each track.

Our opportunities are: Endless! Where there is vision and energy to pursue projects anything is possible. At times the wheels of administration turn slowly but if a goal is in mind it can be achieved. I think of our amazing locals who instigated the Southern Scenic Route and saw it through to fruition, despite challenges and obstacles.

When I'm not working, you will find me: Babysitting our gorgeous grandchildren, reading (reading, reading!) and, among other things, being involved in our local Waiiau Community Theatre.

One thing you may not know about me is: I am an Agatha Christie nut! I have every book written by Agatha Christie and most have been read at least twice. I also enjoy the BBC's 'Marple' and 'Poirot' television series. A great highlight for me was Nicol and I actually meeting and chatting with David Suchet (who plays Hercules Poirot in the BBC series) at a stage door in the West End in London following his involvement in a play in 2010.



Kelly Day

Hometown: Ohai

Board: Wallace Takitimu

Occupation: Home executive

The best thing about our community is: The friendly locals.

My favourite local place is: Clifden Bridge.

My aim on the community board is to: Have a voice for the local ratepayers.

Our opportunities are: To make Western Southland a thriving community and a place where you're

proud to live and raise your family.

When I'm not working, you will find me: Out walking.

One thing you may not know about me is: I love to fish on the Waiiau River.



Carolyn Smith

Hometown: Lumsden

Board: Northern

Occupation: Administrator for Balfour and Riversdale Playcentre

The best thing about our community is: Friendly people and a willingness to help others.

My favourite local place is: All of Southland.

My aim on the community board is to: Ensure local representation to Council.

Our opportunities are: To encourage more people to visit and stay in our local area, therefore creating jobs.

When I'm not working, you will find me: Crafting, walking or activities with my grandchildren.

One thing you may not know about me is: I am originally from Canterbury.

Ray Dickson

Hometown: Waikaia

Board: Ardlussa

Occupation: Farmer/
bus driver

The best thing about our community is: Its 'can do' attitude.

My favourite local place is: The river.

My aim on the community board is to: Ensure that our community is a great place to live and work.

Our opportunities are: Endless

When I'm not working, you will find me: Enjoying musical theatre.



Scope extended for Taramea Bay *redevelopment*

It's one of our summer hotspots where generations of Southlanders have created happy memories.

Now Riverton Aparima's popular Taramea Bay is set to be redeveloped and you could play a role in what its future holds.

Southland District Council and the Oraka Aparima Community Board will soon be seeking feedback on how best to maximise the potential of this space.

"We've identified a real opportunity here to create an environment which caters for locals and visitors," community facilities manager Mark Day says.

"From the initial discussions we've had, a range of ideas have emerged and we want to hear more from the community."

Council has already committed to redeveloping both the mound to the north and the toilets at the

playground at the south end of Taramea Bay.

"Now we want to broaden the scope of the project even further to include the remainder of the bay area," Mark says. "Ultimately, we want to create a connected journey from one end of Taramea Bay to the other with a focus on recreation. We want this to be a destination for people."

The holiday period presents an ideal time to engage as people flock to Oraka Aparima to enjoy the area. Starting this month, the aims of the engagement are to find out what the community wants to see developed at Taramea Bay and to gauge ideas around what initiatives to include.

Along with being delivered to local residents, members of the public will be able to access a template on site at both the mound and playground areas to design their vision for

Taramea Bay and submit their ideas for consideration. A community day will also be held in February.

"It's going to be great to see what ideas everyone has, how natural elements can be incorporated and what recreational activities are trending," Mark says.

For safety reasons Council was forced to remove playground equipment from Taramea Bay in 2019. Despite initial concerns this iconic play area had been negatively impacted, it provided an opportunity for redevelopment. Extensive engagement followed to determine what was important to the community.

"Feedback was overwhelmingly positive as to the importance of the mound area as a significant site," Mark says.

"We really wanted to challenge the definition of play and come up with a model which didn't just have traditional playground equipment."

After collating all the ideas received through the engagement process, the community board worked alongside Council's community facilities team to develop concept plans with leading New Zealand playground designers Creo which are now ready for public consultation. This will also be included in the latest phase of engagement.

"We've done some initial work to spark the public's thinking – now we want their ideas to continue to evolve it and also help determine what the feature play element should be," Mark says.



Forest cycle trail plans progress

The wheels are turning fast as plans for a 50km network of mountain bike trails in Waikaia Forest gather momentum.

Trail designer Tom Hey, of Queenstown-based specialists Elevate Trail Building, visited the forest recently to scope out the lie of the land. He is developing an initial concept plan.

Elevate Trail Building have an impressive resumé of bike parks, trails, festival freeride courses and even alpine walking tracks throughout New Zealand and overseas. Most recently they designed and built Wanaka's Bike Glendhu mountain bike park, which opened in 2019.

The idea of a mountain bike track in the Ardlussa area in Northern Southland was first proposed by Riversdale mountain bike enthusiast Daniel Butler.

It was quickly supported by the Ardlussa Community Board, which recognised the potential ongoing benefits not just to the local economy but to the wider Southland region and New Zealand.

Waikaia Forest is owned by Southland District Council and

commercially harvested on SDC's behalf by IFS Growth Limited.

The first milestone was passed on 7 October 2020 when Southland District Council's Services and Assets Committee authorised a change in access permission which will allow public access, track development and operation of trails in Waikaia Forest.

This followed a powerful presentation to the committee by Ardlussa Community Board member Hilary Kelso, educationalist Colleen Morton and Bike Glendhu director Sam Ruddenklau.

Hilary Kelso says the board is delighted to be able to help a community idea become reality.

The project will not be funded by Southland District Council or its ratepayers. From this point on a trust will be established to manage the project and source funding.

Mrs Kelso says Waikaia Forest is one of many jewels in the Ardlussa area.

"The mountain bike trails will bring many opportunities to Waikaia and neighbouring areas – new businesses offering complementary services such as bike hire, washing, maintenance and repairs, hot pools



and hospitality options, as well as diversification opportunities for existing businesses, homeowners and landowners."

It is envisaged that the tracks will be developed in stages, with varying levels of riding difficulty encapsulated within this.

Southland District Councillor Rob Scott was among the group of trail advocates who visited Waikaia Forest with Tom Hey. "It was fascinating watching the master at work as you could almost see the cogs turning over in his head as he was piecing together where and how the trail would work on the land as we traversed it," Cr Scott says.

Sam Ruddenklau says "there's definitely huge potential out there to build something pretty special for Ardlussa and wider Southland community.

"As Daniel mentioned, Tom straight away started talking about the vibe of Waikaia and how it reminded him of places that he's visited in Aussie and the States that had embraced mountain biking and were benefiting hugely from the positive spinoff of this."



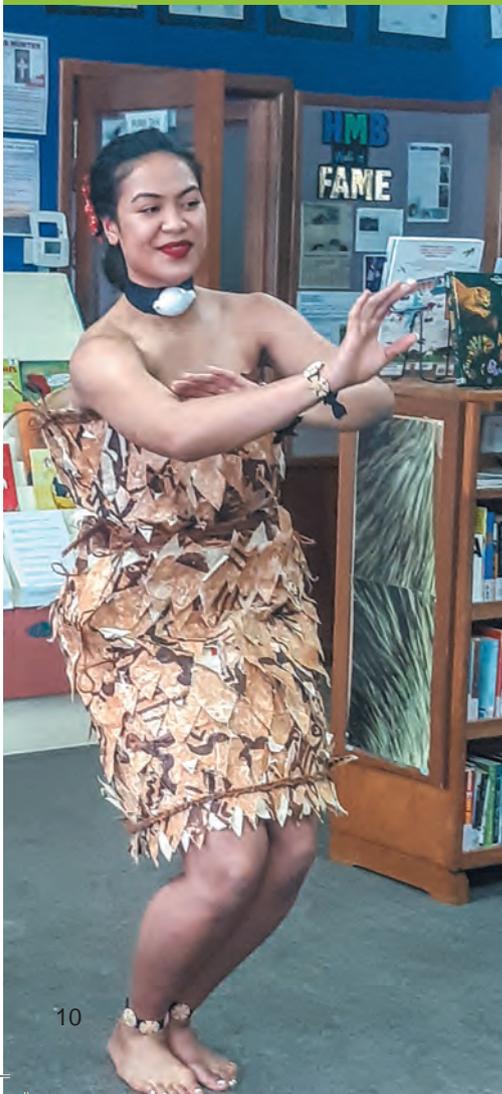
Welcoming Communities is led by Immigration New Zealand in partnership with the Office of Ethnic Communities and the Human Rights Commission. It brings together local government and communities to make the places we love welcoming for everyone.

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

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

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

Tongan culture comes to island



Maikale (left) and Taneisha on Stewart Island.

Mālō e lelei! Hello!

Halfmoon Bay School spent an afternoon celebrating Tongan Language Week in September.

Supported by Southland District Council's Welcoming Communities programme, Invercargill-based Api Fifita and her daughters travelled to Stewart Island/Rakiura to teach pupils about Tongan language, dance, arts and culture.

Api was born and raised in Tonga and moved to New Zealand in the early 2000s when her husband came here to play rugby. The Fifita family moved to Southland last year when eldest daughter Taneisha took up a professional netball contract with the Southern Steel.

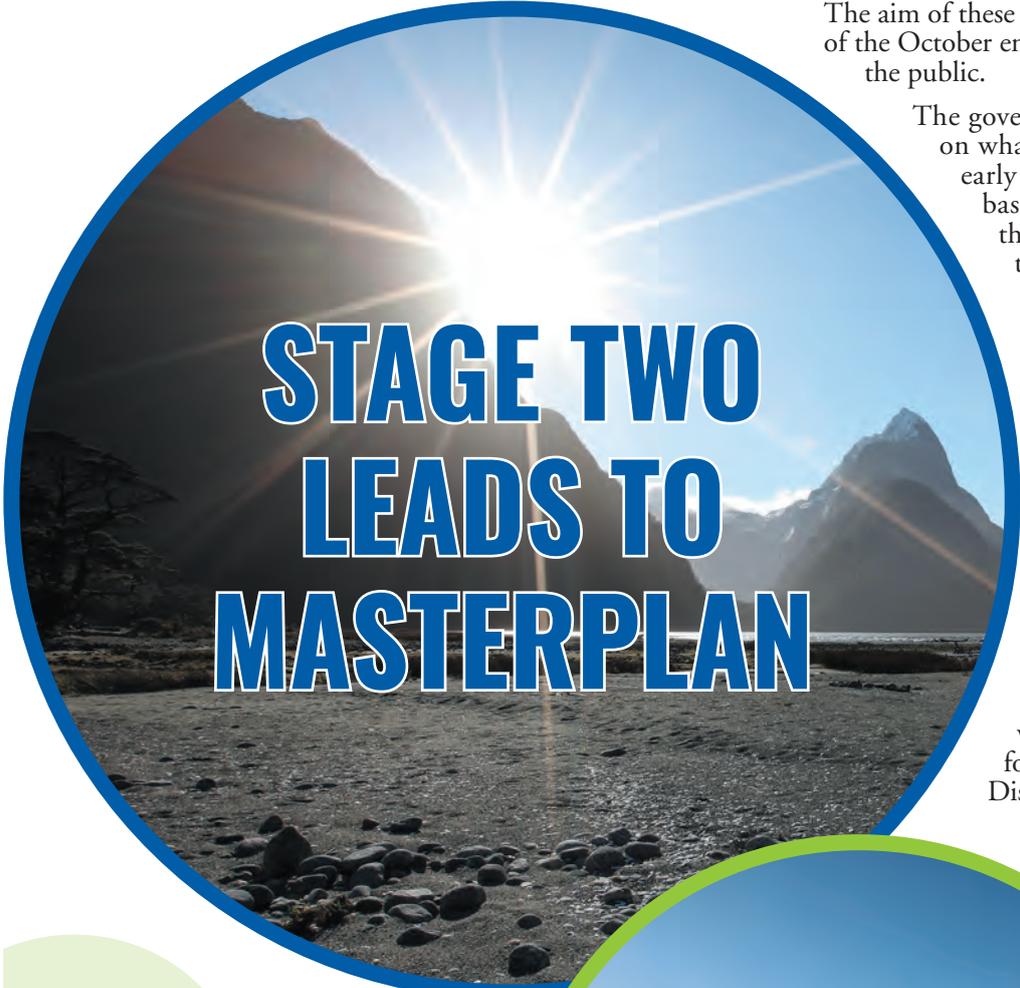
Api describes life in Southland as the best decision her family has made. "People have been so friendly and welcoming," she says. "We wouldn't wish to live anywhere else at this chapter of our lives."

The Kingdom of Tonga consists of 176 islands, of which only 40 are inhabited. Named the "friendly islands" by Captain Cook following the hospitality he received on his visits, it is the only country in the South Pacific to never have been colonised or annexed by a foreign power. Tongan society is guided by core values known as faa'i kavei koula, which is based on mutual respect, sharing, humility, generosity, commitment, and loyalty.

There are around 60,000 people of Tongan heritage living in New Zealand, with less than 5% in the South Island. Tonga is represented in New Zealand's essential skills work visa programme, where around a dozen Tongans are employed in Southland's meat processing industry. Tongans represent an important part of Southland's growing Pasifika community.

* For more information about Southland District Council's Welcoming Communities programme or to get involved please contact Megan Seator at SDC on 0800 732 732





STAGE TWO LEADS TO MASTERPLAN

The aim of these sessions was to not only increase awareness of the October engagement but also to gain feedback from the public.

The governance group will make final decisions on what will be included in the masterplan early next year. The group's decisions will be based on all the research and engagement that has occurred during stages one and two of the project.

The project team will finalise the masterplan by March/April. It will then go to peer review, to ensure that all avenues have been exhausted in the creation of an inclusive world-class masterplan.

The Milford Opportunities Project will hold an official public launch of the masterplan in mid-2021.

To ensure you are kept up to date, sign up to the email database at www.milfordopportunities.nz/get-involved/

The Milford Opportunities Project was formally established in 2017 following discussions between Southland District Council and the Department of Conservation about issues of congestion at Milford Sound Piopiotahi and along the Milford corridor.

The purpose of the project is to create an ambitious and innovative masterplan for Milford Sound Piopiotahi, the corridor, Te Anau and the surrounding area, focusing on what must be done to offer a unique and authentic experience while also encompassing how visitation will be managed into the future.



The Milford Opportunities Project is moving into the final stages of preparing the draft masterplan.

In the past few months the project team has continued to hold reference group meetings with environment, business/tourism, aviation, national park users and statutory/asset manager stakeholders.

These meetings have allowed the team to test some of the more promising ideas to be considered for inclusion in the masterplan.

The feedback gained from these meetings helped create a set of 29 key ideas that were used for the "Have Your Say" campaign.

This campaign ran from 5 October to 30 October and attracted more than 8000 visitors to the website, with more than 475 submissions online.

Towards the end of October, the Milford Opportunities Project also hosted four public meetings in Invercargill, Te Anau, Milford Sound Piopiotahi, and Queenstown.



GET SET FOR SUMMER CYCLING

We're eagerly anticipating a bumper summer season for our Around the Mountains Cycle Trail.

All signs are pointing to the trail being in hot demand, buoyed by an increased interest in cycling, e-bike sales rocketing and a renewed passion for Kiwis to get out and explore new areas.

It is our aim to continue evolving the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail into one of Southland's leading assets, and support from the community remains a vital component. At a recent meeting, feedback from the public in attendance was positive about the proposal of establishing a trust to oversee aspects of the trail.

It was great to host the New Zealand Cycle Trail board members in September and show them around our magnificent backyard.

Work has been completed to ensure the trail is in top shape for the season ahead.

A trail deviation around the recent flooding damage has been built in the section between the Centre Hill shelter and Centre Hill. Flood repairs are nearing completion and the new camber on corners enhances the cycling experience.

Spraying for weed control has been done and marketing collateral, including brochures and tear-off maps, is hot of the press and being distributed to businesses along the trail.

On the promotional front, Around the Mountains Cycle Trail recently featured in the national Back Your Backyard campaign and there's a must-read feature article in the latest edition of the New Zealand Cycling Journal which tells the tale of completing the ride in snowy winter conditions.

Don't forget to hit the like button on our Facebook page @ aroundthemountains as we showcase our business partners and various activities, along with some interesting historical trivia.

Two annual events have also been staged – Cycle and Celebrate on 29 November and Down River Dash on 13 December. The gala day at Lumsden always rates highly as a community get-together and this year was no exception.

Whether it's a day ride or a full excursion, we look forward to seeing you on the trail. Your feedback is important to us so after riding the trail please head to our website aroundthemountains.co.nz to complete a short survey about your experience.

Keep the wheels turning Southland.



New Zealand Cycle Trail board members exploring the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail.



Reduce waste this *Christmas*

Christmas is a time for celebration, family and friends and good food. It can also be a time of great waste – but it doesn't have to be.

Here are some tips to help you reduce waste this Christmas.

Wrapping paper

Gift-giving can often leave piles of wrapping paper, bows and bags, ribbons and tissues. And it turns out most present trimmings are not recyclable. A good rule of thumb is the fancier the wrapping paper the less recyclable it is.

What can I recycle?

- paper wrapping paper
- wrapping tissue

What can't I recycle?

- glitter, cellophane, metallic and shiny paper wrapping papers – they contain plastic or metallic pieces and it is impossible to separate them for recycling
- ribbons and bows can't be recycled, but could be used again for another gift
- gift tags – they are too small for the sorting machinery to identify
- laminated/coated gift bags

Take a simple and/or creative approach to wrapping gifts this year

- use brown craft paper or newspaper (both are recyclable)
- give your gifts an extra special touch by wrapping them Furoshiki style. Originating from Japan, gift wrapping with fabric is an eco-friendly way to spice up your gifts
- use reusable containers like glass jars, or tin boxes
- use cardboard boxes and plain wrapping paper

A lot of packaging waste is created on Christmas Day.

Any cardboard boxes that toys or other gifts come in can be recycled, but remember to separate the plastic pieces before recycling. Plastic wire protectives that often hold toys in place, clear plastic hard shells, foam packaging and bubble wrap are not recyclable and need to be placed in your landfill rubbish collection.

Christmas crackers

Christmas crackers can be recycled if they are made of cardboard, but make sure they are not foil coated or covered in lots of glitter, and remove any plastic toys or ribbon still attached before it goes in your recycling.



Disposable plates and cutlery

Disposal plates and cutlery are convenient for quick clean-ups, but they create a lot of waste as they are not recyclable. You can purchase compostable plates and cutlery – look for products labelled home compostable. And when you are done with them, pop them in your home compost bin.

Christmas decorations

Reuse last year's Christmas decorations where possible, but if they are looking worse for wear, please dispose of them in your landfill rubbish collection. Most decorations such as tinsel and tree ornaments are made from a mixture of materials and cannot be recycled. If you purchase new ornaments consider purchasing storage containers to help keep them safe for next year.

Christmas sweets

A lot of people enjoy chocolate and lollies around Christmas time but after you've enjoyed yours, please place the wrappers in the rubbish bin. Lolly wrappers and foil chip packets cannot be recycled as they are made from a plastic film and foil which cannot be separated.

Christmas trees

After Christmas, real Christmas trees can be disposed of at your local transfer station in the greenwaste area. Artificial (fake) trees can be put away until next year, but if they are looking worse for wear, dispose of them in the landfill-rubbish bin. If you're simply looking to upgrade your artificial tree, think about taking your old tree to an op shop.

Christmas dinner

Food waste increases dramatically around Christmas time – but it doesn't have to. With careful planning and preparation, it is possible to not throw away any food.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas

- Make space in your fridge, freezer and pantry
- Plan your menu

In the days before Christmas

- Make your shopping list
- Store food correctly

On Christmas Day

- Don't serve everything at once
- Get everything in the fridge as soon as possible

On Boxing Day

- Eat your leftovers

Check out lovefoodhatewaste.co.nz for more tips and recipes and reduce your food waste this Christmas.

For more tips and tricks on reducing waste, visit wastenet.org.nz.

Content supplied by WasteNet Southland

War memorial finds its way home

We shall remember them.

Poignant words etched into a war memorial honours board which once again hangs proudly on public display.

Hung on 3 November at the Winton RSA, the Fernhills School war memorial honours board features the names of those who served and died in World War I and the Boer War.

It was gifted to Southland District Council for safe keeping in 2009 after the Kauana Hall Committee dissolved.

Following an approach from war memorial specialist Ann Robbie, Council staff arranged for the memorial to be handed over to Ann for a spruce-up before being hung in the Winton RSA.

Initially it was hoped that Winton RSA president Chris Crossley would hang the memorial but, sadly, he passed away in October. Mr Crossley's son Michael was eager to hang the board on his late father's behalf but he had to return to the UK in early November before it went back into Covid-19 lockdown. Before he caught the plane Ann dashed out to Dipton with the memorial board so Michael and his mum Tracy could share in the special moment.

Ann is rapt to see another treasure returned.

"It's great to have it home. It's another wee tick in the box getting another honours board back to where it belongs," she says. "They should all be on display because that's what the community wanted them to be.

"We want to get all these war memorials all back from private hands and on display for generations to cherish."

Sergeant Zane Langford led the handover as his last official duty for the New Zealand Army. He recently moved to Samoa to live with his family.

"You look at small Southland communities like Fernhills and the amount of people they provided to go about as far around the world as they possibly could, to fight for people that couldn't fight for themselves, it's incredibly special and we should remember it."

- Sergeant Zane Langford

"It's really important and we're lucky to have someone like Ann who is so passionate about restoring these."

Winton RSA vice-president John Reynolds felt his colleague Chris would have been proud. "I think Chris would be really chuffed about this," he says.

"It's brilliant and a credit to all involved. Once these things are lost they are lost forever and it's a shame to see them languishing in a shed somewhere."



(from left): Sergeant Zane Langford, war memorial specialist Ann Robbie, Winton RSA vice-president John Reynolds and chaplain Tony Harrison at the ceremony at Winton. Photo: YVES BROERS

In honour of
76393487BG L.
Cpl. C.P. Crossley.

Crew Commander of a
90mm armoured car.

Served in North
West African conflict
(Bushwar) 1978-1980.
Served in the 1st Special
Services Battalion
(1SSB). Involved in
multiple cross-border
operations into Angola
during his tenure.

He was bestowed with
three medals for his
brave service:

- the general service medal – for operational service within the borders of the South African Republic
- the Southern African Medal – for operational service conducted across the border in defence of the Republic of South Africa in service of the prevention or suppression of terrorism
- the Pro Patria Medal – for service to the Republic of South Africa in defence of the Republic or for prevention or suppression of terrorism.



Chris Crossley's medals.

SHORT STUFF

SDC PEOPLE'S PANEL

Join the Southland District Council
People's Panel.

The SDC People's Panel is an easy, quick
way for you to tell us what you think and
have your say on a wide range of topics.

It's simple.

Each month we'll email panel members a
survey (maximum two) based on a key topic or
issue we'd like to get feedback on at the time.

- Each survey will take 5-10 minutes to complete
- You can pick and choose which surveys you complete
- You'll get a summarised version of results sent to you
- Personal details will be kept private and we won't identify members in survey result reports.

The surveys won't replace formal consultation or engagement opportunities, but results will act as a guide as to what Southlanders think about certain topics and work to support decision making.

Although the People's Panel is primarily email-based, anyone not digitally connected but who would like to be part of the panel, is welcome to get in touch – phone 0800 732 732.

Make yourselves heard, and make it stick!

To join the SDC People's Panel head to makeitstick.nz today



HEY DOG OWNERS!

You can help make the re-registration process hassle-free by updating us with any changes to details relating to your dog.

These can include a change of ownership or having been de-sexed. By alerting Council to the changes as they happen, it will ensure the form you receive for re-registration next year contains the correct information.

CORRECTION

In the September issue of First Edition, it was incorrectly stated that Dale Wairau introduced Waitangi Day celebrations to Te Anau. Actually, Dr Steve Bentley had the vision and drive to make this happen. Dale was, and still is, a member of the Te Anau Waitangi Day Committee. We apologise for the error.

Youth

COUNCILLORS CHASE THEIR AMBITIONS

Southland's younger population has been strongly represented on the local government scene this year thanks to the dedication of our SDC Youth Council.

The youth councillors have contributed their views to a range of topics and projects, adding a valuable perspective as decisions are made which will ultimately impact their future.

Five of our current crop of outstanding representatives are now heading off to further their own career aspirations. We wish them well in their future endeavours and can't wait to see where their journey takes them.

Bella Wilson

Age: 17

School: Fiordland College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Two and a half years

What prompted you to get involved: The opportunity to have a say in the bigger issues of Southland, with emphasis on the issues we face as youth. It wasn't intimidating as it was just other students, so there was no feeling of being 'too young'.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: Being so involved with likeminded students from Southland schools and discussing serious issues where we can voice our opinions and concerns. And supporting each other outside of school as good mates. It's an awesome chance to have a say and get a bigger picture on how councils work and the broad range of issues faced in our community. It's a positive environment with everyone's best interests at the centre of discussions. The decisions made in our local government are going to affect us! We are setting the tone for future generations and it would be a waste to see Southland ruined.

What are your plans for next year: Go to Otago University, possibly study a Bachelor of Oral Health.

Why are you proud to call Southland home: It's a level of isolation and community at the same time. It's run in a way which takes everyone into account no matter their backgrounds.

Ultimate goal in life: Have a decent time and laugh lots!



Jack Ruddenklau

Age: 18

School: Central Southland College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Two years

What prompted you to get involved: The youth of Southland needed to be heard.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: I am humbled to be one of the voices of the young people of Southland, bringing their views and opinions to the table at a council and government perspective. It is great to hear everyone's opinions and ensure their voices are heard. I got involved with the community, such as talking to adults about the youth council's views at the local field days. We've looked for ways to better our communities for young people, ensuring these ideas were brought to the table at a Council level. I have always felt confident in my beliefs, and I encourage others to share their opinions as it's essential youth are represented. As a Youth Council we've been able to provide constructive ideas and opinions to better our community for the future – a future that's in our hands. All we need to do is grab it.

What are your plans for next year: I'm applying to study a BCom majoring in management, minoring in politics at the University of Otago. I think these study choices are a great combination as they can lead me into a vast range of different careers.

Why are you proud to call Southland home: I am proud to call Southland home because of the great sense of community value, bringing that to the forefront of many conversations.

Ultimate goal in life: Become a member of Parliament.



Jess Willans

Age: 18

School: Fiordland College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Two years

What prompted you to get involved: I was worried that the youth input wasn't really being heard in Southland and I was interested to see if I could make a difference.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: Listening to everyone else's ideas and learning more about how local government operates. It's important for us to take an interest in what decisions are being made as they are going to affect us in the future.

What are your plans for next year: I'm going to Otago University to study First Year Health Sciences

Why are you proud to call Southland home: I'm proud to call Southland home because I love that everyone knows everyone and there is quite a family vibe in our small communities.

Ultimate goal in life: To make it normal for young people to talk about their mental health.



Alexis Halder

Age: 18

School: Aparima College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Three years.

What prompted you to get involved: One of my older friends was on Youth Council and was looking for more people to join. He said it was amazing to feel like you have a voice so I jumped at the opportunity!

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: Sitting around a table with amazing peers from across Southland schools talking about the big issues youth face and how we can try help. It makes me feel like I am actively doing something within my region. It's important to share your ideas in a place where what you say counts. Local government needs youth to be involved with things like this so they can make informed choices. If more young people are interested in helping the local government, the more Southland will turn into the place they wish it was.

What are your plans fire next year: I am going to Otago University to major in history.

Why are you proud to call Southland home: The strong sense of community, we celebrate successes and support people in their losses and if someone is in need people pull together to help!

Ultimate goal in life: Become a renowned historian and author.



Teagan Ashley

Age: 18

School: Aparima College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Three years.

What prompted you to get involved: A past pupil encouraged me to come along.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: I have most enjoyed meeting new people and being able to get our voice across in a very safe and fun environment. I think others should get involved because it is a very cool atmosphere to do great things. The youth voice needs to be heard because the change in Southland is likely to most affect us.

What are your plans fire next year: I am going to the University of Otago to study forensic science and criminology.

Why are you proud to call Southland home: I am proud to call Southland home because it is where the people that mean the most to me are around and beautiful scenery

Ultimate goal in life: To serve and protect people as a police officer and pursue a career in athletics.



Sadie Wech

Age: 17

School: Aparima College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Two years

What prompted you to get involved: I was very keen to get to know what the SDC does and excited to put my youth voice out there.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: The most enjoyable thing (not only the food - hehe) is meeting like-minded people around the community to share your opinions in a safe space. Also being able to have input in serious events and topics for Southland – enabling you to not only put your mark on Southland but also help give an understanding on what youth focus on and want to see for Southland. You also have the opportunity to share opinions and bounce ideas off one another to achieve amazing new ideas for Southland's future.

Why are you proud to call Southland home: I am proud to call Southland home because of how far we have come as an overall community. We are growing together through changes. Our scenery is the most beautiful and if Southland can cherish and keep our beautiful wildlife and environment, then it will remain an amazing place for generations to cherish and experience for years to come.

Ultimate goal in life: I love running and it would be amazing to represent New Zealand in steeplechase or cross country. I'm driven to have my own businesses and really want to be financially free so I can accustom my longing for travelling the world. I want a sustainable business that won't harm the planet as so many huge companies in the world already are with huge consequences to our way of life. Ultimately, I believe my goal in life is to help others to acknowledge I'm so privileged and grateful for my life.

I really want to help people, here and around the world, to acknowledge I'm so privileged and grateful for my life. To help people around the world with something I have either invented or by using my money to change people's lives for the better. Ultimately, to be honest, I believe my goal in life is to help others and be the best person I can be for myself but also to contribute to the world. Life is to be happy and fulfil yourself, to be the best version of yourself and just to be yourself all the time and use that to your advantage.



Tayla McMillan

Age: 18

School: Central Southland College

How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council: Two years.

What prompted you to get involved: The opportunity to give youth voice in local government.

What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council: The chance to get an insight into Council and try to get youth more involved with local government.

What are your plans fire next year: To study vet nursing at SIT

Why are you proud to call Southland home: Southland is a tight knit, people-based community. It is a friendly place that makes you feel welcome.

Ultimate goal in life: Go to the Commonwealth Games for lawn bowls.



SWIMMING POOL SAFETY, COUNCIL AND YOU.

If you've got a residential swimming pool, spa, hot tub or lap pool and you live in Southland District, you can expect a visit from Southland District Council's team.

As a territorial authority, Council is required to help ensure residential pools on properties are safe.

It's all to do with keeping children, primarily those aged under 5, safe – and it's integral that we all play our part in doing this.

Pool register

If you've got a swimming pool, spa, hot tub or lap pool (indoor or outdoor) you'll need to get it on Southland District Council's pool register, if it's not registered already.

You can do this by emailing our team at building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz or giving us a call on 0800 732 732.

At the moment SDC is one of the few councils in the country that doesn't charge for pool registration, so if you haven't already – get onto it!

Inspections

Once you're on the register we'll be in touch, because we'll need to come out and inspect your pool.

We'll give you at least 72 hours' notice of inspection and there is a \$165 cost per inspection*.

If you have a spa pool/hot tub and pass your inspection you'll just need one inspection – you'll stay on the register, but won't require any further inspections unless anything significant changes.

If you have a swimming pool, you will get inspections every three years, or if anything significant changes.

Ultimately, as the owner, it is your responsibility to ensure your pool is safe and complying with standards.

What does this apply to?

If you have a swimming pool, lap pool, spa, hot tub, or even a transportable or temporary pool that is big enough, it will need inspected at least once to ensure it complies with standards. This applies to both indoor and outdoor pools.

How can I find out how to comply?

You'll want to look for the relevant section of the New Zealand Building Code – F9 Restricting access to residential pools. Look it up on building.govt.nz and check out the document relating to acceptable solutions and verification methods. There is plenty of guidance there about safety barriers and fences, small heated pools and covers and other important information.

A few key points include:

- there must be barriers around pools to restrict unsupervised access by children
- portable pools must have a barrier
- indoor residential pools must have a barrier
- small heated pools don't require a fence, but do require a safety cover which must restrict access and have relevant signage.

Plenty more information is available online, so be sure to check it out.

Let's keep everyone safe

As a pool owner you are responsible for the safety of the pool on your property, and you can be proactive in ensuring its safety by checking out the current requirements and ensuring your pool is on the pool register.

Ultimately, this is all about keeping people, especially young children, safe.

You might not have children at your property all of the time, but it could be your grandchildren, your friends' children, or even children who wander into your property for any reason – your pool still has to be safe.

Let's all play our part.

* This fee is accurate as at December 2020

Top tips for food safety this



Handy hints to make sure your barbecue is safe:

Summer is the perfect time of year to crank up the barbie – but if you don't take proper precautions you could end up with food poisoning.

Some foods like raw meats, poultry, seafood and rice are more likely to carry harmful bacteria. You need to handle these foods with extra care when storing, transporting, preparing and cooking them.

It's easy. Just remember clean, cook, cover and chill.



Pre-cook your poultry, sausages and other meats before barbecuing them to internal temperature of 75 deg C.



If you're marinating meat, store it in the fridge in a covered container.



Use separate utensils to handle raw and cooked food.



Turn food regularly so it cooks evenly.



Clean your barbecue and cooking utensils with warm, soapy water before you use them.



Don't place or prepare raw meat on the grill next to cooked or partially cooked meat or other ready-to-eat items.



Keep all hot food hot and covered until you're ready to eat. Keep all other foods, including salads, chilled until it is time to serve.

For all building inquiries

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

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

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

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

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

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

How it works

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

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

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

GO EASY ON YOUR WATER USAGE

A little bit of water conservation now could save a lot of consternation over summer. Here are some handy tips to help you keep water reserves up.

Installing a water-saving shower head



Turning off the tap while brushing teeth

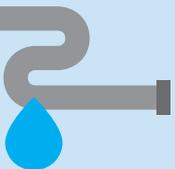
Taking shorter showers

Using water-saving toilets



Fixing household water leaks

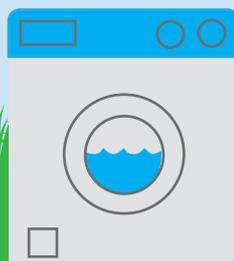
Not using unattended sprinklers



Restricting handheld watering to cooler parts of the day such as early morning or later in the evening

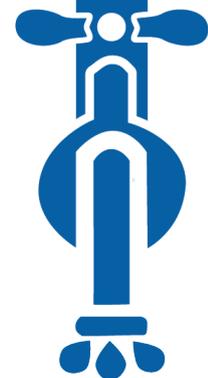
Using less water when cleaning

Reporting any leaks



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.

WINTON WASTEWATER

**Make it stick
SOUTHLAND**

Conversations are flowing around the future of the Winton wastewater treatment plant, and come 2021 Southland District Council will want your views.

Consent for the Winton wastewater treatment plant expires in 2023. While the current consent allows for treated wastewater to be discharged into the Winton stream, a renewal of consent in the current environment is unlikely and high-level discussions about alternative solutions are under way.

With new regulations, cultural preferences and environmental concerns all in play, discharge of treated wastewater to water – even with a high level of treatment – may not be deemed an acceptable long-term solution.

However; SDC's asset manager wastewater, Dave Inwood, says community views will help Council form a better picture of what could be considered a viable option.

“We are really interested in what the community thinks, what their preferences are and what may be acceptable from their perspective.”

- Dave Inwood

“We are thinking long term; we don't want a quick fix, and we are conscious of what may and may not be achievable from a consenting perspective.”

A working group has been established and has met twice with staff and consultancy firm GHD, which is developing options for consultation and engagement. Through engagement this will allow Council to tap into the expertise and perspectives of a wide range of people. From those discussions a shortlist of options is being generated, with potential options including retaining

discharge to water with higher levels of treatment, part discharge to water and part discharge to land, and full discharge to land, all to be explored in more detail. Environmental, cultural, social and economic concerns would be factored in.

In early 2021 Council will be presenting a number of options in detail to the community and asking for feedback, before determining a preferred option to take through to the consenting process.

“There are a number of wastewater treatment plants in the District that will require re consenting in the coming years, so the future of wastewater and what we do with it is a topic that is going to be here for a long time to come,” Dave says.

To find out more head to makeitstick.nz



Like that view? Tell us about it!

Travelling throughout Southland District this summer?

Take a look around.

If you like the landscapes you see, and think they should be looked after for future generations, Southland District Council wants to know.

A campaign called What's Your View has been launched to help Council identify the landscapes and natural features that are important in Southland District.

While a cultural assessment and professional report will also feed into the overall picture of what the important spaces are within Southland, Southland District Council policy planner-resource management Margaret Ferguson says those within the Southland community are experts on their own backyard, and she wants to hear what they think.



“We want people who care about Southland and about special landscapes and natural features in the District to tell us what is important to them, what they value and why, so that we can work together to look after those areas.”

Margaret says in early 2021, when spaces of significance have been identified, the focus will move to working with anyone affected and considering practical and necessary ways to look after those areas.

“Sometimes we take for granted the amazing landscapes that are in our backyard so over summer, where people may be travelling domestically, it’s a nice time to really appreciate what we have and to consider what we’d like to remain special for generations to come.”

- Margaret Ferguson

Tell us today at [makeitstick.nz](https://www.makeitstick.nz) Or visit any Southland District Council area office.



Mobile Library Timetable



Dec 2020 - June 2021

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

* denotes public holidays

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

The only way is up for Great South's Space Operations programme

Great South is getting attention in the international space community.

Its new commercial satellite antenna at the Awarua Ground Station, which has the ability to communicate with and get data from low Earth orbit satellites, is a New Zealand first and opens a raft of commercial opportunities in the space world.

In addition, Great South's Space Operations team led by Robin McNeill, has now proved its ability in providing support with satellite launch missions.

In November, the team was involved in launch support for Rocket Lab's 'Return to Sender' mission, where 30 satellites were launched 500km into orbit, paving the way for future operations.

"This is the start of an exciting future for Great South," Mr McNeill said.

Adding to the excitement and scale of the programme, Great South is also building a new ground station facility in Northland.

"While our customers love our world-class facility here in Southland, a second station in the Far North means we will be able to communicate with spacecraft 1200km further into the Pacific Ocean – something that is important for some satellite uses," Mr McNeill said.

Great South has serviced the space industry from Awarua, halfway between Invercargill and Bluff, since 2008 when it built the ground station facility to support the European Space Agency's resupply missions to the International Space Station.

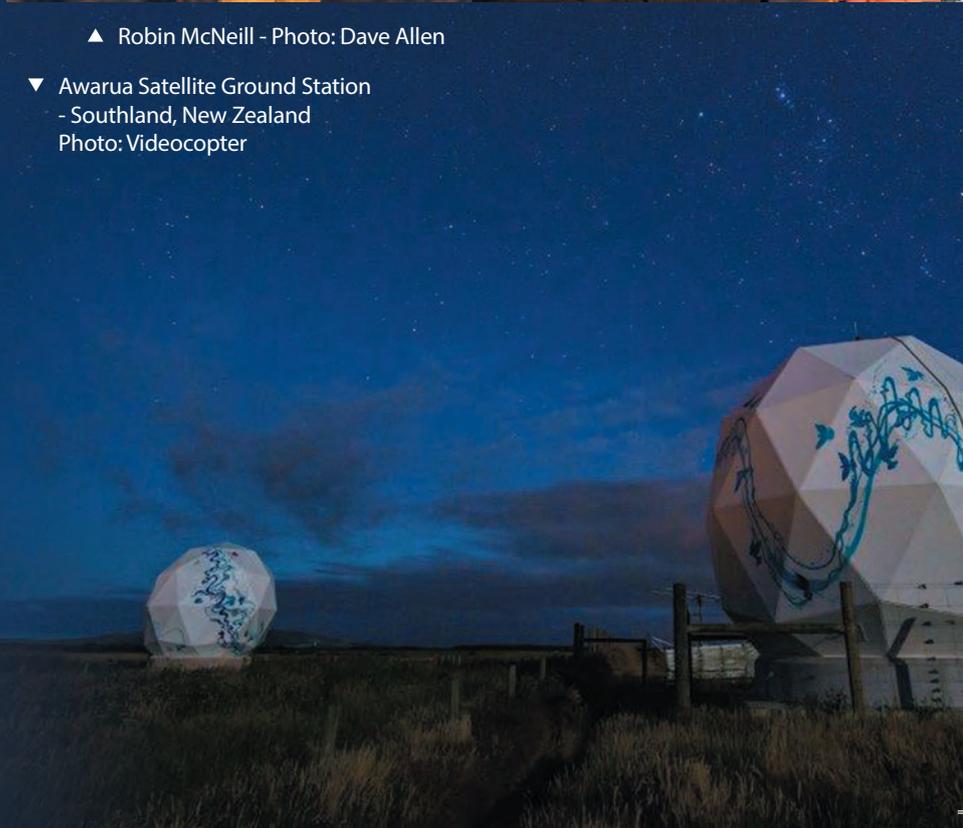
Given the crucial role satellite ground stations play in the space industry, the new antenna is already heavily booked by overseas space operators.

Today, Great South works with most of the leading names in the small-satellite industry. Three new antennas for overseas customers are currently under construction, with contracts for further antennas to be installed next year currently being negotiated.



▲ Robin McNeill - Photo: Dave Allen

▼ Awarua Satellite Ground Station
- Southland, New Zealand
Photo: Videocopter



Support for Fiordland jobseekers

Great South has appointed a Fiordland employment and resource planner in response to the significant impact of Covid-19 on employment in Fiordland, particularly in the tourism industry.

Glyn Saunders started in the Te Anau-based role in October.

Established in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development and MBIE, Mr Saunders' role is to identify and implement redeployment opportunities in the Fiordland community.

Great South general manager for business services Ben Lewis says an immediate focus is to develop and support initiatives aimed at retaining jobs and a skilled workforce.

"With Fiordland still reeling from the effects of Covid-19 and the absence of international visitors, this position will provide on-the-ground support for Fiordland jobseekers and businesses, working closely with them to source labour, help with training and upskilling, and retain talent within the local community."

Mr Saunders brings with him extensive experience in project management and will be an asset to both the Great South team and the Fiordland community, Mr Lewis says.

A strong focus of the role will be on redeploying Fiordland jobseekers into roles within the Fiordland area and connecting them with the government agencies and support packages available.

Mr Saunders will also manage demand for resources for recovery projects, assist local employers with accessing funding opportunities, work with education providers to establish connections into apprenticeship programmes and employment opportunities, and support the co-ordination of the Jobs for Nature scheme in Fiordland.



Glyn Saunders

Great South chief executive Graham Budd says the appointment of the Fiordland employment and resource planner highlights the commitment and support Great South has to strengthen the region's workforce.

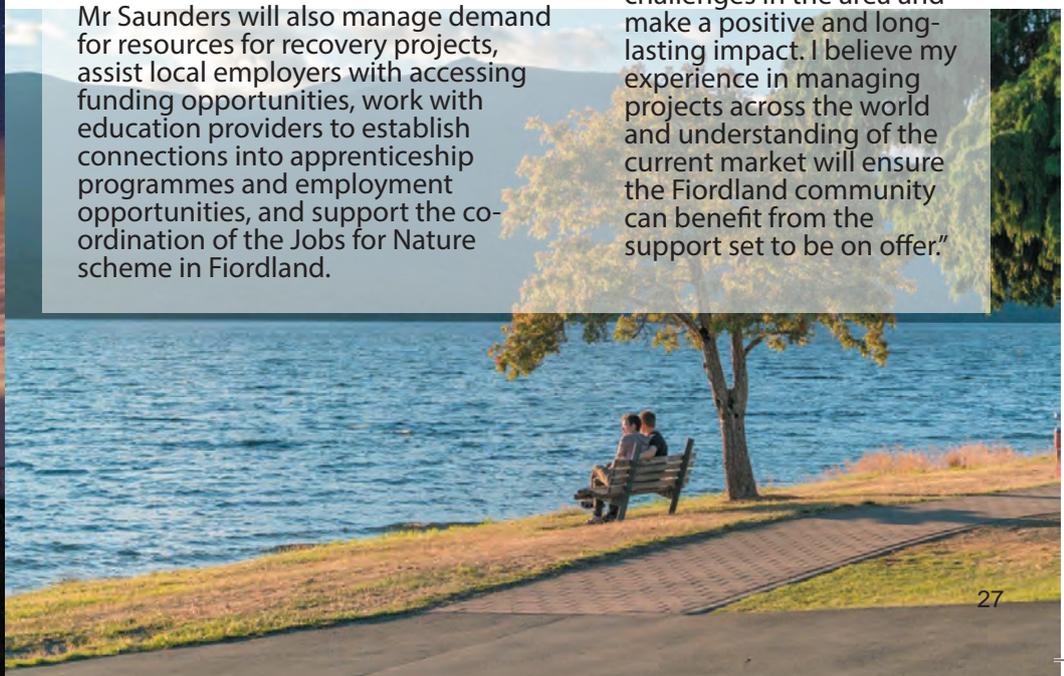
"From working with youth, skilled migrants, businesses looking to recruit and now directly with Fiordland jobseekers, we are focused on developing a stronger and more resilient workforce which will support the economic recovery in Fiordland and the wider Southland region," he says.

Mr Saunders is enjoying being able to contribute to Great South's role in strengthening Southland's future workforce.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to work alongside the Fiordland community and key Southland stakeholders to respond to employment challenges in the area and make a positive and long-lasting impact. I believe my experience in managing projects across the world and understanding of the current market will ensure the Fiordland community can benefit from the support set to be on offer."



▲ New Zealand's first commercial satellite antenna for communicating with low earth orbit satellites at the Great South-owned Awarua Satellite ground station. The Ground Station provides real-time communication with satellites for its customers in New Zealand and around the world. The antenna was opened by Te Tai Tonga MP Rino Tirikatene in September.



**JOIN US FOR
SUMMER DAYS OF
FUN GAMES,
TEAM SPORTS,
COOL CRAFTS,
NEW FRIENDS
AND LOTS OF
LAUGHS!**



Council's annual holiday programme will run in January and February across eight locations – Tokanui, Otautau, Riverton, Wyndham, Lumsden, Winton, Stewart Island/Rakiura and Te Anau.

Sport Southland will be working alongside local and regional providers including sports organisations, local clubs, arts and crafts groups and community groups to ensure an engaging programme which caters for a variety of interests.

Sport Southland chief executive Brendon McDermott says the organisation is excited to again be supporting Council and helping communities across the region to be active.

"Our approach with the holiday programme is to make it as engaging as possible, introducing children to new ways of being active that they have access to throughout the year, rather than as a one-off."

After a successful collaboration last summer, Southland District Council is again joining forces with Sport Southland to create active summer fun across the District.

HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

THIS JANUARY WE ARE COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU!

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

ONLY \$6 PER DAY

**CHILDREN AGED 5-12 YEARS
10AM - 3PM**

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE
BOOK ONLINE TODAY:**

WWW.SDCHOLIDAYPROGRAMME.CO.NZ



RIVERTON



TOKANUI



WINTON



TE ANAU



LUMSDEN



WYNDHAM



OTAUTAU



STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA

(Some bus transfers may be available, details to come)



CHRISTMAS HOURS

WHEELIE BIN DATES - CHRISTMAS/ NEW YEAR 2020/2021

There will be NO collection on Friday, 25 December 2020 and Friday, 1 January 2021.

Collection days for the rest of the week will be one day later than normal for all residents.

Therefore there will be a Saturday collection on both 26 December 2020 and 2 January 2021.

Normal collection will resume on 4 January 2021.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to increased demand in some areas, the time during the day of the collection may vary, so please ensure that your wheelie bin is out by 7am on your collection day.

TRANSFER STATIONS / REFUSE SITES

All SDC transfer stations will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

All other days will be normal opening hours

A list of transfer/refuse station addresses, information about what you can dispose of at each one and where to buy tokens can be found on the WasteNet website: wastenet.org.nz - Please note transfer stations now take eftpos.

Recycling stations around the District ie, Te Anau Mossburn Highway are at Manapouri and are looked after by Bond Contracts, (phone Mark Simpson 0274 053 593).

INVERCARGILL AND AREA OFFICES:

The following Southland District Council offices close on Thursday 24 December 2020 and re-open:

OFFICE	OPENING DATES AND TIMES
Invercargill	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Lumsden	Closes Wednesday 23 December 5pm Re-opens Wednesday 6 January 2021 10am
Otautau	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Riverton/Aparima	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Stewart Island/Rakiura	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Winton	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Wyndham Library	Closes Tuesday 22 December 5pm Re-opens Tuesday 5 January 2021 2pm

LIBRARY	OPENING DATES AND TIMES
Winton Library	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Otautau Library	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Stewart Island Library	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Lumsden Library	Closes Wednesday 23 December 5pm Re-opens Wednesday 6 January 2021 10am
Riverton Library	Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Te Anau Library	Tuesday 29 December 2020 10am Wednesday 30 December 2020 10am Thursday 31 December 2020 10am Tuesday 5 January 2021 8.30am
Wyndham Library	Closes Tuesday 22 December 5pm Re-opens Tuesday 5 January 2021 2pm
Mobile Bookbus	As per the Mobile bus timetable

STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

DATES	HOURS OF OPERATION
Thursday 24 December 2020	OPEN 9.30am to 12.00pm
Friday 25 December 2020	Closed
Saturday 26 December 2020	Closed
Sunday 27 December 2020	Closed
Monday 28 December 2020	OPEN 8.00am to 12.00pm
Tuesday 29 December 2020	Closed
Wednesday 30 December 2020	OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm
Thursday 31 December 2020	OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm
Friday 1 January 2021	Closed
Saturday 2 January 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 1pm
Sunday 3 January 2021	Closed
Monday 4 January 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm

Celebrating Garston School's special character



Mya and Annabel proudly pose with their pets and their smiles show how happy they are to be enjoying their final Garston School Pet Day together.



◀ Doting owner Gabby uses a little encouragement to coax Tiny around the obstacle course. All the effort put into co-ordinating their costumes paid off.



Hunter being congratulated by judge Jason after winning the Garston School Grand Champion ribbon for his outstanding knowledge and care of his pet and agility work with his faithful dog, Oscar.

There were smiles all round in the sun as Garston School held a pet day on 30 October. SDC graphic designer Macaela Hawkins was there to photograph some of the fun.

MICROCHIPPING TIMETABLE

AREA	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
Invercargill Office (car park)	None	Wednesday, 3rd 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Otautau Office (at rear)	None	Tuesday, 4th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Lumsden Railway (at rear)	Wednesday, 20th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 3rd 11.30 – 12 noon
Riverton Office	Tuesday, 19th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 2nd 11.30 – 12 noon
Winton (opposite SDC Office)	None	Thursday, 11th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Te Anau Office (at rear)	Thursday, 21st 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 4th 11.30 – 12 noon
Wyndham Office (at rear)	Tuesday 12th 2.00 – 2.30 pm	None	Tuesday 9th 2.00 – 2.30 pm

All dogs eligible to be registered with the Southland District Council can be microchipped for free. ALL dogs must be registered by 3 months of age

SDC Grant Funding

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

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

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

Community Partnership Fund

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

District Heritage Fund

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

Creative Communities

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

Applications close 31 March and 30 September.



Sport NZ – Rural Travel Fund

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

Applications close 31 March and 30 September.



District Initiatives Fund

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

SDC Scholarships/ Bursaries

Centennial Bursary

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



SDC Eric Hawkes Memorial Outward Bound Scholarship

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

Valmai Robertson Arts Scholarship

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



Other opportunities

Northern Southland Development Fund

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

Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Fund

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

Ohai Railway Fund

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

John Beange Fund

Available to support recognised community groups or organisations and individuals within the Wyndham area, or for projects for the benefit of residents within the Wyndham area. Eligible purposes include assistance occasioned by age, illness, congenital defect, accident or other misfortune, as well as the advancement of education and learning. Applications for 2020 close on 30 September.

Contact us



All offices: **0800 732 732**

District libraries: **0800 732 542**



0800 732 329

sdcsouthlanddc.govt.nz

southlanddc.govt.nz



Alerts to your phone about places you care about

Want to know what's happening in your neighbourhood?

Download Antenno today.

Alerts about water shutdowns, road works, rubbish/recycling updates and more can get sent straight to your phone, and you can choose the area/s you want to hear about.

It's up-to-date, relevant information about places and topics you care about.

Add your home, work, rental property or school address and you'll get notifications specific to that area. You can also use the app to tell Southland District Council about things that need fixing, or to give us feedback. It's a fast and easy way to get things fixed in your community.

Download Antenno free today from the App Store or Google Play.

SOUTHLAND
DISTRICT COUNCIL

