

DECEMBER 2021

# THE FIRST EDITION

Southland District Council's magazine

**H**i everyone.  
As another eventful year draws to a close we've got a lot to reflect on and a lot to be thankful for here in Southland.

You could hardly call Covid-19 the elephant in the room. It dominates news headlines and sparks sometimes heated debate, it affects nearly everything we do to some degree and it figures prominently in business planning – including here at Southland District Council.

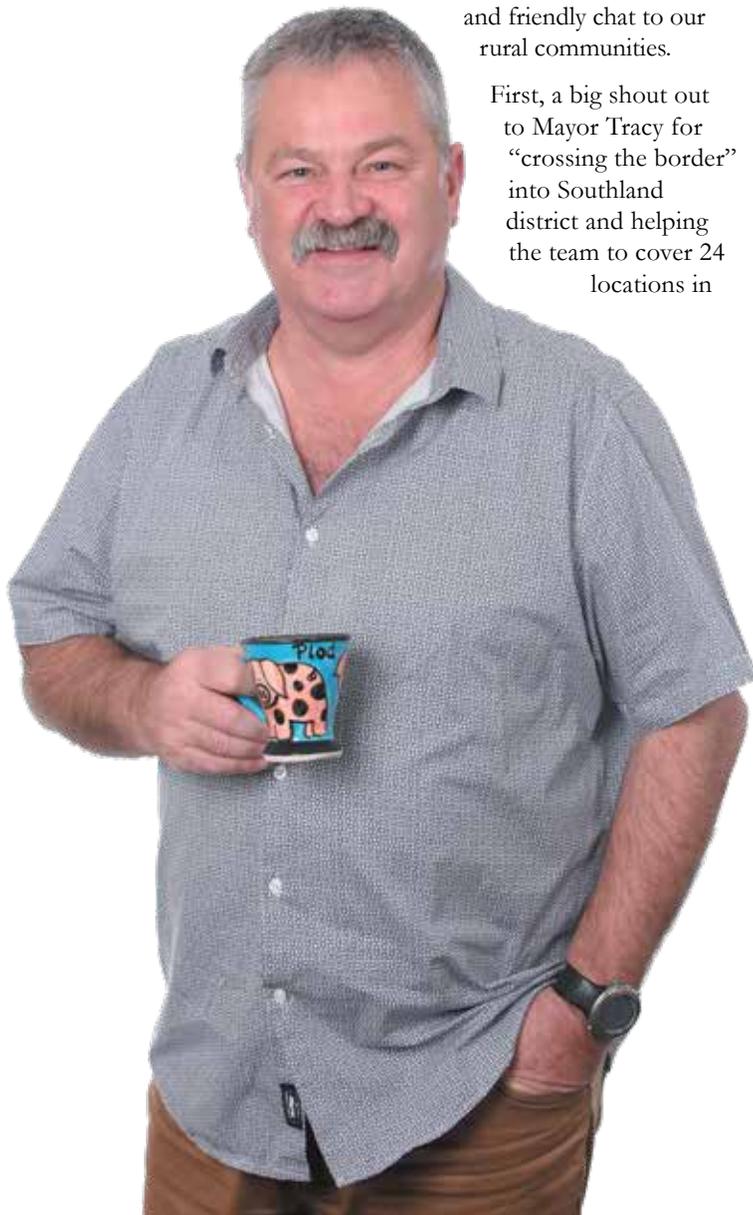
**But this virus doesn't define who we are. The way we respond to it does. As Southlanders we make the most of the hand we've been dealt, we find a way to move forward and we carry on.**

It's one of the aspects of living in this part of the world that makes me proud to call myself a Southlander.

If I ever needed reminding, this was certainly reinforced for me again during the so-called Farmgate tour I went on along with Gore Mayor Tracy Hicks in early November.

During the week-long road trip around Southland, Mayor Tracy and I travelled with our caravans in tow and an entourage of brilliant, upbeat Southern District Health Board and WellSouth staff, along with volunteers from the Rapid Relief Team, to bring Covid vaccinations, barbecue and friendly chat to our rural communities.

First, a big shout out to Mayor Tracy for "crossing the border" into Southland district and helping the team to cover 24 locations in



five days – from Wrights Bush to Waimumu, and from Garston to Gorge Road. We literally couldn't have done this without Tracy's generous support.

And to the mighty DHB team, a massive, heartfelt thank you. The group of talented clinicians and health staff in my crew quickly picked up the nickname the Tongettes, and I can tell you we had some laughs along the way.

I'm pleased to say that between Tracy and me we chalked up nearly 400 vaccinations of rural Southlanders, who otherwise would have found it difficult finding the time to get into town to a vaccination clinic.

One thing I encountered, and which caused me some concern, was the "she'll be right" attitude, especially from some of our younger people. It's a fact of life that kids don't like being told what to do. Heck, I remember what that's like.

What I would say to you if you're thinking to yourself, "there's no Covid here, I don't need a double shot of vaccine" is, please do it not for yourself, but because it's the right thing to do for your community.

The world is already a very different place than it was when Covid-19 revealed itself nearly two years ago now. For those who aren't prepared to be a responsible global citizen the world is shrinking.

You won't be able to board a domestic Air New Zealand flight without either fully vaccinating or providing medical evidence of a negative Covid test 72 hours before flying.

You won't be able to go to big summer festivals like Rhythm and Alps near Wanaka without being fully vaccinated.

Opportunities for those who choose not to vaccinate are rapidly drying up, because this, now more than ever, is a time when we need to care for those more vulnerable than ourselves. And that means doing what's right for the greater good, rather than thinking of ourselves.

Even without the physical presence of Covid in our communities (touch wood it stays that way) this has been a stressful year for many who have struggled with their mental health in the face of the unknown. So please be kind. Be compassionate. Check in on your neighbours.

And don't forget to look after yourselves.

Take a moment to look up from what you're doing, take a deep breath and have a good look around you. You might be refreshed by what you see.

From my place I've been looking out over Riverton and watching new buildings go up, a lot of positive activity, and plenty of cars heading to the Riviera of the South on Friday afternoons. Life is going on, and it's fantastic to see.

As we crack on towards Christmas, I encourage you wholeheartedly to take a relaxing break with family and friends. If you can't head away to wherever you usually would for New Year, think about visiting the amazing places we have right here in our own back yard.

**Have an awesome Christmas and a happy New Year. All the best to you and your family for 2022.**

**Yours in Southland,**

**Gary.**

If 2020 was a tough year, I reckon that, in Southland at least, 2021 was a year of getting on with it against the odds.

So take a bow, Southland. I congratulate you on your ability to get through a second year of living with the threat of Covid -19.

Although for much of the province each day was just another day on the farm, for some of our communities – Milford/Piopiotaahi, Te Anau, the Catlins and to a lesser extent Stewart Island/Rakiura – the absence of visitors had a profound impact.

We did miss the Aucklanders and we will welcome them back when they're able to visit again.

Although actual cases of the virus didn't touch our community, I'm acutely aware that people here did become fatigued by the relentless nature of Covid restrictions. It led, on occasion, to a loss of restraint in the way people interacted.

For many, the Christmas holidays will bring a very welcome opportunity to take a break, relax, spend quality time with whānau and friends and recharge the batteries ready for 2022.

I'm proud of our team for completing the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. To many of you outside Southland District Council the adoption of this massive triennial corporate document may not mean much, but to our organisation it's an enormous event – the culmination of hundreds of hours of staff work. It's the document in which we set out our works programme and budgets for the next 10 years and the yardstick that holds us

accountable to you, our customers and ratepayers.

Given that we delivered a record \$45 million of capital works projects in the 2020/2021 financial year, with continued big numbers forecast on the horizon, this LTP was particularly satisfying for us. It marks a big step up in terms of projects delivered to Southland district.

That we were able to achieve this through a global pandemic, overcoming all of the challenges that presented, was extremely pleasing.

I think it reflects a willingness by Southland District Council staff to keep working in the best interests of our ratepayers, despite the external pressures. There were many of those.

The three waters reforms, for instance.

Council will continue to take the opportunity to express its views on the three waters reform process. In the meantime, our people were tasked with the added burden of programming \$13 million of government stimulus funding water projects at the beginning of the 2021 calendar year, on top of their usual busy day-to-day operations.

They absorbed the extra pressure and took it in their stride. That they are still delivering these important projects for the community at year's end is quite remarkable.

That, in a nutshell, epitomises the role of local government. We have to endure, no matter what, by adapting to the changes and being resilient. Not doing the work is not an option.

I'm optimistic about 2022 and beyond. I believe the future of Southland district is strong, and brim-full of positive things.

Whatever changes come, the people, communities and economies will still be there, and they will still need the services an organisation such as



Southland District Council provides.

As the territorial authority managing \$1.6 billion of assets spread across a diverse area of 30,000km<sup>2</sup>, our obligation is to make the best of whatever reforms come our way, for the people who choose to live in this wonderful part of the world. I see this as an opportunity to always do better. The things we can control, we will continue to do for our community. The things we can't control, we'll adapt to.

In my view of local government, infrastructure and community cannot be viewed in isolation – they are the two sides of the coin – it's the people we serve.

The infrastructure is an immense undertaking, but it serves no purpose if it's not operating for the benefit of the people. Our nine community boards are an important connection between Council and the people. I want to publicly thank all community board members for their participation in the local governance of their communities. They are a really important part of who Southland District Council is and the commitment they make is admirable.

**Kia kaha, Southland! Stay strong.**

**Merry Christmas and happy New Year to you and your loved ones.**

# Works programme UPDATE

## **A** mammoth \$48 million programme of Southland District Council projects is under way for the 2021/2022 financial year.

Project delivery group manager Nick Hamlin is upbeat about the prospect of carrying out Council's biggest commitment of capital works projects on record, while recognising that Council is having to work smarter to deliver more work with essentially the same resources.

"We can be more efficient by doing multiple projects together, with the buying power of it," he says.

"For example, all the track work. If you go to market for one track here and one track there – say Edendale, Mores Reserve and Taramea Bay – because they're often district funded the default position is to scope, price and tender them all individually. But you're not getting any efficiencies of scale.

"So that's something we'll definitely continue looking at."

Combining small projects into bigger packages is also seen as a way to potentially encourage contractors

**Nick Hamlin, project delivery group manager**



to tender for work, with higher tender prices reflecting how busy they are currently.

"It's becoming more of a struggle attracting contactors as the year goes on ... but we've got some really good stuff happening."

The three waters stimulus package is well on track to be finished by June 2022.

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

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

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

By the end of November 2021 a total of 16 projects from the stimulus programme had been completed, worth around \$7.95 million.

The deadline for completion was originally 31 March but the stimulus programme has now been extended to the end of June 2022. This was in direct response to the August lockdown and ongoing lockdown restrictions occurring further north.

"What many people may not realise is that even though the South Island lockdown was reasonably short, because Auckland has been shut down for so long it's taken a lot of our

consultants out of operation and interrupted our supply chain," Nick says. "There's a lot of supply that comes out of Auckland – like GIB board and Pink Batts.

"Shipping's a big issue internationally. Any gear or equipment that comes from overseas, we're really at the mercy of whether boats actually arrive here.

"We've had to talk to our designers to ensure any materials specified are actually available in New Zealand.

"Of all of our projects, the biggest area where we're seeing delays in materials being available is building – glazing, aluminium, building products like plywood and timber.

"We haven't seen the same sort of impact in pipeworks and asphalt."

All roading projects, including road rehabilitations and bridge replacement packages, have been put out for tender. However, footpath replacements are being reprioritised with community boards following changes in Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's funding levels for this work.

Another major project is the refurbishment of the Winton Library/SDC office. The building in Wemyss Street has been closed since May 2019 when airborne mould spores and fungal contamination were discovered. After a brief initial move to the Winton Memorial Hall, services have continued to be provided from a temporary base at the Winton RSA hall. After a couple of delays because of the Covid lockdown and the discovery of damp underneath the floor it is expected that at least some areas of the building will be ready to reopen in February 2022.

Following a tender process, a contract for toilet replacements worth more than \$1 million was awarded in November.

### **Cover photo:**

Yves Broers

Tahu Potiki is the name of the meeting house at the Bluff marae, Te Rau Aroha, where Southland District Council's Tikanga Māori Working Group held a Te Tiriti o Waitangi training workshop in October. Tahu Potiki is the origin of the Ngai Tahu tribe, around 600 years ago. All Ngai Tahu descendants whakapapa to him in some way. The three figures pictured form the koruru, the decorative carvings on the gable peak of the meeting house, with Tahu Potiki represented at the front.

*Photograph taken with the kind permission of Dean Whaanga.*

### **Magazine design**

Gloria Eno

### **Produced by**

Southland District Council communications team

New toilets will be installed at the Balfour playground; the Edendale recreation reserve; John Street, Winton; the Wyndham camping ground; Te Anau boat harbour; and two sites at Manapouri; with a targeted project completion date of 31 June 2022.

Meanwhile, Council's open spaces project is gathering momentum. This body of work has a \$5.5 million budget over seven years, with the aim of activating usage of the district's reserves, beaches, parks and so on, as well as telling their stories.

Nick says it's a wide-encompassing project taking in many facets, ranging from building a comprehensive knowledge base to incorporating arts and nature play to potentially providing funding for community-led projects.

"I'm really excited about it. I love the outdoors and love exploring and finding all these little places we've got around Southland. It's pretty cool."

This project aligns nicely with the former Sport Southland, now Active Southland's Southland Regional Spaces and Places Strategy, a collaboration between Active Southland, Sport New Zealand, Southland District Council, Invercargill City Council, Gore District Council, the Invercargill Licensing Trust, ILT Foundation, Community Trust South and the Maitava Licensing Trust.

The strategy has been developed from a willingness by all those organisations to work together to create and implement a more aligned approach to the regional planning of spaces and places, relating to play, active recreation and sport, across Southland.

# Contractors get update on project opportunities



More than 20 contractors came to a drop-in session hosted by Council to give an overview of the record number of projects being planned in the district.

Group manager programme delivery Nick Hamlin led the presentation, the first of two such sessions, along with health, safety and wellbeing advisor Teri Black.

In 2021/2022 Council is aiming to deliver 165 projects, with a total value of \$48.2 million. In dollar terms it's the biggest annual programme of projects in SDC's history, and Nick told the contractors present that it would become the norm for the next 10 years.

"Fifty million bucks is a lot of work to deliver," he said. "We can't do it without you."

**"We need you as much as you need us as clients."**

A wide range of work, from \$2,000 up to multi-million-dollar projects, was available for contractors to become involved in and, where applicable, projects are being

packaged together, some over multiple years, to create better value and longer term certainty for local contractors.

Nick said there were good opportunities for smaller-scale contractors to work in partnership with bigger operators on some projects. A good example was new public toilets throughout the district, where site works, installation and landscaping would all be required.

Teri told the group it was a relatively simple process to become an SDC-accredited contractor. "The main thing is you need to provide evidence of health and safety management in your business," she said.

After the presentation, contractors had the opportunity to talk to SDC staff about some of the work coming up, in community facilities, roading and three waters services.

It is hoped that these drop-in sessions will become a regular event.

Contractors who were not able to attend can still receive regular updates on upcoming work by emailing [ContactProjectDelivery@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:ContactProjectDelivery@southlanddc.govt.nz)

If you wish to become an approved contractor, contact [healthandsafety@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:healthandsafety@southlanddc.govt.nz)

# 2021/2022 PROJECTS

## by community board area



### ARDLUSSA

- Road reseals
- Pavement rehabilitation - Riversdale Waikaia Road
- Riversdale wastewater treatment upgrade - stage 2
- Riversdale stormwater reticulation upgrade
- Balfour playground - equipment replacement
- Riversdale playground - equipment replacement
- Waikaia Dickson Park playground - equipment renewal
- Waikaia Trails Trust formed to drive potential development of a mountain bike track
- Investigation into recreational opportunities in and around Waikaia and the wider Ardlussa community board area
- Balfour playground - install new toilet, including graphic wrap
- Switzers Museum (Waikaia) - collection management documentation; touch-screen display for memories room; bottle-house story development; shelving \*

### NORTHERN

- Road reseals
- Lumsden Balfour water supply - district metering areas
- Five Rivers rural water scheme - investigation to upgrade and sanitise
- Matuku rural water scheme - investigation to upgrade and sanitise
- Garston – design and installation of memorial seat



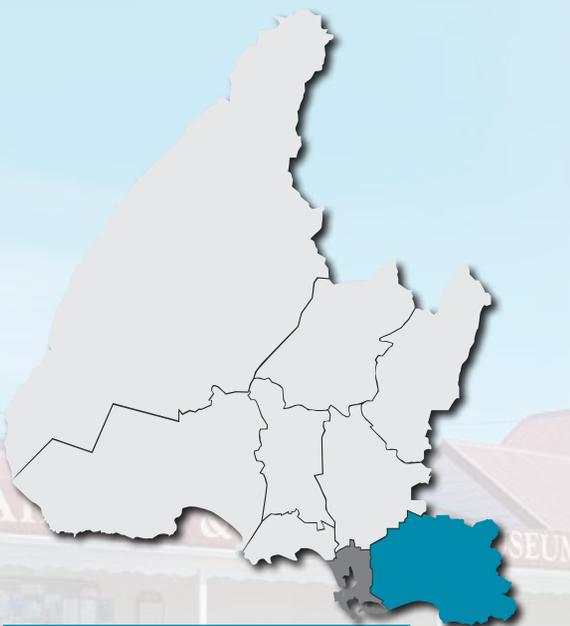
# FIORDLAND

- Road reseals
- Te Anau - investigation project and development of an urban master plan for Te Anau, including the lakefront and boat harbor (this may be done as part of the wider Milford Opportunities project)
- Te Anau Library refurbishment (new carpet and painting), including toilets upgrade
- Te Anau water supply - mains replacement
- Te Anau water supply - Sandy Brown Road booster tank
- Manapouri water supply - treatment plant improvements
- Manapouri wastewater consent renewal preparation
- Te Anau boat harbour playground - equipment renewal
- Duncraig rural water improvement
- Manapouri - View Street car park development (part of the Manapouri TIF-funded package)
- Manapouri - Pearl Harbour toilet renewal, including graphic wrap (part of the Manapouri TIF-funded package)
- Te Anau boat harbour - toilet renewal, including graphic wrap (part of the Te Anau TIF-funded package)
- Te Anau boat ramp – Steamer’s Beach refurbishment (part of the Te Anau TIF-funded package)
- Te Anau boat harbour refurbishment (part of the Te Anau TIF-funded package)
- Manapouri boat ramp – engineer’s report on integrity and replacement cost of Pearl Harbour gabion basket retaining wall (part of the Manapouri TIF-funded package)
- Ramparts rural water scheme - consent renewal preparation
- Te Anau rural water scheme - investigation to upgrade and sanitise



# WALLACE TAKITIMU

- Road reseals
- Ohai water supply backwash discharge upgrade
- Ohai wastewater - seals and arms to both trickling filters
- Ohai wastewater treatment plant discharge consent renewal - UV
- Pavement rehabilitation Bayswater Road, two sections of Otautau Nightcaps Road
- Otautau water supply, Main Street water main
- Nightcaps Dr Woods Memorial Reserve playground - equipment replacement
- Otautau Main Street toilet refurbishment
- Otautau Museum - collection storage and packing \*



## WAIHOPAI TOETOE

- Road reseals
- Bridge replacement Gray Road
- Pavement rehabilitation Tokanui Gorge Road
- Pavement rehabilitation Matura Island Road
- Curio Bay water supply upgrade

- Edendale/Wyndham wastewater consent renewal preparation
- Wyndham stormwater mains and manholes renewal and subsoil drainage
- Woodlands stormwater upgrade
- Tokanui wastewater discharge channel
- Curio Bay camping ground toilet refurbishment
- Edendale recreation reserve toilet renewal
- Edendale Seaward Road toilet refurbishment
- Tokanui – secure water source for toilet
- Waikawa toilet refurbishment, including graphic wrap, and secure water source
- Edendale/Wyndham - investigate development of multi-use track between Edendale and Wyndham
- Edendale - install new drinking fountain at Seaward Road reserve/playground
- Curio Bay - reserve management plan review
- Wyndham - hall kitchen upgrade
- Edendale - walking track upgrade
- Edendale - war memorial upgrade
- Fortrose - investigation project into future of hall, playground, foreshore and toilet facilities
- Wyndham - Menzies Memorial archway restoration
- Waikawa Museum - photograph collection assistance; large map conservation assessment; textiles on display - improve condition \*
- Wyndham Museum - Health and safety signage on storage containers and creation of a wider 'Hazards in the Museum' resource on objects and collections of concern in our museums; assistance with redevelopment project and ongoing collection care \*

## TUATAPERE TE WAEWAE

- Road reseals
- Pavement rehabilitation Otautau Tuatapere Road
- Tuatapere - investigation project, urban development plan for Main Street
- Tuatapere - investigation project, railway station development
- Tuatapere water supply - new aerator and stand
- Eastern Bush water supply upgrade - stage 1
- Tuatapere wastewater consent renewal preparation
- Monowai wastewater consent renewal preparation
- Monowai Village reserve playground - equipment replacement
- Tuatapere Jack and Mattie Bennett Memorial Park playground - equipment renewal
- Monkey Island - shelter area development, stage 2
- Clifden Bridge toilet – new interpretation panels
- Tuatapere boat ramp refurbishment





## ORETI

- Road reseals
- Bridge replacements - Dipton Mossburn Road, Dipton Flat Road, McDonald Road, Caird Road, McBride Road
- Investigation project - develop a parks and beautification plan for the Oreti Community Board area
- Winton water supply improvements
- Winton wastewater consent renewal preparation
- Winton wastewater- stormwater infiltration project
- Winton stormwater- investigate and replace storm mains
- Winton cemetery boards
- Wallacetown - cemetery works
- Winton - Centennial Park, new fence and gate at the west end of skate park
- Dipton playground - equipment replacement
- Winton - tree removal, section 1 (remove trees from Clyde Street to Eglinton Street and replace with more appropriate plantings)
- Winton - McKenzie Street playground, replace middle section of neighbour's boundary fence
- Winton - John Street, new toilet, including graphic wrap
- Winton – repair and paint Moores reserve toilets



## STEWART ISLAND/ RAKIURA

- Ulva Island wharf replacement
- Stewart Island wharves general programmed maintenance
- Stormwater improvement in town centre
- Wastewater disposal field upgrade
- Investigation project - Baker Park track development
- Halfmoon Bay cemetery – improve access, install steps
- Stewart Island/Rakiura Museum - shelving layout design, installation and object housing for remainder of collections not currently housed; Maori cloak storage unit; completion of labelling / bicultural signage / whale story / object labels etc with museum committee, volunteers and iwi liaison committee \*



## ORAKA APARIMA

- Riverton - urban development plan investigation project
- Riverton – Taramea Bay redevelopment, including new toilet and graphic wrap
- Riverton - Railway Esplanade beautification - stage 2, development of Bath Road site
- Riverton water supply - emergency water discharge consent
- Riverton water supply - new UV building and UV treatment installation
- Riverton water alum sludge removal
- Riverton stormwater - Taramea Bay outfall improvement investigation
- Orepuki stormwater upgrade - storm main to Main Road
- Riverton stormwater upgrade - Towack Street
- Riverton - Mores Reserve track development
- Colac Bay - beach access steps, step design to meet resource consent compliance
- Colac Bay - boat ramp toilet renewal
- Colac Bay - replace boat ramp shelter
- Te Hikoi (Riverton) - cloak storage unit development; arms storage system; co-ordination of a borer treatment and prevention strategy at Te Hikoi and developing a wider regional treatment facility with Laurence LeBer \*

Museum projects are managed by Southland District Council's roving museum officer, who provides professional assistance to small Southland volunteer-run museums throughout the region \*



## Outdoor recreation is a staple of Southland's unrivalled lifestyle and has become a focus for Southland District Council.

Working with the community, Council is now implementing key aspects of its open spaces strategy.

Graduate open spaces planner Bridget Elliott applauds the investment being made.

“Through the development of the open spaces strategy it was recognised this area had been under-resourced both in terms of people and finances. We have recognised there is an opportunity to really liven them up,” she says.

“This work will be ongoing. We don't just want to achieve this by ticking off a pre-set list of projects.

“Open spaces are the best and it's great to see them become a priority for Council. We need to continue raising awareness of where these assets are so people can get out and explore them.”

Council looks after many reserves and open spaces, including walkways, recreational areas and playgrounds.



# FOCUS ON open spaces and reserves

**“These belong to all of us and we need to decide what we want them to look like in the future.”**

Engaging with local communities remains important and Bridget has relished the chance to chat with schools, community boards and members of the SDC Youth Council to garner their thoughts.

“This is not about telling people how they are going to use these spaces because ultimately they are where people go for enjoyment and to connect with others,” Bridget says.

While Council will focus on strategic

projects, community-driven initiatives are a key aspect of this work and Council is working out how we can best support these groups with delivering community-based projects in our open spaces.

“It’s everything from signage, culture and art to storytelling and capturing the history of some areas,” Bridget says.

“We’re looking for fun ways to incorporate artistic and creative elements. We want to work with our communities to try to find ways to improve the spaces that they visit regularly and we think this is best answered by those who are using them.”

Southlanders are invited to share their ideas through our online engagement platform [www.makeitstick.nz](http://www.makeitstick.nz)

**Think of open spaces near you that you enjoy.**

1. Are the recreation facilities, buildings and structures in our open spaces appropriate for the way that you use them? If not, how could we improve this?
2. What could we do to provide more opportunities for you to connect with the open spaces? How could we encourage more use of our open spaces?
3. Should we focus more on creating cultural and educational experiences in those spaces? What could we do?
4. Are these spaces easy to access for you and your whānau? How can we improve access?
5. How can we improve the landscaping of these spaces?

Southland's mayors rolled up their sleeves in November to take Covid-19 vaccinations to farmgates around the district.

In a bid to boost vaccination numbers among the Southland rural community, district Mayor Gary Tong and Gore Mayor Tracy Hicks put their heads together and came up with a united plan to cover the district within a week.

The result was the Southland Farmgate Vaccine Tour, a five-day road trip offering free vaccinations to our busy rural people at 24 different locations.

The two councils worked with the Southern District Health Board and WellSouth to organise the mobile vaccination clinics, involving a team of health professionals, security and volunteers from the Rapid Relief Team, who worked the barbecue. The mayors towed their own caravans, which were used as the vaccination rooms.

"We've all done a lot of hard work to make it happen," said health clinician Eileen Davidson.

In order to cover as many communities as possible, Mayor Tracy crossed his territorial authority border to cover eastern and southern Southland, while Mayor Gary headed west and north.

Day one, stop one for Mayor Gary was the Wrights Bush Rugby Club on Monday 1 November, and it didn't take long before the region's Farmgate tour first walk-in arrived for his jab.

# Vaccinations come to communities

The honour went to Wright Bush farm contractor Hamish Stuart, who had taken time off from a busy day on the tractor because "my mother dragged me down", he said with a laugh.

He had not had his first vaccination until then because he had been too busy with farmwork.

Eileen said "it is a lot harder for the rural community to access vaccinations."

Meanwhile, former Southland district councillor Gavin MacPherson said he was getting his second shot because he wanted to be able to see his grandchildren in Canada when travel opens up again.

By the end of the week, a total of 397 vaccine doses were administered – 192 of those were first doses (48.4%), and 205 were second doses (51.6%) – completing a successful mission by the two mayors.

Two standout locations were Wyndham, where 43 people were vaccinated, and

Fortrose, where 24 got their jab.

Karl Metzler, Covid-19 vaccine rollout programme lead for the Southern DHB, said: "This was a great effort, and we are very appreciative to the mayors, councils and the vaccination teams who supported the initiative.

"They were able to reach into some of our most rural communities and have important conversations along the way, which at this stage of the programme is incredibly valuable.

"They will be back in a few weeks, so anyone who missed out should keep an eye out, and take up the opportunity to be vaccinated."



Mayor Tong and the Tongettes at Wrights Bush.

# Local voice must be heard - Mayor

**E**nsuring Southland's voice is heard as the three waters reform progresses is a priority for Southland Mayor Gary Tong.

In October Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta announced the three waters reform will be mandatory with all councils being part of the change.

Southland district will be included in an entity which covers the majority of the South Island. According to Minister Mahuta, the case for change is strong and the government needs to move on the problems.

No one council can fix the ongoing issues around water assets.

"These changes might not be popular but they are necessary," she said. "The easiest thing is to do nothing, but I am not taking that option."

She thanked local government for the constructive feedback they gave the government.

A joint working party will be set up to look at the common themes from the feedback including the governance structure and accountability, including local voice.

Council has been reviewing details as they emerge to understand the process in full.

"I'm disappointed we didn't get more detail and have more open conversations, including with our residents, before the decision was made," Mayor Tong says.

In its submission to the government, Council said it is considered imperative that the local community voice is accounted for and integrated into any entity moving forward. It is not currently clear how local communities will be able to have input and influence decision-making on local issues.

"Council believes strongly that population-based decision making will not represent its communities effectively or appropriately and must be avoided as the default mechanism for decision making.

"A number of other important considerations include the complexities of the systems and infrastructure, access to service provision, equitable levels of service," the submission said.

Mayor Tong said his focus now will be on ensuring the local and rural voice is retained on this entity so there is fairness in how assets are managed, along with making sure there are protections against private ownership.

"There's a lot of activity in the market in Southland at the moment and it is important that any new entity supports local business in the regions, not just urban, in growth and development."

Central government has advised that there will be a need for more three waters workers across the sector and from our perspective it is essential that consideration and assurance is given to the present staff and the uncertainty surrounding them.

"I hope there is more genuine engagement from central government with local government and our communities as we work through this transition," Mayor Tong said.

## ELDER DRIVE CLOSURE – TUATAPERE

**O**ur contractors will soon begin replacing the water main that runs along Elder Drive, Tuatapere, from the water treatment plant in the Tuatapere Scenic Reserve to State Highway 99.

The water main runs down the centre of Elder Drive, which is very narrow, and as a result the road will need to be closed from 30 November 2021 until 26 January 2022. This means the Tuatapere Scenic Reserve and boat ramp will be inaccessible while this work is being done.

However, we will reopen Elder Drive over the Christmas-New Year period, from 23 December until 9 January 2022. Full access to the reserve and boat ramp will be reinstated at this busy time, but users are asked to be mindful that parts of the road will be gravel and some will be sealed.

The Tuatapere domain walking track will remain open throughout the entire project.

This work is part of the government-funded three waters stimulus programme and involves replacing the old asbestos cement pipe with polyethylene pipe. The pipe is critical for Tuatapere's drinking water supply and for firefighting purposes and we need to ensure the line is fit for purpose for the next 100 years.

We appreciate your co-operation while this important work is being done.

**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.**



Fran Mikulicic

# A year of leading learning

For just over a year a group of Southland District Council staff have been meeting to learn more about Māori language and culture, and how that fits into a local government context.

In that time it has grown in both its membership and the value it is bringing to the organisation.

SDC leadership team member Fran Mikulicic, who was instrumental in setting up the rōpū (group), sent an email to all staff in late September 2020, seeking expressions of interest in becoming involved in an internal Tikanga Māori Working Group. The objective

was to build cultural competency in Māori tikanga (practices) and te reo Māori (language), among both staff and elected members.

The first meeting of the rōpū was on 16 October 2020. A year later there are 26 members, the rōpū is growing and its efforts are receiving ongoing support from Māori leaders including Dean Whaanga (Te Ao Mārama) and Evelyn Cook (Waihōpai rūnanga).

One of the first tasks of the rōpū was to welcome new chief executive Cameron McIntosh with a mihi whakatau (formal welcome).

Since then the Tikanga Māori group has been involved in a number of activities, including organising mihi whakatau for new staff; blessings for Council's two new office spaces in Don Street, Invercargill; reviewing and drafting narrative for Council's corporate documents; and attending a wānanga (forum) involving tikanga Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) training at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff.

The wider group meets fortnightly, practising te reo and

learning waiata, while the rōpū steering group meets on the off weeks to plan forthcoming events and activities.

Fran Mikulicic says, "we have a legal responsibility under both the Local Government Act and the Resource Management Act to work in partnership with iwi.

"To be able to do this with honour and respect it is important that as an organisation we all have a level of understanding and confidence in tikanga (protocols) and basic te reo Maori."

All members of the rōpū are passionate about the group and see it adding great value to Council.

Angie Hopkinson (Ngāi Tahu

and Ngāti Māmoē) says there are two aspects to it – meeting Council’s legislative responsibilities under Te Tiriti and “how genuine our rōpū approach to this has been and how it’s been driven from the heart”.

“So many positives” have come out of what has been achieved in the group’s first year, she says. “I think it’s awesome how we’ve shown we’re willing to be open and supportive to the organisation and each other in a space where we are on our own learning journey.”

Rōpū member Joe Findley says there has been a lot of momentum in the first year, considering “we started off with a very unclear mandate”. With the group actively supported by chief executive Cameron McIntosh and the SDC leadership team, its role within the organisation has been legitimised, he says.

Information about the Tikanga Māori Working Group is now incorporated in the induction process for new staff at SDC, which is helping to swell membership.

Janelle Ladbrook (Ngāi Tahu) joined the group on day three of her employment at SDC, after being invited by rōpū founding member Lisa Fowler-Stevenson (Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Māmoē, Waitaha).

“I think it’s important from my personal journey, for myself and my whanau, to be able to connect back to our Māori ancestry,” Janelle says. “And feeling safe to be able to express that in the workplace is very important.

“Even just being able to incorporate some Māori kupu (words) in our day-to-day is pretty special.”

Joe says he has noticed more staff incorporating te reo into everyday use. To some degree, members of the Tikanga Māori group are helping to promote the culture simply by using Māori kupu themselves in the workplace.

“It has to be a slow, natural uptake as opposed to a forced transition.

“It was one of the underlying goals of the group, to help build an internal staff environment for staff to learn and practise those things so that when we do get into those formal environments we feel a lot more comfortable in representing Council in that way.”

The fear of mispronouncing Māori words, and potentially causing offence, is often seen as a deterrent to speaking te

# Kotahi karihi nāna ko te wao tapu nui a Tāne

Translation:

## The creation of the forests of Tāne comes from one kernel

Tikanga Māori Working Group’s interpretation:

Starting small leads to growth. It is important to keep going and be true to what we believe in, creating a meaningful and solid place to stand for generations to come by planting tiny seeds, ideas, that are an example for our colleagues, Council and community.

reo. Practising pronunciation and gaining some familiarity with the language in a safe space is one of the most valuable benefits the group offers members.

Like others, since joining the rōpū Joe has taken the next step and started taking te reo courses at the Southern Institute of Technology.

At the beginning of each rōpū meeting, all members are asked to present their pepeha, an introduction in te reo, in which they identify who they are, where they are from and where they belong.

Professional learning facilitator Raiha Johnson, who is working closely with the SDC group, describes pepeha as “Māori GPS”.

“As we listen to each other and share where we come from and who we come from, we make connections to each other as individuals and as a collective. As a listener, your mind tracks where that person comes from.”

Raiha celebrates the “leading learners” of the rōpū, who are helping to educate other staff while they learn tikanga Māori themselves.

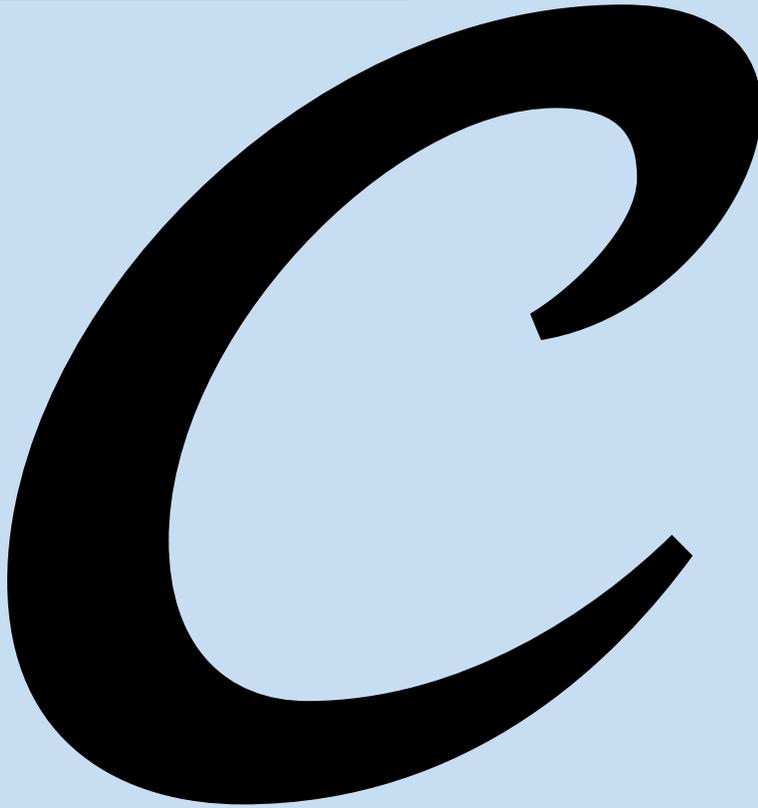
The group’s most significant achievement in its first year has been to initiate training in Te Tiriti. This involved a two-day workshop, one of which was spent on Te Rau Aroha Marae at Bluff. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.

Fran Mikulicic summed it up this way: “Even though I have been to several Te Tiriti o Waitangi training sessions, I have not been to one which touched my heart so much. Realising where I personally fit was also empowering.

“We have a great bunch of people working at SDC and this rōpū will be able to add so much more to the positive experience for our colleagues and community, following on from our learnings. This is just the start and it is with great pleasure that we join together in our leading learner roles for our own benefit, and Southland’s.

“One year on from humble beginnings, I am amazed at where we as a rōpū have managed to get to, thanks to everyone’s mahi and participation.”





celebrating the arts in Southland is a key focus for the Creative Communities Fund.

Southland district councillor Margie Ruddenklau, chair of Creative Communities Southland, said the arts had an integral role to play in the Murikihu/Southland community.

“Arts, history and culture is intrinsic through everything we do,” she said.

**“Art empowers communities. It’s not just a nice to have, it brings people together and it needs to be celebrated.”**

“Creativity is a driver - our arts bring people together and we need to invest at every opportunity. The arts have got so many through Covid-19 and we need to ensure the arts are in everything we do.”

Cr Ruddenklau was eager to see a diverse range of applications for the next funding round – everything from crafts, object art, literature, dance and music to pacific arts, visual arts, inter arts and multi art form including film.

# Funding available to support the *arts*



“Arts Murihiku’s purpose is to support connect, grow, promote and advocate for the arts in Southland/Murihiku – whatever genre that may be,” she said.

Applications are now open for the next funding round with individuals and groups encouraged to apply by the closing date of 31 March 2022.

Distributed by Southland District Council, the fund is part of Creative New Zealand which supports more than 1800 projects annually nationwide.

Eligible projects will benefit local communities by encouraging participation through creating opportunities to engage with arts activities, supporting the diverse artistic cultural traditions of local communities or enabling young people to participate in the arts.

#### **Projects that encourage participation:**

- performances by community choirs, hip-hop groups, theatre companies musicians or poets
- workshops on printmaking, writing or dancing
- creation of new tukutuku, whakairo or kowhaiwhai for a local marae
- exhibitions by local craft groups promoting weaving, pottery and carving
- festivals featuring local artists
- Projects that support diversity:
- festivals or exhibitions in Māori or Pasifika heritage or contemporary artforms
- workshops, rehearsals, performances, festivals or exhibitions by local migrant communities
- arts projects bringing together groups from a range of different communities
- workshops, rehearsals, performances, festivals or exhibitions by groups with experience of disability or mental illness

#### **Projects that enable young people to engage with, and participate in, the arts:**

- a group of young people working with an artist to create a mural or street art
- a group of young people creating a film about an issue that is important to them
- printing a collection of writing by young people
- music workshops for young people
- an exhibition of visual art work by young people

**Application forms are available online at [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) using the Apply For It function, or at SDC offices and libraries.**

Successful applications in the funding round which closed on 31 October were:

#### **Limehills School** – Arts enrichment

Enrich children’s knowledge, skills, access and participation to creative and performing arts through a special project, including to develop a school song. Amount granted: \$1000

#### **Hedgehope School** – Southland culture production

2022 production about the historical culture of Southland. Creating own script, songs and recrafting Hedgehope haka. Students engaging in entire process. Co-create timeline and script, create set and props, learn songs, practice and perform. Amount granted: \$750

#### **Reforestation Southland** – art mural project

To create a 13m by 3m mural on the wall at the Lumsden Community Nursery. Input from local high school and a New Zealand artist to complete the work. Amount granted: \$3500

#### **Wendy Ritson** – glass fusing community workshop

A series of community workshops/ classes teaching basic to advanced fusing/slumping skills with fused glass jewellery and various other objects. Also includes an opportunity for Menzies College students to participate in non-curricular activity at Escape Glass in Invercargill. Amount granted: \$1160

#### **South Arts Collective** – An enemy of the people

Adaptation and staging of this theatre play. A diverse group of young people who come together to create and promote the creation and performing arts education in Southland. Amount granted: \$2000

#### **Aparima Arts** – A brush with arts

An exhibition of the visual art works created by the Aparima Art Group during 2021 will be held at the Riverton Arts Centre over the Christmas New Year period. Amount granted: \$650

#### **Menzies College** – Mana Māori Mad project

A focus on Te Ao Māori that allows students to experience a variety of cultural arts. Amount granted: \$4000

#### **Takitimu Patchwork and Embroidery Group** – Advanced surface design class

A two-day class with Catherine McDonald who is a textile artist. She paints fabric and then over sews designs and embellishes the works. It is a two-day class and there is a kit available to purchase as a starter kit. Amount granted: \$500

#### **Riversdale Arts** – Workshop and mural

To run workshops for children and four workshops for adults in October and to beautify our building and the Riversdale community by having a mural painted by well-known artist Deow on side of our building. Amount granted: \$5910

#### **Toi Rakiura Arts Trust** – Austen Found

Improvised musical in the style of Jane Austen. Amount granted: \$500

#### **Fiordland Art Society** – Clay workshops

School holiday pottery classes – introducing children to experience the tactile joy of clay. Amount granted: \$761.80

#### **Te Anau Waitangi Charitable Trust** – Waitangi Day commemorations

A family, free to the public one-day festival based on Māori performing arts, craft and culture. Amount granted: \$2500

#### **Central Southland College** – Showcase of student works/projects

Art work exhibition style to showcase student work to their parents and community. Student work will be displayed in school hall. Amount granted: \$400

#### **Limehills School** – Wahi Motuhake

To uplift and refresh our environment with art works created through an enriching learning process, to align with what is cherished by the school. Amount granted: \$3000

#### **Stewart Island Players** – Red Riding Hood

Community theatrical performance involving locals to act and help with production. Amount granted: \$750

# 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.

Six 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.

## Paige Lane

**Age:** 18

**School:** Fiordland College

**How long have you been on the SDC Youth Council:**  
One year

**What prompted you to get involved:** I wanted to have a say and see what went on behind the scenes.

**What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council:** Being able to see all my mates from different schools during the meetings and being able to have a voice and say in what is happening in the Southland community.

**Why should other youth get involved:** It is a good opportunity to have a say around what happens in Southland and learn some pretty interesting stuff.

**Why is it important for youth to have a voice in local government:** Because it keeps ideas fresh and brings new perspectives to the table.

**What are your plans for the next year:** I am off to Otago University to train to be a primary school teacher.

**Why are you proud to call Southland home:** It is an overall great friendly community.

**Ultimate goal in life:** To live a successful and happy life working in a country primary school.



## Jake Tither

**Age:** 17

**School:** Fiordland College

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

**What prompted you to get involved:** An eagerness to be the representative voice of youth in smaller regions of Southland such as Te Anau.

**What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council:** The positive environment where you are open to share ideas and meeting some great people.

**Why should other youth get involved:** It is a great opportunity to meet new people and have an input into the youth influence around Southland.

**Why is it important for youth to have a voice in local government:** Giving the youth a voice in local government encourages people to stay in that region or return there as they see positive changes happening through the youth voice.

**What are your plans for the next year:** I am studying law at Otago University.

**Why are you proud to call Southland home:** Coming from a small town in a small district is something I am really proud of because it has meant I have earned my achievements rather than being assisted by living in a larger, richer province.

**Ultimate goal in life:** To succeed in my chosen field and find happiness in whatever I do.



## Olivia McMillan

**Age:** 18

**School:** Central Southland College

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

**What prompted you to get involved:** It seemed like a great opportunity to get involved in our real world problems.

**What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council:** Conversing with like-minded people and striving to make change.

**Why should other youth get involved:** It is a really great way to be involved with the community as well as meeting some great people along the way.



**Why is it important for youth to have a voice in local government:** As the youth of today we are the future. We will inevitably be taking over the roles of power so we need to start young to see the changes that we can make to benefit not only the community but the world.

**What are your plans for the next year:** I am working as an au pair around New Zealand which will lead to some overseas work in the future.

**Why are you proud to call Southland home:** Southland is all I've known my whole life. I grew up being a Southlander and it made me who I am today.

**Ultimate goal in life:** To find happiness whether it may be in the small changes or successes, or the big ones.

## Rebecca Burnett

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 senior students at school let us know there was an opportunity to get involved and have a say in some of the big changes in Southland. They made it sound very welcoming and fun, which it is.

**What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council:** Getting to meet students from other schools and hear their opinions about the topics we are discussing.

**Why should other youth get involved:** I have been encouraged by learning that my opinion holds value to the council and what we are advocating for now will show up in 10-20 years' time. Your values and opinions are invested back into your community. I've also enjoyed expanding my knowledge on what local government does. You may have a similar experience if you get involved!

**Why is it important for youth to have a voice in local government:** The decisions that are made now not only affect us immediately, but also 10-20 years into the future when the youth today will be adults living in local communities. Being in local government now sets us up well for a future in flourishing communities.

**What are your plans for the next year:** I am going up to Palmerston North to study a Bachelor of Veterinary Science at Massey.

**Why are you proud to call Southland home:** The beautiful scenery is unmatched and I love that everyone has a link to each other through family or friendship.

**Ultimate goal in life:** Keep Vine alive



## Bryce Dykes

Age: 18

School: Central Southland College

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

**What prompted you to get involved:** A passion for my own community, and trying to get younger Southlanders involved and interested in our community assets.

**What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council:** Actually seeing that our voices, opinions and ideas can make a difference and be implemented in our community.

**Why should other youth get involved:** Because it's a great opportunity to improve your skill set and improving the Southland district. Diversity is the key to everyone being heard and more youth in the SDC is crucial going forward.

**Why is it important for youth to have a voice in local government:** As we enter this decade, it is of utmost importance that the youth have their say in a community that we will either live in or return to as adults. As well as with the ever-changing battle with climate change, the Covid-19 pandemic and legislation facing our agriculture sector alike - having a voice amidst this is invaluable.

**What are your plans for the next year:** I plan to stay in Southland and try to continue to contribute to the SDC and SDC Youth Council, further my interest in sales and marketing and take a job at AutoWorldCars Invercargill as a salesperson, working towards a management position.

**Why are you proud to call Southland home:** Because we are a diverse, multicultural community that has a great lifestyle and opportunities for everyone, young and old, no matter your place in society.

**Ultimate goal in life:** Be successful and enjoy life along the way ... of course with a few nice cars!



## Emily Thomson

Age: 17

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 learn about local government and have a say on local issues around Southland.

**What have you enjoyed most about being on the Youth Council:** Learning what goes on behind the scenes in local government and talking with like-minded people about issues in the community.

**Why should other youth get involved:** It's a great opportunity to meet people, have your say and make your opinions heard.



**Why is it important for youth to have a voice in local government:** The decision being made now are going to have an impact on our lives in the future and we should have a say on what affects us.

**What are your plans for the next year:** Studying a Bachelor of Science majoring in astronomy, physics and mathematics at the University of Canterbury.

**Why are you proud to call Southland home:** I love the community feel and everyone's polite, positive attitudes. There's so many cool players within a short distance that we are so lucky to be able to have at our fingertips.

**Ultimate goal in life:** To be full self-sufficient and sustainable, enjoy what I do and make a difference in small communities around New Zealand.

# POOL FENCE, BEST DEFENCE

## KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE THIS SUMMER

**S**ummer is approaching and pool owners will be thinking about hot summer days spent relaxing in their cool pool.

Now's the time to check that your pool, spa pool or hot tub is going to keep children safe.

Southland District Council's building compliance team is aware of around 160 pools in the district. Initially the team recorded a 90% failure rate for pool safety barriers during inspections. Now it has come down marginally, to 66%, but that is still way too high.

"We're working with people to achieve compliance," says building compliance team leader Simon Tonkin.

"People think tragedy will never happen to them, but kids love water. It's a big attraction for them, and as we know it can lead to disaster.

"We're saying that owners need to do all they can to protect children from becoming another sad statistic."

Gates on pool fences are the main point of failure, he says. To be effective in protecting your children, gates must be self-closing and latch properly when released gently from any open position.

The gate must not be impeded by anything such as a hedge or other vegetation or uneven ground that would prevent it from swinging shut under its own momentum.

The latch must be at least 1500mm above

ground level.

The original guiding legislation is the Fencing and Swimming Pools Act 1987, which prescribed the rules for pool barriers.

The legislation was amended in 2017 to allow spa pools/hot tubs under five square metres that are a suitable height above the ground and which must have a lockable cover. If your spa pool /hot tub doesn't meet these criteria then it needs a fence around it, and you need a building consent for the fence.

Council is taking the approach that spa pool/hot tub owners will have one inspection to ensure their spa pool or hot tub is compliant, and then they will receive three-yearly followup letters to remind them about meeting their responsibilities.

"The inspection is to put them on the right track," Simon says. "After that, there's an assumption in the law and a level of trust that pool owners will do what's needed to protect children."

Pools with barriers are required to be inspected every three years.

"It doesn't matter whether the pool owners don't have children themselves. The rules are there to protect any children who may visit."

And it works. Compliance team member Adam Grice says the highest cause of drowning deaths for children

under five is domestic pools. Before the legislation came in in 1987, 30 kids under five drowned every year and more than 100 were hospitalised. Now it's an average of two children drowned per year and 10 hospitalised.

### KEY SAFETY MESSAGES FOR POOL OWNERS ARE:

- ▶ **Make sure you check your pool**
- ▶ **Make sure your pool fence gates swing closed and latch properly from any open position**
- ▶ **Keep trees, bushes or hedges around your pool fence trimmed back**
- ▶ **Make sure there is nothing around your fence, including pool furniture, that kids can climb up to get over your fence and into your pool**
- ▶ **Mechanical spa pool lid lifters are not compliant, so if you have one on your spa/hot tub you need to fence the pool area.**

# Up to code

WITH JULIE CONRADI



## Earthquake priority areas

The building compliance team is making good progress working through inspections of potentially earthquake-prone buildings in four priority townships in Southland district.

As a result of feedback received from the community we are focusing initially on Winton, Riverton, Otautau and Wyndham.

First up we completed inspections in the main streets of Winton and Otautau, and have sent out letters to building owners letting them know whether they need an engineer's report.

Inspections have followed in Wyndham and Riverton. The building compliance team hopes to have all inspections of these priority areas finished by January 2022, before we start on the rest of the district.

## BWoF forms

The building compliance team has been getting a lot of Building Warrant of Fitness (BWof) forms that have been filled out incorrectly, or incompletely.

Building Warrants of Fitness are written confirmation that a building's life safety systems are working correctly. Life safety systems (such as fire alarms and emergency lighting) are designed to enable the safe use of a building.

A building with specified life safety systems is issued a compliance schedule by Council, and the building owner must provide a BWof to Council every year. The two relevant editable forms can be downloaded from SDC's website. The owner must engage an IQP (independent qualified person) to carry out inspections on all the specified systems listed on the compliance schedule and fill out the forms.

SDC sends building owners a reminder letter each year, which includes information to help the owners fill out the forms.

They are available online here: [www.southlanddc.govt.nz/my-property/building-consent/bwof/](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz/my-property/building-consent/bwof/)

We receive 721 BWofS annually. Around 20% of those aren't completed correctly. It is important to note that since 1 July 2021 Council has been charging \$225 for non-compliance for late or incomplete filing of BWof forms.

Central government requires our building compliance staff to undertake audits on a five-year cycle. So if you own one of these buildings at some stage we'll be coming to see you.

If you're not sure whether your building is compliant, or have any other questions about your buildings compliance schedule, please give us a call on 0800 732 732.

## Talk to us

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

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

**We'd love to connect with you. Just give us a call on 0800 732 732 or email us on [building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz)**

## FOR ALL BUILDING INQUIRIES

**Please email us on [building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:building-cs@southlanddc.govt.nz).

# SMART LEARNING BEHIND THE WHEEL

Road Safety Southland is equipping young drivers to handle the unexpected on the road.

The organisation recently hosted the Street Smart driver training programme at Teretonga Park, near Invercargill, with 20 drivers put through their paces to learn vital skills behind the wheel.

“Learning to drive is a fun but risky business,” Road Safety Southland advisor Maureen Deuchrass says.

“The reality is road crashes are one of the leading causes of death and serious injury for our young people and we need to do everything we can to ensure our youth don’t become a tragic statistic.”

Street Smart is a world-class best practice cognitive-based driver programme which aims to positively influence the lives of young kiwis.

“We’ve joined forces with Street Smart to bring the programme south because we believe it is the best. The practical nature of the course delivers a truly hands-on experience where the driver learns how to react to dangerous



situations, all in a safe and controlled environment. It’s a unique approach and not just your traditional defensive driving course,” Maureen says.

The one-day event works with both the driver and their parent/caregiver, empowering them to be a better coach and mentor to their teen.

“Teaching your teen to drive can be a nerve-wracking time for some parents so it’s important they are included in the process.”

The programme focuses on developing good decision-making strategies for safe driving, including self-assessment and learning, reading the road environment, resisting peer pressure, managing or eliminating distractions, and planning ahead.

Learner driver Mikah Buchanan, 18, relished the chance to experience the different driving scenarios and hone her reaction skills.

“Slamming on the brakes in an emergency can be pretty scary so it was great to be able to do it in a

controlled way and really learn how the car is going to react,” she said.

“I got to experience situations I haven’t faced in my driving journey yet – even getting pulled up by the police and breath tested.

“I could feel my confidence behind the wheel growing as I completed each station and it was really beneficial as I learn to drive. The coaches were fantastic and I learned so much which I can now put into practice.”

Participants completed 10 stations during the event, including emergency braking, crash avoidance, safe following distances, low-speed manoeuvring such as reversing and intersection techniques.

Road Safety Southland was committed to providing opportunities for Southland drivers to enhance their driving skills and awareness.

“Our absolute focus is to educate and increase awareness because ultimately it can be life-saving on our roads,” Maureen said.



Mikah Buchanan



# VIRTUAL TOUR FOR SOUTHLAND STUDENTS

The Share the Road initiative is synonymous with the Tour of Southland every year and eagerly anticipated by school students throughout the district.

When Covid-19 restrictions threatened to impact the 2021 edition, organisers got creative to ensure kids could still connect with New Zealand’s greatest cycling race.

The inaugural WOW Road Safety Southland Virtual Tour became a reality.

“We had to change tack, so we pivoted,” road safety advisor Maureen Deuchrass said.

Share the Road was a major sponsor of this cycling team in the recent SBS Bank Tour of Southland.

“It was really important to us that the kids got to be involved with the tour in some capacity while also reinforcing the vital safety messages associated with Share the Road.”

Road Safety Southland joined forces with Mee & Henry Law and Ricoh Southland to deliver the virtual tour. The concept was simple: Schools organised teams or syndicates and “WOW for our Wellbeing” the equivalent distance riders’ cycle in the SBS Bank Tour of Southland – a whopping 870km.

What does it mean to WOW? Use your feet – walk, run or play some games – or your wheels – scooter, skates, skateboard, bikes or trikes (not motorised) – for your wellbeing.

The virtual event took place from 29 October to 12 November 2021. While the cyclists did the hard mahi around the region, students clocked up regular exercise sessions and added it all together to count towards the total distance.

“It was fantastic to see the schools embrace it with students getting out and being creatively active,” Maureen says.



# TRUSTEES CONFIRMED FOR AROUND THE MOUNTAINS CYCLE TRAIL

**T**he inaugural trustees have been appointed to govern the Around the Mountains Cycle Trail.

Early this year Southland District Council approved the formation of a trust for the trail – a 186km journey, which is one of 22 certified Great Rides in New Zealand. It travels from Walter Peak to Kingston, or reverse, and has attracted over 3000 cyclists during the recent summer season.

In August the foundation trustees were appointed. They are Rex Carter, Andrew Cameron, Gene Marsh and Garth Milicich, who are joined by SDC councillor Christine Menzies and Great South appointment Nicola Wills.

Trail manager Susan Mackenzie said the formation of a trust would ensure the trail continued to evolve and truly reach its potential.

**“It’s great to have such high-calibre people on the trust who bring a range of skills and experience.**

“They include legal and governance experience, a local farmer whose property boundary is the cycle trail and a cycle trail operator who provides bike hire, transport, and bike tours.

“Great South’s involvement will bring marketing and regional development expertise. Together with their enthusiasm for cycling and the trail, it will be another cog in the wheel to get things cranking.”

The trust structure sees Council retain ownership of the asset and all associated intellectual property, together with responsibility for asset management and maintenance.

Responsibilities of the trust will be focused on the user experience, partnership with commercial operators, marketing and new project development.

The trust initiative was first mooted following a visit from the New Zealand Cycle Trails board in September last year.

“Successful trails throughout New Zealand operate with a trust established for governance which has improved the user experience and resulted in greater involvement from the community,” Ms Mackenzie said.

“It also unlocks additional funding streams not available to councils which could have a positive impact on the development of the trail itself and ultimately the communities along it as a flow-on effect.”

Around the Mountains Cycle Trail trust chair Nicola Wills



# Mobile Library Timetable



Dec 2021 - May 2022								
Athol	Shop	Noon-1pm	Tues		15-Feb	15-Mar	12-Apr	10-May
Balfour	Tavern	4.00-5.00pm	Tues	7-Dec	1-Feb	1-Mar	29-Mar	26-Apr
	Tavern	1.30-3.00pm	Thurs		17-Feb	17-Mar	14-Apr	12-May
Blackmount	Wairaki Stn	11.30am-12.15pm	Mon		14-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr	9-May
Dacre	Hall	9.00-10.00am	Fri	10-Dec	4-Feb	4-Mar	1-Apr	29-Apr
Dipton	School	11.00am-Noon	Tues	7-Dec	1-Feb	1-Mar	29-Mar	26-Apr
Drummond	School	10.30am-Noon	Wed	8-Dec	2-Feb	2-Mar	30-Mar	27-Apr
Edendale	Car park	1.00-4.00pm	Fri		18-Feb	18-Mar	*	13-May
	School	10.30am-Noon	Fri	10-Dec	4-Feb	4-Mar	1-Apr	29-Apr
Fortrose	Picnic Area	3.00-4.00pm	Fri	10-Dec	4-Feb	4-Mar	1-Apr	29-Apr
Garston	School	1.30-2.30pm	Tues		15-Feb	15-Mar	12-Apr	10-May
	Village	2.30-3.30pm	Tues		15-Feb	15-Mar	12-Apr	10-May
Glenham	School	1.00-2.00pm	Fri	10-Dec	4-Feb	4-Mar	1-Apr	29-Apr
Gorge Rd	Hall	11am-12.30pm	Tues	14-Dec	8-Feb	8-Mar	5-Apr	3-May
Hauroko Valley	School	1.00-1.30pm	Mon		14-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr	9-May
Heddon Bush	School	1.30-2.30pm	Wed	8-Dec	2-Feb	2-Mar	30-Mar	27-Apr
Hedgehope	School	11am-12.30pm	Fri	3-Dec	28-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	22-Apr
Hillside School	School	9.15am-10.15am	Thurs	2-Dec	27-Jan	24-Feb	24-Mar	21-Apr
Invercargill	SDC Office	9.30-11.30am	Thurs	16-Dec	10-Feb	10-Mar	7-Apr	5-May
Limehills	School	1.30pm-2.30pm	Thurs	2-Dec	27-Jan	24-Feb	24-Mar	21-Apr
Longbush	Kindergarten	9.00-10.00am	Fri		18-Feb	18-Mar	*	13-May
Mossburn	RSA	9.30-10.30am	Tues		15-Feb	15-Mar	12-Apr	10-May
	School	1.30-3.00pm	Tues	7-Dec	1-Feb	1-Mar	29-Mar	26-Apr
Nightcaps	Johnston Rd	9.30-10.30am	Mon		14-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr	9-May
Ohai	Com Centre	11am-Noon	Thurs	2-Dec	27-Jan	24-Feb	24-Mar	21-Apr
Orepuki	Main St	3.00-4.00pm	Mon		14-Feb	14-Mar	11-Apr	9-May
Otara	Hall	2.30-4.00pm	Wed	15-Dec	9-Feb	9-Mar	6-Apr	4-May
Pukerau	School	9.30-11.30am	Wed		16-Feb	16-Mar	13-Apr	11-May
Rimu	School	10.30-11.30am	Fri		18-Feb	18-Mar	*	13-May
Riversdale	Com Centre	11am-12.30pm	Thurs		17-Feb	17-Mar	14-Apr	12-May
	Com Centre	2.00pm-4pm	Thurs	9-Dec	3-Feb	3-Mar	31-Mar	28-Apr
Riverton	BUPA Village	2.00-4.00pm	Thurs	16-Dec	10-Feb	10-Mar	7-Apr	5-May
Roslyn Bush	Playcentre	9.15-10.00am	Tues	14-Dec	8-Feb	8-Mar	5-Apr	3-May
Ryal Bush	Com Centre	2.30-4.00pm	Fri	3-Dec	28-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	22-Apr
Te Tipua	School	9.30-10.30am	Fri	3-Dec	28-Jan	25-Feb	25-Mar	22-Apr
Thornbury	School	1.00-2.00pm	Wed	1-Dec	26-Jan	23-Feb	23-Mar	20-Apr
Tokenui	Main St	1.30-4.00pm	Fri	17-Dec	11-Feb	11-Mar	8-Apr	6-May
	School	9.30-11am	Mon	6-Dec	31-Jan	28-Feb	28-Mar	*
Waianiwa	Hall	3.00-4.00pm	Wed	1-Dec	26-Jan	23-Feb	23-Mar	20-Apr
Waikaia	School	9.00-10.30am	Thurs		17-Feb	17-Mar	14-Apr	12-May
	Com Centre	10.15-11.30am	Thurs	9-Dec	3-Feb	3-Mar	31-Mar	28-Apr
Waikaka	Com Centre	2.00-4.00pm	Wed		16-Feb	16-Mar	13-Apr	11-May
Waikawa	Hall	10am-Noon	Fri	17-Dec	11-Feb	11-Mar	8-Apr	6-May
Waimahaka	Hall	11.30am-1.00pm	Wed	15-Dec	9-Feb	9-Mar	6-Apr	4-May
Wallacetown	Com Centre	9.00am-10.00am	Wed	1-Dec	26-Jan	23-Feb	23-Mar	20-Apr
	School	10.10am-11.30am	Thurs	9-Dec	26-Jan	23-Feb	23-Mar	20-Apr
Wendon	Hall	Noon-12.30pm	Thurs	9-Dec	3-Feb	3-Mar	31-Mar	28-Apr
Wendonside	Hall	9.30-10.00am	Tues	14-Dec	3-Feb	3-Mar	31-Mar	28-Apr
Woodlands	Shop	2.00-4.00pm	Mon	6-Dec	8-Feb	8-Mar	5-Apr	3-May
	School	2.00-4.00pm			31-Jan	28-Feb	28-Mar	25-Apr

\* denotes public holidays

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



# Barriers to EV uptake in Southland can be overcome, survey results show



**R**ange anxiety, cost, battery lifespan and environmental concerns around replacement are the main reasons Southlanders have been slow to make the move to electric vehicles, a study commissioned by Great South shows.

With Southland's EV ownership one of the lowest per capita of all regions in New Zealand, the study was undertaken to identify barriers to help influence future uptake.

A total of 1000 survey responses were received, 75% of those were from individuals, while 25% were from self-employed or businesses.

Great South strategic projects group manager Stephen Canny said business respondents further noted towing ability and need for off-road vehicle

options as barriers to uptake.

"By then prices would likely drop with an increase in production and competition," Mr Canny said.

"There are certainly challenges for Southland around the transition from petrol and diesel vehicles to EV but a number of leading manufacturers are now producing SUV and 4WD utilities ideally suited to both the agricultural and commercial sectors, which should be available from 2023.

## New Southland events calendar will support organisers of key events

Bobbi Brown



**G**reat South is excited to announce the launch of the **You Won't Want to Miss Southland Events calendar** on its promotional website [southlandnz.com](https://southlandnz.com)

The digital calendar features 34 of Southland's community, regional, special interest and premier



“Farm bikes and side-by-side utility terrain vehicles are already available in Southland and their use is increasing.”

The New Zealand government is encouraging a move to EVs as part of its drive towards a net-zero emissions economy, and part way through the survey collection, announced a rebate scheme to encourage EV purchase.

EV uptake is also one of the options identified in the Net Zero Southland Report, which would help Southland reach net zero before 2050.

The study showed having previously driven an EV increased the likelihood that a respondent would consider an EV.

Mr Canny said many of the areas of concern, such as around battery life, range and upfront cost, were already being addressed by manufacturers and industry groups.

“Batteries are often under warranty for five to eight years, with an expected lifespan of up to 15 years, so the total

cost can often still work out cheaper than owning a petrol or diesel vehicle.”

Great South plans to use these findings to develop projects to address and overcome the key barriers and concerns.

individual events by season, identified by Great South as attracting visitors to Southland.

Great South group manager tourism and events Bobbi Brown said this couldn't have come at a better time to support event organisers and promote Southland as a vibrant event destination.

“We've got so much on our doorstep giving Kiwis a reason to visit Southland any time of the year - from vintage biplane fly-ins to craft beer festivals, and popular family adventures to oyster shucking.

Event organisers have played a role in developing their web page content

over the past 16 months, which include video content, images and written content in a storytelling form to share the look, feel, taste and smell of each event.

The reason Southland had such successful events was because of its event organisers – many of them volunteers – and this was a way to support them, Mrs Brown said.

“People often don't realise how much work goes on behind the scenes to deliver events and Southland is fortunate to have passionate people who do this and who have also had a bit of a rocky road dealing with Covid-19 in recent times.”

Events were one of the main reasons people were travelling at the moment, Mrs Brown said.

“This events calendar is an ideal way to attract Kiwis to Southland and at the same time showcase the entire region, the Southland way of life and southern hospitality.”

Great South would continue to support the longevity of Southland's key destination events and over time more regional events would be added to the calendar.

The project is part of the Southland Murihiku Events Strategy 2020-2025 and was implemented with funding from the government's Strategic Tourism Assets Protection Programme funding.

Find the events calendar at:

[southlandnz.com/events/southland-events](https://southlandnz.com/events/southland-events)

**“It's amazing how many different events we have, all of which share a little bit of our Southland story.”**

# SHORT STUFF

## Tour of Southland

Southland district councillor John Douglas did the honours at the end of stage two of the 2021 SBS Bank Tour of Southland, handing over the prize to stage winner Michael Vink, of the Transport Engineering Southland-Talley's team. Southland District Council was the proud sponsor of this epic, 172km slog from Invercargill to Lumsden. Michael Vink went on to win the Tour of Southland for the third time, 3min 32sec ahead of Luke Mudgway, with Logan Currie third overall.



## Banking a win!

Southland ratepayer Hamish MacPherson is presented with a \$300 gift voucher from Dave Anderson, Westpac's relationship manager - institutional and business banking.

Hamish was the winning ratepayer in our recent prize draw.

All Southland District Council ratepayers who set up both email and direct debit to manage their rates by 27 August 2021 were automatically placed in the draw to win courtesy of Westpac - with a total of 1770 eligible entries.



## RECYCLING TIP

After reading information about what can and can't go into a yellow recycling bin in the August copy of First Edition, Peter Johnstone of Wyndham wrote to us with the following comments and a handy tip. Thanks, Peter.

"I understood [the article] to say that plastic bottles should be a) washed out, yet dry, b) the lids/caps taken off and c) the bottle rings (tamper seals) removed.

"I had always understood that one simply screwed the plastic top on. So now I am told differently.

"Setting the lids aside is not difficult, but how does one remove a tamper seal? To not do so would make "mixed" plastic, and may not recycle.

"Coca-Cola, soft drink bottles and orange juice bottles etc have a tamper seal that does not readily come off ...

"I found my solution: to cut the tamper-seal ring around the neck of the bottle with my secateurs."



# DOG OWNERS BEWARE

**- signs don't prevent liability in an attack**

**C**ouncil advises dog owners that warning signs displayed at properties throughout Southland do not prevent them from being held liable in the event of a dog attack.

Environmental health manager Michael Sarfaiti said it was important dog owners in the district understood that, even if they displayed signs with messages such as 'beware of the dog' or 'enter at your own risk', they could still be considered legally liable if their dog attacked a person or animal that came onto their property.



## MICROCHIPPING TIMETABLE

AREA	DEC	JAN	FEB	MARCH
Invercargill Office (car park)	Wednesday, 8th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 9th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Otautau Office (at rear)	Tuesday, 7th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 15th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Lumsden Railway (at rear)	None	Wednesday, 12th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Wednesday, 9th 11.30 – 12 noon
Riverton Office	None	Tuesday, 11th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Tuesday, 8th 11.30 – 12 noon
Winton (opposite SDC Office)	Thursday, 9th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 10th 11.30 – 12 noon	None
Te Anau Office (at rear)	None	Thursday, 13th 11.30 – 12 noon	None	Thursday, 10th 11.30 – 12 noon
Wyndham Office (at rear)	None	Tuesday 15th 2.00 – 2.30 pm	None	Tuesday 13th 2.00 – 2.30 pm

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



# CHRISTMAS HOURS

## SDC SUMMER OFFICE AND LIBRARY HOURS:

Like everyone else, we are looking forward to a cracking great summer in the south. Given the uncertainty around the proposed Covid-19 traffic light system at the time of print, we are unable to confirm operating hours for our branch offices and libraries at this stage.

Please head to our SDC Facebook page or online at [www.southlanddc.govt.nz](http://www.southlanddc.govt.nz) for updated information.

## SDC SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME UPDATE

We are working with the team at Active Southland with the aim of having our annual SDC Summer Holiday Programme in January. Keep an eye on our SDC Facebook page for more information.

## STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

DATES	HOURS OF OPERATION
Friday 24 December 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 1pm
Saturday 25 December 2021	Closed
Sunday 26 December 2021	Closed
Monday 27 December 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 1pm (business run)
Tuesday 28 December 2021	Closed
Wednesday 29 December 2021	Closed (Collection day)
Thursday 30 December 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm (normal hours)
Friday 31 December 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 1pm
Saturday 1 January 2021	Closed
Sunday 2 January 2021	Closed
Monday 3 January 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 1pm (business run)
Tuesday 4 January 2021	Closed
Wednesday 5 January 2021	Closed (Collection day)
Thursday 6 January 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm (normal hours)
Friday 7 January 2021	OPEN 9.30am to 4.30pm (normal hours)

## WHEELIE BIN DATES - CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR 2021/2022

Collection days will be the normal days ie, 27-31 December 2021 and 3-7 January 2022.

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](http://wastenet.org.nz) - Please note transfer stations now take eftpos.

Recycling stations around the district, for instance at Te Anau Mossburn Highway, are looked after by Bond Contracts, any problems contact **0800 732732**.

# 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](http://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](http://southlanddc.govt.nz/cpf).

## District Heritage Fund

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

## Creative Communities

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

Applications close 31 March and 30 September.



## Sport NZ – Rural Travel Fund

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

Applications close 31 March and 30 September.



## District Initiatives Fund

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

## SDC Scholarships/ Bursaries

### Centennial Bursary

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



### SDC Eric Hawkes Memorial Outward Bound Scholarship

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

### Valmai Robertson Arts Scholarship

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



## Other opportunities

### Northern Southland Development Fund

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

### Stewart Island/Rakiura Visitor Levy Fund

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

### Ohai Railway Fund

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

### John Beange Fund

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

## Contact us



All offices: **0800 732 732**

District libraries: **0800 732 542**



**0800 732 329**

**[sdc@southlanddc.govt.nz](mailto:sdc@southlanddc.govt.nz)**

**[southlanddc.govt.nz](http://southlanddc.govt.nz)**

# TARAMEA BAY getting makeover



**Phase one of the Taramea Bay redevelopment is well under way with the area looking great for summer.**

Work started in mid-November and is now nearing completion thanks to a sterling effort from local Riverton contractor Mennie's Mini Dig Limited, which was awarded the tender.

Work will take a temporary break over the summer period to allow public access and is scheduled to restart in mid-January.

In conjunction with the Oraka Aparima Community Board, Southland District Council has committed to

proactively investing in the future of this recreational asset by developing both the adventure space at the Pilot Reserve and the connection to the wider Taramea Bay foreshore area.

The first stage of this exciting project features an upgraded walkway, the installation of a loop road near the mound and car park extensions to create two dedicated spaces. The scope included the addition of post and rope fencing spanning 700m along the track between the main Taramea Bay playground and the Pilot Reserve.

The mound has been prepared to enable further development, including the addition of play outcomes to be

completed in phase two.

Revamping this area for the enjoyment of the Riverton Aparima community and the wider Southland district, our focus is to create a connected journey from one end of Taramea Bay to the other, transforming it into a destination where memories are created along the shoreline.

From barbecues and shelters to activities, if you have any further feedback on what you would like to see here simply chat to your community board members, drop it in the suggestions box at SDC's Riverton office or visit our online engagement platform [www.makeitstick.nz](http://www.makeitstick.nz)

**Make it stick  
SOUTHLAND**