



SOUTHLAND BRANCH NEWSLETTER

Please note that all trips will leave from the Southland Museum at 9.30am (car pools will be organised from there) unless otherwise stated in the programme below.

November:

Saturday 5th – SERN bus trip to Black Lagoon, Waipapa Point, and Curio Bay. Meet at Feldwick Gates at 9:30 am and bring your own lunch. \$5 charge for the bus, which is also supported by ES and SERN. Just pay at the door. Expected return at 4:30 pm. (See Page 4)

Please register with Edith – EdithJ@xtra.co.nz or 213-1571.

Saturday 26th - Southland Community Nursery Open Afternoon (see Page 2).

December:

Saturday 3rd - Thomsons Bush Clean Up Day (details inside)

Saturday 10th - Te Rere Full Day Penguin Count - two teams needed - Leader Brian Rance 2131161 or rances@ihug.co.nz (See Page 11)

Wednesday 14th – Join us at Southland DisAbility Enterprises, 28 Etrick Street at **7 pm**. Ian Becker will show us our new recycling centre. Walk around Sutton Walkway to follow if time and weather allows.

Leader Jenny Campbell – email jennycam@xtra.co.nz.

January:

Saturday 14th – Working Bee at Sherwood Forest in the morning, and a walk around Forest Hill in the afternoon. Bring your lunch. Return around 4pm.

Leader Brian Rance - email rances@ihug.co.nz or ph 213 1161

Friday 20th to Monday 23rd - CANA (Coal Action Network Aotearoa) Summer Festival (See Page 12)

February:

Saturday 18th – Visit Bluff Hill and see all of the exciting things the Bluff Environmental Trust is doing. Bring your own lunch.

Leaders Brian & Chris Rance – email rances@ihug.co.nz or ph 213 1161

March:

Saturday 19th - Landcare Networking Day – to be held at Riverton. 10am until 3pm, with morning and afternoon tea and lunch supplied. Group reports and a guest speaker in the morning and a field trip in the afternoon.

Register with Nathan Cruickshank – ph 2115115 or email nathan.cruickshank@es.govt.nz

April:

Saturday 14th – Home Creek, Manapouri **NB: 9.00am** Car pool from museum. **11.00am** at Home Creek for restoration plantings. **1.30pm** - Meet at deer at Te Anau entrance. Explore covenanted wetlands & forest on Landcorp's Dale Farm, with QEII Rep Mark Sutton.

Leader Edith Jones, ph 213 1571 or email EdithJ@xtra.co.nz .

Tuesday 8 May 2012 - Southland Forest & Bird AGM

7.00pm at Holy Trinity Church Hall, King St, Windsor.

All welcome.

Any questions on the schedule, please call Edith Jones, 213-1571 (EdithJ@xtra.co.nz), except where noted.

Musing from the Chair

These are interesting times we are living in. From the party atmosphere of the Rugby World Cup to the environmental mess of the Rena grounding. We still have a fragile economic system around the world and with the Occupy Wall Street protests people are starting to call for a rethink of how the world is managed.

While much of the world's financial difficulties have been caused by greed, stupidity and fraud in financial markets there is also another underlying cause. The economy is running up against the environmental constraints of a finite planet. The Earth can no longer supply the quantities of resources that are demanded by our lifestyles. Nor can the Earth handle the vast quantities of waste that our societies are producing.

It is time for everyone to reflect on what is happening around the world and in New Zealand. Do we want to increase our exploitation of the earth's remaining resources? Do we want to preserve some of the remaining natural treasures that still exist?

The choice really comes down to whether we want to have a last burst of exploitation for short term profit or whether we want to move towards lifestyles and environmental management that would allow the earth to support us and our descendants well into the future. The current government seems intent on the short-term exploitation future.

With a large bill due for cleaning up the oil spill, why do we want to risk deep-sea drilling when we can't even get the Marine Reserves Bill passed? When our tourism, and agriculture, industries depend on our clean green brand why are we slashing funding to our conservation and environmental ministries? Facing the threat of climate change why would we allow coal mining in conservation areas such as the Denniston Plateau or over vast areas of Southland for lignite which is not even coal. With our water quality and quantities falling why would we allow huge expansion of intensive dairying and other land uses or further damming of our remaining pristine rivers.

We have an election in a month's time. This is a chance to choose whether we want to continue down our current exploitive road or change to a future that is more equitable and will let the earth continue to support life as we like it well into the future.

While election coverage is usually focussed on personalities of a few highlighted promises the long term thinking is more important. Have a look into the background philosophies and even dreams that the various parties are based on to see what they are likely to do. Then please choose a government that can steer the country towards a world where our children and grandchildren can live safely and comfortably.

Craig Carson, Branch Chairman



Southland Community Nursery 185 Grant Road, Otatara

email rances@ihug.co.nz

Spring in the nursery is the most exciting time! All of the seeds sowed before winter should be germinating and the time for pricking out and potting up is a busy one as we try to get as much out of the short Southland growing season as possible. Hopefully, over winter you have been planning what plants you would like to plant out and therefore have a plan of how many plants you need and which species you want to grow. If you haven't, don't worry - just come to the nursery on a Friday morning and we can talk it through. Or visit the Community Nursery website and get an idea of the plants that grow best in Southland.

On the afternoon of 26 November 2011 we will be having a Community Nursery Open Day where you can see the nursery, restoration area and created wetlands. It's an opportunity to ask any plant questions -natives, fruit trees, weeds (bring along a plant (native or weed) for us to identify if you don't know what it is). There will be some give-away native plants and lots of ideas.

Chris and Brian Rance

If you haven't visited the Community Nursery Website have a look at these links for Wetland creation - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/creating-ponds/ Shelterbelts - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/shelterbelts/ Plants to Attract Birds - www.southlandcommunitynursery.org.nz/restoring-your-patch/planning-your-project/attracting-birds/

Bringing the Field to the Forest (or the mother of all planting projects)

On 11 September 2011 an amazing event took place at Bushy Point, Otatara. A mass planting of 5300 locally grown native plants by 250 people in less than two hours! The event was the result of many hours of preparation by Living Legends national organisers, the Otatara Landcare Group and the Southland Department of Conservation. The event became part of DOC's Conservation week celebrations and Living legends was nationally sponsored by Meridian, Tindall Foundation and Project Crimson in association with the Rugby World Cup.



Volunteers in their hundreds helped plant the 5,300 native plants.

The Otatara Landcare Group's ambitious project to plant a forest that links two bush remnants got a massive boost. Bushy Point had been selected by Living Legends to be part of their nationwide conservation project. Living Legends is a community conservation project co-ordinating 17 native tree planting projects throughout New Zealand during Rugby World Cup 2011. In 2011 Living Legends will plant 85,000 native plants across New Zealand.

Each planting project was managed in conjunction with provincial rugby unions and was dedicated to a regional 'Rugby Legend selected by the unions. Southland's Living Legend is Kevin Laidlaw. Born in Nightcaps, Kevin represented New Zealand in 17 All Black games, including three tests. He made his test debut for New Zealand against South Africa at Cape Town on 23 July, 1960. He has been a stalwart of Southlands rugby scene as a player, coach and administrator. His advice to young people is to "join a club and be active".

Kevin was one of a number of "celebrities" who attended the event - Bugman Ruud Kleinpaste was MC despite having bronchitis, Mayors Tim and Frana and DOC Conservator Barry Hanson planted more than their fair share of native plants and the site was blessed by Michael Skerrett. Lions Club volunteers were marshalls and provided the BBQ and the whole Southland community supported the event including locals, volunteers from Te Anau and Stewart Island and local guide groups. There were over 80 children involved and "that was what made this event so fantastic" said Otatara Landcare Group Chair Barry Smith.



Left, Living Legend, Kevin Laidlaw, centre Bugman Ruud and right, Mayor Tim.

If you haven't yet visited the Bushy Point Restoration Area, you should!

From Bryson Road, a self-guided walk along the estuary edge, past wetlands to a pond, introduces you to this 'forest in the making'. The Landcare Group's pest control activities are being rewarded by increased numbers of native birds, including the rare fernbird and bittern. Today's area of open grassland is being turned steadily into forest. Planting an additional 5000 native trees on 11 September has added to the 10,000 plants already planted and Living Legends are committed to another 5000 plants over the next two years!

Special thanks from the Otatara Landcare Group go to our Rugby legend Kevin Laidlaw, DOC Southland's Mark Oster and Colin Bishop and Living Legends coordinators Kay Eade and Gordon Hosking.

It looks like next years event will be early May - look out for advertising and visit the Living Legends website at www.livinglegends.co.nz

Chris Rance

Congratulations to the Living Legend team (right) who organised a great event on 11th September 2011.



SERN Spring Field Day 2011
Exploring Restoration Sites in South-eastern Southland

Saturday 5th November, bus leaving Feldwick Gates at Queens Park 9.30am.

10.15am Black Lagoon - ES riparian restoration site. Also hear about forest remnants in the vicinity.

11.30am Waipapa Point - Forest & Bird Ericson memorial pingao restoration site.

12 noon – Lunch (Bring Your Own).

1.00pm Curio Bay - South Coast Dairies - hear about the work this farm has undertaken with a number of agencies for positive environmental outcomes. Farm tour.

2.30pm Curio Bay - South Catlins Development and Environmental Charitable Trust - learn about the Curio Bay walkway development and the protection of the live forest adjoining the petrified forest.

3.45pm Hear about the Waikawa Stream Restoration project on the way back to Invercargill.

4.30pm approx. Return to Feldwick Gates, Invercargill.

\$5 per person for partial bus cost.

Thanks to Environment Southland for their sponsorship of this event.

Please note that you should bring your own lunch and drinks

Bookings essential – contact Edith Jones - EdithJ@xtra.co.nz or 213-1571

SERN (Southland Ecological Restoration Network) www.sern.org.nz
a Southland website about community action in conservation across Southland
Have a look at the 44 projects on the site and see if you can lend a helping hand to a project in your area.

Friends of Sherwood Forest.

This group, formed in 2009, continues the work that had been started through Biodiversity Condition Funds in 2003 to return the Turnbull's nationally significant Matai dominant forest at Tussock Creek to good health. The area was severely damaged by the 1996 frosts and regeneration in many areas was dominated by elderberry and other weeds. The other goal was to create a corridor between Sherwood Forest and the nearby DOC Marshall Bush. This 1.5ha revegetation area became known as Derek's Patch.

Working bees are generally held on the first Saturday of the month from September to May. If you are interested in becoming involved please email g.munro@woosh.co.nz or iere@southnet.co.nz.

There are a number of groups that also help out. Pat Turnbull is most appreciative of the assistance that she has with looking after Sherwood Forest.

Gay Munro



Grant, Ruby and Karen weeding entrance area. Sept.2011



Geoff tries out his weed puller with success. Oct. 2011

Hedgehope School visit for Arbor Day celebration. Checking out Derek's Patch. June 2011





Old Bikes Needed for Bike Loan Scheme

Any condition bike taken to be repaired for people to borrow
Contact the Invercargill Environment Centre

Te Whenua Awhi is Māori for cherishing or embracing the earth or place

The Invercargill Environment Centre Te Whenua Awhi, 11 S.I.T. Arcade, 46 Esk Street, Invercargill, Southland, New Zealand
Phone/Fax: (03) 218 4404 Email: ieec@paradise.net.nz Web: www.iec.org.nz

Kidzone a stimulating experience.

Seeing young people along with their families- parents, brothers, sisters, aunties, grans and grandads and all friends enjoying the 170 entertaining, energising and educational activities at Kidzone is inspirational.

Not to be outdone, Invercargill Environment Centre, Te Whenua Awhi, provided a variety of activities for young and old alike in their Environment room with the emphasis on bees. The highlights were the chance to make beehive mobiles, bees from egg cartons or explore a real beehive. An explanation of how bees go about the task of making honey and how apiarists use bees' energy for the benefit of humans by making honey wound up with people able to taste some comb honey -a sweet new experience for many.



People learned about the importance of bees for pollination of so many plants and their vulnerability because of pesticide use. Long tongued bumblebees and their special habits were also featured. Bee friendly plants, which can be planted in back gardens to encourage bees were another feature.

Alongside this feature, people were able to make putiputi from harakeke (flax flowers) to take home as a gift for someone else. Volunteer Mayhla gave generously of her time and expertise to teach others.

The Environment room drew people in with its bee on a penny farthing bike which was fun. Each day an apiarist came to educate interested people and we thank David Henderson and Jasmine Hayes for their expertise. Author Raymond Hubber from Dunedin was a special drawcard as he read from his books about bees.

The recycled activity centre was not only an attraction in the Environment room but it also enthused younger children in the 'Talking Pictures' room where a photo exhibition about Human Rights provided some stimulating conversations and awareness raising about rights and responsibilities.

These rooms could not have been such challenging and educational places if it had not been for the generosity of volunteer helpers and staff giving their time and energy to ensure visitors both enjoyed the time interacting as well as learned some new information.

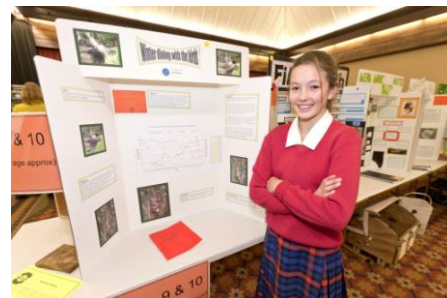
Kidzone is a WOW experience thanks to the sponsors, organisers and volunteers.

Jenny Campbell.

Interested in hearing about Environmental Education?
join the **Southland Environmental Education Network (SEEN)** by contacting
Pat Hoffmann, Environment Southland - Email: pat.hoffmann@es.govt.nz

NZAS Science & Technology Fair
Winner of Forest & Bird Southland's 'Best Exhibit related to Conservation' Prize.
Annabel Kennedy, Southland Girls High School

Our congratulations go to Annabel, who was awarded the prize sponsored by Forest & Bird this year. Her project was titled 'Winter Dining with the Birds' and looked at whether temperature influenced the amount of feed the birds ate. She discovered that there was no consistent result showing that birds ate/drank more from the Kennedy's bird table on cold days than warm days. An interesting project and great to see this kind of investigation being undertaken. Well done, Annabel.



Gay Munro

Kiwi Conservation Club for Children (KCC)
– a great gift for Children and Grandchildren

Join now on-line at www.forestandbird.org.nz

Junior \$19

Junior Group Membership \$74 (30 magazines per issue)

Kiwi Conservation Club for Children Website

The KCC website is a growing resource, packed with information about New Zealand wildlife and wild places. The website has been specifically developed for children, so they will enjoy the site and gather valuable information for school projects.

Visit the Kiwi Conservation Club website www.kcc.org.nz

Dipton School Environmental Group Leading the Way



Dipton Enviro Group members helping plant a native tree in the corner of their school grounds mid-July are (left) Wilf and Brun Griffiths aged 10, Callum Taylor, 6, local nurseryman Graham Milligan, Caleb Hoyle, 13, Lee Withy, 12 and Roseanna Middleton, 11.

Dipton Enviro Group are motivated and keen students who have wonderful ideas about making the school environmentally friendly and their own, Enviro School Facilitator Suzie Buckley said last week when she attended the signing of their Enviro Schools' agreement.

Enviro Group leaders Lee Withy and Caleb Hoyle presented a power point outlining an overview of projects to date including potting up native seedlings and planting natives at the school, establishing vegetable boxes and doing a water quality survey with the Department of Conservation. The whole school inquiry unit went into Castlerock limestone bluff area, which led to pest trapping, planting natives and stream studies there with a whole school trip as well as small groups visiting regularly.

Southland District Council Mayor Frana Cardno presented the Enviro Group of ten student with badges, saying they are the new leaders and an example to the rest of the community.

A recent highlight for the group was being a finalist at the Environment Southland Environment Awards with native plants donated by Graham Milligan an appropriate prize, enabling them to plant up an area of natives in their school grounds.

Jenny Campbell

Tautuku Forest Cabins – Lenz Reserve

Situated on the Southern Scenic Route (SH92) 8km south of Papatowai and 90 minutes north of Invercargill, on a sealed highway, the Cottage, Coutts Cabin and the A Frame continue to be a popular place to stay. In a bush setting of 550 hectares with beaches, caves and waterfalls nearby it provides an excellent base for exploring the Catlins.



The Cottage (10 beds)

Members \$15
Non Members \$20



Coutts Cabin (4 beds)

Members \$15
Non Members \$20



A Frame (2 beds)

Members \$10
Non Members \$15

For all cabins : Schoolchildren \$5, Under 5

These prices are at 1989 rates and represent real value for money. The facilities are well equipped (all electric) with heaters (heat pump in the Cottage), microwaves, ovens and showers.

Convenient walks are the 1 hour nature walk and 3 hour long track both starting and finishing at the Lodge plus beach walks, Cathedral Caves and Lake Wilkie nearby. Another feature in the area is the Cooks Mill site on which is located a Trail tractor and bogies under cover that were used for hauling logs, this has been refurbished and upgraded by the Owaka Lions Club as a project.

To book accommodation phone Diana Noonan 03 4158024, diana.keith@ruralinzone.net

Commitment Recognised.

Tony Bretherick's long term commitment to the Lenz Reserve Committee was recognized with the presentation of a painting of the area by Fergus Sutherland at Southland Forest & Bird's September meeting. Every year Tony would co-ordinate working bees in May and September to help keep the buildings and grounds in order.



Southland F&B Chairman, Craig Carson, makes a presentation Tony Bretherick, on his retirement from the Lenz Reserve Committee.

History of Lenz Reserve

Books available from Mary Miller, 4 Cherry Lane, RD 2, BALCLUTHA 9230
ph. 03 418 1798 or email marymiller@kinect.co.nz

\$10 Donation

This year's Conservation Week theme was "We love you, New Zealand." However, despite all of this "love", the previous week DoC announced it would be cutting 96 jobs in an effort to meet a rapidly shrinking budget allocated for protecting New Zealand's most important state asset - our natural heritage. DoC has already been through several significant reviews in recent years, which means that any so-called "fat" was trimmed long ago. We're now well into muscle, sinew and bone.

It is a feat of dedication, ingenuity and perseverance that DoC continues to be recognised as a world leader in endangered-species recovery, predator control and managing recreational opportunities for visitors, while running on the smell of an oily rag. Currently, without the cuts in place, DoC can only afford to carry out pest control on one-eighth of public conservation land - which means in the vast majority of our wild places we are losing the battle to protect our unique native wildlife. Sadly, the type of cuts affect experts in our environment at a time when the New Zealand public needs them the most.

These 100 jobs include technical experts in pest control, species conservation, island restoration, lawyers, planners and scientists, to name but a few. The Government assures us repeatedly that these are not "frontline" staff, which is a little disingenuous since the jobs are largely based in conservancy offices and these expert staff spend significant time in the field, in hearings and with communities, trying to protect our natural heritage.

Decades of experience and conservation knowledge will be lost and the frontline staff remaining will lose access to the benefit of this knowledge for their role in carrying out the conservation work. The first alarming example of the kind of work that will be lost was in this year's council hearing about Bathurst Resources' application to dig up 200ha of public conservation land on the beautiful Denniston Plateau on the West Coast. DoC did not front up to the hearing, and therefore no officials were there to provide information on native wildlife such as the great spotted kiwi, the native geckos, the pygmy forests and the vast wild landscape that belongs to all of us and which is managed by DoC.

At a time when some of our most well-known business heads are calling for the Government to invest in our environment to ensure our brand advantage of being "clean and green", DoC is expected to manage and protect one-third of our land mass, our marine reserves, national parks, forests and offshore islands on about the same budget as the Hamilton City Council.

They maintain that our clean environment, our precious waterways and our brand are increasingly becoming our competitive advantage in the global economy. Despite this, the amount of investment in natural-heritage protection by the Government is about \$37 per person annually. That's about 72c a week to protect our wildlife and wild places - the very things that give us our national identity and our competitive edge. We love you, New Zealand - it just seems that the Government doesn't want to pay for you.

Nicola Vallance (Abridged from the NZ Herald)

**BRANCH SPECIAL - CRAIG POTTON CALENDAR
DISCOUNTED PRICE - \$15**

Selling calendars is a major fundraising event for the branch, and buying them really supports our activities. And, you get them for several dollars off the store price.

Contact Peggy Snoep – 216-9103

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utu Revisited

Colin Bishop, Animal Threats Ranger at DOC, was our speaker at the AGM, telling us about the very exciting results from the 1080 drop at Waitutu. Forest and Bird has had a long involvement with Waitutu, from initially encouraging it to be protected to supporting fully the 1080 drop. Waitutu is one of the best forest remnants in the country. There are 5 different types of mistletoe, which is quite unusual. Saving it is a real priority and the results are just great. It wasn't cheap - the Nature Heritage Fund provided \$500,000 and DOC supplied \$131,000.

Three years ago, it became very clear that the stoat and possum numbers were becoming alarmingly high. Quite large mistletoes, very healthy one year, were destroyed by possum by the next year. Several female kakas, which had been banded, were found dead, clearly killed by possums. There were still kakas around, but they were increasingly adult males. The females were being killed on the nests. Since 2004, no juveniles have been found. Something had to be done to save the forest and the birds. Who wanted to hear the last few adult male kakas sing their song?

The Waitutu Restoration Project was done with the very fullest consultation with all of the interested parties as well as the general public.

DOC targeted 25,000ha of the 45,000ha forest area. The area was chosen because it has very good natural boundaries.

The pre-feed and the drop were conducted under very strict conditions and went very well. Every flight was GPSed, so any overflies and gaps were clear. The weather was excellent.

The results are remarkable! DOC uses a term called rtc as a description of possum abundance. Before the drop, the possum abundance was 13% + rtc. After it, it was .06% rtc! That's greater than 99.5% reduction in possum abundance. Almost as good, in the extensive area that they monitor, there has been no evidence of rats, mice or stoats.

DOC conducted very serious independent testing of every phase of the operation. They tested the river water, the soil at the loading area, the staff and contractors. All were negative for 1080.

There have been 4 DOC field trips, each taking 7 days, into the Waitutu, since the drop. They are all coming back full of joy! There is an abundance of bird chicks. They are seeing family groups of birds, the way it ought to be. And, it can only get better. The plants will take longer to recover, but getting the birds back is the first step.

DOC's next step is to preserve another 1300ha from the Waitutu River to Grant Burn. It has fantastic mistletoe and is a real forest gem. Then, with SILNA, they will work on a strategic plan for the future of the area. Perhaps in the future, we can all hope for species transfers, to help this forest to return to where it should be.

Of course, there will be continual monitoring.

At the end of his talk, Colin thanked Forest and Bird for their active support of Waitutu over the years.

Edith Jones

Southland Forest & Bird Winter Raffle
Congratulations to Pam Whiteford who won the draw
for the book, Rakiura Heritage by Neville Peat

A Walk on the Mild Side

Favourite haunts from Footloose

I'm house-sitting in Stirling with two nutty goats eager for attention and food, not necessarily in that order. They can chew through almost anything in no time flat, leap up at the window eager for a chat or stand on the slim ledge of the garage window and glare accusingly at me if I haven't given them a treat.

Anyway I had lots of walks planned for up here but seem to find only gum or pine plantations for undercover walks. One attempt was along a riverbank walkway which lasted all of 15 min as I was tired of clomping through sheep poo alongside a dirty river surrounded by farmland. I began to reminisce about all the marvellous undercover walks we have around Invers and decided to also remind you in case you were going stir crazy due to the time of year.

Seaward Bush – off Mason Road with its two circular tracks & picnic area. Keep your eyes open for late fungi and noble kamahi & rimu. Lovely regenerating bush. Times are approx 40min-1hr.

Kew Bush off Elles Rd near Kew Hospital

A great short or medium length walk. New walks have been incorporated into this bush, it also now joins up with the Roger Sutton Walkway.

Kew is supposedly the largest remaining stand of kahikatea in the South Island. A major clean up of pest plants has been undertaken in Kew Bush and the results are beginning to show. Tall kahikatea surrounded at the base by ferns & some blackberry. Native bush rice grass (*Micolena avenasia*), it has feathery toi toi like fronds, tree ferns, *Astelia nervosa* plus more & more birds are being heard. A claim to fame here is the appearance of the ancient spider species *Grundungula sorensenii* so don't go squishing any spiders you could be killing an endangered species. Time –as long or short as you like

Glory Track – Bluff

Walkway starts at Stirling Point, you have the choice of along the shore or grunt uphill first from behind the restaurant. It's a good metalled track most of the way with maybe some tacky bits in the bush. Tall manuka, Olearia, Blechnum capense and the old gunpit adorned with mindless scrawl of the 'nothing better to do' crowd. Time about 1 hour

Motorau Hut – Kepler Track

A bit further to go but a wonderful walk. Good metalled track all the way. Stop at the Amoeboid Mire it's impressive. Great river views, lush majestic forest, a beautiful lake beside the comfortable hut for your lunch. Walking further on if you have time there are some magnificent groves of ferns. Time 1-3 hours return depending on how far/fast you go.

Mores Reserve – Riverton

Partly undercover so plan your day. Over the Riverton Bridge keeping left until you see the Mores Reserve signpost. Turn right into Richardson Rd & follow the signs. Wonderful views over Riverton and the bay, Longwoods, Eyre Mtns, Hokonuis & Mid Dome. The rare peripatus & Helms stag beetles can be found in this area but don't actively hunt for them as they like their privacy. Heaps of tui, fantails and LBJ's.

Hilltop Track (Mores Res) 20 min return

Plenty of lawyer, tree ferns, hounds tongue, hen & chicken & crown ferns. Fuchsia will be dripping with paper bark. And the views Raratoka, Whenua Hou (Codfish) etc have that WOW factor.

Other Track (Mores Res) 1 hr return

Groves of kamahi, pate, 7 finger, miro, marble leaf, red mapou & fungi. There are beautiful displays of lichen on the mapou. Keep a lookout for the large gnarled stump – you'll be pleased you did. Superb views all around. Don't go for a skate on the slippery fallen leaves on your way down.



Amoeboid Mire, Kepler Track

Add to these few some of the great "undercover" walks around Otatara and realise what a wonderful array of walking tracks we have around Southland. I will continue to suss out something halfway decent up here and drool at the thought of you all walking in the bush down home.

Te Rere Yellow-eyed penguin Reserve Update

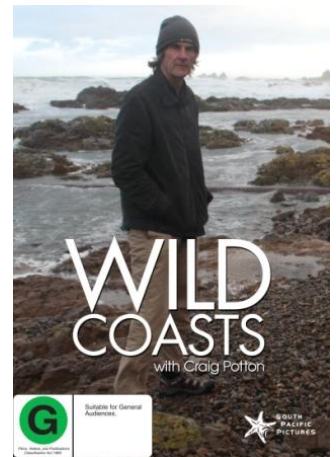
For photos and stories about Te Rere visit - www.converge.org.nz/fbsth/

The winter is the time for our planting workbees. I was away at the time of the July workbee but Craig tells me that it was very successful. There was an excellent turnout from enthusiastic volunteers. Again Southland F&B volunteers combined with groups from Southland Tramping Club, SIT and DOC Otago volunteers. All of the plants brought by Arne Clelland, Pukerau Nursery were planted in the day - a very good thing as the August planting day was cancelled due to poor weather. The revegetation at the reserve is looking very good - the work Fergus does in maintaining the plants makes all the difference - for most people appreciate that the planting part is the easy part!

This summer we will concentrate on the December full day count as there is a Catlins 5 Yearly Census being undertaken this year - week commencing 31 October. The December count will be undertaken on 10th December. The December count along with the monitoring undertaken by Fergus give a good indication of nesting success for the season. It is also an excellent opportunity for keen volunteers to help out with the penguin observation part of the Te Rere work. Good views of penguins and their antics reassure us of the importance of the work on the reserve.

This year was the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Te Rere Advisory Committee. This committee was formed following the devastating 1996 fire. The committee brings together expertise from DOC and Yellow-eyed penguin Trust along with local members, Fergus and Maurice and Marie York the reserve neighbours. This committee has made a valuable contribution to the management of the reserve. Other news from Te Rere was that we had the first record of Fiordland Crested Penguin. Also we have had Christian Hardy and SIT Environmental Management student undertaking a research project on water quality in Te Rere stream and the coastal environment. This work will form a baseline for the future. I hope to be able to report on this in our next newsletter.

Did you know that Te Rere featured on the latest Craig Potton TV Series "Wild Coasts" - the interview and camera footage gave us a chance to highlight the work being done at the reserve and provided some very good footage of the penguins. Don't forget that this and our own DVD are available for purchase. All proceeds from the Te Rere DVD go back to finance important work of the reserve.



Brian Rance

**Join in the Penguin Count this year and have a great day out at Te Rere
Saturday 10th December**

Contact Brian Rance, ph 213 1161 or email rances@ihug.co.nz for further details



Do you know where Forest and Bird's magpie traps are ? We lent them out a while ago and they have gone missing. If you are using them, GREAT ! Just let us know. Thanks. The traps are labelled with Forest and Bird, so they should be easy to identify.
Contact Edith Jones, ph 213 1571, if you have one of them.

Come to the **CANA (Coal Action Network Aotearoa) Summer Festival** being organised in Matura in **January, Friday 20th to Monday 23rd** where there will be education sessions with visiting experts on various aspects of concern such as soils, health, air quality, water, social impacts, climate change and aquifers.

Along with this there is music, networking, fun, good food, connecting with the locals at a community day as well as planning for future actions to make an impact and send the message that this kind of action is not what we believe is the future for our country, our world and future generations.

Camping is at Mike Dumbar's property with field trips planned.

Helpers are required for all kinds of activities so if you have any skills or anything eg excess veggies then, which you think might help us please contact Jenny Campbell on 03- 248-6398 (answer phone operates) or jennycam@xtra.co.nz.

This is a national event with even some international speakers. We are expecting quite a crowd with families especially welcome! Come for the whole time or just a day.

Registration details will be upon the website very soon.

Check it out at <http://coalactionnetworkaotearoa.wordpress.com/>

Interest in Southland Lignite from beyond the Province.

Southland Forest and Bird organised a public meeting with the South Otago Branch on Monday 8 August in Balclutha to discuss the issues and work on actions and responses to the proposed lignite mining in Southland. A panel presented their views on various aspects of the concerns such as soils, agriculture, social impacts, political responses, carbon emissions, health and climate change along with the Coal Action Network Aotearoa (CANA) national campaign. There was a lot of discussion with various options and opinions shared.

Jenny Campbell

Excerpts from South Otago Forest & Bird Newsletter:

CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENTIST DRIVES THE MESSAGE HOME

Local F&B members attended the Dunedin and Gore presentations by NASA director, Jim Hansen. Since the 1980s, Dr Hansen has been trying to wake up the world to the dangers of climate change. Despite being abused and even arrested for his activism, the mild-mannered scientist has continued his campaign to get people and governments to take action before it is too late. Hansen's central messages is that we must reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, especially coal, which he sees as being the most dangerous long-term environmental threat. A carbon tax should be levied at first sale or point of entry and the proceeds put directly back in the hands of the consumers. Hansen opposes cap-and-trade schemes, which he believes do nothing to confront the real issues, and just serve to make a few people very wealthy.

MINING ISSUES Close to home – Southland Lignite

New Zealand has committed conditionally to a 15–20% reduction in 1990 greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2020. This would mean that by 2020 we would be emitting about 52 million tonnes of GHG. Since 1990, however, total emissions have actually continued to rise. There has been some decrease since 2006 but we are still significantly above the 1990 level. So it's not surprising that environmental groups are dismayed by Solid Energy's proposal to develop three opencast lignite mines in Southland. (Lignite is the lowest grade of dirty brown coal.) In a select committee hearing, Solid Energy estimated that the three projects would produce approx 15 million tonnes of GHG per year. They consider that these emissions could be offset by carbon capture and storage technology and/or by extra tree planting. Dr Kennedy Graham of the Green Party pointed out that the technology for carbon capture is still largely unproven and that no suitable site has been identified in Southland for a storage site. He also estimated that it would be necessary to plant an additional 500 000 hectares of trees in order to capture the extra GHG resulting from the lignite projects.

Visiting Macquarie Island

Peter McClelland of the Department of Conservation shared his slides of Macquarie Island. He has visited 3 times, twice on tourist boats, and last year for 3 months as part of the rat, mice and rabbit eradication programme. Unfortunately, last year, they were not able to drop the bait due to the weather conditions. However, they succeeded this year. A review of the areas where they managed to drop bait last year already shows improvements in the vegetation. This is the largest eradication programme in the world, costing \$22M Australian.

Macquarie Island, part of Tasmania, is about 1600 km southeast of Hobart, and about 800 km from Bluff. The island is 32 km long and 5 km wide at the widest. It is a World Heritage Site, not because of the vegetation but the geology. It is the only place in the world where the rocks from the mantle are exposed. There are no trees, except beech tree logs on the beaches that came from South America.

Macquarie Island was discovered in 1810 by Captain Hasselborough, a sealer. The seals were then hunted to extinction. Joseph Hatch (Mayor of Invercargill 1877-78) established an oil extraction business there from 1902-1920, killing first the elephant seals, and then the penguins. But, nature has come back brilliantly. There are now 3 species of fur seals: NZ; Australian; and the Subantarctic, as well as 13,000 elephant seals. There are 4 types of penguins: Rockhopper (perhaps only 500-1000); Gentoo (7-10,000); King (ie: Happy Feet, with at least 1/2 million); and Royals (750,000 pairs). Macquarie also has the Macquarie Island shag, northern and southern giant petrels, sooty albatross, shuas, black back gulls, and a few wandering albatross.

Macquarie Island is a wild and windy place. You have to have a written exemption if you want to go out without 2 walking sticks! You also have to carry a full pack of survival gear, after signing numerous release forms, etc. When it isn't blowing a gale, it's cloudy. Even when it is blowing a gale, it can be cloudy. Of course, the seas are normally very rough.

In another few years, Macquarie Island should be back to where it started, before humans interfered. In 2008, the cats were all removed. The wild dogs, cattle, sheep and 1 horse are gone. As of this year, the mice and rats have been eradicated. The rabbit numbers are significantly down, but some rabbits refuse to eat bait. There are 12 hunters and their dogs on the island, making sure that the rabbits will be gone soon as well.

Edith Jones

Environmental Enhancement Fund - a helping hand for biodiversity from ES

Applications are currently open for the new Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) launched by Environment Southland. The EEF is used to assist individual landowners and community groups to protect and enhance indigenous biodiversity on private and community-owned land in Southland. The fund will apply primarily to areas of land, ideally dominated by native species that exist within a functioning and sustainable ecosystem. This is likely to involve remnants of native forest, wetland, shrubland and grassland, etc. It could also apply to indigenous biodiversity values in freshwater and marine environments.

The focus of the fund is to facilitate the improvement and long term care of indigenous biodiversity values at key sites in the region. It will also promote the use of formal protection of biodiversity through legal Covenants and similar long term agreements.

Up to \$30,000 has been allocated to the fund for the 2011/12 financial year. Medium sized grants (>\$3,000 and up to \$10,000) will be considered by Council at the November meeting, so applications must be in by 5pm on Monday 31st October. Applications for grants of up to \$3000 can be made any time of the year. Biosecurity Manager Richard Bowman says, "It's a hand up with up to 50% of the cost of a project, which will be paid on completion of the work." Grants will only cover the cost of materials and labour used in the projects.

You'll find full information online at www.es.govt.nz or you can email service@es.govt.nz or call 0800 76 88 45 and ES will send you the information and an application form.

Green Ribbon Award a Thrill

Being named a finalist in the Ministry for the Environment 21st Green Ribbon Awards, Whatungaro He Tangata Toitu He Whenua, was great recognition for Pomona Island Charitable Trust. They shared the award with Tuhoe Putaiao Charitable Trust which carries out environmental restoration in the Bay of Plenty.

“We were honoured to be named as a finalist but it is a huge honour to be first equal in our category ‘Protecting our Biodiversity’,” Trust Secretary Dr Viv Shaw said, on accepting the award at a banquet at Parliament in Wellington last Thursday night, 9 June. “With huge support from the people in Manapouri and Te Anau, we have eradicated all the pests from two islands, Rona and Pomona, in Lake Manapouri.”

Now the Trust is bringing the birds back, in particular one of New Zealand’s national icons, the critically endangered tokoeka (Haast kiwi), along with the threatened mohua (yellowhead) and robins.

The Haast kiwi is the second rarest kiwi and these islands now hold about 10 % of their population, with the islands acting as a creche site for young birds. Trust Chair John Whitehead, also at the event, said they estimate about 10% of people from the Te Anau basin have been out helping with the eradication of possums, rats, mice, deer and stoats and they continue to monitor traps to ensure the islands stays pest free. There are 59 stoat traps on Pomona and 17 on Rona with some being sponsored by corporates.

The Southland Trailer Yacht Squadron maintains 120 traps on the mainland adjacent to the islands to reduce the chance of stoats which might try to swim to the islands.

The Trust has received funding through Lotteries, Community Trust of Southland along with local businesses and family Trusts. Gary Trimble from Trimble Electronics, Christchurch has sponsored many traps which is appreciated by the Trust.

“It is great that the local community can get up close and personal with these birds,” Dr Shaw said. “Thank you to both DoC (Department of Conservation) in Te Anau and Haast for nominating us as well as trusting us with these iconic species.”

Jenny Campbell



Left Hon Nick Smith, Minister for the Environment, Dr Viv Shaw, Secretary and John Whitehead, Chair of Pomona Island Charitable Trust, Dr Russel Norman, Co- Leader of the Green Party after presentation of the award of first equal in ‘Protecting our Biodiversity’ category at Green Ribbon Awards at Parliament in June.

**Check out the work of the Pomona Island Charitable Trust
at**

www.pomona-island.org.nz/



Environment Award Winners Honoured



Southland's environmental champions were honoured at the sixteenth Southland Environment Awards held in Invercargill in early July. A record audience of 320 people turned out to celebrate the achievements of a diverse range of nominees from all over the region.

The awards are organised by Environment Southland to recognise the good work being done – often behind the scenes and voluntarily – by a multitude of people who are committed to conserving and enhancing the region's natural resources.

The winners were:

School (sponsored by WasteNet and Milligan Nurseries): Fiordland College – for their project “Kids Restore the Kepler”. Highly commended – Salford School.

Community Group (sponsored by NZAS): Ōraka-Aparima Rūnaka – for their long-running project to restore habitat and return native species to Rarotoka / Centre Island. Highly commended – Dipton Landcare Group and the Stewart Island / Rakiura Community and Environment Trust.

Farming (sponsored by AWS Legal): South Coast Dairy Ltd (Chris & Lynsey Stratford) – for planning and establishing a dairy farm in a manner that avoids adverse environmental impacts.

Environmental Innovator (sponsored by the Invercargill Licensing Trust): Invercargill City Council Parks and Reserves Division – for the conversion of the plant nursery boiler to run on waste wood.

Commercial (sponsored by Landcorp Farming Ltd): Southern Discoveries Ltd – for their support of the Sinbad Sanctuary project to restore a sensitive and inaccessible area at the base of Mitre Peak. Highly Commended – Rain Espresso and the Rakiura Resource Recovery Centre.

Special Award (sponsored by Environment Southland Councillors): Barry Harcourt – for raising awareness of environmental and conservation issues through his photographs.

Environmental Achiever (sponsored by Real Journeys): Lindsay Hazley – for his contribution to the Tuatara captive breeding programme. Highly commended – Mark Sutton.

Individual Award (sponsored by Forsyth Barr): Chris and Brian Rance – for their ongoing contribution to environmental projects, including the Community Nursery which has inspired several other such nurseries, and their newly opened wetland and track. Highly commended – Tony and Raewyn van Gool.

Thomsons Bush Clean up Day – Saturday, 3rd December

Westpac Bank, Invercargill City Council and Environment Southland along with local businesses, schools and community groups are joining forces for a clean up day in Thomsons Bush.

Along with various work, a sausage sizzle and a lunchtime concert are planned. Approximate time 10 - 3pm. Further details will be available closer to the time.

All are welcome - come and help make a difference.

Southland Branch Committee

Craig Carson (2130732)

Rob and Peggy Snoep (2169103)

Jenny Campbell, Mossburn (03 2486398)

Chris and Brian Rance (2131161)

Edith Jones (2131571)

Margaret Hopkins, Stewart Island (2191126)

Christine McKenzie, Fortrose (03 2469526)

Marie Lockie (217 8720)

Christine Henderson, Lumsden (03 87605)

Arthur Williams (2168985)

Barbara Carson (2130732)

Gay Munro (2395827)

Neill Robertson, Manapouri (03 2499595)

Bonnie Harper (2149279)

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