

Treasuring Oreti Beach



SUMMER IS COMING! The new season heralds many great Kiwi traditions for Southlanders – backyard barbecues, picnics in the park, and of course trips to the beach. Being just a few minute's drive out of town, Oreti is a hugely popular destination on warmer days, for horse riding, dog walking, swimming and more!

But did you know that 'Oreti' is actually an abbreviation?

Ngāi Tahu kaumātua Michael Skerrett advises that the full name for the beach is "Te Whanga Kōreti Hau Tonga," which means "the bay that catches the south wind".

Michael said the southern end of the beach is also known as "Mā Te Awe Awe" which translates roughly to "by way of the misty way".

Oreti Beach and the wider Sandy Point area both have important cultural significance for Māori – from being a harvesting ground for toheroa, to a great resource for harakeke (flax), and more.

Michael explained the beach itself was a walkway for Maori to get to Aparima (Riverton), and round to Ōraka (Colac Bay). You can still walk from Oreti around to Aparima today - if you get the tides right!

Coastal erosion and climate cycles have, of course, had an impact on the beach, but it's humans who have potential to do the most damage to our much-loved summer spot – whether through rubbish dumping, or inconsiderate driving.

In Southland, many community groups, schools and organisations conduct clean-ups throughout the region, and collect hundreds of kilograms of rubbish every year.

To assist these groups with the amazing work they do, WasteNet Southland has a Regional Disposal Fund which allows groups 'free' disposal in Southland Transfer Stations for the rubbish they collect.

To apply for assistance with disposal, applications should be made two weeks before your clean-up. The form can be found at www.wastenet.org.nz

WasteNet Senior Waste Officer Donna Peterson said: "It's unfortunate that we need to have clean-up days, however, on the flip-side, we have the tools to support the great efforts of groups who volunteer their time to pick up after others.

