



Community board plan

2021 - 2024

ORETI



WELCOME...

It is with great pride we present this Oreti Community Board Plan to you.

It's more than a document. It's a path for us to follow into the future to ensure Oreti remains the quintessential slice of Kiwi paradise we all know it to be.

Within its boundaries lies an array of communities, each with cultural and demographic diversities which meld into a multicultural society striving for wellbeing and development. It's a place where rural and residential lifestyles cohabitate amicably.

Our focus when evolving this plan from conception was a progressive and thriving community committed to creating opportunities, maintaining quality facilities and developing a healthy environment.

Ultimately, we want to achieve a society where youth prosper and have fond memories which encourage them to stay or return to the community at some stage in their lives.

At the other end of the spectrum, our elderly residents are embraced and respected by a supportive society.

Success must be tangible in the form of excellent infrastructure and reliable services with a safe environment which is notable as clean, green and affordable.

Yes, there are challenges – ageing infrastructure, rising costs and business stability amongst them – but we must collectively play our part.

Your Oreti Community Board has been tasked with representing you as a future direction is set, assets are looked after and residents feel valued in a society which respects diversity. We are here to listen and be your voice when it's needed.

This is the first important step and we are immensely proud of the progress within these pages so take the time to share in the vision. Then it's time for action, together.

Natasha

OUR VISION



Oreti Community Board Plan

Through various engagement and consultation activities, the Oreti community told us what they loved about their area, what they see as weaknesses and challenges and the opportunities they see going forward.

Workshops were also held with the Oreti Community Board.



Oreti communities include:

Benmore, Branxholme, Browns, Caroline, Centre Bush, Dipton, Dipton West, Gap Road, Glencoe, Hedgehope, Heenans Corner, Hokonui, Josephville, Kauana, Lady Barkly, Limehills, Lochiel, Lorneville, Makarewa Junction, Northope, Oporo, Oreti Plains, Otapiiri, Otapiiri Gorge, Pukemutu, Ryal Bush, South Hillend, Springhills, Thomsons Crossing, Tussock Creek, Waitane, Wallacetown, West Plains, Wilsons Crossing, Winton.

1861

Winton was established after Thomas Winton, who regularly drove stock through this area in the late 1850s. Whilst searching for strayed stock, he had occasion to camp by the banks of the small stream, which became known as Winton Creek. The town took its name from the creek.



1863

With the huge influx of Presbyterians to the Centre Bush area, Church services were held in John Shand's barn until a church was built.



1865

Centre Bush was settled.

It retains two churches, craft shops, a school and a rugby club.



1870s

The local Anglican community had grown to the point where a purpose-built place of worship was desired and feasible. By 1876, the **Holy Trinity Church was built in Winton**



1881

Drummond was formed and named after either a local surveyor or William Francis Drummond Jervois, governor of New Zealand from 1882 to 1889. **Settlers of the area drained swamps, farmed sheep, and grew oats, wheat, linseed and grasses.**



1894

The Jamieson's Restaurant opened its doors.

The building was reported as an ornament to the town and provided most comfortable refreshment rooms

1900s

The district thrived with the development of sheep and fat-lamb farms. Later, dairy farming became the staple economy, although the area has also seen sawmills, and flax and linen-flax industries

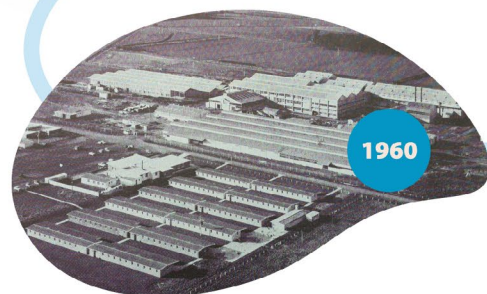
1938



Nestle took over the Underwood Milk Preserving Works in Wallacetown to make Highlander Sweetened Condensed Milk

1919

Ivy Russell became the first women Town Clerk in New Zealand. Ivy held the position for 35 years



1960

First Alliance Group plant opens in Lorneville

1998

The inter-war Traditional Ecclesiastical St Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Former) was listed as a Historic Place Category 2

2015

Limehills Primary School was awarded the Beyond Green Gold Award – the highest possible status achievable.





Oreti population 8352

Male	50%
Female	50%
Under 15	22%
15-29 years	16%
30-64 years	46%
65 and over	16%

Ethnic makeup	
European	90%
Maori	9%
Pacific peoples	1%
Asian	6%
Other	2%

Work and labour force status	
Employed full-time	56%
Employed part-time	16%
Unemployed	2%
Not in the labour force	26%

Home ownership	
Own or partly own	62%
Do not own	38%

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow that reflects on the water and the pebbly beach. A 4x4 vehicle is parked on the left side of the beach, and a person is sitting on the pebbles in the foreground. The sky is filled with scattered clouds, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

Our people value

Community spirit

Community resilience

Our unique environment

By the community for the community

This plan is a reflection of a community working together to build a better now and a future we can all be proud of.



Four main themes emerged when discussing the Oreti area.

1 A progressive and thriving economy creating opportunities for growth and development

2 A healthy and safe community with access to quality facilities, amenities and services

3 Our infrastructure is efficient, cost-effective and meets current and future needs

4 Our natural and built environment is clean, healthy and attractive



How can we create a progressive and thriving economy
and create opportunities for growth and employment?

OUTCOME ONE



A progressive and thriving economy creating opportunities for growth and development



STRATEGY ONE

To recognise and promote local attractions

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Work with Great South on opportunities for a Destination Management Plan	Board Chair/ CPL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great South
Identify local attractions and develop promotion plan	Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great South Winton Promotions Business Association
Connect local events to business opportunities (to be reviewed 3 monthly)	Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great South Winton Promotions Business Association
Prepare scope for video promotions of area via a competition – West Coast Coasters a possible model	Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Great South Winton Promotions Business Association



STRATEGY TWO

To establish a strong connection within each community of the Oreti Ward

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Plan public meetings on an annual basis with the Winton, Dipton, Limehills, Browns and Wallacetown communities	Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPL• CLO
Allocate a Community Board member to connect with representative community groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wallacetown• Friends of Cemetery• Friends of Ivy Russell reserve• Senior Citizens• Swimming Pool	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Southland District Council staff

FUTURE STRATEGY WORK

Medium to Long term

- Youth working group - attracting and retaining youth in the area
- Housing working group
- Local business support focused on growth and support



OUTCOME TWO



A healthy and safe community with access to quality facilities amenities and services



STRATEGY ONE

To encourage the local provision of a retirement village in or near Winton and future subdivision options around Winton

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Co-ordinate a meeting between Council, Environment Southland and the Community Board to discuss town planning options for future residential and commercial property growth	Councillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPL• Resource Management staff SDC• Environment Southland



STRATEGY TWO

Safer speed limits in the Oreti Ward

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Seek community feedback on areas of concern	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPL• SDC Roding staff• SDC Comms staff
Realignment of road in Wallacetown and lower speed limit requested of Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency (NZTA). Regular NZTA meetings to occur with Community Board in May of each year and SDC staff to update Board on a six - monthly basis		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SDC Roding staff• NZTA





STRATEGY THREE

To encourage and empower our communities to be welcoming and connected

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Regular communication to the community after Community Board meetings through the Board Facebook page and utilising other channels such as newsletters and publications	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPL • CLO • SDC Comms staff
Identify key people in each town who can provide information and updates about activities and issues to the Board	Councillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPL
Hold a local workshop to contribute to a Welcoming Communities plan	Councillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPL



STRATEGY FOUR

To facilitate community decisions on ownership/responsibility of community halls

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Organise meetings with communities to discuss the future requirements and ownership model for the hall in the area.	Community Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDC staff Community Facilities



STRATEGY FIVE

Prepare a needs analysis of service gaps for local elderly population

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Community Board requests staff to connect with the local community worker committee to request assistance with a needs analysis	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPL/CLO• Local community worker committee

FUTURE STRATEGY WORK

Medium to Long term

- Swimming pools
- Cycle network
- Creative arts in our local communities



OUTCOME THREE



*Our infrastructure is efficient, cost-effective
and meets current and future needs*



STRATEGY ONE

To advocate for Wallacetown residents with Environment Southland for a resolution to the erosion issue on the riverbank

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Community Board meets with ES and works together on way forward to resolve the issue	Board Chair/Councillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPL• SDC Roothing• Environment Southland
Community Board provides feedback to Wallacetown residents	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPL• Environment Southland



FUTURE STRATEGY WORK

Medium to Long term

Green waste (Wallacetown)

Dust suppressants

Roading

Waste facilities (Winton)

Cemeteries

Gravel buildup in rivers

Footpaths

Toilets



Wallacetown Community Centre

Located just 15 minutes from Invercargill, our modern Wallacetown Community Centre has a stadium the size of a full netball court with a wooden sprung floor and a large lounge, suitable for a multitude of uses.



Conferences & Seminars



Weddings & Funerals



Sports Training & Games



Community Groups



Celebrations & Parties



Catering & Functions

and much more!

We are a large, versatile venue. Seating up to 300 in the main hall, we also have a lounge area suitable for meetings and gatherings of up to 100 people, complete with a large kitchen.

Talk to our volunteer committee today to compare our reasonable hire rates and find out how we can help you!



Heaps of cheap parking



Changing rooms & Toilets



Large kitchen on site

OUTCOME FOUR



*Our natural and built environment is
clean, healthy and attractive*



STRATEGY ONE

Enhance and maintain our local reserves to encourage residents to use and enjoy them for playing and exercising without impacting on the well-being of neighbours

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED	BY WHEN
Engage with communities on plans for reserves within Board area	Board members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPL • SDC Community Facilities • Open Spaces Planner 	
Establish a group of local volunteers passionate about Ivy Russell reserve in Winton and agree on a memorandum of understanding (MOU)	Board Chair/Councillor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPL • SDC Community Facilities 	
Ensure implementation of a maintenance and development plan (including timeframes) for Ivy Russell Reserve	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDC Community Facilities • Ivy Russell community group 	



STRATEGY TWO

Trees and gardens within the Community Board area are in the right place

ACTION STEPS	WHO	SUPPORT/RESOURCE REQUIRED
Ensure the tree report has recommendations for the community board to consider for each community within the boundaries	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community Facilities
Implementation plan in place		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Community Facilities
Allocate a Community Board member to connect with representative community groups <ul style="list-style-type: none">WallacetownFriends of CemeteryFriends of Ivy Russell ReserveSenior CitizensSwimming Pool	Board Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Great SouthWinton PromotionsBusiness Association

FUTURE STRATEGY WORK

Medium to Long term

Walking tracks

Swim-friendly rivers

Attractive main streets

Lawnmowing/gardens

Rubbish on roads

Heritage buildings



DISTRICT BUSINESS OVERVIEW

As our boards wanted to ensure local businesses were represented in this plan, a district-wide survey was conducted to capture a snapshot of their views.

The main advantage identified for businesses in the south was being on the main tourist route. Other benefits included a supportive community and loyal customers, centrality of location, close proximity to Queenstown and less competition.

Challenges faced were seasonality, labour shortages, unreliability of the internet and phone coverage, power cuts, council red tape and issues with the delivery of goods.

Respondents stated that they foresee business growth in the next five years as being 67% – based on 0% being none at all and 100% significant growth.

Comments included:

- We will only be able to expand when we find more staff to employ
- There is expected increase in the building industries and maintenance work
- We are actively investing and growing our business and we work with the USA and Australian markets which are still strong performers
- Council's bridge closures are challenging for us
- Increase of raw materials available
- Over the last five years we have expanded to cover more areas
- We only have a small site so there is limited potential for further growth
- My business is hospitality and tourism based, hospitality is directly affected by rural economy, any decline in farmer income would have a direct impact on their disposable income, therefore it is impossible to predict future trends
- Tourism has had a steady increase over the years

Southland district a better place to operate a business - attracted the following comments:

- Better services - more reliable internet etc
- Yes, rental properties would be great, the lack of accommodation here can be and is a real problem especially for staff
- Establishing a business operators organisation
- Easing of red tape and costs of compliance
- Tidy up our main streets where businesses are located
- Getting people to support and shop local
- Maybe a community business Facebook page where we can share and support each other. I would like to know the other business owners in my community and share ideas
- We will need to invest in new housing and visitor accommodation
- Vastly improved internet required
- More public toilets and tourist information regarding this

Economic stability plays an important role in the future of our community.



Approximately 38% of respondents had connected with their community board.

Comments included:

- Local board members have been positive, and several have visited/maintained contact. Very encouraging
- Just thought of it now
- The community board members aren't business focused, it's not their area of expertise
- Yes, through the local business association
- Never thought of it
- I have discussed it with many members of the community, this will have filtered through to the community board I'm sure. I have never been invited or asked my opinion directly from our community board
- Not sure of the process how to connect with them

A photograph of two young people sitting on a large, thick tree branch that extends over a river. The person on the left is wearing a bright pink long-sleeved shirt and black leggings with white stripes down the side, lying down. The person on the right is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and shorts, sitting upright. The background shows a dense forest of green trees and a river below. The sun is shining through the trees, creating a bright spot in the upper right. The overall mood is peaceful and natural.

YOUTH ARE OUR FUTURE AND THEIR OPINION COUNTS.

Led by the Southland District Council youth councillors, a **district-wide survey** was conducted to gauge the views of young people to be included in this community board plan.

In collating the responses, a genuine sense of community featured highest among things Southland youth liked most about living in the district.

The people, small town vibe, feeling safe and the surrounding environment and landscape rated highly.

Successfully enhancing communities with a youth focus would include more activities, opportunities, events, shops and facilities as a place to hang out. Three major issues identified as having an impact were the mental health and wellbeing of young people, diversity and inclusion, and climate change.

85% of survey respondents believed mental health was a significant issue, with 65% believing there was not sufficient access to help and support.

Comments included:

- There's still a lot of stigma around mental health
- Young males and the farming community are at risk
- People don't feel safe to talk
- No-one wants to talk to the school guidance counsellor
- Good support in school but once kids have left school there's nothing
- Invercargill is too far to travel for services
- It's a problem everywhere
- Some individuals have mental health issues but the majority don't
- I don't know how to access support but I probably should



95%

feel accepted in their community.

68%

feel safe to express their identity.

57%

do not think there are enough opportunities in Southland to express their identity.

Comments included:

- There's a fear of judgement
- Southland is very judgemental and aren't good at accepting differences
- There is LGBTQ phobia
- If you aren't involved with rugby or sports, you aren't included in the community
- Everyone in the community is included
- There's more openness to multiculturalism
- A lot of racism here
- Some people get beaten for being gay and expressing it
- We need more festivals and events to celebrate people



In our evolving world, youth are acutely aware of climate change and the role they have to play.

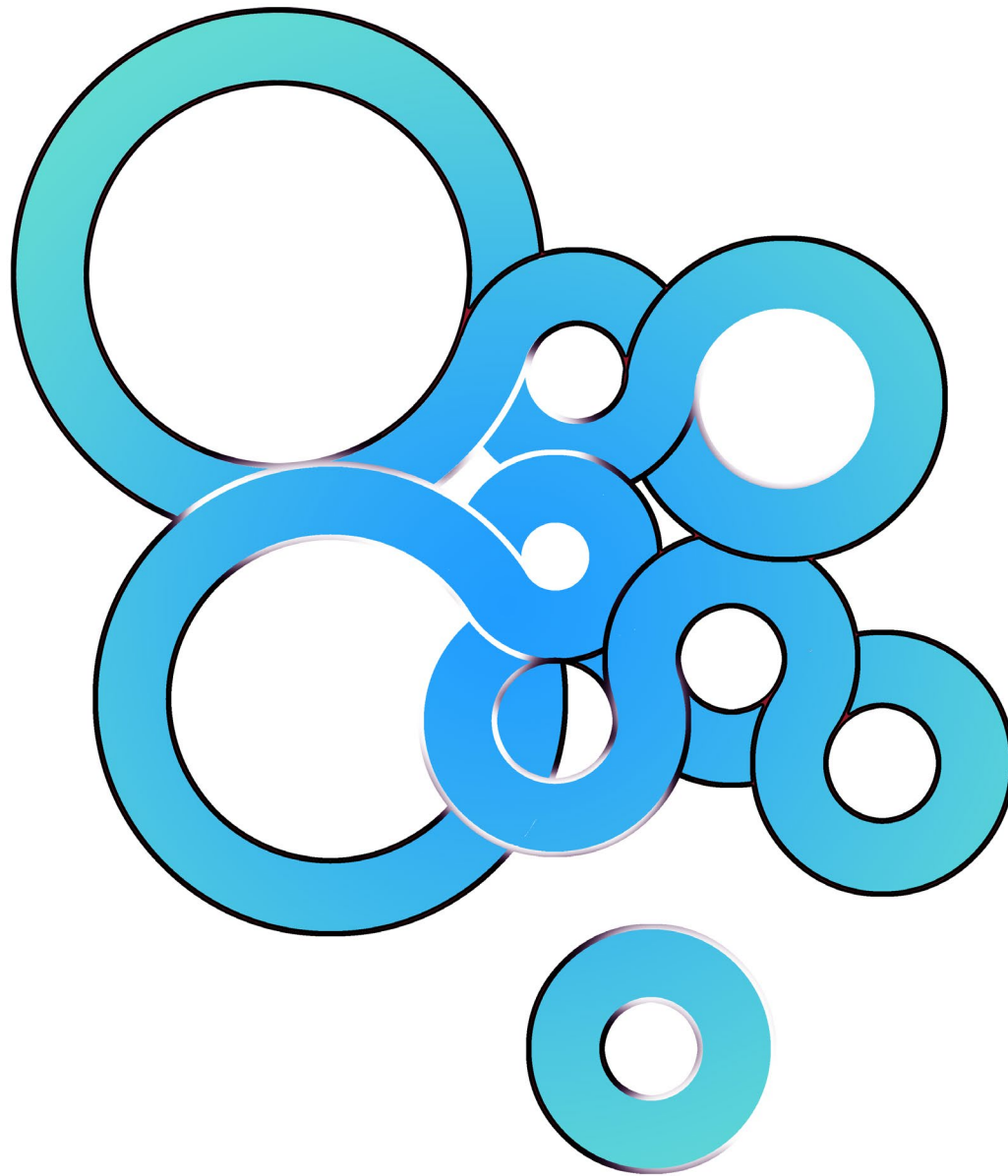
Youth rated the level their community was responding to climate change at 42%, with 0% being not at all and 100% responding extremely well. Reasons included that a lot of people in Southland don't believe in climate change, it's easy to turn a blind eye, the older generation are often stubborn and it's not a priority for Southland's communities as there are bigger issues right now.

Identified among the best ways to respond to climate change were more recycling, reducing plastic, improving farm practices and changing the way we think.

Comments included:

- We need more effective rubbish disposal in rural areas
- We need to promote locally sourced foods
- It needs to be a priority, not just something in the news
- Initiatives like boomerang bags are quite cool
- The issue isn't advertised locally
- People are finally speaking up about it
- Most people have more important stuff to worry about
- Climate change doesn't exist
- People see environmentally friendly alternatives as inconvenient
- There's no public pressure from Council





Communities
hold Southland
together

facebook.com/oreticommunityboard