



COASTLINE

JUNE / JULY 2021

WE'VE DONE IT!!

Page 1	We've Done It! Dates To Diary
Page 2	Milestone Reached NZ Food System Summit
Page 3	Nick's Gardening Arbour Day Double Celebration
Page 4	Growing Palms Herbivores' Gardening Contribution Hollie's Herb - Echinacea
Page 5	Our Community Celebratory Carrot Cake
Page 6	Our People Our Committee
Page 7	Tips for Warm Winter Homes & Healthy Whanau
Page 8	Fruit Tree Sale

Longwood Loop Electric Van is En Route!!

Asking for help, especially in the form of money, feels awkward usually, but when it's for a community project that will benefit a lot of people, it's not so hard to do.

The PledgeMe campaign we ran to top up our funds to buy the EV was successful. Added to the generous grant from Community Trust South, we have been able to confirm the purchase - thanks so much everyone!

Our van, as it now is, will arrive here in Riverton sometime early July. We'll be ready with some sort of welcome ceremony; break a bottle of kombucha on the bonnet or something like that :)

In essence we have been able to take the next huge step towards the introduction of a regular Longwood Loop mobile farmers market. We are extremely happy with the outcome of the PledgeMe campaign and so very grateful to all who contributed.

We are still working on procuring, a further \$3000 for the larger capacity battery to give the van a longer range.

To this end, local artist *Wayneofthehill* has donated a unique and useful artwork for us to raffle; outdoor furniture in the form of a robust chair of the sort a fairy king or queen might sit; if you can picture yourself sitting regally somewhere in your garden, enjoying the Southland sun, please do call in to buy a ticket!



DATES TO DIARY:

Tuesday 13th July	Committee Meeting: 7pm at the Centre, all welcome.
July / August	Keep an eye on our website or facebook page for pruning workshops
Saturday 7th August	Fruit Tree Sale
Sunday 8th August	

MILESTONE REACHED! CONGRATULATIONS!

Achieving 25 years is a real milestone. The longest continuously operating Environment Centre in NZ! Congratulations to all personnel involved.

The SCES is moving into a new era. Increasingly knowledge gained and resources developed are being recognised. Centre staff are now participating on national and local food resilience networks, services are being contracted, and additional funding is available for admin support. All very positive!

Having the electric van here before long will be another major achievement for both the Centre and for our Western Southland community.

We hope you enjoy what we have to offer in this issue, Remember if you have something to share please get in touch. We know there are a lot of people in our wider community who have skills and knowledge that others can learn from; perhaps you are being innovative minimising waste or recycling? Let us know so we can share it.

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.

NZ FOOD SYSTEM SUMMIT NATIONAL

I attended the inaugural 3 hour NZ Food Summit in March and Rebecca and I attended the second one in June. Angela Clifford from Eat NZ launched the discussions with contacts she knew from all around NZ who were leading projects to change the way we relate to our food. She saw the benefit of us sharing our local projects to strengthen the rate of change needed to increase food nutrition, reduce food waste, and increase food sovereignty.

There are about 40 attendees from throughout NZ at each summit. After a full group discussion with speakers we break into 3 tables: nutrition, waste and sovereignty. After two hours each group reports back to all attendees. Of course they are all intrinsically linked: more locally sourced food is more nutritious and there is less food waste or looking at it the other way, locally made compost grows more nutritious food grown locally.

We are humbled to be up at a level talking with a government representative, a university lecturer and other project managers from a broad range of projects across NZ that educate and organise as much local food as possible. Now that the government is looking at more food security for New Zealanders, we are suggesting that rather than taking a top down approach, the focus needs to be on understanding what is already planned and working in communities and supporting such initiatives. All project leaders have struggles with funding, MPI regulations and the like. If some barriers could be removed we all believe we could be more effective.

Personally I am thrilled that finally I am talking with people as passionate as I am about changing our dependence on global food and bringing food production back to the regions so the countryside can start feeding the cities once again. The social, economic, health, and environment benefits will be immense.

Robyn Guyton - Centre and Project Manager, Riverton Environment Centre



<https://www.nzchampions123.org/resources>

IN THE WINTER GARDEN WITH NICK

It's tempting to spend all day inside in the warmth, but there is still plenty to keep us active in the garden!



Garlic seed ready to plant. Two types of rocambole (hard-neck) and two soft-necks.

There is still time to plant garlic, so don't despair if you haven't yet. This can go in any time through June and July, but don't leave it any later. Riverton-grown garlic available at the Environment Centre right now!

If you have a greenhouse you can sow some winter-hardy salads - mizuna, mibuna, kale and rocket are good choices (they can also be sown under a cloche, or in trays inside to be eaten as 'microgreens'). You can pop broad beans and lupins in the ground now: they are super hardy and will grow steadily through the depths of winter. You then have the choice of either chopping them down as a 'green crop' (providing masses of free nitrogen and stacks of organic matter to soil) or letting the broad beans flower and produce pods.

Peas can also go in towards the end of July for an early summer harvest.

Make sure any empty garden beds are either mulched, or sown with a green crop to build soil until your new seedlings are ready to plant. If it's too cold to be outside, take the opportunity to think about what you want to grow in the coming seasons. Check seed catalogues for inspiration - there is much to choose from, but bear in mind that most of the seeds available from large companies are grown in warm, dry parts of the United States or Italy, so try to seek out New Zealand-grown seed, which is likely to be more robust and productive in our conditions.

The Environment Centre sells Kings Seeds (mostly not NZ-grown) and also hosts the Southland Seedsavers Network, which aims to share and save seeds that do well in Southern NZ (check the SCES website to find out more!)."



Nick

ARBOUR DAY DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Saturday June 5, was a double celebration for members of South Coast Environment Society.



4 past chairpersons cutting the cake Robert, Robyn Guyton, Tanya Roberts and Jude Sullivan. Present chairperson Hollie Guyton absent.

It was Arbour Day, a day to focus on the importance of trees and it coincided with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Riverton Environment Centre; definitely a celebratory day.

The day dawned fair, but by mid-afternoon when people gathered to plant 25 commemorative trees in the Aparima College native tree area, it was blowing a howling gale.

Undeterred, a dozen friends of the Centre set to work with spades and mattocks and in no time at all the work was completed.

All then returned to the Centre where Robyn Guyton, one of the Centre founders, shared the history and milestones and the cutting of a beautiful celebratory carrot cake, see page 5 for recipe.



Planting 25 trees in horizontal rain

MĀORI GARDENING VOCABULARY

Oneone: Soil Māra: Garden Kākano: Seed Hōtoke: Winter

GROWING PALMS

Palm trees aren't commonly seen around Riverton, and for good reason, I suppose. There are some, however, and eagle-eyed gardeners will have noticed several growing in gardens that face out into Taramea Bay and enjoy frost-free conditions, as well as one in an estuary-facing garden along the Riverton/Longwood highway.

I've tried to grow palms on a couple of occasions in the past: a nikau palm bought from a store in Invercargill that didn't make it through the first winter, a date palm grown from a stone I found beneath the parent-tree growing in Blenheim; again, winter proved too much for the cold-sensitive seedling and another palm whose name I forget, that went the same way. I've not given up though.

Through the generosity of a visitor from the North Island who has numerous palms growing in his native forest block, I've

got 3 seedlings up and growing, only this time, they're staying indoors for the winter, peering out of the lounge window at the winter garden and looking pretty healthy. Nikau palms don't love the cold, but these ones were sourced as seed from the Chatham Islands, and I figure conditions there aren't especially gentle, so these should do fine.



There is no particular value to growing palms in the Deep South - they are very unlikely to produce fruits of any sort, but they certainly add an air of the exotic to your garden and will inevitably become a talking-point, should you be a good-enough gardener to get them established and growing.

Robert

HERBIVORES' GARDENING CONTRIBUTION

Animals and gardens don't always mix successfully; rabbits and carrots, for example, or possums and fruit trees, but animals of all sorts do contribute something, aside from their over-zealous pruning services, that gardeners do appreciate; dung.

Plants love the manure of herbivores (cat-scat and dog-poo is not beloved by gardeners, at all!) and most gardeners are happy to handle, albeit carefully, sheep, cow, horse, rabbit, guinea pig, pigeon and hen "droppings" in the knowledge that the application of those will boost plant growth and foster better soil condition.

It's said that pigeon or dove guano is the richest of all manures available to the gardener, while cow manure is the least concentrated, but it's a matter of availability and volume; much easier to fill a trailer with cow-pats that it is

pigeon-droppings!

Most animal manures need to be composted before use to mature; perhaps be worked-over by worms and turned with a fork to let oxygen in and the elements can get to them.

Animal manure adds vitality, quickly to any garden: the more nutrient-rich the diet of the animal, the richer the nutrients provided by the manure; doves eat nutrient-rich grains and are therefore producers of very rich manure; cows eat grass, which is far less nutrient-rich than grain, and so a greater volume of dung is needed to match the value of the dove guano.

Whichever way it is prepared and applied, the dung of grass, seed and fruit-eating animals is good for the garden.

HOLLIE'S HERB - ECHINACEA

The Herb of this wintery issue is Echinacea, a herb that most of us are familiar with, having taken the herb in capsule or tablet form when feeling under-the-weather. However, not many of us know how to grow and harvest this herb ourselves.



I recently discovered that in North America, where echinacea may come from, the plant is an endangered species and needs to be protected in the wild. I decided I needed to grow my own to ensure my good health and

the good health of the Echinacea community. Luckily for us, Echinacea, also known as Purple Coneflower, is one of those hardy, perennial plants that can be grown easily from seed and from root divisions. It has a beautiful flower that is also used by many flower growers in bouquets and will attract many beneficial insects to your garden.

Echinacea flowers in its second year. After growing for two years and becoming well established, you can harvest some of the plant for your wintery teas or tinctures; the leaves, flowers, stems and roots. It is a good idea when harvesting roots, to do so for yourself plant in another spot, and to give some to away to a friend to plant!

Hollie

OUR COMMITTEE

As usual it has been a demanding time for staff, very busy with the 25 Year celebrations, Longwood Loop Vehicle funding & purchase, fruit tree sale preparations, the contract for gardening resources, workshop planning, etc.

We are very pleased to welcome Elizabeth Simonka as our 30 hour a week office administrator. Elizabeth has a wealth of experience to bring to our team including knowledge of office systems.

Congratulations Teri who welcomed the arrival of dear little Charlie late April. Teri will still be working lighter hours covering ROG Co-op admin. Rhi is off on maternity leave from the first week in July, little sister expected for 4 year old Evan, a few weeks away! Rhi will do a few design hours from home and keep updating the website etc.

Funding has been granted from Lotteries to enable us to complete a Detailed Seismic Assessment of our building so good to be able to progress this.



We have been contracted by Te Putahitanga o Te Waipounamu to provide resources and services to the value of \$60,000 to support new vegetable growers in Otago and Southland. This recognises the knowledge and resources the SCES has to support beginners to enhance their family gardening skills and resilience.

We have issues with the funding distribution model utilised by the Environment Hubs of Aotearoa (EHA) to manage the distribution of the Ministry for Environment funding for Environment Centres operational expenses. Currently, the more staff and outside funding Centres get, the more funding they are eligible for from the EHA! This results in Urban Centres, which generally have more funding sources and sponsorship opportunities, receiving greater support from the EHA than smaller more provincial Centres like Riverton, which generally have less local financial support avenues available to them.

Robyn has reinforced some pertinent points to the EHA funding steering committee highlighting that outcomes achieved by all Centres and geographical reach (provincial Centres generally cover considerably larger geographical areas than city based Centres) need to be taken into account when determining funding support entitlement. The steering committee acknowledged Robyn's points and will be reconsidering the criteria for next year.

OUR PEOPLE

Elizabeth, our new Office Administrator, introduces herself.

Greetings to all, I am looking forward to getting to know those of you I haven't met as yet and hopefully giving Robyn some breathing space to concentrate on some of her many projects!

Some of you I know already but for those I don't, I'm a born and bred, longtime resident of Riverton. Previously I worked at Ocean Shell, for the last 20 years, and prior to that we had Ricardo's Pizzeria.

I have been involved with the Environment Centre since the beginning but more so in the early years, being the first treasurer of the Environment Society for 3 years and volunteering when my children were young. My 3 sons are now in their 20s and have flown away to other parts of the world. My sister and brother were both involved in helping Robyn and Robert in the early years of the ROG and SCES. My interests include tramping, crafts and gardening and I enjoy doing my own DIY projects.

As part of giving back to the community I am also a current member of the Riverton Volunteer Fire Brigade (for 15 years) which is a very rewarding place to volunteer so I really appreciate the time given by all the volunteers involved and look forward to being able to help support the many faces of the SCES.

Elizabeth

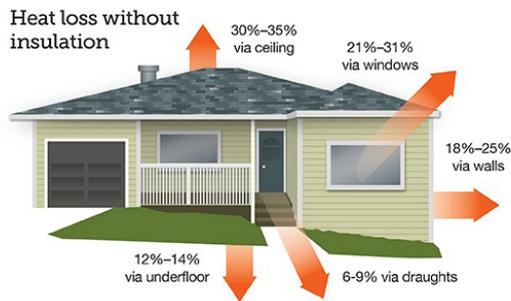
TIPS FOR WARM WINTER HOMES & HEALTHY WHANAU

As a member of Environment Hubs of Aotearoa, the SCES was able to have a team member attend the national Home Performance Advisor training being run by the Community Energy Network.

Committee member Anna, has attended two intensive training sessions and is now a certified assessor. Anna summarises the primary factors for achieving a warmer, dryer home, as follows.

1. Insulate

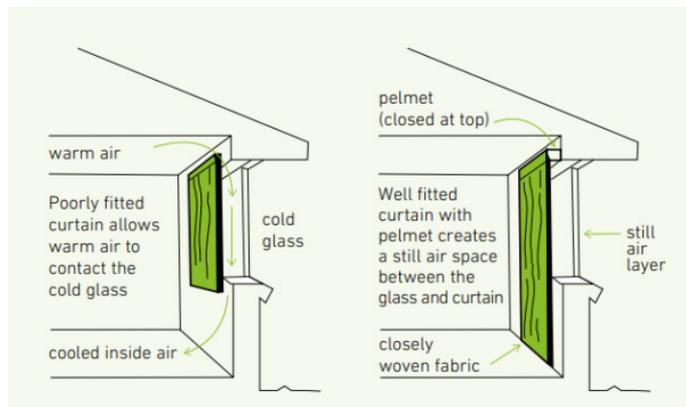
Effective insulation in ceiling, walls and floors keeps homes warm and dry in winter.



2. Curtains

Snug-fitting, multi layered curtains keep the heat in and reduce energy bills. Opening curtains each morning lets the sun's heat in and closing just before sunset, keeps the cold out.

The Riverton Curtain Bank provides good quality, second hand curtains. Phone Ngaire on 027 332 2231.



3. Draught-proofing

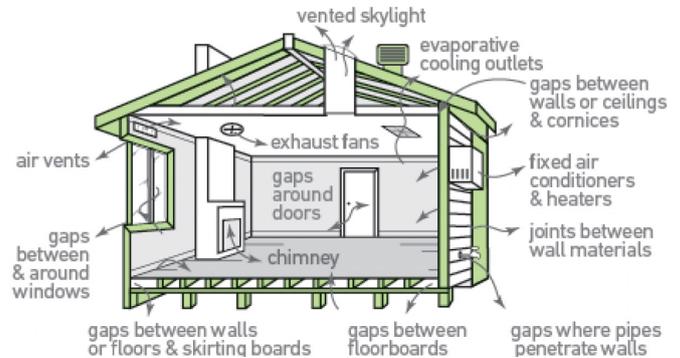


Uncontrolled draughts contribute to temperature fluctuations.

Attach draught proofing tape around windows and doors.

Add draught stoppers across the bottom of doors (or a rolled up dry towel).

FIND & FIX GAPS



4. Condensation

Without insulation condensation collects on hard surfaces in winter, causing damp and mould growth. A damp home is harder and more expensive to heat.

Mitigate condensation by:

- Putting lids on pots when cooking.
- Use extractor fans in the kitchen and bathroom or open a window.
- Always dry clothes outside (or in a garage or carport).
- Wipe down windows and surfaces each morning, hang the cloth outside to dry.

5. Heating

Electric heaters are cheap to buy and safe to use. Heat pumps with thermostats or wood burners are cost effective and provide ample heat.

Replace portable or unflued gas heaters which produce large quantities of moisture and toxic fumes.

6. Air

Air your home every day in the colder months. Opening doors and windows for 15 minutes once or twice daily releases excess moisture and refreshes air quality.

7. Visible Mould

Musty smells and mildew indicate mould growth which can adversely affect health. Making sure the room is well ventilated, scrub clean with hot soapy water and dry thoroughly.

For more information, to book an accredited assessor or check eligibility for an insulation or heating subsidy, phone HPA certified Anna on 0220 730 167 or contact SCES.

Anna

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.

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!



Fruit Tree Sale

Sat 7th & Sun 8th August 2021

Paid members will receive the fruit tree list this week for priority ordering. If you haven't received an email from us, go to www.sces.org.nz/members to renew your membership.

People on our data base will receive the list a week later for pre-ordering.

20th-25th July the list will be open to everyone on our website.

People wanting more than 5 trees can put in another order. No orders taken after 25th July.

We expect to still have a good range available for the fruit tree sale weekend.

Please send in your Readers Patch contributions by the first 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. 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.

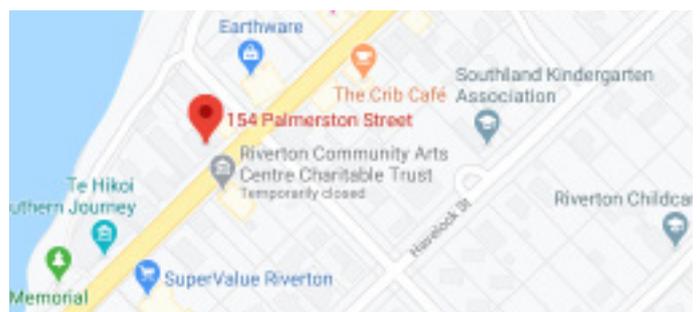
Phone: 03 234 8717, **Email:** office@sces.org.nz

Opening hours are:

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

Saturday: 10:30am - 4:30pm

Sunday: 1:30pm - 4:30pm



www.sces.org.nz



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