

BLUFF BOARD NEWS

Chairman's Report 2018

It has been another very challenging and busy year for the Bluff Community Board.

A meeting was organised for interested parties relating to exploring the feasibility of an additional vessel maintenance facility in Bluff for recreational and commercial boating activities. There are a number of issues to resolve and currently the focus is on the Bluff Boat ramp.

South Port had initially indicated that it was to close the west end of the Old Town Wharf. South Port has since informed the Board that it will keep the west end open and make renovations to the finger berths as well. New fuel pipes are to be installed at the Old Wharf and South Port has informed the Board that it will keep the community abreast of any disruptions that may occur.

Concerns were raised about swimmer safety and conflict with boat users at the Boat Ramp. Options need to be considered on how this can be resolved and progressed so that all can enjoy water activities safely.

There is the asbestos issue at Ocean Beach and a number of options are being looked at to resolve this.

All in all the Board works hard to help resolve and progress issues and concerns to bring about conclusions that will, and do, benefit the community.

The Board carried out its annual tour of inspection, was represented at the Bluff ANZAC Day Parade, Armistice Day commemorations, Bluff School Train book launch, numerous other functions and attended Invercargill

City Council meetings that were of relevance to the community.

It was pleasing to see Awarua Development start up a dedicated Bluff to Invercargill bus service. After the initial seven day a week service, changes have been made to the timetable that will cease operating on the weekends. These changes were made to deliver a sustainable community service moving forward. The issue around funding to make the bus service viable is something that will be looked into in the new year.

Once again, the Board received a high calibre of applicants for the Bluff Community Board Bursary. The committee awarded the two bursaries to McKenzie Perkins (second year Bachelor of Arts majoring in Media and Film at Otago University) and Maria Sutherland (studying a Bachelor of Visual Arts at Otago Polytechnic).

The Town Hall usage is of concern but with such a large building there is ongoing maintenance required for its upkeep. The Town Hall foyer and entrance doors were replaced, and the entire frontage and west side to the main hall was repainted. The newly painted entrance and offices have given the hall a new lease of life.

I, along with everyone here at the Bluff Community Board, wish you all a happy and safe Christmas and New Year!

Raymond Fife

Raymond Fife
Chairperson, Bluff Community Board



Who's on the...

BLUFF

COMMUNITY BOARD



Raymond Fife

CHAIRPERSON
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Patricia Young

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027 229 6160



Cr Allan Arnold

COUNCIL APPOINTEE
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027 433 6408



Cr Lloyd Esler

COUNCIL APPOINTEE
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Our Vision



Thank you to those who completed the Bluff Vision Survey recently. We had a total of 139 responses.

It's clear that the respondents put a lot of time and thought into completing the survey so we have a lot of great ideas and comments to work with moving forward. We have processed these comments and are happy to report back on the findings.

Overall, respondents of the survey are very passionate about Bluff and love living here. The most common reasons why respondents like living in Bluff are (i) the people, (ii) the sea, and (iii) being in a safe and friendly community.

There was a diverse mix of answers about what respondents want to change about Bluff. There was a lot of feedback about the beautification and aesthetic of Bluff. Many people talked about the importance of tidying up houses and building frontages, managing rubbish, and keeping on top of mowing and planting.

It was also identified that the access to the wharf is very important and opportunities for better foreshore access need to be looked at. The parking issues at Stirling Point should be addressed, as well as the old un-used fuel tanks.

Respondents want to find more commercial and business opportunities, in particular, ways that we can attract tourists to stay and spend more. Additionally, it was noted that many want there to be more activities for locals as well as visitors.

Looking forward, survey respondents want Bluff to be known as being a friendly, safe and supportive community to live in. They want it to be known as an easy place to both live and visit, with warmth and hospitality being a key feature. Seafood, oysters, and fishing should continue to be a significant part of Bluff's reputation and there was support for increasing Bluff's green and environmental image.

Our Vision

- To realise the economic potential of Bluff
- To celebrate and enhance what makes Bluff unique
- To embrace our Kaitiakitanga and our role as guardians of our environment
- To build capability in our community which enables us to drive and achieve our own initiatives
- To share Bluff with more people and enable them to visit, spend and stay longer

Bluff Hill Motupohue Environment Trust



Bluff Hill Motupohue Environment Trust (BHMET), established in 2008, is dedicated to the restoration and protection of indigenous biodiversity on Bluff Hill.

This is done through pest control, revegetation, education and raising public awareness. The Trust has a 100% volunteer workforce including its Board of Trustees. Advising us are the Department of Conservation (DOC), Te Runanga o Awarua and Environment Southland.

Projects are funded through grants, donations and fundraising events and the work we have done to date would not have been possible without the generous funding and support of our sponsors. Part of the Trust's original strategy was to establish a native plant nursery with the specific purpose to assist with the rejuvenation and recovery of vegetation on Bluff Hill.

In 2013, BHMET entered into a 3-year partnership with Blacks Fasteners to establish a native plant nursery in Bluff. The Trust has since been offered the long-term lease of a half-acre section owned by Te Runanga o Awarua Charitable Trust. The site is located at 18 Barrow Street and will be the site for our native plant nursery. The nursery will provide plants to boost vegetation recovery on Motupohue, Bluff harbour islands and to support other local environmental restoration groups who share our vision.

BHMET supports other conservation groups and schools with our past contributions made of native plants for restoration or landscaping to other community groups such as the Bluff 2024 Rejuvenation project and our very own SIT Environmental Management Student Restoration Project at Stirling Point.

The long-term vision for Te Korowai Whakahou (TKW) Native Plant Nursery is to restore the mauri of Motupohue, one of the nine topuni (sacred sites) recognised in the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. This will be achieved through pest control, reintroduction of species once present, removal of weeds and planting



Picture: Yvonne Pickford

locally sourced native trees creating a thriving, species diverse ngāhere (forest).

It will take a lifetime to fulfil the vision of a predator-free and ecologically restored Bluff Hill Motupohue. It will take many lifetimes to pass on the practices and knowledge needed to keep Motupohue and its surrounds surviving and thriving for the generations to come.





The newly installed anchor outside the Maritime Museum

Picture: Yvonne Pickford

Bluff Maritime Museum

The Bluff Maritime Museum continues to enhance visitors experience of our community and the displays on hand give excellent insight to Bluff's maritime history.

There were big expenses on repairs and maintenance over the past year that were long overdue.

The Bofors gun was sandblasted and repainted.

Film tint was applied to the windows for UV protection and a digital print applied to the windows on the east side display entrance.

New heat pumps were installed with visitors commenting on the warmth in the museum.

The old Stirling Point sign post is now on display inside the museum grounds.

Project Ark is a new two-year pilot to support Southland's public museums to digitally catalogue and pack their collections. The purpose is to establish a collaborative strategy to preserve Murihiku's regional heritage. We are very pleased with what they have completed to date and anyone can go online to view Bluff Maritime Museum.

www.ehive.com/collections/3234/bluff-maritime-museum

The museum thanks the Invercargill City Council, Environment Southland, Regional Heritage, Bluff Community Board and Waddel Trust for their continued financial support.

The museum is going from strength to strength. It is an important part of our community and always has great reviews from visitors.

Bluff Promotions



As the year comes to an end Bluff Promotions is hard at work preparing for the 2019 Classic Motorcycle Mecca Burt Munro Challenge Bluff Hillclimb, to be held on Thursday 7 February. While the Southland Motorcycle Club concentrates on the competition aspects of the event, our group works on the logistics. That includes volunteers for duties such as crowd control up the hill on race day and the setting up of the course the day prior to the event.

We are keen to hear from groups and individuals who would like to assist in exchange for a donation to their group!

Last year was the first time the event took place in February and the crowds were the biggest we've seen at the event, meaning we need more volunteers than ever. If you can assist on the day or with the set-up or tidy up afterwards we would love to hear from you!
Email lindsay.beer@xtra.co.nz or phone 021 351 499.

We are also looking to hold another Summer Sounds concert over the summer months and after the success of last year's concert at the Gunpit it is our intention to use that venue again.

Another project on the go at the moment is a collaboration with Cherie Chapman of Oyster Allsorts on a new street map for Bluff.

We also are nearing completion of an update of the information on the www.bluff.co.nz website.

During the year we made donations of \$500 to the Bluff 2024 Urban Rejuvenation Trust, the Bluff Hill Motupohue Environment Trust plus Awarua Research & Development for the promotion of its bus service.

We also took over the co-ordination of the Street Market held on Oyster Festival day in the town and assisted with the launch of author Alex Glennie's book on the Bluff Train.

The group also created a special event in November at the Bluff Oyster & Food Festival site to mark the centenary of Armistice Day.

As always we have ongoing projects such as distribution of the Bluff "Where The Journey Begins" brochure and the creation and distribution of the monthly Bluff Events Calendar.

Our part-time Bluff Promotions/Publicity Officer, Lindsay Beer, is employed by the group and is available to groups to assist with events and projects.

MEETING NIGHTS:

The last Tuesday of every month (every second month during winter) - 7.30pm at the St John Hall. (The exception next year will be January when we will instead meet on Tuesday 15 January to discuss forthcoming events.)

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

- \$10 Individual
- \$25 Community Organisation
- \$50 Business





Bluff 2024 receive their Councillors' Special Award at the 2018 Southland Community Environment Awards. Picture: Southern Exposures Photography – David Russell

Bluff 2024 – Moving Forward



It's been another busy year for the Bluff 2024 Rejuvenation volunteers. Once again we've achieved some great goals such as seeing the Morrison Beach mural completed, planting out two-thirds of the Foreshore Road strip between Urwins and Downers, another successful Street Clean Up, initiating a relationship with local school kids and how they can add to our rejuvenation goals, and continued upkeep of Ocean Beach Lookout and the Highway Entrance – which now has well over 2000 hand-planted plants greeting people as they enter Bluff.

We continue to work hard behind the scenes with the Invercargill City Council and Bluff Community Board, pushing for remedies to issues that we notice such as erosion, repairs and maintenance and the much anticipated review of an updated long-term plan for Bluff... What you see is less than half of what we actually do!

We were fortunate to be nominated for an award at the Southland Community Environment Awards this year, which allowed our team to go along to a wonderful evening to congratulate each other on our recent efforts and be inspired by many other great southern groups and individuals. We walked away with a Councillors' Special Award for our efforts. To put it lightly we were chuffed!

Next year will see us continue with our Foreshore Road beautification, further landscaping at the Bluff sign, continued upkeep of our planting projects, increase our work with local children, some community events and hopefully another art installation or two. We'd like to thank everyone who has supported us in some way throughout the year.

Parks and Roads update



The Bluff to Invercargill cycleway planning is progressing with more detailed design being undertaken. Funding for the project has been included in the 2018 - 2021 budget from NZTA with local funding from Council and Environment Southland. The work is that some sections will start this financial year and then be completed next year. The design team is working with Kiwi Rail to agree a solution on how to safely cross the railway at Awarua. The route is on the southern side of the State Highway and will generally follow the alignment where the watermain was installed. There are some tricky areas to resolve along the route but this is where the detailed design and checking will occur.

The walkway between Stirling Point and the Pilot Station has been a very popular walk for many visitors to Stirling Point. Unfortunately the track remains closed after part of it started to slip away. The Parks team is looking to get a check undertaken by a geotechnical engineer before redeveloping a different route. Unfortunately it may be some time before it is reopened.



**BCB
Chairman
Ray Fife
and ICC
staff Russell
Pearson
and David
McCormick
with the
newly
installed
signpost.**

**Picture:
Gemma
Crawford**

The sign at Stirling Point has been corrected. To avoid having the sign away for a few days, it was decided to build a new one. We had a surveyor check the directions and distances and found that the distance from Bluff to Cape Reinga was different at both signs and neither was corrected. We have agreed to correct both and for the

record we were closer. We have added our sister city Suqian, and gave Wellington a bit of nudge to get it in the right direction. The Bluff Engineering staff have built the sign to the same design and size and it was smoothly installed on Monday November 19. This was a really windy and cool night but during the 20-minute swap over, four different cars of visitors stopped and wanted to be the first to have their photograph taken and were very excited about this. We think the old sign had been around for many years but can't actually put a date on it.

During the year further detailed concept designing has occurred on the boat ramp area in Foreshore Road. We have had Jacobs (a marine engineering consultant) undertake this work and look at all the aspects of the project and develop a budget which is needed to do the work. Some of the key issues we face are who owns and is responsible for the ramp and who might assist with the funding. Both Council and the Community Board have discussed how a user-pays system could work on funding the longer-term maintenance and renewals. It seems we are getting closer to resolving issues and the Council team involved is hopeful that 2019 will see work being undertaken on rebuilding. We have found that the ramp is well used and is a true regional facility for accessing Foveaux Strait. More recently we have been working closely with South Port, Environment Southland and the commercial users to make sure we get the best solution we can.

The Christmas decorations have again been installed in Bluff and the tree has survived the winds so far!

The issue of getting rid of the wilding pines has been raised on numerous occasions and the ICC Parks team is to undertake the removal. This has not happened yet but it is hoped to be underway shortly.

The Robinson Park outfield was levelled so that the Port softball teams have a level playing surface and the edges of the hill will be treated with spray. The Ocean Beach toilets have been reopened to allow usage on sport days.

All the grass around the turnoff to the old wharf has been removed because it was looking very untidy, with new vegetation to be planted early next year.



Armistice Day in Bluff was a special occasion for many. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



Armistice Day

The 100-year centenary of Armistice Day was celebrated in a big way by the community.

Sunday, November 11 drew a large crowd at the Te Rau Aroha Marae to witness the blessing and unveiling of a memorial stone and new flagpole by Sir Tipene O'Regan and Bubba Thompson.

An 11am service was then held at the Bluff War Memorial on Marine Parade which was very well attended.

Wreaths and poppies were laid to honour our fallen soldiers.

Bluff Promotions held a family day at the Oyster Festival site which drew a large crowd. There was entertainment for young and old there was a memorial area at the site which paid tribute to those who gave their lives during WWI

This was another community effort which highlights what Bluff is all about.

Bluff Community Board Bursary

Applications are now invited from residents of the Bluff Ward for the Bluff Community Board Bursary.

The Bursary is \$2000 per annum for three years for:

- Candidates enrolled for a full-time course of study at a university or other agreed establishment within New Zealand.

- Candidates who are making applications for admission to a university or other agreed establishment within New Zealand for a full-time course of study in the coming year.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Service Centre Manager with whom applications close on Monday, 21 January 2019.

Omaui Reserve update



The idea for a walking track through the Omaui Reserve came from Omaui resident Irene Schroder in 2011.

A trust was formed and a rough route through the Department of Conservation reserve was GPS'ed.

Fundraising began, a management agreement with DOC was drawn up and track-makers Phil and Joan Fluerty started work.

Their digger formed the three-kilometre loop track up to the top of Omaui Hill and out to a viewpoint at the fenceline.

More than 140 bags of gravel were dropped by helicopter and 600 sheets of Jakmat installed in the wet parts of the track.

Signage is being prepared.

Gravelling is on-going and anyone who would like to help can contact Lloyd Esler for details.

The track is getting a lot of use and attracting a lot of good comments such as "This is my new most favourite track in Southland".

A picnic table at the top is a great endpoint to the track.

From there you can eat your lunch and admire the view towards Bluff and out to Stewart Island.

The track has a reasonable gradient and lot of interesting features such as giant manuka trees, grand rata trees, parakeets, Kidney ferns and lots of birdlife.

Come and try it out.

It starts from the Omaui carpark.



Volunteers during a working bee on the Omaui Track.



Our places - Our people



Our heartfelt thanks to Yvonne Pickford, who has provided many of the photographs in this edition of the Bluff Community Board Newsletter.

You can find more of her work here: <https://www.facebook.com/yvonnepickfordphotographynz/>



The recently opened Oyster Allsorts Café.
Picture: Yvonne Pickford



The Real McCoy on her way in passes the Diana 2040 on her way out. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



It was a hard slog, but these kids had an awesome achievement during the Southland Cross Country in May. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



The Real Journeys ferry Foveaux Express en route. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



A visiting fur seal to Bluff Harbour put on a great display! Picture: Yvonne Pickford



The mighty container ship PASSAT SUMMER makes its way into port. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



Bluff Schoolchildren visited the special Armistice Day exhibition in Invercargill. Picture: Kelly Braithwaite



The Bluff Service Centre team go yellow for Daffodil Day. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



The Bluff 2024 team after finishing the Stage 4 Bluff Highway Entrance Planting. Picture: Yvonne Pickford



Our Town Halls had a spruce up! Picture: Yvonne Pickford





Meeting Dates

All meetings of the Bluff Community Board are held at 7pm in Bluff Municipal Chambers unless otherwise advised.

Note: 2019 is an election year. Elections are held in October, with the inaugural meetings of both the Invercargill City Council and the Bluff Community Board to be held on October 29 and 30 respectively.

Meeting dates

(Subject to change)

- February 18
- March 25
- May 6
- June 17
- July 29
- September 9
- October 30
Inaugural meeting following elections
- November 18



Christmas in the Bluff



May the peace and blessings of Christmas be yours and may the coming year be filled with happiness.

Merry Christmas!



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