

# EnviroSOUTH

April 2018

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environment  
**SOUTHLAND**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Te Taiao Tonga

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## EnviroSOUTH

Envirosouth is published three times a year by Environment Southland. It is delivered to every household in the region. We welcome your comments on anything published in this magazine.

### Contact Us

Cnr North Rd & Price St, Invercargill  
(03) 211 5115 | 0800 76 88 45  
service@es.govt.nz | www.es.govt.nz  
www.facebook.com/enviroSouthland

### Cover

Biocontrol contractor Jesse Bythell with Bernie and Grant Weller, who have established a green thistle beetle nursery on their Waimea Valley property. (Story page 16)



About now, our Long-term Plan 2018-2028 consultation document will be landing in your mail box.

It sets out the council's priorities, work programmes and budgets for the next 10 years with specific emphasis on the next three years. Managing the use of natural resources is a long-term business and we have looked much further ahead than what we are required to do, to help us plan wisely for the shorter term.

As you will see, our key priorities include water and community resilience. Meeting these challenges will require all of us to actively invest in Southland through our decisions and actions. For the council it will mean working with you in your communities, in partnerships with others, making efficiencies, and ensuring funding sources are fair and equitable. As a result we have given our fees and charges an overhaul and a separate proposal outlining the changes is currently also out for public consultation until early May.

Both documents are available on our website [es.govt.nz](http://es.govt.nz), or from our offices in Invercargill.

**Nicol Horrell**, Chairman, Environment Southland



This year, more than ever, we want to engage in conversation with Southlanders and work with people to make positive changes on the ground.

We know community expectations are changing and that central government expects us to move more quickly to implement change, particularly when it comes to initiatives to improve freshwater quality.

This will affect all of us and the way we live and work. That's why we really need you involved in the process. We saw many people do just that at our site at the Southern Field Days at Waimumu in February, where we asked: what's important to you for Southland?

The insights will be really helpful for understanding our communities and we'll be looking to engage even further during the year as the People, Water and Land programme gets into full swing.

**Rob Phillips**, Chief Executive, Environment Southland

## Environment Southland



*A vibrant organisation actively enhancing the experience of living and working in a sustainable Southland.*



▲ Former Winton Kindergarten pupils Ashar Sinclair, 5 (left) and Isla Langford, 5 with a 'doggy doo' bin featuring their artwork.

# Kindy art features on dog bins

A group of Winton Kindergarten children are using art to remind dog walkers to do the right thing with doggy doo.

Environment Southland engineering technician Robin Wilson sniffed out an opportunity for some young Southlanders to get arty when four new 'doggy doo' bins were installed on the council's Invercargill flood bank walkways.

The bins are a sign of how successful the flood bank walkways are, he says.

One resident near the Waihopai River walkway counted more than 200 people coming and going along the flood bank in an hour early one morning, Robin says.

"The walkways are getting more and more recreational use with people running, walking, biking and walking their dogs."

The bins improve the facilities for users and encourage less vigilant dog walkers to be responsible.

Last year Kindergartens South senior teacher Pam Wilson put out a call for kindergartens interested in producing art for the bins.

Winton Kindergarten put their hand up, and four pupils set about creating a masterpiece.

Pam says the project fitted neatly with Kindergartens South's philosophies around sustainability.

The children – Isla Langford, Cody Turoa, Ashar Sinclair and Luiza Frew – are all at school now, and were delighted to hear their art will feature on the bins.

Winton Kindergarten teacher Christina Vaughan says the kindy has a very strong ecological and environmental focus.

"They're the next generation of advocates."

The bins were a great opportunity for the children to see their work included as part of a proactive approach to supporting dog walkers and others who use the walkways.

Environment Southland owns and maintains flood protection schemes across Southland, which are designed to protect property, lives and livelihoods.



# A guiding hand in Southland's landscape

When Gary Morgan travels around Southland, he sees the landscape through a slightly different lens to most.

Environment Southland's longstanding principal land sustainability officer retired in March after a stellar career, which has helped shape the modern Southland region.

"One of the great things about this job is that you can drive around Southland and say that you were involved in the plan for that farmer there, and now there are these magnificent-looking trees growing, and you know you have had a hand in it. That's a real buzz."

Gary started out with the Southland Catchment Board, Environment Southland's predecessor, in 1974, as an assistant soil conservator. He jumped the fence into the private sector for a while, developing horticultural peat bogs, then grew tomatoes, before returning to the Catchment Board in 1987.

"We did close to 800 soil erosion, wind-break, tree planting plans, on properties on friable light soils in the northern parts of Southland, which are prone to wind erosion under cultivation."



◀ Retired Environment Southland principal land sustainability officer Gary Morgan at one of his favourite spots – the Waihopai Dam, near Invercargill, with its flood protection banks, native plantings and wetland areas.

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“I’ve become very good friends with a lot of landowners and worked with a lot of the agencies over the years. It’s been a great journey.” **Gary Morgan**

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Gary says Southlanders are a good bunch. No farm wants to lose their soil, which is the capital of their business. So, if you can provide some ideas and suggestions about how to maintain soil health and prevent it washing away, you can have some influence.

He says he is most proud of the high regard the land sustainability team is held in by the rural sector.

When he’s not admiring Southland’s trees, you might bump into Gary on a canal boat in Europe – looking at closed canopy European forestry. Over there, trees are of different ages, and they fell them individually and cart them out.

He is looking forward to spending more time with his wife Suzette, who retired from her district nursing role last year, and their three children. He’ll have his hands full looking after their five hectare lifestyle block, where he plans to grow a few trees for community planting initiatives.

Gary also has a small forestry block at Pourakino, which will keep him busy with some harvesting due in the next few months. There might even be time for some tramping, and getting to a few music gigs.

Many of the trees in the Te Anau Basin, Five Rivers and through the Waimea Plains were planned by council soil conservators and Gary planted his fair share of them.

“I love Southland, and in this job you get to know it well, in all its moods.

“I think it’s just about a love of the land. I was born in Southland and I’ve lived here all my life, and it’s a pretty good place to be.”

He refers to “putting a fence around the Takitimu’s” as if it’s something achieved on a quiet afternoon.

A lot of his time has been spent working one-on-one with farmers, drawing up farm environmental plans, which focus more and more on soil health and biodiversity, and particularly water quality.

He’s been quite involved in the practical, on-the-ground aspects of the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan.

“I’ve become very good friends with a lot of landowners and worked with a lot of the agencies over the years. It’s been a great journey.”

# Community effort to improve air quality



▲ Winton Community Board chairman Brian Somerville checks out the air quality monitoring station at Centennial Park.

## Deb Wattes reckons she wouldn't trade clean air for anything.

She and husband Warren have transformed their 1950s Winton villa, taking out two fireplaces and installing a heat pump and ventilation system, double-glazing, plus underfloor, ceiling and wall insulation.

"We're covered in a blanket," Deb says.

The couple, who moved to Winton in 2011 for the climate and lifestyle, say smoke in winter is smelly and irritating.

"It does annoy me a little bit because we've done our best and then you get pollution you can't control," she says.

They are supportive of clean air incentives – and say the investment is more than worth it in terms of long-term savings – financial, physical and emotional.

Deb, who has asthma and chronic pain, says the improvements they've made to their home have made a huge difference.

"You just press a button and it's clean air. I wouldn't trade that for anything," she says.

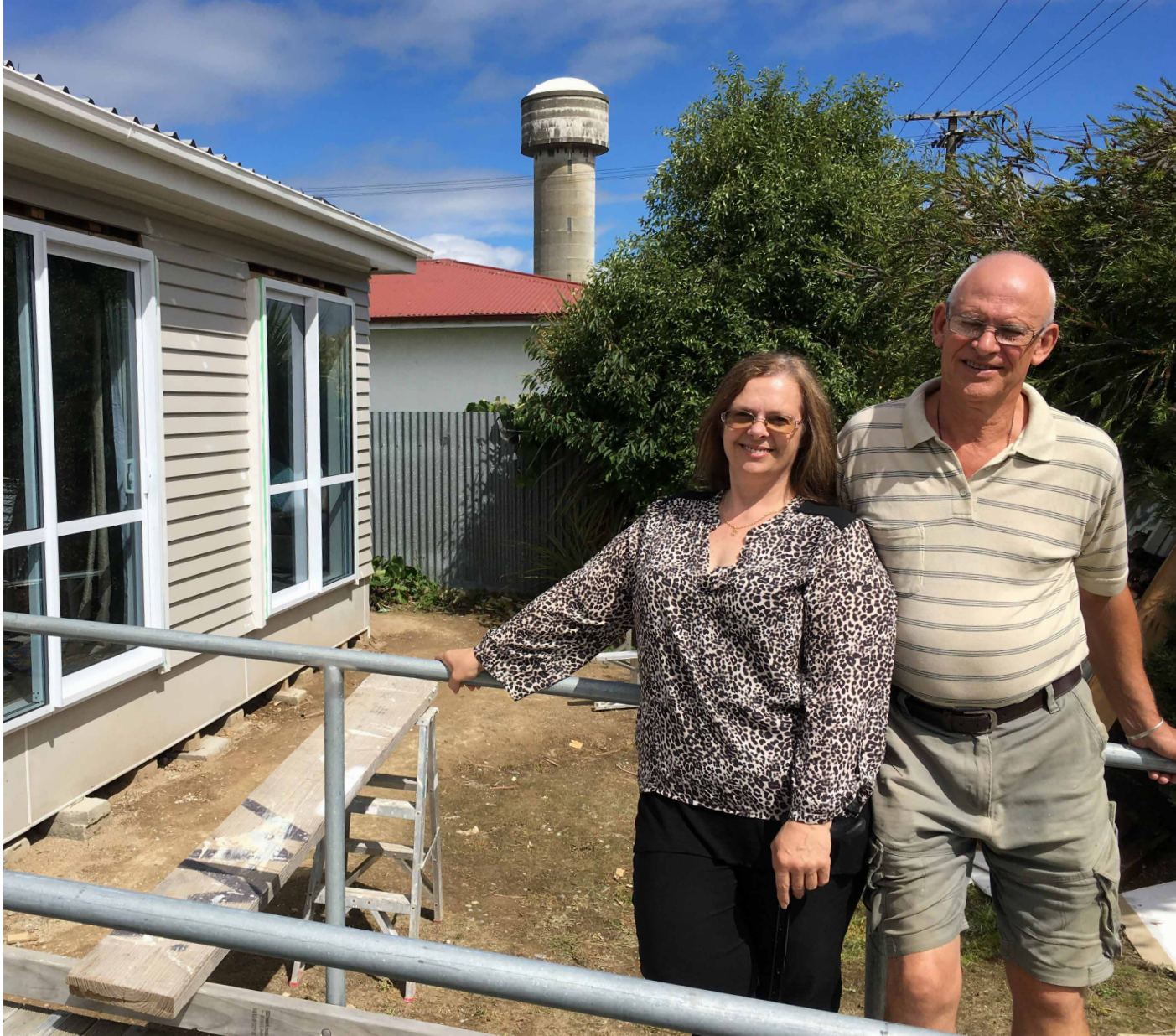
Environment Southland monitoring has shown that Winton has come close to breaching the National Environmental

Standards for Air Quality. If Winton did breach the standards, then a potential consequence could be new rules, such as those in place for Gore and Invercargill.

In August, Winton residents were surveyed on air quality by the Southland District Council. The survey, which had 207 respondents, found solid support for action to reduce smoke pollution.

Three out of four respondents supported some action being taken to reduce smoke pollution in Winton.

Environment Southland air quality scientist Owen West says while air quality in Winton is fairly stable, no-one wants it to get any worse.



▲ Deb and Warren Wattes love the Winton lifestyle and climate.

“It’s good that the Community Board up there has been fairly vocal and proactive. It’s been very positive to see.”

Winton Community Board chairman Brian Somerville says the town’s climate is very consistent but standards and expectations have changed and people are not willing to put up with poor air quality.

“Here we’ve got an opportunity to take action while we’re on the cusp.”

The air quality survey was excellent, with a lot of positivity around suggested initiatives, Brian says.

“It’s obviously important to people. They get hacked off with smoke getting through their washing on the line.”

People don’t like breathing in unnecessary or excessive smoke around their properties, or when out walking or running. The fact netball courts, rugby

**“People don’t like breathing in unnecessary or excessive smoke around their properties, or when out walking or running. The fact netball courts, rugby grounds, the skate park and schools are within one of the worst smoke affected areas was another incentive to tackle the issue.”** **Brian Somerville**

grounds, the skate park and schools are within one of the worst smoke affected areas was another incentive to tackle the issue, he says.

There were lots of options for people who wanted to take action, including advice and assistance around insulation and the

district council’s free building consents for new wood burners in the Winton urban area, Somerville says.

“It’s got to be teamwork, both Southland District Council and Environment Southland have to have buy-in.”

Environment Southland offers several clean air initiatives including the Good Wood scheme for approved firewood sellers and Clean Air Loans to replace non-compliant burners in the Invercargill and Gore airsheds.

## More info

More on clean air initiatives can be found at [BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz](http://BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz)

# Achieving the best for Southland

It's the actions of Southlanders on the ground that'll bring real change to water quality. The proposed Southland Water and Land Plan was publicly notified on 4 April, after Environment Southland councillors adopted the hearing panel's final recommendations.

It's been a three-year pathway of public engagement and statutory procedures including 947 public submissions and 26 days of public hearings.

Environment Southland chairman Nicol Horrell says it has been a big process.

"We've been very aware that we need to listen to people and take things on board. The input of many people through the submissions process was a significant factor in producing a clearer, more sensible and practical plan."

He is grateful to everybody who has been involved, whether it's been through submitting, speaking to the panel or coming to one of the drop-in sessions.

The regulations in the new plan aim to halt any further decline in water quality





by managing the activities we know can have a negative impact, such as land intensification, cultivation, urban discharges and the wintering of livestock. It provides a platform in the continuing journey to look after Southland's water quality and quantity, but is only a first step. It's what comes next that's crucial, says Nicol.

"Doing things on the ground is hugely important because that's what changes water quality. We appreciate that for individuals, communities and businesses, changing the way you do things isn't easy."

We're keen to work alongside people to get things happening that'll make a difference to water quality at all levels—individual, organisational, city and catchment, he says.

As we work together to improve Southland's water quality, the big question we can all ask ourselves is, 'what can I do now in my patch that'll make it easier and better for the future?'

Nicol says adopting good management practices is going to be important in getting the improvements in water quality that we all want to see.

"We believe that the real gains will come from everyone playing a part, changing what they do and taking responsibility for the decisions they make."

It's here the rubber hits the road as we work to implement the plan. The plan provides the regulatory foundation for Environment Southland's wider People, Water and Land programme. People, Water and Land is an integrated programme of regulation (including the setting of limits), and on-the-ground action that will require people, businesses and organisations to significantly change the way they manage land and water.

Nicol says the overall goal is to harness the combined resources, skills and knowledge of Southland's people and industries, as together we look to the future to improve Southland's water quality.

"We've detected quite a mindset change as we've moved through this process. We've all got to understand more about the issues facing Southland in relation to water quality and water takes."

"I'm very conscious that we need to keep talking and listening to each other as we work together to improve water quality and achieve a thriving Southland in the future."

## First steps: What does the plan mean for you?

Getting to grips with new ways of doing things takes time.

Now is a good time to get to know your land and operations better and understand more about what you might need to do, as we implement the plan to improve Southland's water quality over the next few years.

For a summary of what the proposed Southland Water and Land Plan policies and rules could mean for your operation, download Exploring the New Plan from the website or pick up a copy from our offices.

On our website you'll also find more in-depth information. This includes information like what physiographic zone your land is in, consent information, what a farm management plan looks like, good farm management practices, and details about plan policies and rules.

Contact the consents team at Environment Southland on 0800 76 88 45 for more specific advice on consent requirements.



# Southern Field Days

## Waimumu - Gore

In February, our councillors and staff joined thousands of others at the Southern Field Days at Waimumu. It was a fantastic three days and our site was visited by hundreds of people who took the opportunity to share their thoughts with us, ask questions and have some great conversations.

We were asking, “What’s important to you about Southland?” and we quickly discovered that the answers to this question were extremely varied, but there were many common themes running through.

We really appreciated those who took the time to share stories and ideas for a thriving Southland. There will be more opportunities to take part in the discussion about how we address some of the challenges of managing our natural resources, so keep an eye out for details.

In the meantime, here’s a very small selection of some of the postcard comments we collected at Waimumu.



“ **Seaward Downs** is important to me because that’s where family lives and where our farm is located.

**Curio Bay** is important to me because it is such a unique area with awesome landscape and the wildlife is wonderful. It should be protected and preserved.

**Lochiel** is important to me because we are moving to the family farm 5th generation, and care about the land and community.

“

**Pomona Island** is important to me because volunteers are working to make it pest-free.

**Woodlands/Morton Mains** is important to me because it is our home farm, we love to keep our farm and environment clean, green and sustainable.

”



“

**Aparima River**, near Nightcaps is important to be because it is where most of my memories of outdoor recreation are, it is where I learnt to hunt, fish and where I still go to swim and 4WD with friends.

**Oreti River** is important to be because it supplies water for the city.

**Waituna Lagoon** is important to me because it is our opportunity to prove environmental, Maori, agriculture and community values can all be protected together.

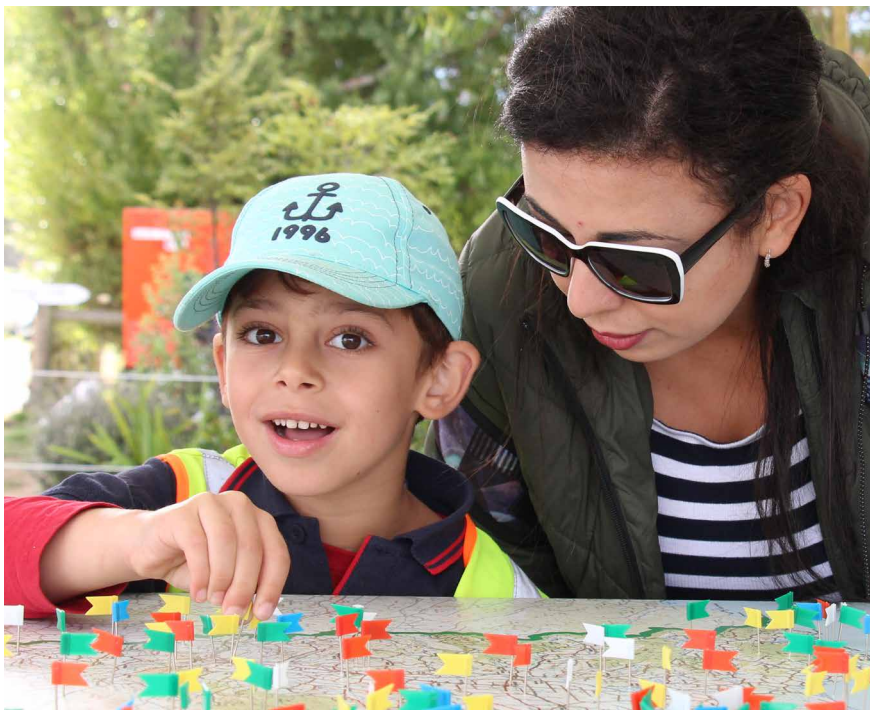
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**Bluecliffs, Waiau Mouth** is important to me because we go floundering here. What better way to harvest a nice fish and be with nature.

”





“

**Colac Bay Rocks** is important to me because we collect our kai moana there.

**Fortrose** is important to me because it is a food source and a beautiful recreational area. We holiday, ride, boat, water ski, swim, fish, gather kai moana there.

**Riverton** is important to me because it's where we have family time and every day the sea shows us something new and amazing.

”



▲ Councillor Jeremy McPhail was a last-minute addition to the shearing competition.

“

**Southland/NZ** is all important to me because it provides hunting, fishing and a huge array of opportunity for my family to enjoy.

**River water quality** is important to me because I rely on it for my fly fishing guiding business.

”





▲ The VHF channel 18 repeater site situated on Mt Clerke, Resolution Island, Dusky Sound.

# VHF project vital link for Fiordland boaties

Getting access to help in an emergency just got easier for boaties in Fiordland, with the completion of the second stage of a VHF project.

Harbourmaster Lyndon Cleaver says communications in the most remote areas of Fiordland have always been difficult and expanding the VHF network has been a challenging exercise.

“Obviously we are trying to improve communications in very remote areas, but that also means getting equipment and expertise to set things up into those remote spots, which presents a number of challenges.”

The project, led by Environment Southland, began in 2011 with the siting

of a standalone transmitter on Mount Clerke, Resolution Island, Dusky Sound.

The second stage involved installing a repeater site on Wednesday Peak and establishing a link back through to Mount Clerke. Wednesday Peak involved a co-siting arrangement with the Southland VHF Users Association, GNS Science and Maritime New Zealand which also has equipment in this spot.

“Linking up the Mount Clerke and Wednesday Peak sites provides almost complete cover from Mount Clerke to Bluff, which dramatically improves communication options for boaties.”

Unfortunately, while it is Mother Nature who is often the cause of boaties requiring rescue, she also delayed the commissioning of the latest stage of the project.

“Mother Nature definitely had her say, with a lightning strike doing some damage to the Wednesday Peak site and repairs were required before it was completely up and running.”

Lyndon says the project is a huge step forward for such a remote area and could prove a lifesaver for those at sea in the area.



▲ Harbourmaster Lyndon Cleaver and Bluff Fisherman's Radio operator Meri Leask are excited about the improved safety the expanded VHF network will provide for remote areas of Fiordland.



**FIORDLAND REPEATER PROJECT—EXISTING 2017**

● Existing Repeater Site      ↔ Linking Between Sites

“While the initial intent was for this to be used for emergency communications, it can also be used for ship-to-ship communications, as long as people aren’t clogging it up with chat.”

Bluff Fisherman’s Radio operator Meri Leask is the voice at the end of the radio for many boaties and she’s excited that the project has made it this far. She was involved right from the early stages, not just providing some of her local radio expertise, but even picking up a shovel and helping out after a helicopter flight to Mount Clerke.

“There’s always been a gap, there are lots of private vessels that don’t have high-frequency radios and this is so important for the safety of life at sea,” she says.

“It will be a huge asset to search and rescue and make a big difference for everyday communications.”

Whether it’s boaties calling in to check if it’s safe for them to move from one area to another when weather is unsettled or reporting on their movements, the extended VHF network will provide a valuable link.



▲ Biocontrol contractor Jesse Bythell checks out the success of the Weller's beetle stud farm in Waimea.

# Breeding beetles to battle thistles

A very different type of stud farm is taking shape in the Waimea Valley.

**B**ernie and Grant Weller have added a new species to their award-winning farm in the form of two green thistle beetle nurseries – or 'stud farms' – to combat the persistent Californian thistle problem.

The Wellers are renowned for being innovative farmers of their 890 hectare northern Southland sheep and beef property, as previous winners of both the Southland Farm Environment Awards

and Supreme winners of the New Zealand Farm Environment Awards.

Like many farmers, however, they battle against the thistles that reduce pastoral productivity and are harmful to livestock, especially lambs.

A study by AgMARDT (Agricultural and Marketing Research and Development Trust) in 2003 estimated Californian thistle cost Otago/Southland farmers \$27 million a year, and was rated the worst pastoral weed by 50% of farmers.

Traditional thistle control of mowing or spraying on flat land is not an option on their hill country farm, so they went in search of alternative methods.

Bernie heard about the beetles five years ago, and asked to go on Environment Southland's waiting list. As demand was outstripping supply, she decided to take the beetle by the wings and give it a go herself.





▲ A green thistle beetle.

At this point she met Environment Southland's biocontrol contractor Jesse Bythell who had taken some beetles into her backyard and was supplying the breeding stock for the region.

Bernie thought, "why don't we set up some stud farms" and a year on, the Wellers have two home-made beetle breeding enclosures, with another two to be added.

Grant has repurposed a couple of bale feeders which were cut in half, put on their sides and covered in fine mesh to keep the valuable breeding stock in place.

"What I would like to envision is that by next year we have an enclosed population which we can start giving out to other farmers," Bernie says.

She is keen for farmers to start their own 'stud farms' to help spread populations across Southland.

Jesse says the beetles are effective in stressing thistle growth and can give farmers another management tool, as they have evolved to exclusively feed on the thistles.

This season's hot, dry summer has been great for beetle breeding and Jesse has been able to whittle down the waiting list, but populations need to be widespread to be effective on a wide scale.

Californian thistles were rated a top noxious weed for more than a century but with competing biocontrol priorities, the fight against them lost traction.

In 1999, the Californian Thistle Action Group, including Environment Southland, was formed to look for a sustainable approach to managing the weed.

The group decided enough was enough and contracted Landcare Research to take another look at biocontrol options.

Jesse is seeing promising signs on farms where populations of beetles are munching through thistles, but it's still too early to assess how much impact they will have on thistle growth.

Environment Southland and AgResearch are doing new research into the best 'stocking rates' for beetles and when and where they can be most effective.

Grant says if farmers drive the process they will have far more success.

"Environmentally it's a great story to tell, and we need that in farming," he says.

"It's a war of attrition. Death by a thousand beetle bites," Jesse says.

## What is biocontrol?

► Biocontrol uses the natural enemies of a weed to reduce the damage it causes. The aim of biocontrol is to restore the balance between weeds and the environment the weeds are impacting upon. Biocontrol agents such as insects or fungi undergo rigorous testing before they are released into New Zealand to make sure they only damage their target weed. Approval to release a biocontrol agent has to be given by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Ministry for Primary Industries. The safety record for biocontrol of weeds is excellent and has provided many benefits to New Zealand.

# Updates



## Landscape study

Environment Southland, along with Gore District, Southland District and Invercargill City Councils, is funding a study that aims to capture the beauty and special character of Southland.

Southland's first Landscape and Natural Character Assessment will explain the sensitivities and values of our landscapes. It will complement our first region wide biodiversity assessment, which is being carried out. These assessments help meet the requirements of our Regional Policy Statement and also provide vital information that may be used in numerous ways.

A Landscape and Natural Character Assessment for Stewart Island was completed in 2017, with information, including photos, available in an interactive map on Environment Southland's online mapping service Beacon.

## Home heating

More than 110 Invercargill and Gore residents are already feeling the benefits of the Clean Air Loan schemes, which have been set up to help people make the change to cleaner forms of heating.

The schemes allow residents within the Invercargill and Gore airsheds to apply through Awarua Synergy for a five-year loan of up to \$5,000 to replace their current non-compliant heating appliance with a compliant wood burner, pellet burner or heat pump and upgrade their insulation.

As part of the application process, the team from Awarua Synergy will work with homeowners to establish the most efficient and effective form of clean heating for their homes.

For more information go to [BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz](http://BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz) or contact Awarua Synergy on 0800 WARM SOUTH (0800 927 676).



## Clean Vessel Pass

Boaties heading into Fiordland have shown they understand and appreciate the value and significance of the area, through their commitment to the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan, which was launched last year.

Marine biosecurity officer Shaun Cunningham says more than 200 Clean Vessel Passes have been issued and although some boats have still been found without a Clean Vessel Pass, compliance with biofouling standards in the plan has been very good.

The Pathway Plan sets out rules for all vessels, regardless of size, entering within one nautical mile of the landward boundary of the Fiordland Marine Area. This includes ensuring all vessels hold a Clean Vessel Pass,



## FIORDLAND MARINE Regional Pathway Management Plan



which is free to apply for and needs to be renewed annually.

Applying is a simple process that can be completed online at [es.govt.nz](http://es.govt.nz) or give us a call on 0800 76 88 45 and we will send out a hard copy form.

# Time to think about...

## 📅 APRIL 2018

### ▶ Firewood

If you haven't got your firewood supplies sorted yet, you need to give it some thought. Dry firewood is difficult to source once winter hits so check out our Good Wood approved suppliers at [BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz](http://BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz)

### ▶ Baleage wrap

Think about how you will dispose of your bale and silage wrap. Under the Regional Air Plan you can no longer burn it, but there are plenty of other ways to safely get rid of it. Check out our website for disposal options.

### ▶ Velvetleaf

All farmers need to be checking their crops for any signs of this invasive weed. If you find it, contact MPI on 0800 80 99 66.



## 📅 MAY 2018

### ▶ Rabbits

Winter is the most effective time for rabbit control before they start breeding again in spring.

### ▶ Outdoor burning

Outdoor burning is prohibited in the Invercargill and Gore airsheds from 1 May until 31 August. Leisure activities like barbecues, braziers, hangi and fireworks are exempt from this rule.

## 📅 JUNE 2018

### ▶ Mustelids/rats

When you are out at your duck pond during duck shooting season, remember to set and check traps for mustelids and rats.



### ▶ Environmental enhancement fund

Get your application in now. This fund can assist with projects to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity on private and community-owned land in Southland. Visit [es.govt.nz](http://es.govt.nz) for more information on how to apply.

For further advice and information:

Pest plants or animals - [www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz)  
Air Plan rules - [www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz](http://www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz)

## Down on the farm



By **GARY MORGAN** *Environment Southland principal land sustainability officer*

Reflecting on working alongside Southland farmers in the soil conservation/land sustainability space, it seems to me that the on-farm advice, information and good practice provided by Environment Southland is as relevant now as it was 35 years ago.

Soil is still the most important resource you have on your farm. Managing soil erosion through well planned tree planting, maintaining good soil structure through sustainable cultivation, grazing and drainage and regularly monitoring your soil health is more important than ever with intensifying land use.

Healthy, well managed soils provide a range of ecosystem services and are key to maintaining and improving water quality. The Visual Soil Assessment is a simple tool that all farmers should be using to monitor their soil resource.

Every farm should have a tree planting programme – windbreaks for shelter and shade, woodlots, riparian plantings, trees for the birds and bees, firewood and amenity values.

I encourage all Southland farmers to utilise the skills and knowledge of the Environment Southland's land sustainability officers. They have the knowledge and skills to assist you with preparing farm environment plans and can provide you with advice on a range of good management practices that will help sustain your farming operation into the future.

# Out in the field

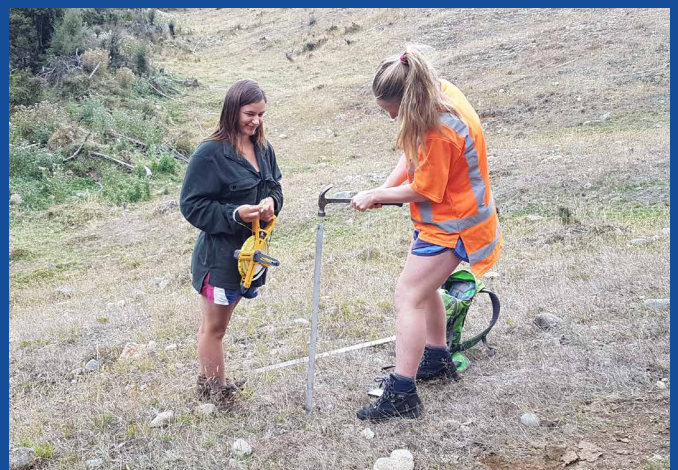
Our people are no strangers to extraordinary situations as they go about looking after the region's natural resources.



▲ Compliance staff Graeme McKenzie and Rachel Batley clean and disinfect gumboots as part of biosecurity procedures which have been stepped up since the mycoplasma bovis outbreak. Processes have been put in place for all staff visiting rural properties to reduce any potential spread.



▲ Environmental technical officer Nathan Hughes carries out an assessment for algae at the Hedgehope Stream, as part of our regular monitoring programme.



▲ Summer biosecurity assistants Cheyanne Robertson-Carey and Kate Morrison made it to some quite remote areas during their time at Environment Southland, as they carried out the annual weed monitoring survey.