

## 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](http://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.



# Treasuring Oreti Beach continued

"Oreti Beach is a beautiful area, where memories are made and we are very lucky that it is right on our doorstep. We need to show our support for our big backyard by keeping it clean," Donna said.

Unfortunately, it's not just little bits of rubbish which end up on Oreti Beach.

Council's Environmental Health and Compliance staff work hard to investigate multiple cases of fly-tipping, and burnt-out cars, each year.

It seems to be the type of issue which increases during summer months. Members of the public are encouraged to report any dumping or abandoned and damaged vehicles they find at the beach, and if they see it happening, to note down the registration number of the vehicle doing the dumping.

Usually, Council staff find evidence of who is responsible, and can take action by issuing infringements, prosecuting the perpetrator, or recovering costs from the clean-up.

You can report any concerns you may have about illegal dumping to Council by calling (03) 211 1777.

While you might think you're a considerate driver, especially while on the beach, it's important to be mindful that you're not just driving on sand, but an important eco system.

Michael said juvenile toheroa live immediately below the surface of the soft sand, furthest from the water. "As they grow, they migrate towards the water."

A recent survey estimated that 24 per cent of juvenile toheroa were killed by traffic driving on the beach, Michael said.

"It doesn't take thousands of cars to do the damage. We're not about wanting to stop people using the beach, but we do want people to understand and help protect the resource. We've got the best [populations of toheroa] in the country at the moment!"

Michael said he would like to see more car parks perhaps developed so that people didn't need to drive on to the beach.

That's something which Council has already begun to address, with carparking and signs to educate the public put in at the Dunns Road entrance in 2016. There's also a toilet and picnic table available there!

Remember, too, that with high tides, surge tides, and the changing nature of the coast, sometimes access to the beach in a vehicle may be difficult, as the sand can be soft. Using the car park is a good option, with a nice walk along the path to the beach from there.



WREFORD HANN  
PHOTOGRAPHY



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# Patrolling the waves

ORETI Surf Life Saving Club Chairman Owen West tells us more about swimming safety at Oreti...



Oreti Surf Life Saving Club has been keeping Oreti Beach safe since 1929.

The family-friendly club has more than 80 members, young and old.

Its members actively patrol the beach from 12pm – 5pm on weekends between November and March.

A volunteer organisation, the club has about 35 volunteer lifeguards, who give up their weekends to ensure the public can safely enjoy the beach.

The club also has a strong Nippers programme, which helps children between the ages of 6 and 13 to learn skills to keep them safe in the surf.

Southlanders and visitors alike are advised to always swim between the flags when they're up.

The flagged area is the one spot on the beach where trained lifeguards are available to provide assistance.

The surf conditions have been checked by the lifeguards and assessed as the safest place to swim.

Like most beaches, Oreti can be affected by rips and large waves, so it's important that swimmers remain vigilant.

Whether the lifeguards are on duty or not, people should always swim with a friend, be aware of the dangers and swim within their limits. If in doubt, stay out.

For more information about becoming a surf lifeguard or joining the club, get in touch through the club's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/oreti-slsc](http://www.facebook.com/oreti-slsc)



# A changing landscape

BY LLOYD ESLER

**ORETI Beach** has been a playground for Invercargillites since the Dunns Road Bridge was opened on 13 November 1929.

The new bridge meant there was easy access to Sandy Point and Invercargill people poured out in their droves to picnic, swim, fish, fly kites, make sandcastles, dig toheroa and play games.

Before rabbits were liberated on Sandy Point in 1863 the sand dunes in the area were lower and more mobile, held in place by the beautiful golden sedge Pingao.

The burrowing of rabbits and the damage to the fragile vegetation by the hooves of sheep and cattle allowed the surface to break up.

Massive drifts of sand moved over the Sandy Point Peninsula, swamping lagoons, farms and forests and spilling into the estuary, threatening the channels and anchorages.

What to do?

The answer was to import marram seed and presently the sand stopped moving. Brushwood fences near the main entrance helped establish the new line of dunes.

Although the native dune plants have largely disappeared, marram supports an important ecosystem, providing a home for insects and ground-nesting birds.

Sand dunes are threatened by natural events such as storms and invading plants but humans can be a problem as well.

Vehicles – four-wheel drives, quad bikes and motorbikes – tear the

growing shoots and prevent the marram from doing its job, which is to stop the sand moving.

We don't want to go back to the bad old days of the late 1800s so keep your wheels off the dunes!



## Your rates payment is due...

Payments should be made by **November 30th, 2018** to avoid a penalty of 10%.

Handwritten calendar for November 2018 with the 30th circled in red.

november 2018						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	<b>30</b>	

Handwritten calendar for February 2019 with the 23rd circled in red.

february 2019						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	<b>23</b>
24	25	26	27	28		

Handwritten calendar for May 2019 with the 31st circled in red.

may 2019						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	<b>31</b>	

Handwritten calendar for August 2019 with the 31st circled in red.

august 2019						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	<b>31</b>

Handwritten calendar for November 2019 with the 30th circled in red.

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				1	2	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	<b>30</b>

For more rates information and online payment details visit Council's website, [www.icc.govt.nz/rates](http://www.icc.govt.nz/rates)