

Winton St John Youth on the rise

It's been a big few weeks for Winton's St John Youth, with young members shining on the national stage.

Ruby Diack has reached the impressive milestone of her Grand Prior Award – one of the most prestigious honours a youth member can earn worldwide.

Jack Smith and Zara Campbell were two of just six cadets from across New Zealand selected for the National Cadet of the Year weekend in Waddington. Jack impressed with his inspiring presentation on "3 Steps to Youth Engagement", while Zara took out the top honour, being named the 2026 National Cadet of the Year. She will now represent youth across NZ, nationally and internationally.

The success doesn't stop there – later this month, eight Winton cadets will head to the regional competitions, putting their first aid, teamwork, drill and communication skills to the test.



Zara Campbell

LOCAL BODY ELECTIONS MEET THE CANDIDATES NIGHT Salvation Army Hall, Dejoux Road, Winton Wednesday 24 September 7.30pm

Come along and hear from the candidates for the Southland District Mayor, Councillors, Oreti Community Board and Environment Southland. These candidates will be the people representing you for the next 3 years.

Questions for the candidates to be emailed to winton.nz@outlook.com prior to 12 noon 24 Sept 2025. Questions may or may not be put forward due to time restraints.

Presented by Winton Business Assn and Winton Rotary Club

Local body elections: meet the candidates

In this month's Winton Outlook you'll find profiles on many of the local candidates standing in this year's local body elections. This advertising opportunity was offered to all local candidates standing for the Ōreti Community Board, Southland District Council (Ōreti Ward), Environment Southland (Hokonui Constituency) and for the Southland District Mayoralty.

Take a read and ensure you vote when the time comes. Voting opens 9 September and closes at noon, Saturday 11 October.

You can also hear more from candidates at the Meet the Candidates night - Wednesday 24 September, 7.30pm.

This evening has been coordinated by the Winton Business Association and Winton Rotary, and is a fantastic chance to get to know those running for the local body elections this year.

Members of the public are welcome to submit questions for the candidates, to be answered on the night (subject to time constraints). Please email any questions to winton.nz@outlook.com before 12 noon on 24th September.

We hope you enjoy reading about many of the candidates in this month's Winton Outlook.

Sue Allison (Oreti Community Board - Midlands Community Subdivision)



Midlands Subdivision has a lot to be proud of, with many opportunities.

As a rural farmer, I understand the realities of our land, industry, and community needs.

Supporting local motivates me to serve on the Ōreti Community Board. I am dedicated to representing our ratepayers and making sure the voices of both town and rural residents are heard and valued. Preserving our assets and infrastructure is a top priority.

I look forward to exploring the historic precinct of Winton and addressing the challenges to achieve positive outcomes for everyone. Our towns and rural communities are at our core, but we must stay strong against outside pressures.

I will ask tough questions, speak up about local issues, and am willing to work alongside others for the betterment of our communities.

Blair Irwin (Oreti Community Board - Midlands Community Subdivision)

Hi, I'm Blair Irwin – a proud Southlander, born and bred. With over 20 years of experience running a family business in Winton alongside my wife and kids, I understand the value of hard work, honesty, and community.

- Why I'm Standing:
- Deep local roots lifelong Southlander and long-time Winton resident
- Business experience over two decades supporting our local economy
- Community involvement active member of the Winton Business Association and other local groups
- Strong values committed to ensuring our area remains a great place to live, work, and retire

My Priorities:

- Smart, responsible spending of ratepayer money
- Support for families, local businesses, and community groups
- Strategic planning to keep our community progressing
- Collaboration and communication listening to your needs and delivering real results

I'm a good listener, a strategic thinker, and a passionate advocate for our community. Let's work together to make our district stronger, smarter, and future-focused. I'm local, committed and ready to represent.



Ross Thompson (Oreti Community Board - Midlands Community Subdivision)



Married to Kay, with three adult children. Born in 1960 I was brought up on the family farm at Thomson's Crossing. I was educated at Lochiel Primary School and Central Southland College. I have since served on the Central Southland College Board of Trustees for nine years (six as Chair).

Leaving school, I commenced employment in the office of a local meat processing company, which ceased after forty years following a restructure. This gave me the opportunity to explore serving our local community as a funeral director, which led to seven years employment with J Fraser and Sons, ending with my retirement at Christmas 2024.

During my vocational and life experience, I have seen the value of being honest, showing integrity, listening, and building relationships.

Along with these values and the ability to rationalise issues, I respectfully solicit your support.

Steve Turton (Oreti Community Board - Midlands Community Subdivision)



Hi, I'm Steve Turton. I'm married with four awesome kids and proud to call Winton home.

For the past seven years, I've served in the Winton Fire Brigade, giving back through emergency services and fundraising for local and national charities. I've also spent time coaching my son's rugby team – and loved every minute of it

I'm passionate about our community and want to do my part to make it a great place for everyone. I believe strong communities are built on connection, service, and listening. That's why I'm standing for the Oreti Community Board – to be a voice for the people and help make our community the best it can be.

I care deeply about our communities future and am committed to working hard, listening openly, and making decisions that benefit us all. I'm here to listen, serve, and stand up for our community.

Margie Ruddenklau (Öreti Community Board - Hokonui Community Subdivision)

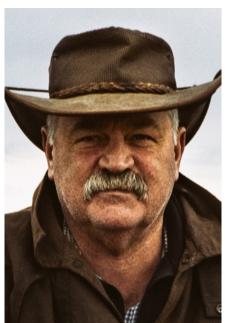
I farm in the Lora Gorge, Central Southland, and have served two terms as a Southland District Councillor. While I'm stepping back from the Council table, my commitment to advocating for Ōreti and Southland remains as strong as ever.

With over 40 years of community involvement, I understand the challenges faced by our families, farmers, businesses, and communities, and I am committed to keeping their wellbeing and voices central to all local decision-making.

Responsible leadership, transparency, and accountability have always guided my work, and I have consistently stood up for Southlanders with integrity, purpose, and respect for the trust placed in me. From the Ōreti Community Board table, I will continue to foster constructive relationships with Council, advocate for practical outcomes, and provide strong, community-focused leadership. Representing the Hokonui subdivision, I look forward to continuing to advocate for the people of Ōreti.



Gary Tong (Standing for Southland District Mayor)



Tick Tong for Southland - 2025.

I live in Riverton with Sharon. We have a blended family with four children and seven grandchildren. You trusted me in 2013, 2016, and 2019 to advocate for you — I missed out last time, but I'm standing again in 2025. Our way of life is under pressure and what we all can afford really matters. Now more than ever, Murihiku Southland needs steady, experienced leadership.

I'll again bring a strong, practical voice to the table — guiding council management and supporting the people you elect to council and community boards. My goal is simple: to make local decisions easier on you, your family, your community and your industry. Southland deserves representation that listens, leads, and lightens the load — not adds to it.

Together, let's keep our region grounded, supported and moving forward.

Tick Tong — for your voice to be heard.

Rob Scott (Standing for Southland District Mayor)



With my business acumen, 15 years Local Government experience and awareness of needs, I have made a positive impact in my first term as your Mayor.

Emphasising keeping it local, keeping costs down and ensuring that Council is efficient and reflective of the communities it serves, we are heading in the right direction towards a Council that you are proud of.

I have gathered strong momentum as your mayor, with solid relationships locally and in Wellington I have led significant change with positive results. I am acutely aware of some of the issues facing Winton in terms of holding back development, and would like to continue leading this important part of Southland through those challenges and opportunities.

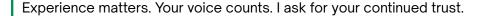
In a space of constant change and uncertainty, Southland needs a leader that knows what they are doing and can front foot us through it all. Please visit www.robscottmyvote.nz

Peter McDonald (Environment Southland - Hokonui Constituency)

I'm Peter McDonald, and I'm respectfully asking for your continued support as your Hokonui representative on Environment Southland.

Despite government constraints on our core functions this term, we've achieved significant progress on flood protection. As chair of the Regional Services Committee, the announcement of the Dipton to Winton flood bank upgrades - a crucial component of Winton's flood defences, is significant. This project, part of a comprehensive government-Environment Southland partnership, has secured \$5 million in confirmed funding, with planning already underway.

If re-elected, flood defence projects in partnership with government will remain my top priority. Our community's safety and resilience depend on these vital infrastructure investments. Additionally, I believe ratepayers deserve transparency on council reform. I'll commit to ensure you have clear options presented, with a referendum alongside the 2028 elections so you can decide our region's future.





David Rose (Environment Southland - Hokonui Constituency)



A lifetime of living and farming beside the Ōreti River has given me a strong passion for the environment and serving my community.

As Co-Chair of ES Ōreti Catchment Liaison Committee I have noted that Catchment Management has played the poor cousin over the years as other ES divisions have grown exponentially. This has led to unsustainable rate hikes – a 37% increase over the last 3 years. That is why I want a more effective and efficient use of your rates and why I support central Government's drive for Councils to focus on core business and the need for increased Transparency and Accountability.

A Council strategy on gravel build up issues needs action not more reports. I will bring extensive governance experience to the Council table. This includes Federated Farmers Southland President, Federated Farmers National Board, SIT Councillor, Telford Farm Board, and Trustee of Southland Power Trust.

I respectfully seek your Vote.

Phil Dobson (Southland District Council - Oreti Ward)



The past term on the Ōreti Community Board has given me strong insight into local government. Despite challenges, I've enjoyed serving our community, and that's why I'm standing for Council. It's important our voices are heard clearly and consistently. Ōreti Ward has had great councillors over the years, and I hope to continue that representation.

My background in management, youth development, and education has taught me the value of pragmatism, collaboration, and future-focused thinking. With big changes ahead, we need well-considered decisions that reflect the values of our communities. I bring honesty, integrity, and a commitment to working hard for resilience and sustainability. My goal is to promote smart, practical choices that strengthen our people and place.

I'm asking for your support to help make sure Southland District continues to thrive. It's important that you have your say and vote.
When you do, vote Phil Dobson for SDC.

Christine Menzies (Southland District Council - Ōreti Ward)

Hello readers. My name is Christine Menzies and I am standing as a Councillor for the Oreti Ward. I am now at the end of my second term on the Southland District Council and have been Deputy Mayor for the last three years. I have a strong knowledge of the key issues that Council face including amalgamation, roading and 3 waters.

With my legal and business qualifications, work experience in health, education and welfare services I am able to successfully process, understand and analyse the complexity and intensity of information presented to Councillors.

At the local level, I have past experience on Boards of Trustees and currently Chair the Central Southland Hospital Charitable Trust which manages the Winton Maternity Home and the Medical Centre. I also provide JP services.

I seek your support and vote to represent the Oreti Ward as a Councillor for a further term – thank you.



Brian Somerville (Southland District Council - Ōreti Ward and Ōreti Community Board - Midlands Community Subdivision)



My principal place of residence is in the Ōreti Community Board (Midlands Subdivision) area. I am also standing for Ōreti Ward.

Local Government is a changing, challenging and at times frustrating environment to be involved in. Inflation is not under control and rates continue to increase, placing extra burden on the ratepayer. For me, there are the must haves and the nice to haves. The must haves include water, sewerage, stormwater and roading.

The nice to haves can be a multitude of things that need careful consideration; the cost, is it needed, is it what the majority want, and are we sure of that – or could it be deferred to better times. In theory, the ratepayer can have whatever they want if they are prepared to pay for it. That doesn't necessarily mean that it is the right thing to do for the ratepayer, community, or the region.

If elected, my commitment is to concentrate on the must haves and to constructively challenge the nice to haves.



Winton Police - September Update

Welcome Constable Mike Ryder

We're excited to introduce Constable Mike Ryder, who will be joining the Winton Station team in early September.

Mike is transferring from the Invercargill station and brings with him a wealth of local knowledge. Before joining the Police, Mike farmed in central Southland, so he's no stranger to the area or its people. We're confident he'll be a fantastic addition to our team. If you see him out and about, don't hesitate to say hello and give him a warm Winton welcome.

Spring and Rural Vigilance

It's great to see the days getting longer and the grass starting to grow again—sure signs that spring is on its way. This time of year is typically quieter in terms of crime, largely because our rural communities are more active. Farmers are often out late checking on livestock or moving between sheds, which means there are more eyes and ears around. This increased presence makes it harder for criminals to go unnoticed.

We always say: if something doesn't feel right, it probably isn't. Trust your instincts. If you see anything suspicious, please don't hesitate to contact us. We're here around the clock, and it's always better to be safe than sorry.

Reporting Crime Matters

We'd much rather respond to a false alarm than find out about a series of burglaries through Facebook. While social media is a great tool for community engagement, it's not the place to report crimes. We have officers available 24/7, and calling 111 is quicker and more effective than posting online.

Unfortunately, we still see crimes being discussed on Facebook that are never officially reported. This means we can't investigate them properly, and offenders aren't held accountable. Please help us by reporting incidents directly to the Police. Your call could make a big difference.

A Personal Note

On a personal note, my wife and I recently returned from a nine-week adventure through South America. We explored the Amazon jungle, visited the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean, and travelled across the southern states of the USA. It was an incredible trip and one we'll never forget.



That said, coming home to Southland reminded me just how special this place is. Nowhere else compares when it comes to friendliness, safety, and cleanliness. While other places may have more traffic or bigger cities, they also come with challenges like congestion and homelessness. Southland's sense of community and care for one another is something truly unique, and I feel incredibly lucky to call it home.

Until next time - stay safe and look out for one another.

Pete Graham

Area Manager - Response, Winton Police Station







Central Southland College presents Sweeney Todd



Some of the cast of CSC's upcoming production, Sweeney Todd.

Central Southland College is proud to present, in association with Musical Theatre International (Australasia), Sweeney Todd.

Set in Victorian England, it's a dark and bloody show with amazing songs and music, based on a true story - a barber who kills his clients and the downstairs baker cooks them in pies. With a cast of over 40 students who have been rehearsing for over 10 weeks, it's safe to say this is going to be one of the best productions we've put on and provide a memorable night out. Of course the show is for mature audiences as the themes are dark and ominous.

The show runs September 16-18th at 7pm and is the 20th show produced at CSC by our two dedicated teachers Mrs. Kelly Wilkinson and Mrs. Jolene Kynan-Wilde. \$15 adult, \$10 school students and senior citizens. We'll see you at the theatre.

Winton Football Summer 5 aside league ready for kick off



This popular event will return this year in Term 4 so it is time to start rounding up your team members.

The adult section is mixed teams, Year 9 upwards with some dispensations given for Year 8s.

Junior grades are years 6-8 and Years 1-5. Cost per adult team is \$150 while juniors are \$10 per player.

The format will be similar to 2024 with starting date Thursday 9 October and the last day 4 December.

Team entries will close on Saturday 20 September.

Request an entry form or forward any enquiries to: 5aside.wintonfootball@gmail.com.



Faith n Fun holiday programme

Central Southland Presbyterian Parish in Meldrum Street are holding a Faith n Fun programme from Monday, 29 September until Thursday, 2 October.

The programme starts at 9.00am and runs to 3.30pm for children aged 5 years to 12 years.

The cost for the day is \$15.00 for each child.

Registrations are required by contacting the office on 03 236 9792.



Winton Kindergarten Tamariki Take Action for the Environment Taiao Tūhura Program Nurtures Young Kaitiaki in Ivy Russell Reserve



Winton Kindergarten taramariki in the Ivy Russell Reserve

Winton Kindergarten's Taiao Tuhura program continues to inspire the next generation of environmental advocates by giving tamariki the knowledge, tools and confidence to become active guardians – kaitiaki – of their community and environment.

Taiao Tūhura runs throughout the 24 kindergartens in the Southland Kindergarten Association.

Through regular exploration of the natural world, tamariki are empowered to notice issues such as rubbish, stream blockages, overgrown trees, or even signs of pests, and work together with their kaiako (teachers) to discuss the impact of these concerns.

From here, the children plan and take action – their voices heard not just within the Kindy walls but out in the wider Winton community.

This initiative has led to meaningful connections with organisations such as Environment Southland, the local council, nearby schools, and other early childhood centres. It's a model of hands-on, collaborative learning that fosters leadership, advocacy, and a strong sense of belonging.

A recent project has brought these values to life in a truly special way.

Restoring the "Sleeping Kiwi"

Twenty-five years ago, Winton Kindergarten planted an area now affectionately known as the Sleeping Kiwi – a section of Ivy Russell Reserve that was lined with native rākau, including kōwhai, shrubs, and harakeke. Over time, this area became a place of reflection, learning and storytelling for the Kindy community.

During a recent visit, the Taiao Tuhura tamariki and their kaiako, Ellen (Elle) Morrison and Rachel Evans, observed that many of the kowhai were struggling - with signs of fungi, poor growth, and flowering. After limited some thoughtful discussion as a roopū, they reached out to Winton local legend and Kindy grandmother Margie Ruddenklau, whose long-standing community involvement includes her role as a councillor. Together with the Ivy Russell Stewards Roopū and Environment Southland's Catriona Gower, a collaborative plan was formed to restore the Sleeping Kiwi.

This plan will see Winton Kindergarten tamariki, student volunteers from Central Southland College, and the Ivy Russell Stewards work together to replenish and care for the native planting site. In an exciting development, South Island kōwhai have been donated by Kōwhai Reach to support the restoration, helping to create a more balanced and thriving ecosystem in an area currently dominated by North Island varieties.

A Living Legacy

The Taiao Tuhura program stands as a shining example of how early learning can lay strong foundations for environmental stewardship. By giving tamariki ownership over their learning and their land, the program ensures that our young people are not just witnessing change, but driving it. Winton Kindergarten's original planting 25 years ago is now being revitalised by a new generation of hands-on learners – a true testament to the enduring power of community, connection, and care for Papatūānuku.



Winton Lions update: Veggie project and Children of Courage Award



Veggie project

Where is a need there is a Lion.

The Winton Lions will hand out vegetables in the community. If you need a little more help to come through the week, please contact your local community support worker before the 2nd of September. This will be fully confidential. This onyl happens once a year from Monday the 8th of September. We will have contact with the following community support persons: Winton, Lumsden, Otautau, Ohai, Nightcaps, Tuatapere, Riverton, and Makarewa School.



Children of Courage Award

We are giving recognition to an exceptional group of young children. The Lions Children of Courage Awards honour a truly extraordinary group of children and their families.

Many awards acknowledge the accomplishments of young people. Children with 'special needs' are often not catered for. These awards are specially designed to recognise the courage and bravery shown by these children every day.

The Lions Children of Courage Award is not a competition. Every receiver of an award is a "winner" in his or her own right.

The recognition of these young people's achievements will:

- Act as an encouragement for their future
- Help them to believe in themselves
- Help to increase their self-worth.

All children want to be respected by others, regardless of any special needs they may have. hese awards will portray them as children who have successfully overcome the additional barriers they face.

The family will benefit from the awards, sharing their pride with their child and their experiences with other local children and families.

There are three categories for this special award:

- 1. Contribution amid physical and or intellectual impediments
- 2. Courageous act or deed
- 3. Sibling recognition

There will be a small presentation, a short introduction, and a summary of the reasons for the award, which will be read out. The recipient will be presented with the award.

Each Lions Club has a nomination form and will either receive nominations or send them to the Children of Courage Award email address:

202f-zone6couragechild@lionsclubs.org.nz (or to apply for a nomination form or more information).

Nominations will close on Friday, 26th September 2025. Only by the following Lions Clubs: Makarewa, Riverton, Tuatapere, Ohai-Nightcaps, and Winton.



Everyone who lives alone, is most welcome to join us for lunch and fellowship on

Thursday, 11 September at 12.00 noon

RSVP to Kathleen 236 0250 or Jenny 236 0884



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Winton Business Association

The next Winton Business Association meeting is on Tuesday 30th September, at 5.30pm in the Top Pub dining room.

Winton Garden Club

The next meeting of the Winton Garden Club is on Tuesday 9th September at 7.30pm in the Anglican Church Hall. We will be potting up plants for our Spring Flower Show plant stall and looking at ideas for a floral art challenge. Any enquiries phone Colleen Simpson on 027 632 8217.

Winton Genealogy Group

Are available in the Community Room of the Winton Library, 1 Wemyss Street, every Tuesday afternoon from 1pm, to assist with Family and Local History research.



Otautau Museum & Heritage Trust Annual Book Sale 2025

- Sunday 21st September Friday 3rd
 October
- 10am-4pm daily
- Eftpos available
- Raffles
- Venue: Otautau Primary School, 17 Elles Rd, Otautau

Come along and see our great selection of books! There will also be a great selection of plants for sale.

Keep an eye on Facebook for info that may pop up during the sale.







Essential contact numbers

Winton Community Support worker Louise 236 9934 or wcsw@xtra.co.nz

Louise 200 000+ of Weswartia.

For MEDICAL appointments in Winton and Invercargill. Phone 0800 103 046 (operates by donation). A shuttle to Dunedin is also available, leaving and returning daily from Invercargill.

Let's Link Transport Service

Ken Galt 027 454 9119 or Louise 236 9934

Health Shuttle

Let's Link Odd Job Service

Phone Ken Galt 027 454 9119

Free Smoke Alarm Checks

Checks/updates/batteries changed by a volunteer fireman. Phone Louise to book 236 9934.

Helping Hands

Lawn, garden and pet care for those suffering short term medical issues. Phone Robyn Bye 027 4182 053.

Winton Library

0800 732 542

Winton Medical Centre

236 7444. After-hours service available in Invercargill, 6-9pm weekdays, 12-4pm weekends and public holidays. Phone 0800 456 138 to arrange an appointment.

Winton Pharmacy

236 7729

Winton Transfer Station

Florence Road. Mondays and Wednesdays 2pm-5.30pm Fridays 12-5.30pm Saturdays 1-5pm Sundays 2-5pm

Let's Link Food Bank

Ken Galt 027 4549 119 Louise 236 9934 Salvation Army 022 011 7084

Loss & Grief Service

Appointments available on request, Southern REAP, 224 Great North Road. Phone 027 443 8788 or email lossandgriefcentre@gmail.com to book.

Church Services

New Horizon Church

Meeting at the Winton Salvation Army, 7 Dejoux Road, Winton, Sundays 4.30pm in Winter, 6.30pm in Summer

Catholic Church

Mass Sundays 10.30am Priest Rev Hamesh Wyatt 84 Great North Road, Winton Contact 236 8084

Salvation Army

Sundays 11am

Shared Lunch

Every Wed at 12noon. All welcome. 7 Dejoux Road, Winton

<u>Presbyterian Church Winton</u> Sunday Services

Winton 10am

Live Alone Lunch

2nd Thurs of each month. Fellowship and food for those living alone. RSVP to Kathleen on 236 0250.

Choirs, Prayer, and Bible Study Groups

Queries please phone office 236 9792 Mon to Fri 9am to Noon

Winton Church

11 Meldrum Street Postal Address P.O. Box 5, Winton Baby change facilities available.

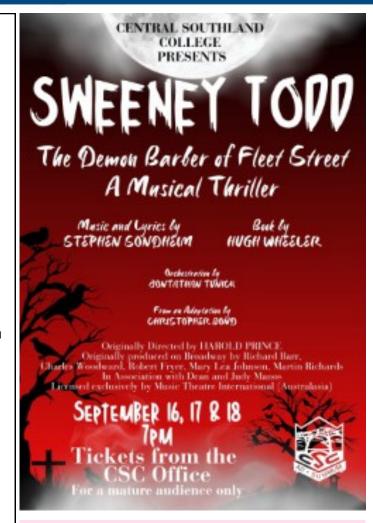
Anglican Church Services

Weekly 10am Sundays. All welcome. Cnr Meldrum St & Great North Road.

The next edition of the Winton Newsletter will be out on the 1st of October.

The closing deadline for articles and advertising is 20 September. Business advertising is available: for \$35 for a 45x90mm or \$50 for a 90x90mm space.

Queries or info can be emailed to winton.nz@outlook.com



Seniors' Gentle Exercises

Where: Anglican Church Hall, Meldrum St - beside the Anglican Church

Time: 10am-11am

Cost: \$7
Contact:

Glenda - 027 429 6703

Gentle exercises to improve balance and help keep moving.



The material contained within the Winton Business Association newsletter is published in good faith and for general information purposes only. The Winton Business Association has full and final discretion to not accept or publish any submissions that contain political, religious, or personal views and opinions.

