



**SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT  
SOCIETY INC.**

# *Annual Report*

**October 2016**



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## Introduction:

### Our Society is 20 years old (1996–2016)

Our South Coast Environment Society celebrated 20 years of operation in June this year. We had a lovely evening with past and present members sharing a meal together and watching a slide show tour of our history, from our very humble beginnings, to our proactive visions for our future. To our credit we have some committee members and society members who have been involved all that time. We are now also welcoming a new vibrant wave of interest, as new, and often younger people, shift to Riverton and want to become involved in some way in our centre or projects.

We are changing the way do our newsletters. We will email all our members coming up events monthly and also publish a 16 page seasonal magazine full of articles, news, inspirational ideas and more.

## The Centre

### High national profile has our Centre buzzing

We have experienced a marked increase in visitors since the August 2015 airing of the Country Calendar TV programme about our Centre and our many projects. Last summer we had double the number of people coming into the Centre, from an average of 50 a day, to 100 a day. These increases came from people from all over NZ, and more and more Southlanders call in on a regular basis as they move towards more healthy and sustainable lifestyles. This trend has continued ever since, we are recognised nationally as an inspiration for individuals and communities who want to make changes in their lifestyles and start similar projects in their own areas.

People come and spend some time browsing our information panels, ask questions, purchase eco or gardening products and pick up information sheets. We are valued and appreciated as a valuable resource at a time of uncertainty and change as people want to become more resilient.

The 'buzz' we experienced at our 2015 Harvest Festival of people getting together with enthusiasm for learning and sharing now takes place in the Centre. As at least daily we have more than a dozen people there at a time interacting with us and each other. We have become a supportive community hub.

Alongside this we have had a similar increase email requests for resources and advice not only from Southland but from all over New Zealand.

The downside for us is that dealing with increased public interest, their inquiries and giving advice it take time, and we often need two people on 'front of house' when there is a rush of visitors. Our paid administration staff often, have had to stop what they are doing to help the volunteer, as a result we have had less time than we had anticipated on some of our other projects or to reply to all phone and email enquiries in a timely manner. We now try and have two volunteers on at a time when possible.

On a limited budget we are highly dependent on volunteers in all our projects, so we are trying to source more funding and find innovative ways to increase our operational capacity, and also to continue to advance our projects.

## **Support and base for local groups**

We continue to make available the Centre and its facilities for the Organic Food Co-op, Riverton Estuary Care Incorporated, and any other local 'environmentally ethical' groups that need a venue or display space that's suitable and appropriate to their various aims. We are very appreciative of the symbiotic relationship with the Organic Food Co-op, a not-for profit 'shop' run by volunteers, who staff the Centre for many of the opening hours and are always willing to help out with other projects when we are very busy. We continue to have 250-300 visitors to the Centre each week.



## **New Developments inside the Centre:**

### **An upgraded children's corner:**

With the Food Co-op, not for profit group, turning 25 this year, it is with much delight; we now have the 'next generation' of young adults coming to volunteer in the Centre. Three of those, who were toddlers when we first started a quarter of a century ago, are now bringing in the Food-Co-ops 'grandchildren' with them when they volunteer. The young families had a garage sale fundraiser and up-graded the corner with the funds they raised. It is very attractive to the little ones now with new carpet, a wooden stove, bamboo plates and felted fruit and vegetables and more! Visiting families will also really appreciate the corner to keep their children happy while they are looking around.



### **The Centre has a new roof and 2 more skylights!**

Our landlord was reluctant to repair the roof that had started to leak in places. With a bit of negotiation we managed to get a cheaper quote for the work and he went ahead with a re-roof and even organised two more skylights to be installed on the north face. It has made the Centre warmer and brighter and now watertight once again.





## Handmade recycled quilt gifted

Ngaire Bartley, wife of one of our volunteers made a lovely quilt for our couch by the fire. All around the edges she has embroidered names of eight popular heritage apples; a real treasure.



## Banners:

One of our very crafty volunteers, Tanya Roberts, made 3 striking ceiling double-sided banners to hang over the area they represent. These banners were made with much love from natural materials and lots of amazing felt work.



## Southland Open Orchard Project

### Southlands Heritage Orchard Park network

We have been working for over 8 years now visiting the early settler orchards from throughout Southland and grafting cuttings from those trees onto young roots to save the variety. We are now returning these living archives back into the area they came from into heritage orchard parks on public land. There will be 10-12 parks in total depending on where land is available for this 100 year old project. Each park will have a generic sign 80cm x 80cm and etched into macrocapa. Each family orchard will be named with the date it was planted etched on a totara post and each tree will be coded and mapped with an etched totara stake. We are now starting to gather photos and information from the settler families to be included in further signage and brochures to go with each orchard.



We received a grant from the Southland Men of the Trees fund of \$3,500 towards this signage for the parks. In the next few weeks we will unveil the signs in the first 4 orchard parks with a little ceremony and a picnic. We will invite those who want to be in the 'Friends of each Park' to come along and register. This is the team that will voluntarily keep an eye on their chosen park; helping to prune the trees in winter is the only real work needed and just for the first few years.

Later the parks will be pretty much self-managing, usually with the only workers a couple of sheep keeping the grass down and eating windfalls.



The Diacks Nursery team have mastered walnut grafting so are very keen to get access to the historical walnut trees to reproduce them and they will donate the walnut trees to each orchard park from that particular area.

### **Riverton Heritage Orchard Park planted 2014**

Another of the settler family orchards' replica trees were added this winter. Pictured are a great grandchild and three great-great grandchildren planting the replica trees of their family's first settlers, September 2016. This takes the number on that site to 63 fruit trees; mainly apples but also pears and plums. The hedgerow plantings around the whole perimeter have been completed by volunteers and donated plants.





### *Easement complete*

This year with a grant from the Southland District Council, and volunteer labour, we were able to fence off an easement of the Riverton Heritage Orchard Park and install a gate. Now the public can access the park without crossing private land. (The section was unexpectedly landlocked; an SCES member who owned the adjacent land donated 2 metres of her back section to us so this legal access could be created.) This land is still the property of Riverton Estuary Care. We are hoping to find a way to buy it off that Society (\$28,000) and put it into a Riverton Park status within the next two years.



### **Waituna Heritage Orchard Park planted 2014**

A further 3 trees were added to this orchard on the Mokotua Hall site. There are 18 apple trees in total so far from that area and one more first settler orchard to be reproduced and added.

### **Tuatapere Heritage Orchard Park was planted in spring 2016**

It was a big community event with the whole school, community board and older residents from the community coming to help. The first two replica orchards belonged to two generations of the Erskine family. We had a grand- daughter and a great, great grandson there from the Erskine family there on the day. The first 34 apple trees were planted, there are more to come over the next three years from the area including plums and pears. The Domain Board land is a great spot for these as it is close to the town and very sheltered. The community fenced the site themselves once it was planted.



*Tuatapere trees loaded on the truck*



*Tuatapere school students planting the trees*

### **Monowai /Blackmount Heritage orchard Park was planted in spring 2016**

This was another great community event with people travelling for some distance to be there. Many who were from the settler family or the present owners of the properties came a long way to plant them. There was a big block of spare land along the roadside where their sewage system and green waste area is that was perfect as under SDC governance. Their first 45 apple trees from 7 settler orchards have been planted.



### **Future plans...**

2017/18 we hope to have the next 6-8 orchards planted on the sites that the community from each area think would work best for them. We are proud that these trees are being gifted to the communities from our Open Orchard Project funds. To enable us to do this, funds have been raised from our Annual Heritage Fruit Tree sales and voluntary work. Each tree has a real value of \$200 taking into account all the steps taken to save it so we are proud of this very worthwhile and unique project.

### **International Interest**

This project is now attracting international interest as we have a huge range of rare and lost varieties from Europe. An Englishman from the Northern Fruit Group in England is coming to NZ in March 2017 to attend our Harvest Festival and hopefully recognise some of the yet unidentified fruit. We are trying to find a sponsor so Robyn Guyton can focus more time on the lengthy identification process (rather than spending time earning her money relief teaching). She has over 100 varieties identified so far but there are likely to be another 200 varieties still to be identified in the next 400 trees that we have not yet seen the fruit of.



## **Heritage Orchard Handbook**

After 25 years learning about and caring for home garden fruit trees Robyn is now recognised nationally as an expert in this field. With inquiries pouring in now from throughout New Zealand at an ever increasing rate, she decided it was time to put all the information sheets she had already created and other important information she has gleaned over the years, into a 48 page booklet. This means volunteers and staff can refer to the booklet or sell the booklet; rather than Robyn being on constant demand for 'the basics', she can be called on less frequently for more advanced queries. We have been self-publishing them in our office with our quality photocopier this year. The booklet is presently being edited and assessed by a publishing company and we hope to promote and publish it next year. The profits from the book sales are intended to be put towards paid fruit identification work for Robyn.

(We can send an electronic copy of the booklet if you would like to view it)



## **Annual Heritage Fruit Tree Sale**

We are surprised at the continuing demand for these trees, with over half of the 900 trees we had available pre-ordered well in advance. People travelled from afar as Wellington, Christchurch and the West Coast to pick them up; we were sold out in 3 days! Every year we have made further improvements to our operational systems and now we have the



sale running like clockwork, thanks to Karla our amazing office administrator! We anticipate our 2017 August fruit tree sale to be just as busy as we have a pile of pre-orders already in our system for those who missed out this year. We are grateful for our 80 year old Patron Malcolm MacKenzie OMNZ for grafting more and more apple trees each year to meet the demand, so the Guyton's and their team can continue in the background to focus on gathering cuttings from more orchards for grafting and therefore saving more diversity.

## **Pruning and Grafting workshops**

We held several pruning and grafting workshops over the winter and spring which were very well attended. The South Alive community hub hosted us for the first time and there were so many interested in grafting apple trees we had to run two courses back to back.



The Guytons' said it was a pleasure to travel to Glenorchy on a sunny weekend for their first grafting workshop. The weather, the scenery and the offer of free accommodation made it seem more like a holiday. Some of the 15 had travelled from Cromwell and Arrowtown to attend. Some attendees had cuttings from historic apple trees from their area to graft so that variety could be saved.



### **Heritage tree plantings of interest, Southland 2016**

- The 175 Years of Tutarau school celebration: Robyn spoke about the orchard project and planted two apple trees with the children to commemorate the event.
- Wairo Railway 100 year celebration – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2016: Robert Guyton donated 2 apple trees, one aptly called Kingston Black to commemorate that event.
- Doctors from Southland Hospital bought, donated, planted and are caring for the fruit trees within the hospital grounds.

## **Festivals**

### **Heritage Harvest Festival**

The Heritage Harvest festival was a great success and all those involved in making it that way are very pleased with the weekend and all that happened over the two days. I'm always amazed that such a full programme of events, involving so many people, workshops, displays and stalls can happen at all, given that it's 100% volunteer run; no big team of employees to raise marquees, cook for the canteen, set up the hall, collect trestles, play music, make displays; it's all done by locals who want the weekend to be a special one and all who come to the festival to go home happy. And they did. Feedback has been glowingly positive and places have already been booked for next year. Enquiries from as far away as Coromandel from people who couldn't make it this year are already sitting in the Environment Centre's mailbox and presenters, some well-known celebrities from radio and television, have already booked places for the 2017 Heritage Harvest festival. This was the 8th festival in a row and the biggest to date. Not only did the festival stallholders do very well providing for the large crowds that came through the Aparima College hall and the big Meridian marquee, but so did the businesses up and down the main street of Riverton that were open over the two days the festival was running. I'm expecting too, that the real estate firms in Riverton experienced a flush of business as a result of so many visitors to the town on what was a fun and fine couple of days. It has to be said, again, that it was a volunteer effort that got this festival and those before it up and running and while many of the younger volunteers travelled from Dunedin, Te Anau and Wanaka to help with the weekend, many Rivertonians were there



helping, from the outset to the final closing of the doors on Sunday night. If you would like to be one of those next year; a welcoming face for visitors from afar, a tent-raiser, cafe helping-hand, children's-game organiser, guest-welcomer, sweeper-upper, whatever you are good at, talk with Karla or Robyn at the Environment Centre and get your name on the festival-helpers list. It's a great team to be involved with and a great event to be part of. A big thank you to the local businesses that supported the Harvest Festival with various donations for prizes and to all of the volunteers. *(Article by Robert Guyton)*





## Total numbers attending workshops at Heritage Festival 2016

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Food Forests (x2)                               | 27 |
| Natural skincare                                | 10 |
| The importance of Humus                         | 17 |
| Living Foods' workshop (x2)                     | 22 |
| Willow weaving (x2)                             | 12 |
| Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)(x2)       | 26 |
| Towards urban self-sufficiency                  | 24 |
| Introduction into superfoods (x2)               | 14 |
| Propagating plants (x2)                         | 32 |
| High health fruit & vegetables (x2)             | 40 |
| Learn about Bees & how we can support them (x2) | 31 |
| Introduction to bee-keeping (x2)                | 27 |
| Fermenting Food                                 | 28 |
| Flax weaving talk (x2)                          | 15 |
| Life as NZ gardener editor talk (x2)            | 27 |
| Make your own skincare products                 | 17 |
| Keeping hens in an urban backyard (x2)          | 28 |
| Making a willow hurdle (x2)                     | 27 |
| Making your own cider (x2)                      | 22 |
| Starting a Food Forest                          | 20 |
| Feed your family on a ¼ Acre Section            | 22 |
| Around the world in 80 plants talk (x2)         | 66 |
| Making jams jellies and more (x2)               | 17 |
| Setting up a home orchard                       | 14 |
| Herbs and oils                                  | 18 |
| Gardening in difficult soils                    | 10 |
| Permaculture/off grid lifestyle                 | 22 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <i>Total Attendees of the 2016 Heritage Harvest Festival</i> | <b>635</b> |
|--|------------|

### Harvest Festival media coverage 2016:

- **Riverton Harvest Festival growing a younger audience** = <http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/78409218/riverton-harvest-festival-growing-a-younger-audience>
- **Riverton Harvest Festival impresses fresh food lovers** = <http://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/78497107/Riverton-Harvest-Festival-impresses-fresh-food-lovers>

## Family Earthcraft Day

The 2016 Earthcraft day was very quiet with about 80 people attending throughout the day. There were 12 good bases for 'having a go'. Most of those that came stayed for at least two hours.

- wet felting square for adults, stone for children.
- needling dry felting a flower
- garland base making
- candle making
- god's eyes
- pompoms
- rag rugs
- knitting
- crocheting
- weaving
- spinning
- kite making
- carding wool

The challenges were that the timing was possibly at the wrong time of the year, we were very short on volunteer help leading up to and during the event. Our advertising needed to be clearer so it was understood it is a "have a go and learn day" rather than an event with lots of stall holders. We surveyed participants and will use this information for the next event



*Family*  
**EARTHCRAFT** day

**Sunday**  
11<sup>th</sup> Sept  
10am – 4pm

Celebrating old style crafts such as:  
weaving, spinning, felting, crochet,  
candle making, garlands, flax weaving,  
rag rug making & knitting etc  
Come see the demonstrations, have a go, attend workshops &  
browse the sales and information tables

Held at the  
Aparima College  
School hall  
Leader St,  
Riverton

Entry: Gold coin  
donation per  
family  
please note: there  
may be a small  
charge for some  
activities

[WWW.SCES.ORG.NZ](http://WWW.SCES.ORG.NZ)

South Coast Environment Society  
Phone: 03 234 8717 email: [office@scses.org.nz](mailto:office@scses.org.nz)

Thanks to our sponsors:

Community Trust of Southland  
Weaving for the Environment  
Southland District  
creative nz COMMUNITIES



## **Adults Education**

Having only 30 hours paid staffing and a busy year in the Environment Centre we were unable to launch our own education series throughout Southland. In June 2016 Robyn called for interested people to form an education team, and as a team work towards building the resources needed, advertise the courses and the share the tutoring role dependent on skills. The education series activation was therefore not reliant just on Robyn and our office team. Ten people came forward to help, to make a dynamic group of 5 qualified teachers and 5 others with vast experience of gardening, healthy food and crafts skills between them. Our first focus was a larger 'Earthcraft Festival' to be held in the last weekend in July but this had to be postponed until October due to an unexpected clash of dates with the big southland craft show.

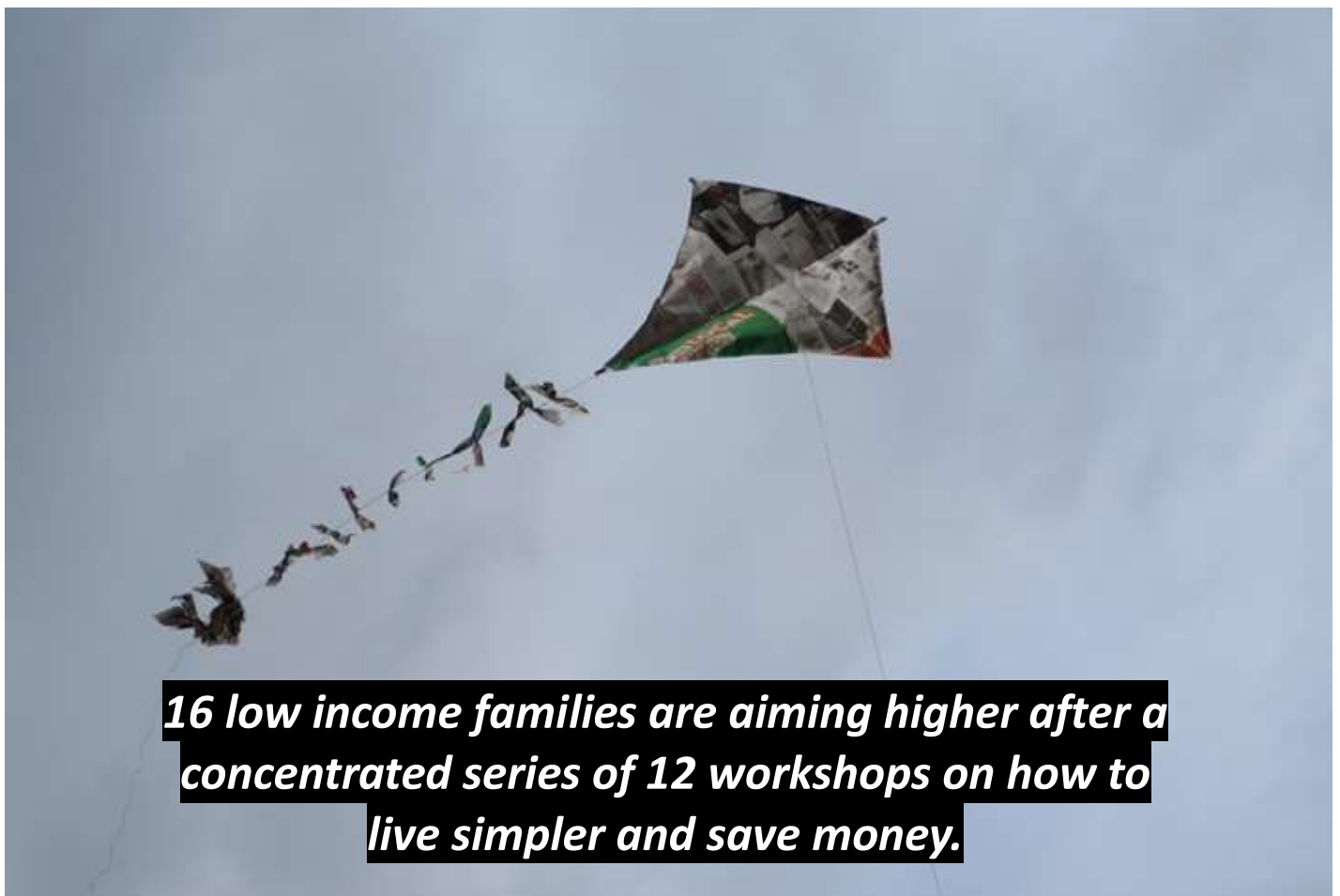
We received a request from Awarua Whanau services to run an education programme. This was run for 6 Sundays in a row in Ohai and Invercargill for their most disadvantaged families which included 10 adults and 25 children in Invercargill, and 10 adults and 17 children in Ohai. The topics they wanted covered were exactly what we had as part of our education programme so we took on the challenge at very short notice. The first 3 weeks were double workshops just in Invercargill (2 tutors went at a time). The next 3 weeks we continued to run double workshops in Invercargill (12 workshops in total). But simultaneously we had to provide 4 workshops in Ohai over the same last weeks to make up the same 12 workshops! Then all the families involved were coming on the following Sunday for an education family day in Riverton planned and hosted by our team. Within 2 weeks the plan was made, the resources gathered and completed and a timetable arranged so topics could be taught with the most appropriate tutor. Topics included:

- Make your own cleaners from natural ingredients
- Make your own skin care products
- Energy saving tips to save you money
- Staying healthy and cheap home remedies for simple ailments
- Make your own simple homemade gifts
- Family fun on a budget
- Recycle old sheets and towels rag rug etc. Beginners guide to crocheting.
- Beginners gardening grow sprouts for eating, microgreens, indoor vege plants
- Bucket gardening: herb garden, potato gardening,
- Raised bed gardening and raising seedlings, caring for your plants
- Kids gardening, Green fingers garden kit for a square metre garden, smiley face garden in a bucket, wheat men.



This gave our educators opportunities to share their knowledge and skills with adults and children who would not ordinarily 'try their hands' at gardening, making cosmetics from natural materials, healthy cooking, making toys from free materials and so on. The workshops were fun, interactive and rewarding for all concerned. Participation was full and enthusiastic and many new skills were learned from participants on both sides of the learning model. Kite making, for example, with found sticks, old newspapers and flour-glue, proved a hit with the children who delighted in making and flying their first "home-made" kite, along with the parents who gravitated to the activity and made their own, flying those with as much delight and enthusiasm as their children. The "natural cosmetics" activity proved just as attractive to the men who participated as it did to the women, surprising everyone but the men, who looked quite at home in an avocado face pack. The gardening workshops resulted in the transfer of a great deal of knowledge and the taking-home of compost, square-metre garden beds, seeds and seedlings, for setting up at the homes of those who participated. The whole experience was a rewarding one for all concerned.

(Electronic reference letter from Awarua Whanau services can be sent on request)



## Children's education

### **Nature Discoverers Club**

Meeting after school every Wednesday, this group of children and their caregivers explores Riverton's natural world, when the weather allows, or enjoy games and activities based upon the unique environment that is found here on the south coast, when the weather is unsuitable for outdoor exploration. The Nature Discoverers Club has been in operation for two school terms now and is growing in popularity every week. The children and their adult helps have visited and explored the estuary, beach, wild spaces, pine forest and community forest garden as part of their stimulating programme of activities and have built insect "motels", collected flotsam and jetsam, fungi, sea-polished glass fragments, korari stems and a range of other natural materials to make various products from. The club is based in the hall behind the local Union church which is spacious and warm. They have also let us use an old library storage space for our educational resources. In there, the children listen to stories relevant to their "discoveries", play games that encourage environmental learning and care and practice crafts such as paper folding, model making, weaving, stitching and clay modelling, all with an environmental focus. There are always two certificated teachers in attendance, providing leadership and instruction and supporting the programme. Several parents stay throughout the afternoon to offer support and assistance to the teachers and report that they are learning as much as the children are! The Nature Discoverers Club is a very successful initiative that satisfies the needs of adults and children alike, in their desire to learn more about the world around them and to be effective in protecting it from harm.



We also had several school groups, playgroups and kindergartens visiting the Guyton's food forest over the summer months.

## Community Forest Garden



The forest is thriving and under the self-composting system the sand is turning into rich brown soil. The fruit and nut trees, berries, natives and herbs are growing so well we now can almost get lost in the ¼ acre. We have a community working bee there every second Thursday morning when the weather is fine, clearing around finer plants and planting more herbs. In two or 3 years it will pretty much be a 'self-managing' forest system. We applied for funds from SDC for permanent signage and we were successful receiving a \$575 grant to spend alongside our own fundraising.



The big main sign is etched onto a big slab of macrocarpa and is ready to put up and the first interpretive panels will be ready soon. We also have each forest layer on acrylic so you can turn 'the pages' and can see how the layering system works, everything is interconnected yet has its own space.

Already more than 30 people a week go exploring the garden and we have only advertised it within our Centre. We can see it being very popular.

We plan to have all of the signage in place by mid-February and we will have a community open day to officially launch it before the busy tourist season starts.





## Food Forest Tours

Food forest tours of the Guyton's forest garden are run through the Environment Centre as a fundraiser. The Guyton's garden is very popular, attracting people from all over New Zealand and internationally.



### FOOD FOREST TOUR

*Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 10.30am*  
Cost: \$10 per person (Children \$5)  
Registrations essential

*Tours usually run for 1½ hours.  
Children are welcome but must stay with caregivers while on the property.  
Tour dates are subject to host availability & extreme weather, wear sturdy shoes and bring a rain coat in case of wet weather.*



A guided tour  
with Robert/Robyn  
Guyton through  
their forest garden.



South Coast Environment Society  
Phone: 03 234 8717 email: [office@sces.org.nz](mailto:office@sces.org.nz)

## Southland Seed Savers Network

We are taking a fresh look at our seed saving project looking to collaborate with other stakeholders. So far Ag Research and our economic development agency Venture Southland have offered assistance with this project.

Part of this work involves looking at how to best establish an enterprise so that income can be generated to financially incentivise more growers.



We applied to the Community Environment Funds, a very big application form, and put a lot of work in to our project plan. Unfortunately we were not successful with this fund. We have other avenues of funding to look to. We intend create a base for the seed initiative as it is becoming more and more vital that Southland has their own source of seeds for future resilience, ones that grow well in Southland.

(We can send an electronic copy of this project plan if you would like to view it.)

Ministry for the Environment audited the 12 Environment Centres they fund – We came in as the top Environment Centre in NZ!  
We operate on one of the smallest budgets, the mean income for the 12 Environment Centres in \$500,000.

| SOUTH COAST ENVIRONMENT CENTRE               |   |  | Your score | All 12 centres |         |  |                   |             |
|--|---|--|------------|----------------|---------|--|-------------------|-------------|
| Good environment centre' assessment criteria |   |  |            | Range          | Average |  |                   |             |
| 1  | The centre's key activities align with the purposes of the Community Environment Fund (CEF)                   | <i>Purposes of the Community Environment Fund</i><br>a- strengthening partnerships<br>b- raising environmental awareness<br>c- encouraging participation in environmental initiatives in the community<br><i>(these are also contributors to the Ministry outcome of enabling people to make and implement decisions that benefit society and the environment )</i>  | 4.25       | 2 to 4         | 3.7     |  |                   |             |
| 2  | The centre teaches their community a wide range of new skills and actions to help reduce environmental impact | Includes number and variety of workshops or events offered (eg, not all in waste minimisation, energy efficiency, or in biodiversity for example)  | 4.5        | 1.75 to 4.5    | 3.6     |  |                   |             |
| 3  | The centre is an active and well-regarded collaborative partner in their community                            | a- Local councils see value in centre activities, as evidenced by council funding for service provision, in-kind support, and staff engagement<br>b- Local trusts see value in centre activities as evidenced by project funding<br>c- Programmes include active partners from multiple sectors (eg, other community groups, schools, social services, businesses, iwi)<br>d-Strong community involvement is indicated by the level of in-kind contributions (eg, donated services or materials, volunteers) | 4.5        | 1.25 to 4.75   | 3.6     | Percentile band<br>(percent of total maximum points) |                   | Total score |
| 4  | The centre is easily accessible to and well used by their community   | Considerations include:<br>- Location and signage for centre<br>- Evidence of foot traffic and workshop attendance at the centre   | 5          | 1 to 5         | 3.7     | 100%   | Very good         | 30          |
| 5  | The centre has diverse sources of funding, of which CEF funding is a minority share                           | This includes consideration of centre engagement in 'social enterprise' – providing community benefit using funds are obtained through commercial sales or services (eg, upcycling shop, eco-goods shop, contract or user-pays e-waste collection, contract for energy or water efficiency advice)   | 3.5        | 1.25 to 5      | 3.6     | 80% +  | Good to very good | 24 +        |
| 6  | The centre has the capability to effectively deliver activities   | Track record of successful delivery<br>Uses robust management and accountability tools:<br>a- The centre provides prompt and complete reporting under Ministry deeds (including 2015/16)<br>b- Objectives for centre activities are SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely), have SMART key performance indicators (KPIs), and the KPI data is reported<br>c -Audited accounts are provided annually  | 4.5        | 2 to 5         | 3.8     | 75% +  | Mostly good       | 22.5 +      |
| Total score                                  |   |  | 26.25      |                | 22.0    |  |                   |             |

## Our future plans



### Feasibility Study

The completed Feasibility study supports the purchasing and extending of our facilities. In November 2017 the lease on our current building expires that will mean 15 years in total we have rented in our very authentic and strategically placed building. We have had in depth discussions about this as a committee over some time; we really need more space, and would like to be able to do some alterations to the building to make it suit our needs. There are no buildings suitable in Riverton and our best option would be to buy the building, strengthen it to earthquake code, and build a multi-purpose extra space out the back. This would be much cheaper than buying a section and building a purpose built new Centre.

We applied to Lotteries for a feasibility study to investigate if this was an option for us and were successful, receiving the \$21,796.00 we requested.

The study by Impact Consultants, based in Wellington, has just been completed and it indicates we have ticked all the right boxes to go ahead with this. We are seen as very valuable in the community and the extra facilities that we will provide would be used by many local people and groups. As it is more than feasible for us to go ahead we are intending to proactively initiate this option. We are presently negotiating a fair price to buy the building and will start applying for funds widely and for the first time ask our members to make a donation towards the project.

This will give us long term stability and also give us room for workshops, storage and a shared kitchen space for the wider community use as well.

We hope by the time our lease expires 2017 we can take over ownership of the building and begin the upgrade and extension.

(We can send you an electronic form of our feasibility study if you would like to view it)

## In conclusion



You will see by this report we are very busy, and there are many things we didn't have room to include. The demand for our knowledge, skills, programmes and resources is only going to grow. This is especially so after the earthquakes that NZ is experiencing, and world uncertainty. With the capacity of only 30 paid administration staffing hours per week, we are proud that we add over 70 hours voluntary work each week into our Centre and our projects. We really do 'punch above our weight' and make our funding and energy go far.

We just imagine what we would achieve for Southland and Southlander's, if we could grow our capacity. If we had a paid project co-ordinator, a paid education co-ordinator and double the administration hours, we would be six times more amazing!

We have a Self Sufficient Funding Strategy as a living document, we actively pursue the many ways we can make and save money ourselves. We will also be proactively seeking funding, sponsorship, and in kind support near and far to enable our vision of owning and expanding our Centre and our project headquarters; and our employment capacity.

A special thank you to those who have helped us over the year: our volunteers, financial members and outside funders. We couldn't do it without you, and we hope you will continue to support us in our endeavours in the future.