

# Winton Outlook

## A legacy of leadership and community: 20 years at Southern REAP

Staff, Southern REAP board members, life members and special guests gathered in March to celebrate CEO Dawn Brocks' 20 years of service.

REAP (Rural Education) supports people across rural communities through education, connection and opportunity - from early childhood and parenting programmes through to adult learning, driver licensing and community initiatives. REAP exists to ensure rural people have access to the same opportunities as anyone else, no matter where they live.

Over the past 20 years, Dawn's leadership has not only strengthened the organisation, but has helped shape the wider Southland, Fiordland and Whakatipu communities in meaningful and lasting ways. Among her many contributions are projects that have become part of everyday life for Winton locals, including the development of the skate park on John Street, which provides a safe and vibrant space for young people, and the Central Southland Community Helipad, a vital asset that supports emergency services and helps save lives when it matters most.



*Dawn Brocks and the Southern REAP team*

She also played a key role in supporting the establishment and employment of the Winton Community Worker - a position that continues to strengthen local connection, coordination and support across the community. Within REAP, Dawn is known for her steady leadership, genuine care for people, and wonderfully quirky sense of humour and her legacy is measured not only in years of service, but in the people, places and communities she has helped shape along the way.

## Winton School Community Pump Track nears finish line

The heavy machinery has finally fallen silent on Lowe Field, marking a significant milestone as the Winton School Community Pump Track enters its final stage of development.

Following two years of planning, sparked by the creative designs of Winton School students, the 750-square-metre facility is now visually striking with its fresh layer of asphalt. While it may look ready for action, the Pump Track Committee is asking the community for one final stretch of patience to ensure the facility is in its best condition for the upcoming opening. The site remains a construction area and is not yet open for public use. It is vital that the newly-seeded areas remain undisturbed to allow the new grass to take hold.

The committee asks everyone to stay behind the cordons and off the track.

Finishing touches will soon be added including paths, track marking, and fencing, along with signage, rubbish bins and seating.



The Winton School Pump Track Committee is thrilled with how the project has shaped up, thanks to the expertise of Ryal Bush and Elevate Trails and funding and assistance from NZ Lotteries, Active Southland, Sport NZ Tu Manawa, Winton Rotary, Winton Stihl Shop and Winton Motorcycles. The committee looks forward to sharing an official opening date with the community in late April and would like to thank everyone for their continued patience and help in protecting this facility during its final phase.

## Adventure with purpose: Gorge Race gives back to the community

More than 310 people took to the hills in the Lora Gorge last month, getting their adventure fix and raising money for fantastic local causes.

The VetSouth Gorge Race celebrated its fourth year this year, and raised more than \$15,000.

The majority of funds will go towards a new multi-use turf at Central Southland College, with contributions also going to the Browns Fire Brigade, the Limehills Netball Club and Central Southland Junior Hockey.

The event sees participants take on a range of different event options, including an 8-hour bike and trek, 6-hour bike and trek, 6-hour trek, 3-hour trek, and a 2-hour family taster event.

From seasoned adventure racers tackling eight hours of biking and trekking to families with youngsters taking part in their first event, the day delivered something for everyone. Throw in mystery activities and a giant water slide to finish the day, and it was smiles all around.

Event organiser Liz Gill says the event continues to go from strength to strength.

“It really was a fantastic day out,” she said.

“It’s so well supported by participants, by sponsors, and by the local landowners who allow us to take over their paddocks for the day, and we’re very grateful to everyone who contributes to make it such a success.”

The courses were set by experienced adventure racers Chris Brand and Sam Scott, creating plenty of challenge and tight competition at the top of the leaderboard.

Top teams were rewarded with locally-grown plants, thanks to Lora Nursery – but the event is about much more than podium finishes.

“Everyone just embraces the community spirit and it really creates such a fun day out,” Liz says. “Everyone is out there giving it a go, supporting each other, and having fun, and that’s what it’s all about.”

With momentum building each year, the VetSouth Gorge Race is cementing itself as a highlight on the local calendar - bringing people together, showcasing the stunning Lora Gorge, and proving that a day of adventure can make a real difference.



Photos by Shepherd Photography: [www.shepherdphotos.co.nz](http://www.shepherdphotos.co.nz)

A huge number of sponsors supported the event, including naming sponsor, VetSouth, who have been on board since the event’s inception, along with silver sponsors First Light Farms, FarmMaps, Shepherd Photography, AWS Legal, Mainland Mechanical, Wilkins Farming, Clark Brothers Fencing, Malloch McClean, Advance Agriculture, Fonterra, New World Winton and the Big White Shop, bronze sponsors Country and Co, Night and Day Winton, Sinclair Transport, Winton Motorcycles, Lora Nursery and Shooters World, and spot prize supporters Lora and Flok, Westpac, Winton Pharmacy, Southland Farm Machinery, ASB, Step Up Hair, Dirty Foot Spa, CS Designz, Aqua Salon and Southern Adventure.

## Ōreti Community Board update

As Chair of the Ōreti Community Board, I'm pleased to share our first update. Going forward, we will provide monthly updates to help keep our community informed and connected.

Since our inaugural meeting, the Board has hit the ground running. We meet formally every second month, with workshops in between to progress key projects and hear directly from community groups. At our recent workshop, we welcomed Kate and Dawn from REAP, along with Margot Hishon and Jim Gray, who shared the history of Ivy Russell Reserve and Deegan's Bush. These insights are invaluable as we shape our priorities.

A key focus for us is strengthening community engagement. We recognise that not everyone uses digital platforms, so we're exploring ways to better connect, particularly with our senior residents. One idea is to host regular drop-in sessions in Winton, where people can come along, have a cuppa, and raise any matters directly with us.

The Board has responsibility for local amenities such as halls, playgrounds, reserves, gardens, footpaths, and lighting. Roads, water services, and core infrastructure remain managed at a district level by Council.

Current areas of focus include:

- Community Board tours
- Wallacetown Pump Track
- Annual Plan engagement
- Winton Main Street and Anzac Oval
- CCTV rollout
- Levels of service across reserves

We are also continuing to raise rural concerns around gravel build-up under bridges.

A Local Government Commission consultation on reorganisation in March at the RSA Rooms saw a turnout of just 12 people. While disappointing, the discussion highlighted concerns about engagement and how decisions impacting ratepayers are made.

Following the recent weather event in Southland, there is interest in holding a community meeting with Emergency Management Southland to discuss preparedness and response. If you'd like to be involved, please let us know.

It was disappointing to see vandalism at the Midlands Rugby Club grounds - a reminder that damage to community facilities ultimately affects us all. To report an issue, use the Antenna App or call 0800 732 732. If you'd like to speak to the Board or present at a meeting, please contact Fiona Dunlop via the same number.

We are here to represent you, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Margie Ruddenklau**  
Chairperson, Ōreti Community Board



*Ōreti Community Board members (from left): Margie Ruddenklau (Chair), Blair Irwin (Deputy Chair), Jamie Winsloe, Alexis Halder, Cr Brian Sommerville, Steve Turton, Ross Thomson and Susan Allison.*

**BUSINESS CHALLENGE**

**QUIZ NIGHT?**

Are you the smartest, cleverest... or loudest business in town?

**WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL**

AT THE MIDDLE PUB 7PM

TEAMS OF 4 | \$40 PER TEAM

WHO WILL WIN THE TITLE?

**GRAB YOUR TEAM & JOIN THE CHALLENGE!**

## HEAVY TRAFFIC LICENCE - CLASS 2

*This is a 2 day course including theory, training and assessment*

Requirements to attend this course are:

- Held a Full NZ Drivers Licence for a minimum of 6 months
- Valid Driver's Licence Medical Certificate - must be issued within 60 days of course start
- Competent in driving a manual vehicle
- Level of written and oral english equivalent to NCEA Level 1 (reader/writer supplied by learner is welcome).

Cost:

- Learners Class 2 Licence fee - \$77.50 (to be paid at AA)
- Full Class 2 Licence fee - \$ 39.80 (to be paid at AA)
- Study (including driving assessment) - \$1,000 inc. GST

- 23 & 24 APRIL ● 8am - 5.30pm
- Southern REAP, 224 Great North Road, Winton



Contact Southern REAP (Rural Education) to register on [info@reap.co.nz](mailto:info@reap.co.nz) or call 0800 111 117

**Faith & Fun**

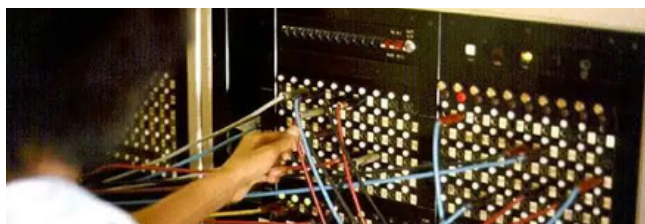
Monday 13 April – Thursday 16 April  
9.00 am – 3.00 pm

Central Southland Presbyterian Church  
11 Meldrum Street, Winton

Cost : \$15 per day per child

Register by emailing [csppoffice@xtra.co.nz](mailto:csppoffice@xtra.co.nz) or calling 03 236 9792

## Are you a past employee of the Winton Telephone Exchange?



If so, there is a group that would love to connect with you for a casual get together in October.

The group is also looking any old photos of the exchange or events.

Maybe you have a family member that has since passed that you have memories of or stories that you would like to share?

Email [junell.reece@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:junell.reece@hotmail.co.nz) for further information.

## Tractor Pull draws a crowd

The Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club has enjoyed a busy and exciting few weeks, hosting both Harvest Day on 14 March and the ever-popular Tractor Pull competition on 22 March. The Tractor Pull drew an impressive turnout, with at least 30 heavy tractors competing throughout the day.

With food and refreshments on offer and the weather playing its part, the event was a great success. A fantastic day was had by all, and the club was proud to host such a well-supported and enjoyable occasion.



### Annual RSA Poppy Appeal Day: 17th April

**ANZAC Day Service**  
**25th April - ANZAC Oval - 7am**  
Morning tea after service in the Memorial Hall  
Public most welcome to attend.



## Winton Police community update

Another month has flown by, and while I'd hoped to write about the positive things happening around the district, unfortunately the message remains the same: more tragic incidents on our roads, resulting in three deaths. None of the drivers involved set out expecting to be part of a fatal crash but it happens, far too often.

Because driving is something we do every day, we can easily slip into autopilot, giving it less attention than it deserves. A moment's inattention can have devastating consequences.

Please stay alert, stay focused, and take care on our roads.

Staying on the driving front, Police are in the final stages of introducing random drug-driver testing into Southland. A significant proportion of our fatal crashes involve drugs or alcohol, and this initiative is another tool to remove impaired drivers from the roads our families rely on. The test is saliva-based and is expected to be rolled out in the coming months.

We've also seen an increase in rural burglaries, vehicles stolen and houses and sheds targeted for copper, tools, and chainsaws. Given the current fuel prices, fuel is now being targeted in large quantities, either syphoned from vehicles or mobile tanks taken, emptied and dumped.

The common factor for most stolen vehicles is simple: the keys were left in the ignition. This makes them an easy target. Toyota Prados seem to be the flavour of the month, and we're finding them abandoned and burnt out across Southland. Please check your security, lock up your valuables, and make it as hard as possible for offenders to target you.

If you see something suspicious, call 111. Even something as simple as removing your keys is a good start.

We have also received reports of 15 road signs deliberately driven over on Avondale Road. This behaviour poses a real risk to motorists and costs Southland ratepayers thousands of dollars. The offence - endangering transport - carries a maximum penalty of 14 years' imprisonment because it can lead to the loss of life. If anyone has information about those responsible, I would appreciate hearing from you. Confidentiality is assured.



Hopefully, as you read this, I'll be in the hills chasing stags and catching up with friends.

It's a timely reminder for all hunters to know and follow the firearms safety rules:

1. Treat every firearm as loaded
2. Always point firearms in a safe direction
3. Chamber a cartridge only when ready to fire
4. Identify your target beyond all doubt
5. Check your firing zone
6. Store and transport firearms and ammunition safely
7. Avoid alcohol or drugs when handling firearms

Last Roar, one farmer captured 18 different people on game cameras over a two-week period, well inside his private property. As a result, several warnings and firearms suspensions were issued. Please ensure you have permission before entering private property, and if you're hunting on public land, make sure your permit is current and that you're complying with the conditions.

Western Southland Police continue to run anti-poaching initiatives in a number of areas and are keen to hear from farmers experiencing issues, especially if hunters are currently on their land.

Until next month,  
Keep safe

**Snr Sgt Peter Graham**  
**Response Manager Western Southland**

### WORKPLACE FIRST AID - WINTON

#### ST JOHN LEVEL 1 FIRST AID COURSE

Attain your St John First Aid Level 1 certificate (valid for 2 years). Ideal for anyone wanting to learn basic first aid or needs to update their first aid qualification. Minimum qualification requirement for a workplace first aider.

*Covering scene assessment & safety, CPR for babies, children & adults, AED familiarisation, bleeding, burns, diabetic emergencies, fractures/dislocations, soft tissue injuries, asthma, seizures, stroke, chest pain, allergic reactions and more.*

- Tuesday 21 APRIL
- 8.30am - 5pm
- \$140 per person
- 'Senior Citizen Rooms'  
5 John Street, Winton



Contact Southern REAP (Rural Education) to register  
on [info@reap.co.nz](mailto:info@reap.co.nz) or call 0800 111 117

# What's on in Winton



## Winton Business Association Quiz

Join the fun at the Business Challenge Quiz Night, brought to you by the Winton Business Association and happening on Wednesday 29 April at the Middle Pub.

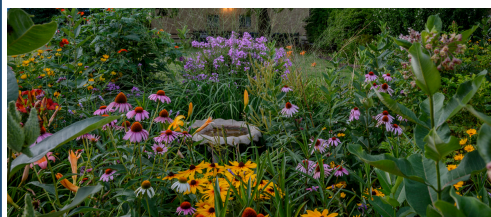
Businesses enter teams of four to find the smartest, cleverest or loudest business in the town. \$40 team for a fun night - save the date!



## Ōreti Community Board

The Ōreti Community Board will meet in the Dipton Memorial Hall, 2022 Lumsden Dipton Highway, Dipton on Monday 20 April, at 5.30pm. All welcome.

Please note the venues have also changed for the June meeting (Wallacetown Community Centre), and October (Limehills Community Centre).



## Winton Garden Club

The next Winton Garden Club meeting is on Tuesday 14 April at 7.30pm in the Anglican Church Hall on Meldrum St. Brad Gibson from AB Lime will be speaking. Monthly competitions. Share the love of gardening. Enquiries to Colleen Simpson 027 632 8217.



## Indoor bowls

- Tuesdays 7.30 – 9pm
- Winton Memorial Hall
- An ideal winter sport for all ages!

Come along, meet new people and have a go.

For more info: ph/text Kelvin 0274 341 714 or Mary 027 669 1431 or just turn up on the night! All welcome.



## Winton walk group

We walk every second Thursday. The bus leaves at 9.30am from the John Street Recreation Area. The walks for April are on

- 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- 16<sup>th</sup> April; and
- 30<sup>th</sup> April

For more information please ring:

Diane Andrews  
021 1248895 or  
Jenene Irwin  
021 1855212



## Let's Link AGM

The Let's Link AGM will be held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 09.30 at the Salvation Army Complex.



## Central Southland Senior Citizens

The Senior Citizens invite members and non-members to the following activities held at 5 John Street, Winton:

- **Euchre** – every Tuesday starting at 1.30pm
- **Housie** – every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting at 1.30pm
- **Concerts/Guest Speakers** – every second month on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Enquiries to Val Skinner on 03 236 7643/027 920 3259 or Noelene Lightfoot on 027 603 0595



## Central Southland Vintage Machinery Club

Open Sundays 2pm to 4pm or by appointment.

Contact  
027 254 3346

# Winton Outlook

## Essential contact numbers

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

**Health Shuttle**  
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

**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

**Presbyterian Church Winton**  
**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 Outlook Newsletter will be out on the 1st of May, 2026.**

The closing deadline for articles and advertising is 20 April. 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

Gentle exercises to improve balance and help keep moving.

Wednesdays & Thursdays  
10am-11am

Anglican Church Hall,  
Meldrum St - beside the Anglican Church

\$7 per class

Contact:

Glenda - 027 429 6703



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
11 MELDRUM STREET, WINTON

## Live Alone Lunch



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

**Thursday, 9 April at 12.00 noon**

RSVP to Kathleen 022 375 3304 or Jenny 027 536 0084

With Lions Club Winton

Let's do it together



contact us:

winton.secretary@lionsclubs.org.nz