



COASTLINE

JUNE / JULY 2022

'AT THE MOVIES'

Riverton is on the international stage again, through a new Happen Films forest garden up-date: 'Growing Wild Together', a 12 minute short-film about the Guyton's maturing forest garden.

Happen Films presented the first highly-successful film about the garden (2 million plus views!) some 5 years ago. This latest 'up-date' has already attracted over 100 000 views in approximately 3 weeks. It seems that it's widely popular and was eagerly anticipated by a lot of people, if the comments that accompany the film are anything to go by.

"It's very gratifying to think that people from all corners of the globe are interested in forest gardens and take great encouragement from seeing one like ours that has been growing for over 30 years now", says Robert Guyton. The success of their garden and promotions like the films, have meant that the Guytons have been invited to present at the up-coming 'International Forest Garden Symposium'. It's an opportunity they have taken up, including providing carefully scripted and recorded material with supportive images and video.

The Guytons expect more and more interest to accrue as time goes by and they hope against hope that people from all over the planet will take up the idea of growing a forest garden and make it a reality, as they have done here at the bottom of the globe, in Riverton.

If you haven't already watched "Growing Wild Together", simply feed Google with that title :-). The film also covers the early stages of the development of the Longwood Loop, as well as the maturing forest garden. The Guytons feel it's a fair representation of projects they hold dear. Enjoy this promotion of our region!

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DATES TO DIARY:

July TBC	Seed Savers List 2022 - 2023: See page 3 to find out more.
Friday 12th August	Design Workshop: 'Creating a Good Food Road Map for Murihiku' For more information contact Rochelle: rochelle@activesouthland.co.nz / 021 209 6285
Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th August	Fruit Tree Sale catalogue: See page 8 for more information.

HERE AT LAST!

Our gardens may have slowed down for winter but it seems like little else has!! The world seems busy, so too does NZ and our region plus in my little home patch. I sincerely apologise for the lateness of this issue. Some unplanned life events have made it hard to stick to the planned timetable!

Our Riverton Environment Centre team is getting back into full swing. This issue features plenty that's going on. Next column read about the important winter tree pruning of the Heritage Orchard Parks – come along to help and learn; it's a win-win!

As well as updating us about winter gardening on pg 3, team member Nick tells us about the all-important seed saving; you are invited to be part of this network. Get involved!!

Nick also shares what's happening with education activities on pg 5 and summarises how the SCES is reaching out into Our Community on pg 6. Who knew there were so many ways the SCES is supporting our wider community enhance sustainable practices?

We start this issue highlighting a new short film on-line about the Guytons' maturing forest garden. With our borders opening up again, we can expect to see both NZ and international visitors, coming back to Riverton specifically to see and learn about the garden for themselves.

Our pg 7 we begin to share Henry Harrington's record of life in the 1930's and 40's. There is so much that we can still apply today.

Plus there's more including 'How To' important points when transplanting fruit trees. You will see that we are integrating Te Reo into more of our articles now instead of having a separate article.

Wendy Joy, Coastline Co-ordinator

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.

HERITAGE ORCHARD PARKS 2022

Come and Help; Come and Learn!!!

The SCES has 14 Heritage Orchard parks dotted across Southland and South Otago. They are filled with the treasures of the diverse variety of apple trees that the early settlers in the region, planted from the 1850's to the 1920's.

Usually, we hold annual community pruning and planting 'working bees' for each orchard during July and early August, to care for the trees and pass on the skills for future orchard management to local community members.

Unfortunately, due to Covid, we have missed two years of this care. Consequently, this winter it's going to be quite a mission to get the trees and volunteers back in good form.

If you have ½ a day to help, perhaps at the orchard closest to your home, we would really appreciate hearing from you.

We try to choose good weather days, and spread the word a couple of days beforehand about where we are going and to car pool when possible. It's best to wrap up warm and be prepared for any weather. Bring your own saw and secateurs if you have them, along with some food and a thermos of something hot.

The 'working bees' start with a brief chat about the history of the park's settlers' trees and a tutorial / refresher about how to prune the trees. Working in pairs, some then begin snipping and pasting, while others gather up the cuttings. Robyn and/or Robert will be there to help with any tricky decisions if what's needed is not obvious.

Each orchard has more apple and pear trees to be planted alongside their existing settler sets! The SCES is so grateful for the Motueka Pear Research Station grafting our pears for our parks and for Robin Blake doing the last of the apple grafting.

Please Act Now; Email openorchard@sces.org.nz to let Robyn know which area/s you are interested in helping with and dates that will or will not work for you.

Choose from Heritage Orchard Parks located at: **Riverton/ Aparima, Tuatapere, Monowai, Ohai, Nightcaps, Otautau, Winton, Balfour, Riversdale, Waikaia, Woodlands, Mokotua, Kaitangata and Owaka.**

We are hoping the Invercargill area will have its own Heritage Orchard Park next year.

GARDENING WITH NICK

Hōtoke (winter) - Pipiri (June and July)

"Matariki ahunga nui" - "Matariki provider of plentiful food"

Now is the time to keep warm and plan ahead. Our Environment Centre fruit tree and seed catalogues will be available over the next couple of months, so work out what you want and think carefully about where it's going to go.

It's always exciting browsing the colourful and enticing pages of commercial seed catalogues, but remember that many of these seeds are from far-off parts of the world. You are supporting kai sovereignty in Aotearoa New Zealand when you buy NZ-grown seeds - the Koanga Institute, Eco Seeds and Setha's Seeds all sell NZ seeds, and there are several seedsavers groups you can join if you want to do even more to support a resilient, sustainable food system. 'NZ Seedsavers Trade and Share' and our own 'Southland Seed Savers Network' (both on Facebook) can provide both seeds and support.

It's been a lovely frosty winter so far, and growth in the garden has slowed right down. If your ground is frozen, resist the urge to plant garlic until it's thawed out a bit - a day of rain should melt the ice sufficiently to poke those hardy wee cloves in the soil. Garlic will grow happily through winter (though mostly underground until a bit later in the year).

Broad beans are a winter star - plant them in any empty space in the garden. Whether or not you end up eating them, they are champions at harvesting nitrogen from the air and feeding your soil - just chop them down and use them as mulch!



A bit later in July is good for starting peas - **like the Bohemian Sugar Peas in the photo** - they are huge and ridiculously productive by December!

Nick

PROJECT UPDATE:

Southland Seed Savers Network



Seed savers from around Te Wai Pounamu South Island have been sending us lots of little parcels of kākano recently - exciting! They include:

- Climbing beans and tomatoes from Te Anau;
- Tomatoes and beans from Invercargill;
- Swedes and parsnips from Pahia;
- Lettuces from Edendale;
- Climbing and broad beans and snow, flour and mangetout peas from Dunedin;
- Tomatoes, cucumbers and climbing butter beans from the West Coast;
- Carrots, daikon radish, shelling and sugar peas and even lentils from Riverton!

These seeds are very special - many are originally from Henry Harrington, legendary Southland seed saver. We have been focusing on building their numbers back up so more Southlanders can grow them again. But they are all special in that gardeners have grown them in healthy living soil, with the express purpose of making them available for others.



Tomato, pea, bean, and lettuce seeds are so easy to grow! Our challenge to our community is: grow a super abundance of seeds, so no one needs to spend money to grow them. We can start you off with seeds. We can tautoko (support) you along the way. We can help you share them.

Our new seed list for 2022 - 2023 will be out in July. Check the website (www.sces.org.nz/southland-seed-savers) and our Facebook page ([Southland Seed Savers](#)) for more information.

MYTHICAL FIG



I went to Nelson for a fortnight. While I was there, I stumbled upon an opportunity to buy a unique fig; one that I knew of, but didn't ever imagine I'd be able to secure. This fig came from the Italian island of Stromboli (presumably with the early settlers) to New Zealand; D'Urville Island specifically, an island I lived on briefly, long ago. I lived within cooee of this fig when I taught island children there back in the day, so when I saw the fig advertised, I swooped!

Now, the Stromboli fig grows in my tunnel house, thanks to Bobby Moleta of D'Urville Island, and the kind folk of the Wakefield Heritage Village, who propagate the unusual fig, for prosperity. It may or may not produce good figs here in Southland; I do not care whether it does or doesn't – it's a mythical fig and I'm delighted to have it in my world!

Robert

FROGS GALORE

Frogs are a'croakin' here in my garden. I thought it might never happen, given the sad demise of frogs across the country, due to habitat loss and the fungus that wiped out so many frogs around the world in just a brief window of destruction, some 10 years ago.



We have Australian Tree Frogs. They've survived; I'm delighted and now there are frogs galore, croaking, singing, whistling; how-ever you want to describe it, all around me. I couldn't be happier!

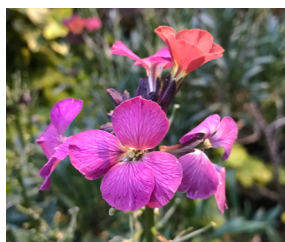
I did wonder though, why the males were calling, day in, day out, during the winter! I

thought: surely frogs only call their mates in during the spring season – that's when frog spawn is found in ponds and wetlands, isn't it? No, it turns out, it isn't! Frogs get together and create spawn; jellied masses of eggs floating or fixed in the shallows of ponds, pools and soaks across the country, at all times of the year! I was and remain, amazed by this news!

I hope the frogs I hear at night, in the morning, afternoon and evening around this part of the world, know what they are doing and will succeed in their quest to re-fill the region with their kind!

Robert

WINTER WALLFLOWER IN NORTH AMERICA



The Wallflower is a remarkable herb that has a flower that brings bright purple joy to those in the depths of Winter, when most plants have dropped their flowers to the autumn soil; the Wallflower flowers right through to Spring. It also flowers brightly in summer.

This month I am in mid-summer in Portland, Oregon, spending a season visiting my partner's family and enjoying the wild and plant filled neighbourhood gardens in the City. Wallflowers appear in most front gardens, filling the streets with their bright orange & purple flowers and dark green narrow leaves.

Here in North America, the Wallflower is a native member of the Brassica family, and can be found growing in the alpine meadows of the cascades and in the deserts of eastern Oregon. The Plains Wallflower has been traditionally used by Native Americans for stomach cramps, making tea from the leaves or seeds.

The North American Wallflower is also known as sanddune wallflower, western wallflower, or prairie rocket, borrowing the name Wallflower from the European varieties that were found growing in stone walls.

The Wallflower is also native to Europe, where Wallflowers can be found growing in fields and along roadsides. Keep an eye out for this beautiful herb wherever you are and in whatever season you find yourself!

Hollie

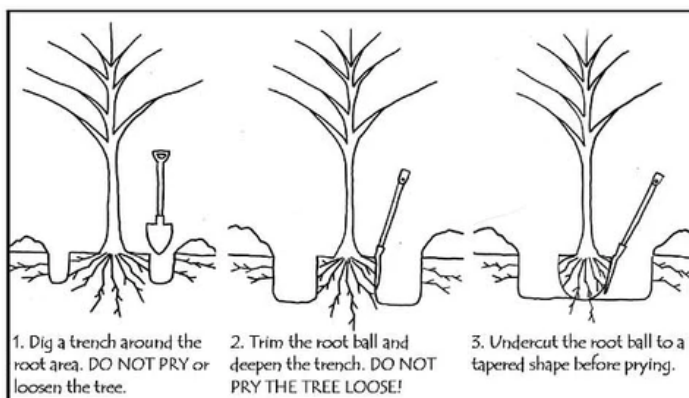
TRANSPLANTING FRUIT TREES



All deciduous trees, the ones that lose their leaves, are 'dormant' in winter. This means the easily damaged new fine root hairs that grow from Spring to Autumn have stopped growing.

So as the leaves fall, last years' root growth hardens up and can handle being planted or shifted. This is why fruit trees are sold as 'bare rooted' in winter. They don't need soil when dormant as they are not growing but they do need to be kept damp.

Whenever transplanting, be sure to take great care of the tree and keep as much of the root growth attached as you can. If there is a root that is too long in one direction you can prune it at this stage and like the pruned branches above ground, some new small roots will branch off and grow.



If the tree shape is uneven, plant with the vigorous side facing the wind to help balance the tree.

You can shift fruit trees anytime in winter in their first 3-4 years; so if you shift house you can take your trees with you!

Robyn

ABOUT OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

Education

It is such a privilege to be able to support our community's efforts to live in more sustainable ways! Over the last few months we have been delivering free community workshops around Southland: we have run 13 workshops and met over 200 people keen to learn more about organic gardening, seed saving and composting. We gave out packs of heritage bean seeds and beginner home garden seed packs, as well as our 'Beginner Organic Gardening Guide' (which is also available to purchase at the Environment Centre for \$10.00). We are grateful to have received funding from Lottery COVID-19 Community Wellbeing Fund to enable all this to happen!



Our 'Growing the Loop' project (supported by the Ministry of Social Development) is also going gangbusters, with the first couple of months of our Market Garden training programme underway. We have ten folk, mostly from around the Longwood Loop, meeting regularly via Zoom and in person, with the expert support of our key partners Village Agrarians.

We've visited the amazing gardens at the Last Light Lodge Tuatapere, zoomed with a professional market gardener in Otago and talked compost with Nick at the Environment Centre. There's lots more to come!

Arbor Day Planting, June 5 2022



5 hardy people braved the horizontal rain and hail to plant 50 trees at the Aparima College Tremendous Tree Project site by the school gardens

MATARIKI: TUPU-Ā-NUKU A CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE MAHI OF SCES.

Tupu-ā-nuku is the eldest of Matariki's daughters. She spends her time with Papatūānuku tending to plants.

She pays special attention to making sure they have everything they need to grow big and strong so they can produce kai (food), rongoā (medicine), and kā kahu (clothing).

When we see her shining we are reminded that we all have our own special time and place, and to spend time growing our pūkenga (skills) as well as that of our friends.

www.tepapa.govt.nz/legend-matariki-and-six-sisters



OUR COMMUNITY

SCES Community Connections

Like mycelium, our SCES roots reach throughout the community, providing enrichment and building strong connections! Some of our activities include:

Connecting with more than 200 home gardeners over the last few months through our workshop programme, offering guidance and support to help people produce more of their own healthy kai.

Working alongside the tauira (students) at Aparima College each Wednesday in their flourishing mā ra (garden). There are wonderful things afoot there, and it is really special for us to have such a strong relationship with them.

Partnering with Te Putahitanga o Te Waipounamu to tautoko (support) gardeners at home through Kōanga Kai, working with them to find culturally appropriate ways of increasing access to healthy kai for them and their whānau, mainly through mahi māra kai (food growing).

Delivering a special wānanga/workshop in Gore for Hokonui Rūnanga, focusing on supporting food production through building and enhancing soil life and diversity, and connecting with Te Ao Māori ('Māori world view').

Collaborating with the Murihiku Kai Collective, particularly towards a workshop in August which will bring the Southland community together to create a 'road map' for how we can build a truly sustainable, resilient food system - very exciting!

Working with Village Agrarians and the Ministry of Social Development to deliver our Market Garden training programme, 'Growing the Loop'.

Sharing with the Ministry for the Environment's 'Food Champions' group about our many food-related projects. A great opportunity to share our work with some key people.

OUR PEOPLE

Teanau Tuiono, education consultant and politician, visited Riverton recently. He's a modest fellow; you'd barely take note of him in a café, and that's just how it was when we met: he and I, along with David Diprose, local farmer and member of Environment Southland Regional Forum regarding freshwater management, and his wife, Joanna, for lunch at Mrs Clark's fine café on the main street of Riverton.

We talked about critical issues of a farming and environmental nature, and no one took any notice of us as we did so. Teanau is a sitting MP and you might expect some sort of response from our wee community to the presence of an MP, but now, thankfully no-one bothered us as we talked about ways to improve farming and the natural world. Teanau was a lovely man and has taken his learnings gleaned from us straight-forward Riverton folk, back to Wellington where it is hoped, at least we hope, those ideas will contribute to the understanding held by Central Government, of how things are in the far-flung realms.

Robert

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HENRY HARRINGTON



Henry Harrington was a dedicated seed-saver who retired from Canterbury to Ohai, for the lifestyle. He brought with him a wealth of seed-saving knowledge learned firstly from his father, who saved seeds out of economic necessity, then from his own many years of successfully and meticulously saving a wide variety of seeds, especially vegetables seeds.

Henry also had a focus on crop rotation for healthy soil management, the importance of bees for pollination, sustainable practices including composting, seasonal constraints and natural weed control; evidently he was a man of great knowledge.

In 1999 Henry brought his seed collection into the Riverton Environment Centre, with the intention that his life's work would be continued, hence the establishment of the Southland Seed Savers Network 1999.

Henry passed away in 2010. He had the foresight to write about his experiences of living through the Depression Years. Recycling was a word probably not used back then; it was simply the way of life.

Henry intended for us to share his writing which we have done in parts over the years and now we think it's time to share it in its entirety in the next few issues of our Coastline newsletter, starting with this issue. Thank you Henry Harrington.

Part 1

I am writing about when I was a child as our family went through the Depression years, and it was then coming up to World War II. No one had any money to spare for anything that wasn't essential to life, but they didn't get around looking glum, when they worked long hours for very little rewards, never wasted anything that they could see a use for, and if they didn't have a use for it they stored it away until they found a use for it or the raw materials for them to create something useful for their needs. They didn't have great amounts of tools to work with, but those they had were kept in good repair and were considered treasures, and you dare not touch anything in their workshops unless you put it back exactly where you picked it up from.



Water was collected off the roof when it rained, and if there wasn't any rain for a while and the water supply ran dry you had to cart it in buckets from the nearest creek; everyone lived in hope of getting water piped to their house. But like most other things they had to wait until there was the money to do the job. Banks wouldn't lend money unless you had plenty of your own and didn't really need to borrow it.

Most families were large and the children worked to keep some food on the table. Schooling for the children was to say the least difficult, especially when you lived on a farm well away from the towns. The burden fell on the mother to teach her family while

she cared for the baby, cooked, cleaned the house, carted water for the copper to do the washing and the 1001 other jobs that had to be done every day without the amenities we have today. They worked hard for little rewards, and few pleasures in life compared to today and in general they were happy people.

One use empty bottles had was for jam jars. In those days there weren't any jam jars as we know them today. They used to shape a piece of number 8 fencing wire to fit around the widest part of the neck of the bottle, then heat the wire up and then put it around the bottle to heat it up, then put the bottle into a bucket of cold water and then snap the neck cut cleanly off the bottle. Next a file was used to remove the sharp edges off it and you had a jam jar, pickles jar or whatever you wanted to use them for. The pantry shelves were lined with these and another piece of shelving timber was put on top of them to keep the mice out. That piece of wire used to cut the tops off was a prized possession in the workshop and no-one dared touch it. By keeping that piece, all the bottles were cut at the same place and all turned out the same height, which meant that the piece of timber on top of them fitted snugly and kept the mice out and not to waste anything.

(Part 2 next issue.)

WE NEED YOU!

Volunteer Vacancies: Suitable for adults of all ages, high school students, an adult with a primary aged helper.

Want to get work experience, meet new people and/or learn new skills? Come and join the friendly team at the Environment Centre. Flexible hours, and can be once a week, fortnightly or monthly.

You can help behind the scenes bagging up etc. and / or staffing the front counter. We provide training and support and, after you have been with us for a while, we can provide a reference for a job.

So don't be stuck at home with nothing to do, we need you!

Text Robyn 0273683831 or phone or call into the Centre during opening hours.



FRUIT TREE SALE

Our annual fundraising fruit tree sale is coming up on the 6th and 7th of August.

Email us and we will send you the list in July for pre-ordering. If you become a paid member of our Society you will get the list the week before non-members!

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR PLANTS,

we have got lots!

A selection of herbs, vegetables, trees and shrubs awaits you at the Environment Centre.

PRICED TO SELL FROM \$2 TO \$10.

Come in and have a look!

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. www.sces.org.nz/about/donate

Ph 03 234 8717

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

VISIT THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

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

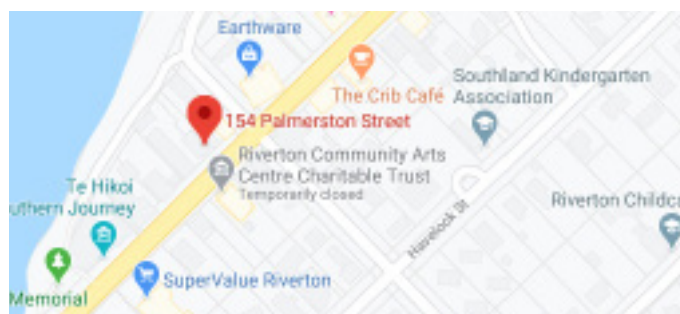
Phone: 03 234 8717, **Email:** office@sces.org.nz

Opening hours are:

Monday - Friday: 10:00am - 4:30pm

Saturday: 10:30am - 4:30pm

Sunday: 1:30pm - 4:30pm



www.sces.org.nz



@rivertonenvironmentcentre