

A newsletter from the Bluff Community Board.

# BLUFF BOARD NEWS



## Committing to the Bluff Community

This is the first newsletter from the new Community Board. Other than Graham Laidlaw who had spent one year on the Board leading up to the local body elections, the rest of the Board are new to the role.

It has been challenging over the last ten months with the Board not only having to get to grips with the role of a Community Board, but also dealing with day to day problems as they occur.

The Board have attended a number of workshops facilitated by the Invercargill City Council covering topics such as: Standing Orders, Finance & Corporate Services, Works & Services, and Environmental & Planning Services.

A key focus of the Board is to meet as many community groups as possible within the first year. To date we have met with: Bluff Hill Environment Trust, Bluff 2024 Urban Rejuvenation, and Omaui Landcare Group. In addition, we have also had Environment Southland and New Zealand Transport Agency attend meetings to explain their role within our community and the Board has visited South Port NZ and the NZ Aluminium Smelter.

The Board has made a commitment to ensure that young achievers within the community have the opportunity to further their education.

The annual Bluff Community Board Bursary was awarded this year to three recipients: Kaukiterangi Blair, who is studying towards a Health and Science Degree at the University of Otago; Bonnie-Bell O'Donoghue, who is studying towards a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Education at the university of Otago, and Riki Nyhon who is studying towards a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Information Science at the University of Otago.

Past recipient Dr Michael Stevens is back in Bluff to carry out research on regional histories of Maori economics and trans-national linkages. His case study explores Bluff from the 1800s – 2000s.

The Board was represented at the Bluff ANZAC Day Parade and a wreath was laid at the War Memorial. The Board also took part in the commemoration of the sinking of H.M.S. Neptune, laying a wreath in memory of those lost at sea.

The Board carried out its annual tour of inspection of the Bluff Ward in April. A number of matters were highlighted, ranging from overgrown sections, removal of trees at the Greenpoint Cemetery to drainage issues along the edge of the ICC Bluff Hill Reserve. Remedial action for these areas has been scheduled.

The role of Chairman has been challenging, but in a good sense. We feel, as a new Board, we are starting to make headway into some of the issues around Bluff. We are really positive about what's going on and are working well together. We have a lot of ideas going forward and it's just a matter of working through them and progressing them.



**Raymond Fife**

*Chairperson,  
Bluff Community Board*

*Raymond Fife*

Who's on the...

# BLUFF COMMUNITY BOARD



Raymond Fife  
CHAIRPERSON  
PHONE: 212 7082  
MOBILE: 027 447 5317



Wyma Glassey  
PHONE: 212 7200  
MOBILE: 027 268 5513



Gloria Henderson  
PHONE: 212 8541  
MOBILE: 027 348 9062



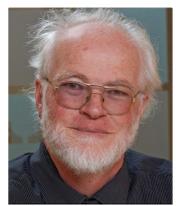
Graham Laidlaw  
PHONE: 212 7704  
MOBILE: 027 221 9215



Patricia Young  
PHONE: 212 7131  
MOBILE: 027 229 6160



Cr Rebecca Amundsen  
COUNCIL APPOINTEE  
MOBILE: 027 225 2664



Cr Llyod Esler  
COUNCIL APPOINTEE  
PHONE: 213 0404

## Bluff Promotions



### BLUFF PUBLICITY/PROMOTIONS

Bluff publicity/promotions officer Lindsay Beer has attended every Community Board meeting. He has given full reports on the activities of Bluff Promotions-these can be found in the official minutes available online at [www.icc.govt.nz](http://www.icc.govt.nz).

### PROMOTION MATERIAL

A range of promotional material has been published which advertises community group events and projects within our community. An events calendar for monthly activities is distributed locally and can also be picked up at the Bluff Service Centre.

### UP AND OVER BLUFF HILL GRUNT

Bluff Promotions is once again holding the 'Up and Over Bluff Hill Grunt'. This event will be held on Sunday, November 2, 2014. It's for old and young alike and you can walk or run the event-it's all about participating.



### BLUFF RUGBY CLUB 125TH JUBILEE

Bluff Rugby Club held its 125th Jubilee over the Queen's Birthday Weekend. Present and past members attended, of which some of the latter are now living overseas. It was a good time for everyone to catch up and talk about past glories and their time playing together. It was a huge weekend, and it was topped off on Sunday afternoon with a rugby game; Bluff vs out of town players. My thanks to the 125th Jubilee Committee for the organisation of it.

## Bluff to Invercargill Walkway/Cycleway



The Community Board has made submissions to the ICC Draft Annual Plan; and Environment Southland plans to support funding for the walk/cycle project.

The predominantly off-road trail would showcase the environmental, landscape, heritage and culture of our region, while generating economic, social and environmental benefits for the community.

We want this walkway/cycleway to progress so that the community can benefit from the tourism and life style enhancements it would offer.

The challenge is to secure funding. Local and Central Government need to work together to secure funding and get the project underway.

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## Bluff Hill/Motupohe Environment Trust



The Trust is in its' 6th year of operation and the efforts of the volunteers, who gave their time, has made it a very successful operation.

The Trust has established strong relationships with businesses and funding organisations, forming long term partnerships. Even with these contacts and partnerships the Trust has said that sustainability was critical. Whilst they could not completely eradicate pests, the work was ongoing to protect the birds while allowing native forests to grow.

The Trust has purchased the old Buffalo Hall and is working towards creating a plant nursery. They are also moving ahead with the establishment of predator fences on Bluff Hill which will drastically reduce the volunteer's hours and make annual costs sustainable.

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## Bluff Oyster and Seafood Festival

Construction of a new permanent home for the Bluff Oyster and Seafood Festival is expected to begin in September.

The large iron and steel sheds will go up on land at the rear of the Club Hotel. This will create a shelter for food stalls and a stage with a backstage waiting area. The sheds will be placed around the edge of a large courtyard.

The Festival Committee has purchased the vacant Club Hotel, as well as the old Bond store building, and the lease of two adjoining pieces of Invercargill City Council land. At this stage the Club Hotel is not to be demolished.

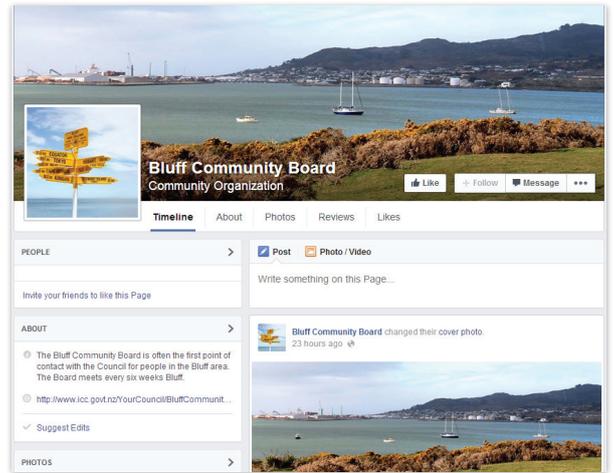
Once completed, the new facility will not only be used for the Oyster Festival, but it will be available for use by other Bluff community groups.



## Bluff Community Board Facebook Page

As part of the Board's plan to consult with the community, a Facebook page has been set up.

Find it and like us to keep up to date with local news and to have your say on local issues.



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## Bluff 2024 Urban Rejuvenation



The Bluff 2024 Urban Rejuvenation Committee has been busy over the past few months cleaning up the entrance to Bluff.

Bark has been laid and 1,000 plants are to be planted shortly. A new entrance sign will be put up on the high side of the main road, near the start of the Ocean Beach walkway and the Port Maintenance Group Limited boat building shed.

The existing 'Welcome to Bluff' sign on the sea side of the road will remain.

A huge thanks from me to all the volunteers who've made the group such a success.

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## Bluff Service Centre

The Service Centre has been operating out of the Municipal Chamber for ten months now. This is due to the existing building being below the Government's 33% earthquake requirements. The Council looked at a number of options and, following consultation with the Bluff Community Board, it was resolved that strengthening of the existing building at 98 Gore Street would occur.

The work required will raise the seismic performance of the existing building to at least 67% of the new building standard. A new building consent application will also



trigger compliance with the building code, which relates to fire and disability access requirements.

The strengthening work has been started and it is hoped the building will reopen early November.



## Bluff Pool Update

A lot of progress has been made getting the Bluff Pool complex to an acceptable level. The improvements made to the exterior of the building are as follows: The entire roof has been replaced, the south wall along with the west wall above the windows, and the north and south fire doors have all also been replaced.

Workers on periodic detention have been put to good use tidying up the car park. They have also painted the outside of the building white.

Interior improvements have also been made however these won't be evident to the public until the reopening of the pool. The internal seating area has been replaced and the non-slip area around the pool has been sealed and painted. A band of volunteers has repainted the inside of the building in white.

The ladies' changing area will be updated before the pool reopens for the new season in September.

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## Foreshore Road Calming

Council has installed two areas in Foreshore Road where the road has been narrowed so that drivers must slow down. This area has had crashes in the past and we wanted people to travel more slowly. We have received feedback that the speed platforms installed make getting some vehicles with low ground clearance difficult. Our checks have revealed this is the first instance of this in New Zealand and we will be looking to change them to a narrow speed bump strip. We will also be checking this does not cause more problems but brings the slower speed we seek.



## Roadworks

Earlier this year a large number of streets in Bluff had repairs undertaken on the kerbing and then the streets were chip sealed. This has been successful in giving the road a waterproof surface and making sure the road will last for many years more. We thank the residents for their patience during this work and their care after the sealing so it was not damaged.

## Maintenance

We invite residents to visit the Bluff Service Centre or call the Council on (03) 2111 777 if they observe any maintenance work that is necessary. This could be: A sump grate covered with leaves, kerbing which needs sweeping, a broken sign, or a streetlight not working. All these issues are important to us and our Customer Services Team will log the service request so we can track and make sure it is completed by our contractors. We do appreciate the support and help we get from residents wanting to make their town better.

# Update on Overgrown Properties in Bluff



*BEFORE: Bluff section with long grass and overgrown vegetation.*

Since September 2013, the Council Environmental Health Team has been working to address the number of overgrown empty sections in Bluff. The results to date have been pleasing, with the majority of identified sections now cleanly scraped or mowed.

Property inspections in Bluff began in September 2013 to make sure that the Invercargill City Council Bylaw 2008/1 – Environmental Health, Section 5.2(a) was being met.



*AFTER: Bluff section after being cleared of overgrown vegetation*

To date, sixty-nine sections were identified as being overgrown, which meant that they had either long grass exceeding 25cm and/or noxious weeds on the land.

It is especially pleasing to see property owners now taking responsibility to maintain their sections. To support the continuation of the good work done to date this will become an annual project. The process has proven to be a positive step towards rejuvenating properties while promoting and maintaining public health in the Bluff area.

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## Help To Keep Bluff Empty Sections Clean & Tidy

Hopefully residents will be noticing that empty sections within Bluff are being cleared and tidied. This is part of the Community Boards Beautification Project and is being carried out by the Council's Environmental Health Team.

In clearing the sections it was found that over the years many had been used to dump rubbish on. We remind residents to make use of the Bluff transfer station and support us to keep our empty sections clean and tidy.

Should you have a complainant or notice rubbish is being dumped on an empty section you are welcome to contact the council to have it removed. Council will take legal action against anyone found dumping rubbish illegally.

### What to do with your waste

There can be times when you are not sure what to do with your rubbish – does it go in the yellow recycling bin, red

rubbish bin or somewhere else? If you are not sure what to do with your rubbish, visit [www.orangepages.org.nz](http://www.orangepages.org.nz) for information on how to reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of your waste.

### Bluff Transfer Station

The Bluff Transfer Station is a Council facility located at the end of Suir Street and is for the disposal of rubbish and garden waste. The facility is open five days a week:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday 2pm to 4pm
- Saturday 11am to 2pm
- Sunday 10am to 12:30pm.

The facility operates on a paid token system, with tokens available for purchase from the Bluff Service Centre. A car load of rubbish is \$9.50 and a single axle trailer of rubbish is \$40.50. A single axle trailer of garden waste is \$18.00.



## Bluff Water Supply

Recent years have seen a high level of activity and expenditure on the provision of water supply to Bluff. In total approximately \$10 million dollars has been committed to effectively rebuild the supply system from Invercargill right through to delivery to residents within Bluff.

Since 2009 new large diameter water mains have been laid throughout the township and a new reservoir and pump station has been built. Ultimately the township will be divided into two pressure zones with the point of division being at Foyle Street. Those properties on and above Foyle Street (the high zone), will continue to be supplied from the hill reservoir off Flagstaff Road whereas those properties below Foyle Street (the low zone), will be supplied from the new reservoir. Pressure to the low zone properties will be lower than what is currently experienced while the high zone properties will be subject to the same maximum pressure as now but less subject to variation. The creation of two zones will address the long standing issues of: inadequate firefighting capability, fluctuating and at times inadequate pressures, and flows and high water losses due to leakage. Commissioning of the two-zone system is expected to be complete before



*Bluff Community Chariman Ray Fife with Councillor Lindsay Thomas at the opening of the new Bluff pipeline.*

summer of this year. After this the hill reservoir will be temporarily taken out of service for inspection with the intent to repair and stop any leakage. There will be more water main replacement planned in future years to replace undersized, leaky galvanised pipe work used throughout the Bluff distribution system.

More recently the trunk main from Invercargill to Bluff was replaced and has been supplying water to Bluff since the beginning of August. This will improve security of water supply to Bluff, as the old water main was prone to frequent failure. The new pipe line is made of polyethylene material of lengths welded together to make one long continuous 'string'.

## Animal Services

A reminder that dog registrations are now due and can be paid at the Bluff Service Centre.

Over the next few months Animal Control Officers will be regularly visiting Bluff. Council has employed four additional Animal Control Officers to work in the community to offer advice on animal welfare, investigate complaints and resolve wandering and unregistered dog issues.

Please ensure that your dog is registered and is kept under control. If you would like advice on how to care for your pets please contact Animal Services on (03) 211 1777.

If you wish to report a problem, visit the Bluff Service Centre or contact Animal Services above.

### Omaui Reserve Community Event

When: Sunday 28 September 2014 from 1pm.  
Where: Omaui Reserve.  
Please bring a spade for planting!

Everyone is invited to an event promoting the ongoing restoration of the Omaui Reserve to be held on Sunday 28 September, from 1pm.

Jointly hosted by the Invercargill City Council Parks Division and the Omaui Community, the event will involve the planting of native shrubs followed by a free sausage sizzle. Participants will also be able to explore the nearby walking track which leads to a viewing platform and preview the proposed walking track development on the neighbouring DOC reserve.

Participants are encouraged to bring a spade for planting. The event is supported by The Omaui Landcare Charitable Trust, DOC Environment Southland and the Omaui Tracks Trust.



## Bluff Foreshore Redevelopment

### WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED

The Council has continued its commitment to the Bluff community through financial support and Council collaboration. Since the Annual Plan the Bluff Community Board has started various projects around redevelopment that include: beautifying the area with plantings, commissioning murals to bring some colour and life to the

town, and creating welcoming green spaces to be used by visitors and residents alike. The progress has been great and the continued work will now fall under our Urban Rejuvenation Project as the Council and residents of Bluff work towards the Bluff Bicentennial and bringing new and exciting events to Bluff.

## Parks Update on Bluff Reserves

The open drains on Bluff Hill at the back of properties on Lagan and Pearce Streets have been mechanically cleaned to help prevent run-off water from Bluff Hill. Spraying of gorse and broom will again be carried out this spring along all boundary lines on Council land on the Hill and approximately 2,000 native plants will be planted on the Hill this winter along the edges of roads and tracks to assist with re-vegetation.

At the old Bluff Cemetery the macrocarpa trees on the boundary have been cut back from the graves and headstones to prevent any damage from falling branches and the trunks and slash will be removed over the next few months.

New plantings will be carried out shortly at the Greenpoint Cemetery to replace the trees removed from the western boundary. These new plantings will consist of New Zealand native plants and hedging. While slower growing,



these plants will be permanent and not liable to blow over like the previous planting of exotic trees.

With respect to Stirling Point, a concept plan is being produced to look at better pedestrian linkage between the Chain Link Sculpture, public toilet and the Stirling Point sign. At the same time, plantings around the area will also be reviewed.



## BLUFF SERVICE CENTRE



Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday  
8.30am - 5.00pm

Wednesday  
9.00am - 6.30pm  
(With Lotto only 5.00pm - 6.30pm)

Saturday  
10.00am - 1.30pm for New Zealand Post  
and 10.00am - 7.00pm for Lotto.

Council Services  
Postal Services  
Kiwibank  
Lotto  
Bill Payment  
Library

98 Gore Street, Bluff PHONE (03) 212 8704 FAX (03) 212 8711

## BLUFF TOWN HALL

Are you organising a:

- + Wedding
- + Birthday
- + Social function
- + Funeral

Contact the Bluff Community Charitable Trust to arrange booking the Town Hall for your venue.

Why travel to Invercargill?  
PHONE 212 7330 or 212 7003

