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COASTLINE

July
2019

A Wonderful Time to Become Involved

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The Riverton Environment Centre is so vibrant these days with fresh bread twice a week bringing in new people, the buzz of the fruit tree sale coming up and the people new to the area coming in for orchard, gardening and organic growing advice.

There is a sense of change in the air as people are re-evaluating their lives for a lighter footprint. We used to sell a dozen shampoo bars a year now we sell that many in a week!

We have so many projects that are now thriving as their 'time has come' and we are completing funding applications to support them. Now with the whole focus in NZ changing the success of our projects is growing significantly. Five years ago Robyn could be the sole Co-ordinator for the Centre, Education and other Projects and still teach at times, but those days are well gone!

We are seeking funding for additional paid roles as of next year.. In the meantime Robyn is somewhat snowed under. If you have an interest and skills in project management now is the time to have a talk with Robyn to help to lighten her load. There is a range of tasks and time commitments that can be worked to suit you. Let Robyn know where your passion lies robyn@sces.org.nz

This month we are bagging up seeds, making green fingers garden packs, pruning fruit trees all around Southland, shifting trees and gathering scion wood plus completing funding applications! These are voluntary roles at this stage with any costs incurred e.g. travel able to be reimbursed. Some tasks can also be done from home.

Thanks to everyone already part of our amazing projects and Centre team!

Dates to Diary This Month:

29 July	Start a Cotton Rag Rug with Tania 7-9 pm Enviro Centre
30 July	Mending Clothes Made Easy with Jude 7-9 pm Enviro Centre
5 Aug	Needle Felting making fruit & veges with Tania Enviro Centre
10/11 Aug	10th Annual Heritage Fruit Tree sale 10.30 - 3.30 Enviro Centre
11 Aug	'Seed Swap Sunday:' 10.30 to 2.30 pm Flecks Hall

The SCES Needs You!!

The activities of the SCES are growing by the month! The Society relies upon the services of volunteers for the vast majority of the activities provided be they practical hands on programmes; administrative organisational type tasks or more management type functions; the SCES values offers of help, be it short term or ongoing. Do you have skills and time you can share?

In the Coastline we endeavour to provide a mix of consistency and variety each month. We welcome contributions from various sources and suggestions for content. This month check out new contributor, Nigel on page 7.

Spring will be here before we know it. If you would like to share what that means to you, then email us your story for our next issue.

Wendy Joy

Coastline Production Co-ordinator



Thanks Trish for your clever cryptic cartoon!

The South Coast Environment Society Incorporated (SCES or the Society) is a NZ registered Charitable Trust (Registration Number CC41561).

The Society vision is of a sustainable, resilient community of good leaders, resources, systems and examples available to assist and support people to adopt sustainable lifestyles and care for and about our environment.

The Riverton Environment Centre is a project of the Society. Volunteers open the Centre for the public 40 hours a week. The displays, information and resources are designed to be inspiring and enabling, incorporating a blend of traditional ways and new concepts to give people more earth-friendly options in their daily lives

Our Guest with a Financial Focus

The SCES is very pleased to introduce, new team member, Russell Duthie, Chartered Accountant and Elected Treasurer for the Society.

Financial management is increasingly relevant and important to the day-to-day operation of the Society to ensure accuracy and accountability of money management and expenditure as well as recording, reporting and compliance with the Charities Commission, Ministry for the Environment and funding applications grants procedures.

Russell's experience is well suited to the work of the Society. He has worked in both public and private sectors and has been treasurer for a school board of trustees. Russell has an appreciation of the importance of environmental factors having grown up in a central Southland farming community. He's now working for a private accountancy business in Invercargill where he lives with his wife and 2 children.

From Russell himself;

I began working with Robyn and the administration team at the beginning of this year. With my background in accounting over a number of years I envisage taking some of the strain of the necessary financial aspects of running the Centre operations away from the team and allow them to focus on the very important day to day operations and projects administration.

I will specifically be helping with budgets and funding applications, as well as preparing monthly reports to the hard working SCES committee.

Given my experience across a significant range of activities, I hope to add to the strength and reputation that the SCES already has by perhaps looking at funding and budget preparation from a slightly different angle.

In this way, I hope to help to ensure that funders give willingly of their funding allocations to allow some very exciting projects to proceed over the next few months and years. At the same time it would be great to access some additional funds for the core Centre operation to enable it to continue to grow, so there is plenty for me to do. I look forward to the challenges.

Russell Duthie



July Gardening with Robert



3 things I Encourage You To Do This Winter Month

Think of your hens. This time of the year can be challenging for domestic chickens. Their jungle cousins won't be noticing the cold and their food source probably remains constant throughout the tropical year, but here in the colder regions, chickens need extra consideration as their ground becomes saturated or denuded of greens. Summertime is the time of plenty for hens with rapid weed growth providing juicy green salads to browse upon, and a plethora of hopping and crawling insects as garnish, but the winter is less provisional and hen-owners need to supplement feed in order to keep their charges happy. Plenty of grains help see hens through the bleak days of winter and an occasional treat of meat or cheese leftovers, raises the spirits of hens no end; offerings of protein are never refused.



Admire the few flowers of this time of the year. Perhaps it's just my garden, but flowers are few just now; I'm reduced to a minimal palette of coloured petals and have to draw my cheer from just three stalwart winter-flowering plants; brugmansia sanguinea, with her red-blushed orange trumpets, the golden blooms of the King's cups that flourish in the damper regions, and the heavenly-scented Winter Sweet by my doorway. Even though they are few, they all brighten my day quite sufficiently, but only if I take the time to visit and admire them. And I do.

Pop into your local Op shop and **rattle about in the garden-tools bin.** It's often a big blue plastic barrel, and if you're lucky, you'll find a treasure, as I did yesterday at my local: a vintage ladies fork, in need of refurbishing, granted, but that's part of the fun. I sanded the wooden handle and the iron tines, then oiled everything with boiled linseed. Now, I have a beautiful light-duties garden fork my grandmother might have used in her flower beds all for the price of two coffees. I'm pretty pleased with myself.



Seed Savers Updates



Southland Heritage Collection: Thank you to all who have sent in their seeds already. **If you haven't yet please get them to us by Wed 31 July.** We want to put out the catalogue early August so that people who want to keep our localised heritage varieties alive can plant them again this season. It's so important to keep planting and saving them annually or our heritage plants will be lost to our future generations.

Seed Swap Day: Sunday 11th August 10.30 to 2pm is when more common and less rare varieties will be available to swap. Also this is the day to bring in any **heritage potatoes** you have spare and pick up the those you **adopted at the Harvest Festival.** If you can't make it to the day we will have them in a basket at the Centre to pick up or send in an addressed post bag. Note: We had a poor season this year so not all potato varieties will be available.

Email seedsavers@scs.org.nz to check if you have any this year - if not we should have them next year and will keep your request.

Thank you so much for those people sending back information about the **beans trial:** we will choose the best to add to our collection. Today we received feedback from Roy Smith who has done a fantastic summary about growing 8 different beans. He's provided full clear notes, good enough to put on seed packets! Thank you Roy!

Courses Coming Up Winter Crafts Around the Fire

At the Riverton Environment Centre 7-9pm, \$10 per person - Book on line; will be up on Bookwhen Monday 15th

Monday 29 July : Cotton Rag Rug Making Tania will set you off on making a rug which you can finish at home on cold winter nights. Bring old cotton sheeting

Tuesday 30 July: Mending Made Easy with Jude - bring along your clothes that need mending, your socks that have holes. Jude will show you the tricks and skills our great grandmothers knew

Monday 5 Aug : Needle Felting Making Fruit & Veggies Tania will show how easy it is! All materials provided

Let us know of any other courses you are interested for future Craft Nights!

How to Prune Apple Trees:

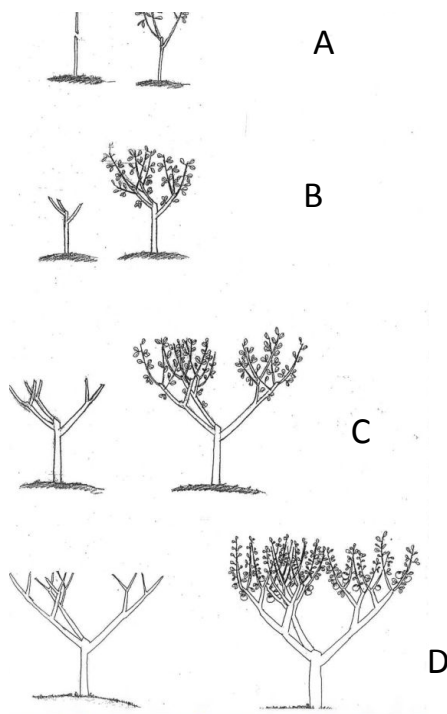
Un-pruned trees often grow high and ungainly, get more diseases from overcrowding of branches, suffer from more structural damage and have fruit that is slow to ripen and difficult to pick or thin.

Prune fruit trees in winter, when they are dormant, so any time is fine, (the moon cycle is not affecting the sap)

Cut above the bud on a slight angle away from and just above the bud. Use sharp secateurs.

Branches should be cut exactly in the collar (ringed base) of the branch, leaving rings in place. Don't cut off all the 'rings' or leave a 'stump'.

The traditional shape for a home fruit tree is like a wine glass. It is beneficial as it builds good layers of fruiting branches within reach, while letting lots of light and air surround the branches.



After the first few years you are mainly just pruning the tips which heal that season, and therefore you are less likely to attract disease.

To avoid unwanted inward growth nip off any inward growing bud below each seasons cut with your fingernails, this saves cutting off inward growing branches the following year.

A. If your tree is one long branch or a poorly shaped tree then, prune back to approximately 50cm-70cm high, just above three good buds that face different directions. Make sure you cut above the graft!

B. If your tree has already branched out right, then treat as a second year tree

C. & D. continue to cut down new growth leaving about 30 cm each year and each of these segments will then start to grow fruit as they are left in the fruiting layer, not that upper branching layer.

Warning: Tree building branches are strong and upward growing whereas spindly branches that go across or down are usually fruiting branches; don't cut them out or you will have no fruit. Fruiting spurs are short and wrinkly and can grow on any part of branch, even the tips so make sure you know what they look like and leave them on!

Creature of the Month: Giant Kokopu

Our native fish, living in the spring beneath the native tree part of our garden, are destined for fame having been filmed today by an Auckland film-maker specialising in waterways and the creatures that live in them.



Our big fish did all the right things; appearing when called, by the vibrations caused by small chunks of squid-bait thrown in to attract them out into the light, and swirled and swished most alluringly as they fed on the delicacies.

Giant Kokopu live in freshwater for most of their lives, though they start out in salty water; a time in the sea then more in the estuary, then upstream to salt-free water for most of their lives.

They ordinarily eat insects and smaller fish; koura too, I guess, but ours are spoiled a little with tidbits from the freezer whenever they are looking hungry or needed for filming.

Robert Guyton

Organic Road Trip : Part 2

Rebecca and Hollie continue their journey south from Wellington looking out for organic producers.....

Driving from Nelson to Riwaka, where we were staying with Hollie's uncle, we were pleased to see an organic produce sign just a block from his house. We visited several times and made a point to visit all the local organic farms we could get in touch with.

Firstly Tasman Organics where I had stayed in 2017 when first making my way down to the Riverton Harvest Festival. Then Karen and Max had recently taken over the farm and in two years they have made some amazing changes. They have dialled in their systems, producing amazing amounts of vegetables with just the two of them.



Max has built carts and tools specific to their needs making planting and harvesting a breeze. It might not come as a surprise that they were both previously maths teachers. They welcomed us with a full tour and by sharing an amazing nibbles board. We chatted about farming and organics in NZ and they gave us contact information for a couple other local farmers.



Over the next week we visited three other organic farms. The first was Puramahoi Fields, a lovely farm run by Ben and Shane just outside of Takaka. They grow for their stand at the Takaka Saturday farmers market, plus for a couple of local restaurants, but mostly they sell through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) scheme. In this model, customers pay at the beginning of the season for a weekly box of vegetables. Once a week they come to the farm to pick up their vegetables, getting the chance to see the farm and chat to Ben and Shane; their season runs for 26 weeks! Theirs is only one of two CSA farms in the country and their customers love it.

Later that week we drove over the Takaka hill again to visit Kokalito Fine Foods, an organic farm that has been in East Takaka for over twenty years run by Klaus, Maria and their twin daughters. They sell to local restaurants, online, and at the Wednesday organic market in Takaka. Klaus gave us a tour of their amazing prune orchard and vegetable garden and we talked for a couple hours about land use and organics and New Zealand. It was both disheartening and inspiring to hear from this farmer who has been working in organics for over two decade.

We caught up with our last farm at the Saturday morning Nelson Farmers Market. Ferretti Growers, who recently received the award of *Organic Farmer of the Year* from *Organic Week*, only sell at the Wednesday and Saturday Nelson Markets. Dom and his wife Jeanette run the farm and their produce is lovely. We loved their small produce truck with roll up sides and shelving, making bringing produce to market simple and elegant.



While talking to all these farmers, and thinking about agriculture as we drove around New Zealand, we came up with a few ideas for projects we are excited to start. The first one is a CSA style farm.

So here we are, back in Riverton, ready to draw up farm and business plans and get down to planting; as I write, Hollie is mapping our growing season. Keep an eye out for our produce! We hope to be able to supply ten to twenty families with a weekly box of veggies for about 25 weeks starting in October or November. One of our neighbours has kindly agreed to let us grow on her land and we're excited to start prepping the soil.

Rebecca

Our People Lions Club Citizen of the Year

Each year, the Lions Club of Riverton selects a member of the local community to receive their "Citizen of the Year" award for services to the community. This year, the Club chose to recognise Robyn Guyton for her long-time commitment to saving the heritage fruit trees of Southland and the establishment of the 10 Community Heritage Orchard Parks in southern towns and villages including Tuatapere, Ohai, Riverton, Monowai, Woodlands, Winton and Waituna.



Ernest Willis, one of three Lions tasked with selecting this year's recipient, presented the very attractive plaque to Robyn as part of their Changeover Night and reinforced they were pleased to honour Robyn in this way due to her passion in saving the Southland early settlers' trees for future generations to have access to and enjoy.

Robyn says receiving the award is a real honour because of the recognition from her local community. That's extra special to Robyn!

Our Community Murihiku Time Exchange Explained

This online community originally based in Invercargill now welcomes members from the wider Southland area. Alan Solomon from Riverton has been involved for some years and is very keen to see more rural people connect up with each other.

The Murihiku Time Exchange which has 3 main goals:

- **Strengthen** the fabric of our community.
- **Serve** people and give them a means to serve.
- **Establish** new relationships and meet real needs of our community members.



The system recognises that each person has talents to share and that the overall community is strengthened when people help one another. For every hour that you help meet the needs of another member, you earn a time credit for the exchange. This time credit can then be redeemed for services from others, and the never-ending cycle of sharing continues.

For more information about timebanking visit TimeBanks.org Or view <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aB8ifVJ34JU>

Orchard Project News 10th Annual Heritage Fruit Tree Sale - 10/11 August

Catlins Area Heritage Orchard Park is being planted out on 27th of July in Owaka. **If you are free to help on the 25th or 26th to dig up the trees from their current West Plains location, please let us know.** They are large trees so we need a good team of helpers to get the job done.

Robyn has talked with the Waikaia, Riversdale and Balfour communities and, at last, there are some possibilities of getting their now 8 year old VERY large early settlers trees relocated also from West Plains to a couple of Orchard Parks. It will be quite a mission - we may need a tree shifting machine! **If you know anyone with experience of relocating big trees please let us know.**

With thanks to a SDC community grant we now have a **Heritage Orchard Manual** for each of the orchard parks. The manual can be passed onto future generations with an explanation of everything needed to care for each orchard. This month we will be inviting the friends of each orchard park to a winter pruning working bee where we will gift the manuals to the communities. Let us know by email, if you want to be a friend of one of the parks and we will add you to the list to be invited to annual working bees.

There will be some **pruning and grafting courses coming up** so once again let us know if you are interested and what area of Southland you are from so we can bunch people together when arranging courses. openorchard@sces.org.nz.



Ohai Residents Ask -

Electric Vehicles - do they help?

Over recent years we have been trying to do what we can to be better guardians of the health of our life-sustaining planet, while at the same time considering how a worsening climate will affect us here in Southland.

A few months ago, all our fossil-fuelled vehicles were up for expensive motor repairs. So, we advanced our long-term goal of getting an electric vehicle (EV) for household travel.



The car we purchased (a 2017 Nissan Leaf) has proved to be an able cargo carrier, hauling full trailer loads of firewood, and boots full of cement up from Invercargill with ease, while letting us do occasional jaunts to Queenstown, Christchurch and the West Coast. There is nowhere on the public road network we can't get to, if there is a three-pin plug at or near the end of the road.

Since being Good to the Earth was one of our reasons for buying an EV, I wondered what impact the use of an EV has on household greenhouse gas emissions. Using figures relating to the carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from average New Zealand households, I find that an average NZ household using fossil fuelled vehicles for all travel emits 3.5 tonnes of CO₂ per year, while the same household using EVs for all travel emits just 1.1 tonnes of CO₂ per year.

So, this shows me that swapping fossil fuelled vehicles for electrically powered vehicles for most of its travel is indeed an effective action a New Zealand household can take to drastically reduce its CO₂ emissions.

To put the benefits of EV use into a national context, if every household in NZ used an EV for 80% of its travel, total NZ emissions would decrease by about 4%, all other things remaining equal, saving 3.5 million tonnes of CO₂ - equivalent of total NZ emissions of 81 million tonnes.

Comparing saved emissions per household with emissions from the agriculture sector, I find that each household using an EV offsets the emissions of about one dairy cow. So, if every household in NZ converted to EVs, we would usefully offset the emissions of about 22% of the NZ dairy herd.

Is it worth doing? Yes! We have to do what we can and, in my view, swapping to an EV is a pretty simple thing for a household to do.

There are many other things we can do too, such as living in a house which has at least the main living area really-well insulated to provide a warm, easy, and cheap to heat-and-cool 'cell' in the home. We can reduce our total travel (by using services like grocery delivery and buy-local systems); eat foods that are less 'carbon-intensive'; and by buy better quality goods that last longer. Every bit will help.

From what I have experienced of the climate in the last few years, and from what the best climate

science is telling us, I am convinced that doing nothing about 'the climate emergency' is no longer an option. **We must all do our bit.**

It would, of course, be nice if the government and local authorities could provide some encouragement (by way of subsidies to encourage change in the 'right' direction, and easing consent costs for EV charging infrastructure, for example). Perhaps our leaders could set us some good examples by their personal behaviour, but frankly we cannot wait for Wellington or Washington to come to the party. Every individual in the planet will be adversely affected if we do not make changes to Business as Usual. **So, we might as well make the changes we can at home today, now.**



Readers' Patch

We have this space set aside for you to comment, advertise or connect.

When it is not used, we will slip in something we've learnt like, about e.g.

Dandelion Honey?



This week we were asked if we stocked vegan honey by a young German couple.. No, what is it we asked?

Turns out they were referring to Dandelion Honey, a vegan alternative to *honey*. It can be used for cooking, baking, sweetening tea and food, dressings or as a spread. It is made from 750g golden sugar, juice of one lemon, 350g Dandelion heads boiled in a litre of water in this recipe:

<https://www.pinterest.nz/pin/362821313718797520/?autologin=true>

Environment Centre Stocks

We have new tools in stock:

Tempered
Shovel
Weigh only 450g



Shovel with handle \$90
Shovel w/o handle \$45



Broadfork 4 tine \$300
Broadfork 5 tine \$315

Please send in your Readers Patch contributions by the third Monday of each month to:
coastline@sces.org.nz

Support the South Coast Environment Society

Community support enables the South Coast Environment Society to continue to operate the Riverton Environment Centre and manage several successful projects throughout Southland.

If you like what we do, and want to help us to do more, please consider; donating money, volunteering time, becoming a member, and / or sponsoring a project. <http://www.sces.org.nz/about/donate>

Ph 03 234 8717

Visit the Environment Centre

The South Coast Environment Centre is situated on the main street of Riverton on the Southern Scenic route.

Phone: 03 2348 717 Email: office@sces.org.nz

Opening hours are:

- Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 4:30pm
- Saturday: 10:30am - 4:30pm
- Sunday: 1:30pm - 4:30pm



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