

# EnvirosOUTH

December 2019

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## Award winners

Recognising our environmental champions

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## Sailing away

Study grant supports maritime training

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environment  
**SOUTHLAND**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Te Taiao Tonga

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## EnviroSOUTH

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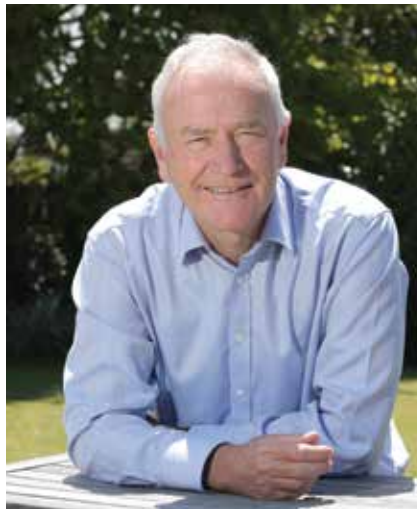
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### Cover

« Eight year old Manu Stowe checks out a crab during the Marine Metre Squared event which was run in conjunction with the Aquavan visit to Riverton in September.

See story page 3.



The Environment Southland Community Awards are fantastic for showcasing industrious and innovative Southlanders doing great things.

The 24th awards were held in October. There were 30 nominees across eight categories. My congratulations to all the winners. I'd also like to applaud each nominee for the work they do and difference they're making. It benefits everyone and Southland as a whole.

The council has certain statutory responsibilities but to achieve the outcomes we all want for a thriving Southland it is people like these nominees that will get us there. They are lighting the way through their leadership in action and they come from right across the region – individuals, businesses, farmers, schools – all sorts of people, doing all sorts of things.

They inspire all of us to do better.

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



I am delighted to have been re-elected as the council's chairman for another term.

We welcome four new councillors: Bonnie Mager, Peter McDonald, Allan Baird and Lloyd Esler. The rest of us are returning councillors: Neville Cook, Robert Guyton, Lyndal Ludlow, Eric Roy, Lloyd McCallam, David Stevens and Jeremy McPhail.

I'd like to acknowledge retiring councillors Ross Cockburn and Rowly Currie; and councillors Grant Hubber and Maurice Rodway who were not returned, for all their hard work.

The new council was sworn in at our inaugural meeting at the end of October. It was a moving experience with Dean Whaanga of Te Ao Marama providing a karakia and each councillor saying and signing their declaration to serve the Southland region.

Since that first meeting we have been working hard to form a strong team and I'm confident that this council has the talent and commitment to address the challenges ahead.

**Nicol Horrell**, Chairman, Environment Southland

# Environment Southland

*A thriving Southland – te taurikura o Murihiku*



# Connecting city and coast

▲ People gathered at Queens Park to check out a range of displays, including the Aquavan.

Hundreds of people of all ages celebrated Invercargill’s special connection to the coast at a community event in Queens Park in September.

Coming together with Environment Southland to host the event were the University of Otago’s New Zealand Marine Studies Centre, Invercargill City Council and the Rotary Clubs of Invercargill.

The Aquavan, from the University of Otago’s New Zealand Marine Studies Centre, was a very popular attraction, as it’s designed to transport live sea creatures so people can get up close and personal with crabs, starfish, kina, sea cucumbers, sea tulips and snails. The event at Queens Park followed on from a popular day of activities centred around the Aquavan, held at Riverton earlier in the month.

The Invercargill event was made even more special with the installation of fish moulds beside 69 stormwater drains in the park by Rotary and Invercargill City Council.

Invercargill Sunrise Rotarian Alan Watson says Rotary International has a focus area on water and sanitation, and for the last few years local Rotary clubs have been involved in a number of actions for the environment. “Installing the fish moulds was just the start of this particular project, to help people in Invercargill make the connection between their drain and our rivers and estuary.”

Alan says having fish moulds on the drains



▲ Fish moulds have been placed on drains around Queens Park.

throughout Queens Park has already had people talking. “I heard a small child ask her parent ‘Why are the fish on the ground?’ She was told that what is put into the drain could kill the fish in the river.”

The day proved a great opportunity to showcase the role everybody, urban and rural, can play in improving our waterways.

Keep an eye out for more fish moulds on drains around Invercargill as Rotary look to expand this project beyond Queens Park.

You can find out more about the Aquavan, how you can get involved with groups in your community, and understand more about Southland’s water quality at [waterstory.es.govt.nz](http://waterstory.es.govt.nz).

# Steer clear of toxic algae this summer

Whether they take up too much room in the bed, steal the food left on the plate, or play an important working role on farm or for people with disabilities, our dogs are important members of our families.

**M**any of them love nothing more than splashing around in water, and chasing sticks and stones. But care is needed, especially in summer, as we see more rivers affected by toxic algae in calm, dry spells of weather.

Vet South small animal clinical leader Oliver Young says dogs are attracted to the black mats of toxic algae that form at the edges of rivers, and find it really tasty and pleasant smelling.

“A small amount, even just the size of a 50 cent piece could, in theory, be enough to kill a dog,” he says. “There’s no antidote, we provide supportive care which includes liver protectants but it’s not always successful.”

“Fortunately, up till now this poisoning has been uncommon in Southland,” he says.

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“A small amount, even just the size of a 50 cent piece could, in theory, be enough to kill a dog.”

OLIVER YOUNG

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Although it isn’t common, Environment Southland is really keen for dog owners to be aware of the risks so they can keep their pets safe. To do this, it’s important to know what to look out for and where to get the latest information.

Steer clear of green/brown slime on rocks, or dry brown or black mats at the river’s edge. People and animals (in particular, dogs), should avoid contact with the slime, mats and water in the area.

Right: Vet South small animal clinical leader Oliver Young checks out Cashew.

The algae produce toxins that can be harmful to people and animals if swallowed, or through contact with skin.

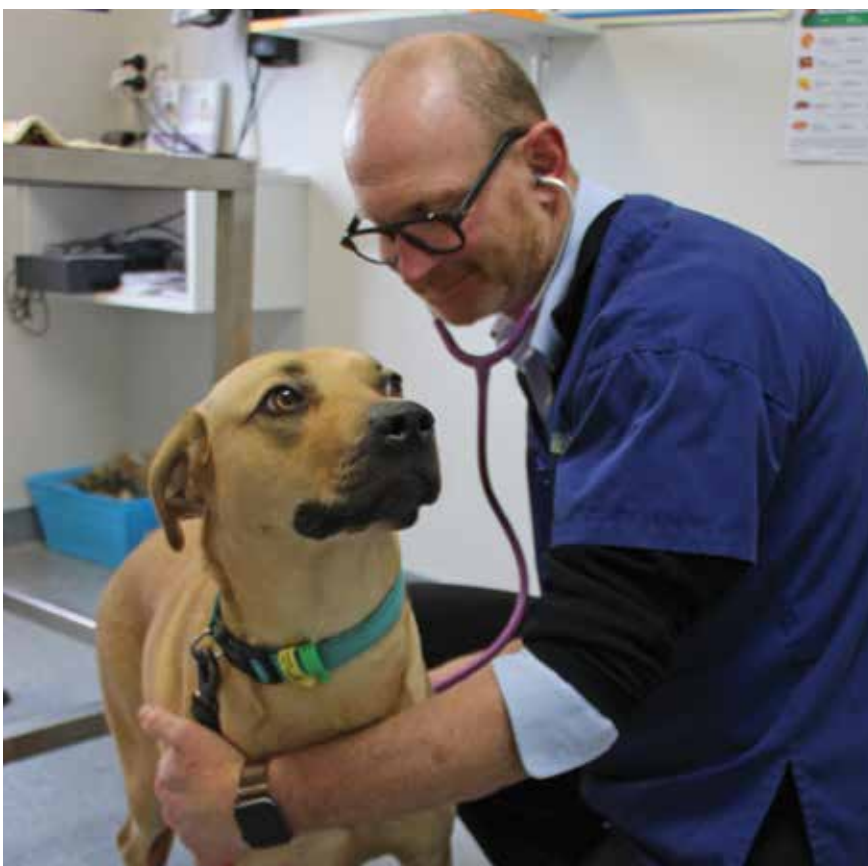
“Symptoms you’re likely to see in dogs if they’ve ingested toxic algae are initially weakness and lethargy, this is followed fairly rapidly with twitching and other neurological signs and liver failure,” Oliver says. “Pet owners also need to take care when dogs are grooming themselves after a swim, as toxic algae could be on their skin and coats.”

Toxic algae occur naturally but can increase rapidly during warmer periods of the year. The long-term forecast is for increasingly warmer weather over summer,

meaning a higher likelihood of toxic algae blooms in Southland waters.

If you suspect you have come in contact or ingested toxic algae, visit a doctor immediately. Animals that consume toxic algae should be taken to a vet immediately.

Environment Southland monitors toxic algae monthly at a number of river and lake sites across Southland, and warnings will be put in place for areas where results of toxic algae are confirmed, but monitoring can’t happen everywhere, all the time. As well as any toxic algae warnings, you can also see the latest summer swimming water quality results on the LAWA (Land, Air, Water Aotearoa) website – [www.lawa.org.nz](http://www.lawa.org.nz).



# Contributing to Southland's future

Fiona Smith decided to put her name forward for the Regional Forum earlier this year because she saw it as an opportunity to have an impact on something that would shape Southland's future.

As the environmental compliance manager at AB Lime and a Winton local, Fiona felt that she could combine her skills and personal interest in water to have meaningful input.

"I decided to put my name forward because this group was going to be dealing with Southland's water, and that's particularly relevant to me professionally and personally as my family do a lot of recreational activities out on the rivers and lakes in Southland," she says. "It was also an opportunity for me to contribute to, rather than criticise, a process. If I wanted to

have meaningful input, I could use the skills and interests that I have to contribute to something that I believed in."

And she's taken that a step further by being elected as the chair of the Regional Forum.

"I'm most looking forward to getting a holistic understanding of what is actually important to Southlanders in terms of their freshwater. I think Southland is a diverse community that relies on water in so many different ways and I'm excited about seeing what the communities' objectives are, how we can try and meet those objectives through the recommendations we are going to put forward to Environment Southland's council," Fiona says.

The 15 members of the Regional Forum have now completed the first phase of their work. Phase two is focused on community and iwi values for water, understanding the current and future state of the environment, and looking at practical actions that can be taken to improve our waterways.

The Regional Forum now meets every three months, with each workshop held in a different location. Public sessions are an important part of each workshop where forum and community members are able to discuss key issues in their area. Attendance at these has been excellent and valuable and it's hoped the community will continue to stay involved throughout the process.

Follow their journey and find out when they'll be meeting in your area by subscribing to the People, Water and Land e-newsletter – [www.es.govt.nz/subscribe](http://www.es.govt.nz/subscribe).



▲ Fiona Smith, Regional Forum chair.

## What is the Regional Forum?

The Regional Forum is a community-based group that will advise Environment Southland's council and Te Ao Marama board members on how we can achieve community aspirations for freshwater.

Members of the forum will consider the specific policies and rules as well as the on-ground initiatives required to make change and improve Southland's water and land for generations to come.



# 2019 Elections

Environment Southland chairman Nicol Horrell and deputy chairman Lloyd McCallum were re-elected in their roles following the 2019 local government elections in October.

Four new councillors were also elected and Chairman Horrell says he looks forward to working with all the councillors to build a strong team.

The new councillors are Allan Baird for Fiordland constituency; Peter McDonald for Hokonui constituency Bonnie Mager and Lloyd Esler for the Invercargill-Rakiura constituency.

Three sitting councillors were re-elected unopposed: Lloyd McCallum (Southern); Jeremy McPhail and David Stephens (Eastern Dome).

The others won contested seats: Nicol Horrell (Western); Robert Guyton, Neville Cook, Eric Roy and Lyndal Ludlow (Invercargill-Rakiura).

## Farewells

### Ross Cockburn Fiordland Constituency

Ross Cockburn represented the Fiordland constituency for four terms (12 years) from 2007, retiring in 2019.

During his last term he was chairman of the Regional Services Committee.

Ross had a particular interest in biosecurity and river management, and championed the Council's River Corridor Concept Plan to manage unwanted vegetation.

### Maurice Rodway Invercargill-Rakiura Constituency

Maurice was a councillor for four terms (12 years) from 2007 to 2019.

He was the chairman of the Organisational Performance and Audit Committee and deputy chairman of the Regulatory Committee.

Maurice believed the council had a responsibility to look after the natural environment and to maintain a viable social and economic fabric.

Maurice was not re-elected.

### Grant Hubber Hokonui Constituency

Grant served on the regional council for three terms (9 years) from 2010 to 2019.

During the last triennium he was the chairman of the Strategy and Policy Committee.

He has described the work on council as a challenge but believed in doing his "fair share" and enjoyed the people side of things.

He was not re-elected to council.

### Rowly Currie Invercargill-Rakiura Constituency

Rowly was a regional councillor for three terms from 2010, retiring in 2019.

During his last term, Rowly served on three committees, one sub-committee and the Southland Community Broadcasters Trust.

He enjoyed the variety of work on the council and getting out in the field with staff to learn about what was being done to address environmental issues.

# 2019 | ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND COMMUNITY AWARDS

The 2019 Environment Southland Community Awards were hosted on Tuesday 8 October at the Ascot Park Hotel in Invercargill. The awards showcased incredible work being done in the Southland community to help improve our environment. Congratulations to all the amazing nominees and our very special winners.



▲ Aparima College students (from left): Alexis Halder, Courtney Loveridge, Olivia Black, Adam Winders, Levi Mennell and Scott Fleck.

## Councillors' Special Award

### WINNER – APARIMA COLLEGE

An energised school that is having an influence over their whole community is how the judges described Aparima College – awarded the Councillors' Special Award.

Having to cut down trees due to health and safety concerns, students and teachers saw an opportunity to create an outdoor learning environment that would ultimately be beneficial for both the school and the wider community. Community groups supported the project by helping to clear the site and begin planting. A successful application to the Tremendous fund was the cornerstone of this project, which resulted in the planting of hundreds of native trees.

"We want to develop it into a learning space for the rest of the years' coming through the school," says year 12 Aparima College student Courtney Loveridge.

The judges were impressed that the college has not stopped there. It had recently become an Enviroschool, developed an environment council, created vegetable gardens, a compost system and built a worm farm. There is a pest eradication plan in place and a further plan to build outdoor learning into the curriculum to ensure long-term success.

"So overall, our environmental mentality within Aparima College has become

widespread and it's brought the community together and we're doing amazing things and we can't wait for more to happen."

Award sponsored by  
**ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND  
COUNCILLORS**





▲ Sarah Thorne.

## Individual Environmental Leadership or Action Award **WINNER – SARAH THORNE**

Sarah works for the New Zealand Landcare Trust, supporting catchment groups all over the region, but her dedication and passion for her work means she gives a lot of her own time to this role as well. Sarah's passion for her work is contagious and through her encouragement, these groups have created wide-sweeping improvements across our rural landscape.

During her time, the number of catchment groups has grown from 14 to 20. One of her success stories is the creation and delivery

of the Southland Catchment Group Forum, which brings catchment groups together to share ideas and learn new skills. Sarah sees it as important for the industry to be proactive rather than defensive and she is breaking down barriers between industries and encouraging groups to work together that may have worked in isolation in the past. The judges couldn't get enough of her enthusiasm and could see why she was having so much success in her role.

*Award sponsored by*

 **realJOURNEYS**





▲ Jeff and Linzi Keen.

## Environmental Leadership in Farming and Land Management Award **WINNERS – JEFF & LINZI KEEN**

Jeff and Linzi Keen have a sheep and beef farm at Longridge North in northern Southland. They have been making smart environmental decisions on their property long before it was the recognised thing to do. Striving to retain the environmental beauty of their surroundings, they have fenced off large areas, excluded stock and planted the area in natives. They have also worked with SIT students to develop a wilding pine eradication programme.

Their holistic, environmental approach to farming includes the elimination of acidic fertiliser use and looking after their soil

quality. Jeff has built up an understanding of multi-species crops, with the hope that different plant species will act as the nutrient for other plants, meaning the soil is not degraded.

The judges were impressed by the dedication being shown by Jeff and Linzi. From bee keeping, riparian planting, waterway fencing to wilding pine eradication, the Keens have considered many environmental aspects on their farm. Jeff is a leader within his community and is willing to share his knowledge for the advancement of the industry.

*Award sponsored by*

**WYNNWILLIAMS**  
LAWYERS



▲ Mamaku Point Conservation Trust general manager Antony Simpson (left) talks with awards judges David Stevens and Ken Swinney.

## Environmental Action in the Community Award

### **WINNER – MAMAKU POINT CONSERVATION TRUST**

Mamaku Point Conservation Reserve is located on Stewart Island and is protected by a 2.1 kilometre biosecurity fence, with an extensive predator control plan established. The area boasts over 127 native species and has the highest density of kiwi per hectare.

Mamaku Point Conservation Trust took over the property in 2017 and it is working towards restoring the predator free status of the area.

The trust is a small team with very big plans. Members are proactive, hardworking and proud of Mamaku Point. A big part of their overall goal is to make the reserve

more accessible for the public through conservation education and eco-tourism activities.

They are currently working extremely hard to re-establish the education centre and the space should be back to capacity by the end of 2019. Restoring the camp and making the reserve more accessible is a big task but one which the judges believe will allow more people to share in the special experience that Mamaku Point provides.

With such a passionate group of people looking after this beautiful and unique area, it's clear it is in good hands.

*Award sponsored by*





▲ Managing director Wayne McCallum.

## Environmental Leadership and Innovation in Business Award **WINNER – MCCALLUMS GROUP**

There are not many businesses that can boast that they have achieved an 85% reduction in their carbon footprint while exponentially growing their business, but McCallums Group can.

Faced with the decision to move away from oil and gas in 2008, McCallums made a future-proofing decision to move to wood energy instead of coal due to the rising concerns around carbon emissions.

This was just the start for managing director Wayne McCallum and his team. They have technology that enables water recycling, have made a move towards

electric vehicles and are installing new equipment that should halve their water consumption.

McCallums is driven to reduce its emissions every year and works closely with experts to measure its success. After hearing what Wayne and his team have been doing at McCallums, the judges commented that this was a nominee that couldn't be ignored. Wayne also sees the importance of sharing their story and what they are doing with the wider community so that others can follow suit. A true example of leadership and innovation.

*Award sponsored by*





▲ Southland Environmental Advance party members (from left): Tony Roberts, Kate Roberts, Jane Crystal (facilitator), John Somerville (chairman) and Peter McIntyre.

## Environmental Action in Water and Land Management Award **WINNER – SOUTHLAND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVANCE PARTY**

Members of this recently formed group have hit the ground running when it comes to their plans and the actions they are taking in their community. The Southland Environmental Advance Party is a group of local, like-minded deer farmers who are focused on recognising, understanding and reducing their environmental impact.

Each member of the group has their own project such as water quality testing, creating sediment traps, fencing off critical source areas and planting out and creating wetlands.

The Southland Environmental Advance Party has established strong and enduring

relationships within the group, which contribute to positive outcomes on and off farm. They believe in having honest and frank conversations within the group, which leads to better management overall.

The judges found them well-organised and noted that they had a strong plan for the future. They were impressed with how strong the camaraderie was amongst this group and believed this was playing an integral part in their success.

All farms involved have an established environmental plan and the group is being used as a model for the industry nationwide.

*Award sponsored by*

**AON**

**Empower Results®**



▲ Steph Munro.

## Environmental Sustainability in Business Award **WINNER – MUNRO HONEY CO**

A chance encounter with a member of the Bee Society led to the creation of Munro Honey Co, a newly established honey business based in Invercargill.

The company ethos is 'Better for the bees, better for the planet'. Steph Munro from Munro Honey Co aims to run an ethical and sustainable partnership with nature and puts the environment at the heart of every business decision made.

While plastic alternatives would have been much more cost effective, Munro Honey Co has chosen to take a sustainable stance when it comes to its business. This includes making wooden hive-wear

instead of buying plastic, ensuring all packaging is reusable, compostable and recyclable, and keeping the honey that it produces as natural as possible. Steph has put sustainability at the forefront of her business model. The judges were inspired by the way every step of the process was considered and her sustainable choices add value to her product.

Steph also has a large following for her business online and works hard to highlight the importance of bees, sustainability and the environment to the wider community.





▲ Woodlands Full Primary School students (from left): Rylee Cronin, Melissa Crean, Michael Crean, Benjamin Burns and Jesse Peat.

## Environmental Action in Education Award **WINNER – WOODLANDS FULL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

In 2012, students from Woodlands Full Primary School planted 308 native riparian plants along the Waihopai River.

Eight years on, this project has grown into an outdoor learning area that many in the community can enjoy, and students will be able to experience for years to come. Students have continued to plant trees, design insect hotels, introduce leaf cutter bees and test the water quality of the river.

After recent heavy rain in the area, the students saw first-hand the difference their riparian planting was making. The Waihopai River flooded but within a day the water was gone, which was really encouraging for the students.

The improved water quality from their efforts has seen an increase of fish and birdlife to the area. This project has had an obvious impact on the environmental understanding and awareness of the Woodlands students, with many of them showing immense pride in the area.

This project has huge community support and a long-term future, with lessons incorporated in all areas of the school curriculum.

*Award sponsored by*



**Milligans**  
*for Trees and Seeds*  
 Flora for fauna



**Department of Conservation**  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

# Kaitiaki Tohu Pai – Guardian Awards

## FERGUS SUTHERLAND

Fergus Sutherland was the right man, in the right place, at the right time and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for the work he has done protecting the habitat of the yellow-eyed penguins in the Progress Valley.

Over 30 years ago, Fergus was visiting a farm while working in his role at Environment Southland. The farmer mentioned that he thought he had penguins living on the coastline of his farm. Fergus not only discovered penguins living there, but also that their habitats were disappearing to make way for farmland.

Working with landowners and Forest and Bird on a local and national level, Fergus was instrumental in establishing the Te Rere Reserve. He has been around for the ups and downs of this project which have included watching the penguin numbers rise and fall, and re-planting the reserve after a fire ripped through it.

He continues to dedicate much of his time working on predator control, plantings, bird monitoring and unfortunately more recently, becoming more hands-on with the care of the birds to ensure their survival.



▲ Fergus Sutherland.

## RICHARD BOWMAN

With a passion for biodiversity, Richard Bowman has dedicated much of his life to looking after our natural environment.

While employed as the biosecurity manager at Environment Southland for a number of years prior to his retirement, Richard made a huge impact on our region. He was able to utilise his connections to contribute to many local projects and had real passion for helping people to help themselves.

Richard has played an instrumental role in the Mid Dome Wilding Trees Charitable Trust. He saw the risks posed by the spread of Pinus Contorta on Mid Dome and the impact it could have. He provided administrative and technical support, while also actively supporting the development of the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Strategy that led to over \$2 million of funding support to the work on Mid Dome.



▲ Richard Bowman.

He has also done his share of hands-on work, only missing two or three volunteer workdays on the Dome since 2000. His leadership has truly helped others to succeed in their own projects.

Awards sponsored by



## Individual Environmental Leadership or Action Award

### COMMENDED – KIT HUSTLER

Dr Kit Hustler is the head of science at Menzies College and is passionate about the environment as well as helping his students succeed.

Kit has introduced environmental activities into his classes including fish monitoring in local waterways. The students at Menzies are benefiting from his experience, while gaining valuable life skills, growing in confidence and learning to love the outdoors.

Kit is having a lasting impact on the students who are fortunate enough to be a part of his class. They have a huge amount of respect for him and the judges noted that Kit was not only doing important and meaningful research but he was also teaching students to care for the natural world.



▲ Kit Hustler.

## Environmental Leadership in Farming and Land Management Award

### COMMENDED – BRIAN & GLENNIS WEBSTER STUART & KIM BROWNING

Brian and Glennis Webster (farm owners) and Stuart and Kim Browning (farm managers) have a true passion for the land they own and work.

When Brian and Glennis bought the farm at Waituna, it was in need of a great deal of work. Full time dairy grazers in the Waituna area, the Websters have spent a number of years riparian planting to protect Currans Creek, which runs through their property. They have also built a feed pad and retired much of their land from winter cropping.



▲ Glennis and Brian Webster.



## Environmental Leadership and Innovation in Business Award

### COMMENDED – HERBERTS TRANSPORT

When understanding the weather conditions is an important part of your business, you want to have the best technology, and that is what Herberts Transport has done.

Herberts Transport is a rural transport company and spreads by-products for Fonterra. In the past 12 months the company has developed a system that allows it to be extremely accurate with information such as soil moisture and weather conditions within a 24-hour period. These changes are ensuring that Herberts is operating at best practice, environmentally.

Herberts Transport takes environmental responsibility seriously. Investment in new technology has been huge and the judges could clearly see the difference this investment was going to make to the accuracy of its work. The judges were blown away by the innovative thinking from Herberts Transport.



▲ Ben Halstead and Erika McNaught of Herberts Transport.

## Environmental Action in Water and Land Management Award

### COMMENDED – WENDONSIDE CATCHMENT GROUP

Wendonside Catchment Group came together out of a desire to better understand the water quality in the local catchment area. Members started a water sampling programme of mostly groundwater and are self-funded through group membership. Because farmers are investing in this programme, they are taking ownership of the data and results.

This pro-active group is taking the challenges in the area and tackling them head on. The time required for their water testing project is a huge investment from these farmers. The judges were impressed with how well the community has committed to this group and thought that the high level of engagement promises the next steps will be positive and meaningful ones.



▲ Wendonside Catchment Group members (from left): Alistair Mann, Sean Wilkins, Rob Dingle and Wendy Hopcroft.



▲ Environment Southland Community Awards judges: Ken Swinney (Environment Southland strategic and corporate planning manager), Lyndal Ludlow and David Stevens (Environment Southland councillors).

## Environment Southland Community Awards Nominees

### Environmental Action in Education

- Aparima College
- Glengarry Kindergarten
- Woodlands Full Primary School
- Menzies College
- Winton Kindergarten

### Individual Environmental Leadership or Action

- Fergus Sutherland
- John Taylor
- Kit Hustler
- Maureen Jones
- Richard Bowman
- Sarah Thorne

### Environmental Action in the Community

- Clean-Biz
- Koha Kai
- Sort Out the Dross Action Group
- Mamaku Point Conservation Trust
- Southland Boys' High School

### Environmental Action in Water and Land Management

- Southland Environmental Advance Party
- Suzanne Hanning
- Wendonside Catchment Group

### Environmental Leadership and Innovation in Business

- Herberts Transport Ltd
- McCallums Group
- Stuart Macdonald Contracting Ltd
- Yunca

### Environmental Sustainability in Business

- ILT Stadium Southland
- The Auction House
- Munro Honey Co

### Environmental Leadership in Farming and Land Management

- Brian & Glennis Webster (farm owners), Stuart & Kim Browning (farm managers)
- Geordie and Frances Eade
- Georgie Galloway
- Jeff & Linzi Keen



▲ Tangaroa Walker in his happy place – at home with the cows.

Eighteen years ago, a guy pulled up in a smart, green Holden Commodore at Tangaroa Walker's school at Whakamārama, near Tauranga.

Wearing overalls and gumboots, his wife by his side, he'd arrived to help set up the school cross country course. Eleven-year-old Tangaroa's interest was piqued. What did this guy do? So, he went over for a chat.

"To me he was like Superman, out there in the community doing stuff. He was a dairy farmer."

Alongside his schooling, Tangaroa began doing odd jobs for the dairy farmer – gardening, mowing lawns, hosing out pig

sheds and eventually milking. It was this early connection that sowed the seed for Tangaroa's love of the farming life – something new and fresh every day, the diversity and the unexpected.

Eventually he headed for a place where the grass grows and where land was a reasonable price: Southland. Together with his two staff, Goodie and Detroit, 29-year-old Tangaroa contract milks 550 cows on a 186ha equity partnership dairy unit north of Invercargill.

Close to 120,000 people follow Tangaroa's Farm 4 Life Facebook page where he shares the daily joys and struggles of the farming life. Although it's attracted a world-wide audience, all Tangaroa wanted to do was help young people get into farming.

"I set out to show young people that dairy farming is a sustainable career option. It's that knowledge sharing – the daily ups and downs of real farming life, mixed with a bit of charisma, that keeps all sorts of people interested in Farm 4 Life."

He's keen to work alongside Environment Southland, encouraging and implementing farming practices that support our environment.

He's done a lot of work identifying critical source areas, riparian planting and fencing off waterways. He takes the time to make good choices when selecting wintering paddocks, to limit run-off and protect waterways.

Tangaroa and his partner Courtney are also very aware of the need to look after the environment as best they can for future generations.

He's super-enthusiastic about encouraging young people to make the most of the opportunities farming offers, including being involved in regenerating the Farming to Succeed Scholarship as a leader and mentor.

It's all inspiring stuff from a Maori lad of Ngāti Pūkenga and Ngāti Ranginui descent who didn't have the easiest start in life.

"I'm just doing me," he says.

# Sailing away – study grant leads

Travelling the world on a cruise ship sounds like a dream job and for now, it pretty much is for former Southland lad George Muschamp.

**A**s a two-time recipient of Environment Southland's maritime study grant, George has studied hard and forged a career in the maritime industry, currently working as third officer on the *Emerald Princess* cruise ship in the Mediterranean.

The maritime study grant is an annual grant available to any Southlander studying at the New Zealand Maritime School – working towards careers including navigation officers, marine engineers and electro-technical officers.

George grew up on a farm in Edendale with very Southland interests including rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer, some shearing and hunting when he could

fit it in. But it was summers in Wanaka on the family boat that really fired him up and “put a smile on my dial”.

During his time at university, he tried a few different jobs to get a feel for what was right – working on farms, following his veterinary father around, driving trucks, and even considered an aviation career.

But it was the draw of the water and the practical aspect of the maritime industry that won out and after hearing about the maritime study grant, he received his first grant in 2013, studying nautical science through the maritime school and working as a cadet officer with the Holland America Cruise Ship Line.

“I was able to supplement my savings while I studied, so I didn't have to get a part time job and I could really focus on my studies.”

In 2018, George received a second grant which allowed him to study for his unlimited foreign going chief mates qualification, a step closer to his masters which will allow him to take command of a ship.

“I'll probably stay in the cruise ship industry until I complete that then look for a job on a super yacht to gather more experience and see if all the crazy stories I hear are true.”



▲ Living the dream – George Muschamp is loving the cruise ship life, but looking forward to returning to Southland to further his maritime career.

# to cruise ship career



▲ The maritime study grant has allowed George to forge a career in the cruise ship industry.

Eventually George hopes to return to Southland, ideally combining a pilot/tug boat job with running a small farm and having a family.

According to Southland harbourmaster Lyndon Cleaver, this is the exact outcome he's also keen to see from recipients of the maritime study grant.

"It's about getting our young people interested and supported into a maritime career, providing opportunities for them to explore it and hopefully they will return to Southland and bring their knowledge and experience with them."

To find out more about the Maritime Study Grant, contact our maritime team on 0800 76 88 45.

# Updates



## Rural waste

Over 50 people turned up at the Agrecovery one-stop-shop rural recycling event near Lumsden in September, to safely dispose of a range of farm waste.

More than eight tonnes of waste was dropped off including four tonnes of bale wrap, 1.2 tonnes of plastic chemical containers, 1.5 tonnes of used oil and 1.5 tonnes of unwanted chemicals.

Environment Southland staff were on hand to talk with people over a cup of coffee and provide advice and information around farm waste management options.

Like any business, farmers are required to plan for waste disposal from their operation. If you missed this one-off opportunity, recycling and disposal options are available from a range of businesses.



## Toheroa consultation

Over summer, Environment Southland and Te Ao Marama will be seeking your views on the best options to protect Southland's culturally significant toheroa fishery.

Oreti Beach supports one of the largest populations of toheroa in New Zealand. They are a protected species and their habitat at Oreti Beach is a Mataitai Reserve. Juvenile toheroa live in soft sand just below the surface of the beach. The best way to protect juvenile toheroa is to exclude vehicles from their habitat, as vehicles driving over them can crush and kill them.

More needs to be done to protect the toheroa habitat on Oreti Beach, so in January you can have your say on a range of options that are being considered for restricting vehicle movement on the beach. Go to [www.haveyoursay.es.govt.nz](http://www.haveyoursay.es.govt.nz) from 13 January to 21 February 2020.



## Annual Report

The Council adopted the 2018/19 Annual Report and Annual Report summary in October.

The audited documents outline how well the Council had met its goals and budgets for the past financial year as per the Long-term Plan 2018-2028.

Overall, the Council had a good year with many projects achieved or well advanced. It ended the year with a financial surplus, largely due to investments performing better than expected.

Some highlights for 2018/19 include establishing the Regional Forum, adopting the Southland Regional Pest Management Plan, completing 166 Focus Activity Farm plans, and winning the New Zealand Biosecurity Supreme Award for the Fiordland Marine Regional Pathway Management Plan.

The report and summary are available on our website or by calling 0800 76 88 45.

# Time to think about...

## DECEMBER

**POTATO WART** – If you're pulling up your spuds for Christmas lunch, keep an eye out for potato wart, a nasty looking fungus which turns potatoes to mush. It's important to contact us if you suspect you have potato wart in your crop, as it needs to be dealt with correctly to avoid jeopardising our lucrative commercial potato industry.

**CHECK, CLEAN, DRY** – Lots of us will be out enjoying Southland's rivers and lakes this summer, so remember to Check, Clean and Dry all your fishing and boating equipment to ensure you don't spread any unwanted freshwater pests.



**NODDING THISTLE** – This time of year nodding thistle is flowering and should be targeted for control. If you've got nodding thistle on your property, you should destroy all plants within 50 metres of a boundary.

## JANUARY

**MUSTELIDS (FERRETS AND STOATS)** – These pests have just been through their annual spring/summer breeding season. They're a deadly menace to other wildlife, so now is a good time to set some traps around duck ponds, chicken coops, streams and bush areas.

**RAGWORT** – At this time of year ragwort plants which have made it through to flowering should be targeted for control. Remember, all ragwort within 20 metres of a boundary where the adjoining property is carrying out cattle, deer or horse grazing must be destroyed.

**SILAGE** – If you're starting to make silage, make sure your cut grass is properly wilted before chopping and storing. This will considerably reduce liquid leaching from the silage stack. Stacks need to be 50 metres from any waterways, wetlands or potable water. Silage should not be stored on land that can become wet from springs, seepage, high water tables, or stormwater run-off.

## FEBRUARY

**FIREWOOD** – Summer is perfect for thinking about future firewood supplies. Get it in now and store it correctly to ensure it has less than 25% moisture content when it is time to burn it. Stack it in a crisscross pattern to allow for airflow between the wood to dry it effectively. Go to [www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz](http://www.BreatheEasySouthland.co.nz) for a list of Good Wood suppliers.

**WALLABIES** – The animals, not the rugby type, are capable of causing huge impacts on Southland's biodiversity and economy if they get established here. This includes preventing regeneration of native bush, depletion of forest understorey and damage to tall tussock grasslands. They also compete heavily with livestock for pasture and crop. Wallabies are spreading out from their home range of South Canterbury and moving through Otago. If you happen to see or suspect a wallaby in Southland please report this immediately to the biosecurity pest animal team at Environment Southland.

## Down on the farm



By **KARL ERIKSON**  
Principal land sustainability officer

Now is the time of year when planning for next season's forage crops happens. When it comes to cultivation a question I would ask is... *how many farmers have already decided that conventional cultivation will be the technique they will use over other forms (such as direct drilling) to prepare seed beds for sowing?*

It's well known that minimum tillage practices are far better for soil health and the environment. Breaking up soil through the act of ploughing and tilling (cultivation in a traditional sense) releases large amounts of previously locked up nutrients. It also reduces organic matter stores, carbon content of the soil and therefore the soil structure. In addition, when finely tilled ground is prepared for seed it is vulnerable to erosion by wind or water. Remember last year's heavy rainfall events and the massive amounts of soil lost during last season's cultivation period?

Minimum tillage has other advantages too, not only to the environment but also for germination, plant establishment, soil organisms and moisture retention. So if you are looking for another way to improve your environmental footprint on farm then have a think about minimum tillage.

For more information contact our land sustainability team on 0800 76 88 45.

*For detailed information on any of these topics visit our website.*

[www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz)

# Out in the field



▲ Policy and planning team leader Gavin McCullagh and consents team leader Lydia Hayward at this year's Southland Home Show. Staff from Environment Southland manned a stand at the event, talking to visitors about improving air quality in Southland and how they can burn more efficiently.



▲ Compliance manager Simon Mapp and senior land sustainability officer David Moate with residents from Vickery Court Rest Home during a trip to the Waituna Lagoon. The residents enjoyed an afternoon of sharing memories and learning more about wetlands as part of their activities' programme.



▲ Environmental education officer Pat Hoffmann talks with students from the Red Cross Young Humanitarians Programme. The students spent a week in their school holidays taking part in a variety of experiences, including a planting session alongside the New River Estuary. The programme is designed to give youth an introduction into what it means to be a humanitarian.



▲ Harbourmaster Lyndon Cleaver and maritime officer Ian Coard with the new vessel *Kewa*, during its blessing in October. The vessel, funded by marine fees from cruise ships visiting the region, will be used for a range of work, including patrolling, public events, boating education, assisting with consent monitoring, assisting with access to hydrology monitoring stations on lakes, safety search and rescue, and oil spill response.