

A newsletter from the Bluff Community Board.

# BLUFF BOARD NEWS



## Working together for a better Community



The 2016 Local Body Elections saw the entire Bluff Community Board re-elected unopposed.

I am not sure if this is a good thing or not, as you can normally find out if you are performing to the expectations of the community following an election by whether you are re-elected or not.

We welcome back Council representative Lloyd Esler to our Board and extend a warm welcome to new Council representative Alan Arnold who is the alternate.

A review of where we currently are and what we need to do over the next three years was highlighted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Community Board on Monday 31 October. As a Board, we clearly outlined that we will not be complacent and intend to make sure that projects that are currently on the table are brought to a conclusion.

It is the Board's intention to listen to the community's needs, and act in the best interests of the community so that Bluff goes from strength to strength. We will also engage with the rural community early next year to get feedback of their concerns.

The Invercargill City Council elections resulted in a number of changes and already we get the feeling that those changes will bring fresh ideas to the Council and I think this will benefit Bluff as well.

We were represented at the Bluff ANZAC Day Parade and a wreath was laid at the War Memorial. It is very heartening to witness the very large crowds that are now attending the day to commemorate those who lost their lives for their country.

Our Board's annual tour of inspection was carried out so that we were able to identify matters requiring attention. These tours of inspection are very important as we invite all senior managers from the Invercargill City Council down to Bluff. They are able to see firsthand what our issues are and we can discuss and put in place the remedies required.

The Bluff Oyster Festival was a great success once again. The festival contributes to the vitality of the town with visitors complementary of the organisational and friendly atmosphere.

Bluff has a large number of community groups. These community groups are made up of a small group of very passionate volunteers. These volunteers give up their spare time so that events like the Oyster Festival are the success they are. Thanks must go to all the volunteers in whatever group you belong to. Your contributions make the community the success that it is.

It has been a privilege to serve the community in my role as Chairperson. With the help of the community, the Board will continue to work towards making Bluff a tremendous place in which to live.



*Raymond Fife*

**Raymond Fife**

*Chairperson,  
Bluff Community Board*

Who's on the...

# BLUFF

COMMUNITY BOARD



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Wyma Glassey  
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Cr Allan Arnold  
COUNCIL APPOINTEE  
MOBILE: 027 433 6408



Cr Lloyd Esler  
COUNCIL APPOINTEE  
PHONE: 213 0404

## Bluff Community Charitable Trust

The main aim of the Trust over the past three years has been the ongoing renovations to the Bluff Town Hall. Other objectives of the Trust are:

- To provide assistance and support to the community in developing social and educational activities.
- To provide information for the community
- The provision of enabling grants to assist in the promotion, advancement and creation of educational opportunities
- To provide facilities for recreational use.

In other words the Trust can promote and assist in any manner directly or indirectly to any community organisation in our community.

The discussion that needs to be held is how to promote the Trust and engage with the community on why there is a Trust and the benefits it can provide to the community.

The past year has seen the completion of the renovations to the Bluff Town Hall. These were:

- Repairs to the kitchen and re-licensing
- Major re-development of the women's and men's toilets which included new toilets, hand basins, bench tops heating, lighting, mirrors, hand dryers, floor coverings and painting.

These renovations were completed on time for the Bluff Drama Club's annual production. Very good feedback was received on these long overdue renovations.

Renovations to enhance the foyer and entrance are to be carried out and pricing has been received. These renovations will most likely start after the Bluff Drama Club's production is completed.

To fund these projects, the Trust will continue in filing funding applications seeking financial support. Past practice has seen very little success with financial support but we will keep trying.

# Parks Update



We have come through springtime with a variety of results on the growing front.

Grass growth has been incredible this year, which has made it extremely hard to keep under control and all mowing contractors have been experiencing this problem. This is now coming under control.

Discussions have been ongoing with Environment Southland regarding work towards the reduction of gorse and broom on Council land including Bluff Hill and good progress is being made, with a combination of reduction from the boundaries, spraying and cutting, as well as encouraging native vegetation regrowth.

Wilding pine tree removal from the Hill will continue, eventually returning the area to natural growth.

Information on the vandalised Bluff Hill panels has eventually been received and so a start can now be made on replacement of the panels. It is hoped to have these completed shortly.



*The vandalised Bluff Hill Panels.*

Pedestrian access has been created to Argyle Beach beside the picnic table, which will make it easier for people to get down to the water's edge.

## Merry Christmas

May this Christmas bring you the message of peace and repose

### Bluff Community Board meeting dates for 2017

- 13th February - 7pm
- 20th March - 7pm
- 1st May - 7pm
- 12th June - 7pm
- 24th July - 7pm
- 4th September - 7pm
- 16th October - 7pm
- 20th November - 7pm



*Bluff's Christmas tree set up on the main road.*





## Bluff Hill Water Supply Reservoirs

During the annual tour of inspection safety issues were raised over the hill reservoir. Arising from those concerns, locking gates on the ladder tunnel entries have been installed and re- enforcement bars on the East-side of the reservoir structure were cut and removed.

The hill reservoir was out of service for a number of weeks as leak repairs were undertaken. The source of leakage

has been identified as occurring in a sump arrangement cast into the reservoir floor. We are pleased to say that there are now no leakages.

As part of the overall upgrade to the Bluff water supply, the hydraulic surge protection was renewed and upgraded at the foreshore pumping station.

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## Bluff Maritime Museum



*The Museum's new clinker dingy donated by Stan Emmens*

Over the past year the Museum has continued to contribute to the ongoing development of the community.

The Museum is now displaying a clinker dingy donated by Stan Emmens whose father was a lighthouse keeper at Dog Island 1940 – 1946. The dingy had to be transported from Wellington, but on arrival was found to be in an excellent condition with no work required to it.

The Museum carried out extensive renovations to the storeroom so that the artefacts in storage are now kept in a dry environment. Dampness was a major problem in the storeroom and if the work was not done we could have potentially faced the prospect of damaged artefacts. Sliding shelving was donated by the Invercargill City Libraries and Archives making it easier to access all stored artefacts as well.



*The Stirling Point Signal Station is set to be opened to the public*

The Museum is currently in the process of opening up the Signal Station at Stirling Point to the public. A number of boards outlining various aspects of the area will be erected inside the Station. Along with a picnic table to be erected at the site, this will add to the maritime theme and will help to encourage visitors into Bluff.

The museum is also in the process in setting up a catalogued system called E-hive.

E hive is an easy low cost way to promote the museum by publishing information about the museum collection online.

Thanks to the museum staff for the work carried out over the past year.



## Bluff 2024 Urban Rejuvenation

A lot of work has been carried out over the last 12 months and the feedback has been very positive.

The new Bluff welcome sign has seen visitors stopping on a regular basis to get a photograph on what is proving to be a popular site. Landscaping and plantings behind the sign have improved the outlook immensely.

More landscaping and planting of native plants along State Highway 1 have greatly improved the entrance to Bluff. Natives planted some time ago are now well

established and we can now see the full benefits of the rejuvenation to the town.

A mosaic has been put up on the wall of the Ravensdown building corner of Slaney and Gore Streets.

Bluff 2024's vision is to initiate projects and activities to enhance the appearance of our town with community support. The very small group of enthusiastic people have certainly achieved that to-date.



*The Mosaic on the corner of Slaney and Gore Streets.*

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## The Annual Bluff Community Board Bursary

The Bluff Community Board bursaries for this year were awarded to: Alisha-May Perkins (first year Bachelor of Law and Bachelor of Commerce at Otago University), Brooke Jay (first year Health and Science at Otago University), and Hannah Allan (third year Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Psychology at Otago University).

It is always a great pleasure to be able to support the community's young achievers. Over the past years we have assisted a large number of very fine students who have gone on to do the community proud.



## Roading Update

Roading activity in the Bluff area over the next few months will include the resealing of parts of Gore Street, Foreshore Road, Bandon Street and Ron's Place. Our new Contractor undertaking maintenance is Fulton Hogan so you should expect to see different vehicles cleaning sumps, sweeping streets and undertaking repairs to footpath and roads. This year we have been struggling a little with the mowing and vegetation works all across our City and we appreciate that in some areas grass has been a little long but our Contractor is trying hard to get this back to the standards we require. We have been again working with the Board to try and resolve who is responsible for keeping tidy the foreshore area as most of the length adjoins a state highway.

We have also worked closely with Bluff Promotions and the Board to have the road improvements and repairs undertaken on Flagstaff Road before the Burt Munro Hill Climb. Unfortunately the weather did not help but hopefully the improvements provided the best surface possible and we will try and not road mark it again before the race! We have been looking to progress both the Boat Ramp



Project and options for Stirling Point. The two Stakeholder Workshops we ran through the year have been very useful in more fully understanding the problems and have highlighted a number of options and directions we can develop and report back on. Our next step with the Boat Ramp is to engage a consultant who can develop a detailed concept plan, and from that confirm the cost of the works. Stirling Point has proved to be a little more interesting regarding options to improve the area, and further thought will be needed to make sure any works planned do improve the usage of the area. As we progress with both projects we will report back through the Board for their and the community's input.

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## Bluff Promotions

The Classic Motorcycle Mecca Burt Munro Bluff Hillclimb has been the most recent project of Bluff Promotions as another year concludes. The Hillclimb is a major undertaking each year with planning and preparation continuing right throughout the year. The Southland Motorcycle Club are responsible for the competition aspects of the event each year while Bluff Promotions is largely responsible for the logistics of the event, which includes sponsorship, volunteers, hire of equipment, course set-up and much more. As always we are indebted to the many organisations and individuals who assisted us.

Earlier in November we worked alongside the SBS Bank Cycle Tour Of Southland organisers, assisting with marshalls for the BDO Challenge Corporate ride and liaising with some community engagement at the stage prizegiving. Again many businesses, organisations and individuals assisted with this project for which we are truly grateful.

Throughout 2016 we have also liaised with the Southern Steam Trust to keep abreast of their plans and progress.

We also create and distribute the Bluff Events Calendar each month. If you have an event you would like included on the calendar please let us know. We are also responsible for the printing and distribution of the Bluff 'where the journey begins' brochure for which we get many requests each year.

We have also reprinted our 'I Love Bluff' stickers this year and have provided images for the New Zealand Holiday and Travel 2017 Calendar.

Our Publicity/Promotions Officer Lindsay Beer has also worked with many groups including the Bluff Oyster & Food Festival Committee, Christmas In The Bluff, the Indoor Bowls Group and many more. If your group would like to contact Lindsay to assist with publicity and/or promotion do not hesitate to contact him on 021 351 499 or email [lindsay.beer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lindsay.beer@xtra.co.nz).





## Submissions to 2016 – 2017 Annual Plan

The Bluff Community Board made a number of submissions to the ICC Annual Plan. These were:

- That urgency must be given to the completion of the walkway from Invercargill to Bluff. We believe there is potential to increase numbers significantly if there was a safe walkway beside the road.
- That the boat ramp beside the Bluff Yacht Club be upgraded. This is the only safe all weather boat ramp in Bluff and is in need of repairs.
- That the ICC extends the mowing to the foreshore bank edge of the Marine Parade berm from the War Memorial to the Pilot Station/Marine Parade. Currently the edge is unattended with noxious weeds growing and is an eyesore to residents and visitors.
- That a public toilet be established on the land in front of the Senior Citizens building.
- That a safe walkway be built at Argyle Beach for easy access to the public.

Submissions to the 2015 – 2025 Long Term Plan resulted in: The Invercargill City Council approved funding to purchase the Bluff Skate Board land. Funding was approved for work to be carried out at Stirling Point to build a safe footpath around the edge. Native plants to be planted on the west side of the Old Bluff Cemetery.



*The new walkway at Argyle Beach providing easy access.*

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## Omaui Landcare Charitable Trust

The Omaui Landcare Charitable Trust has continued its excellent work in containing and maintaining a valuable area of land vital to the sustainability of our indigenous flora and fauna. With a viable control programme established the Trust has seen an increase of birds and is addressing the serious problem of feral cats and stoats.

The Omaui walking track is progressing well and will provide the opportunity for visitors to enjoy the sights of the area.

The Omaui road was closed for one day to install a new culvert. Even though it was only closed for one day it did



highlight that a potential resilience issue exists with access to the Omaui Township in the event that the road is forced to close.





## Compliance Update



Food operators in the Bluff area are steadily transitioning to the new Food Act 2014. The Environmental Health team is working closely with these operators to ensure a smooth transition.

If you're selling food to raise funds, or for charity, it must be "safe and suitable". That means it must be safe to eat – no one should get sick from eating your food.

What else you have to do to comply with the Food Act 2014 depends on the circumstances. You don't have to register under the Act if you're selling food:

- to raise funds for a charity, cultural or community group less than 20 times a year
- provided by members of sports clubs, social clubs or marae – where food is not the purpose of the event
- once in a calendar year at an event such as a local fair.

However, you will have to register under the Act if you're:

- fundraising more than 20 times a year
- catering events at clubs, or selling food at club bars or restaurants
- bartering or exchanging food commercially selling food commercially at fairs, markets, or community events more than once a year.

Further information can be sourced from our website ([www.icc.govt.nz/food/](http://www.icc.govt.nz/food/)) or from the Ministry of Primary Industry website ([www.mpi.co.nz/foodsafety/](http://www.mpi.co.nz/foodsafety/)).

Over the past couple of months there have been a lot of reported dogs attacking stock from in and around the Bluff area, called in complaints about wandering dog remain steady.



## 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 7003

