

June 2025



# CATLINS COAST INC. NEWSLETTER

**Kia Ora & Welcome**

**Enjoy the newsletter from  
Catlins Coast Inc.**

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the quarterly newsletter please email Catlins Coast Project Coordinator [projects@catlins.org.nz](mailto:projects@catlins.org.nz)

**Join us on Facebook and Instagram**

<https://www.facebook.com/catlinscoastnz>

<https://www.instagram.com/catlinscoast.nz/>

**Catlins Coast Official Website**  
[www.catlins.org.nz](http://www.catlins.org.nz)

*The newsletter is a  
great way to 'share'  
information on what  
is happening in The  
Catlins!*



*Slope Point —Photograph by Tony Somerville*

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CATLINS



## Catlins Coast Incorporated (CCI)

### From the Chair

Our maps are receiving great feedback from visitors.

'Best map I have ever seen, I have never seen my wife read a map so thoroughly',  
'Great resource, I love it'

Having printed our 30<sup>th</sup> edition, it is good to get that sort of feedback as there is a lot of Project Coordinator and volunteer time invested in them, picking up, delivering, checking copy is correct to go to print.

There is still visitors coming to The Catlins and from feedback we receive its great we continue to provide them with good services in our Community. Keep up the good work'.

Another of the many resources Catlins Coast look after is the interpretation panels providing visitors with information. We are constantly monitoring them for damage or wear and tear, and we would appreciate if anyone notices an issue, that they contact us on [projects @catlins.org.nz](mailto:projects@catlins.org.nz)

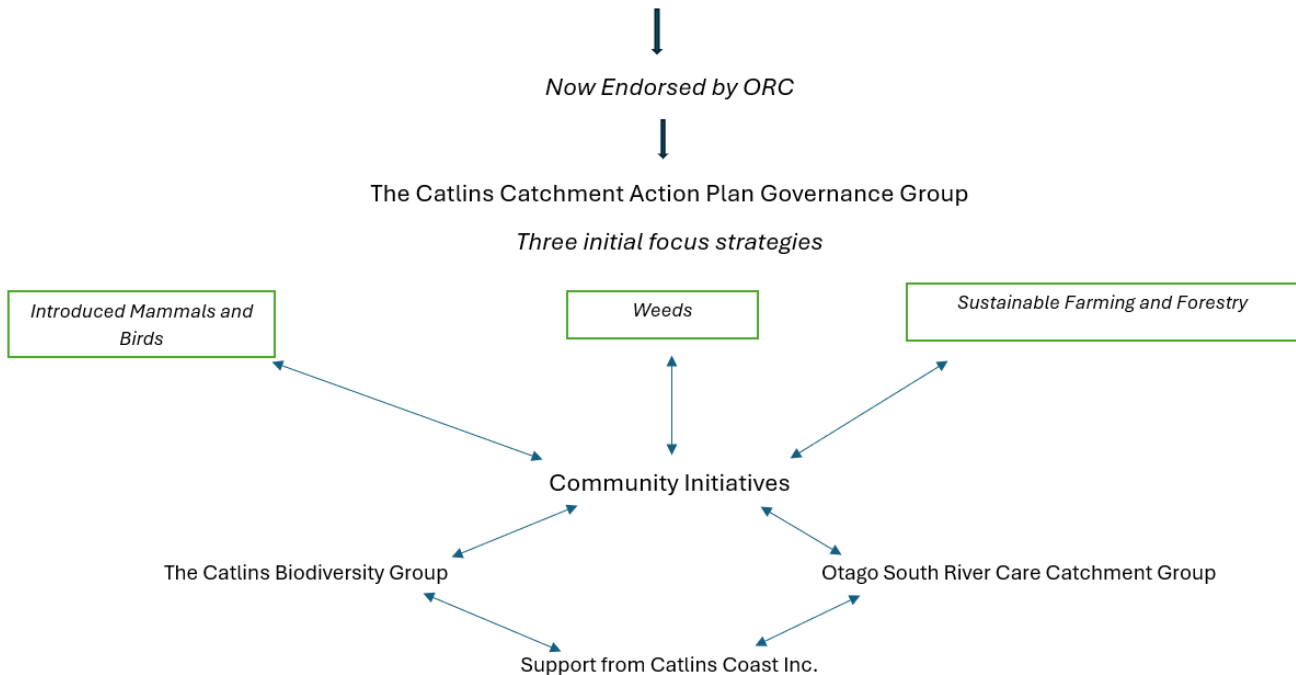
Thank you

Hilary McNab

Chairperson

# Biodiversity in The Catlins

## Otago Regional Council (ORC) and Catlins Integrated Catchment Management (ICM)



To note, the groups are already doing work in these areas and the ICM strategies recognize and support the current work

- ❖ **Otago Regional Council- ORC** is the regional council for Otago, New Zealand, responsible for natural resources, public transport, consents and compliance, and natural hazards.
- ❖ **Integrated Catchment Management Group (ICM)**-The approach called Integrated Catchment Management (ICM), is based on a holistic, natural resource management philosophy that recognises that all the elements of an ecosystem, including the people, are connected.
- ❖ **The Catlins Catchment Action Plan Governance Group (The Catlins Cap Governance Group)** – The Catlins CAP Governance Group has the role of overseeing the delivery of the Catlins Catchment Action Plan.

For now, three strategies focused on introduced mammals and birds, introduced plants and Sustainable Farming and Forestry have been selected as pivotal in protecting the natural values and lifestyle special to The Catlins.

The Governance Group acknowledges those individuals and community groups already engaged in the hard yards on the ground, e.g. Hokonui Runanga, Awarua Runaka, Otago South River Care Catchment Group, The Catlins Coast Inc., Forest and Bird, Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust, Papatowai Barbari Busters, and individual landowners and others acting of their own accord. Our hope is that by coordinated focused action our collective effort will achieve better outcomes for future generations to enjoy.

- ❖ **Otago South River Care Catchment Group** – is a collective of seven catchment groups in Otago’s Clutha District. It covers an area of 364,000ha which includes more than 5,000km of waterways.
- ❖ **The Catlins Biodiversity Group** - The group is a community group focused on reducing pest-animal populations for the benefit of the entire Catlins region. The group has formed a Committee, the structure of which contains the roles of Chair Person and Committee Members. Committee Members constitute land owners, land occupiers, and other key partners.
- ❖ **Catlins Coast Inc. (CCI)** – Help protects the natural environment and cultural resources of The Catlins by working alongside and fostering co-operation between local authorities, relevant government departments and community groups.



# The Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust (YEPT)

The 2024/ 2025 breeding season and moult period has finished, with it coming to a close in early May. During the moult season, adults are on land for around four weeks, going through what we call a catastrophic moult. A period of time where they lose all their feathers and regrow new ones.

Hoiho are typically expected to start this moult at around double their normal body weight. If any hoiho are starting their moult underweight we uplift individuals to OPERAs rehab, or Dunedin Wildlife Hospital to assist in survival during this difficult time in their lives. We have now completed our last moult checks and have finished releases from OPERA and patients from Dunedin Wildlife Hospital, back to where they were found.

While chicks fledged back in February, we hope they are navigating this tricky time in their lives and that we see them again in the coming years. Adult hoiho have completed raising chicks and gone through their catastrophic moult period will now spend the winter months foraging and socializing. A group of penguins on land is typically referred to as a waddle. The term is derived from their characteristic waddling gait while walking. While Hoiho are also known for their distinctive calls.

While our hoiho monitoring program is winding down we are now turning our focus back to habitat restoration. Habitat restoration and reforestation is one of our main priorities at the Yellow Eyed Penguin Trust. Reforesting with native plants enables biodiversity to strengthen and provide resilience in the face of changing environmental conditions.

Planting at Long Point has commenced already with 1500 Harakeke being planted in partnership with Treet Yourself; a young entrepreneurial startup and Department of Conservation.

If you come across hoiho, or any penguin species, please give them space and if you have any concerns contact the DOC Hotline on 0800-362-46.



# Creative Events over Seaweek

Art at the Beach – Kaka Point, Otago, 9 March

The cloudscape and seascape changed so much between low tide at sunrise when the first artists arrived and when they left at high tide, providing a wonderful array of colours and lighting. Artists came and took photos, made sketches, painted with watercolours, collected seaweed and driftwood to make natural artworks at home and wrote stories.

While taking in the beautiful scenery and creating art, they did a bird count and survey of cars/walkers/cyclists that were there throughout the time. In addition to the conversations within the group, this gathering sparked conversations with many beach visitors about Seaweek and marine issues in general.

The highlight for organiser Catriona Gower was seeing the creativity that the sea inspires and hearing about how much foreign visitors appreciated our conservation work for land and sea. This event was in collaboration with the Forest & Bird South Otago branch, to provide an opportunity during Seaweek for people to be creative together at Hayes Gap Beach.





# Forest And Bird South Otago Round Up For The Winter

## ***Catlins' Weed of the Season: Spanish Heath Erica lusitanica***

Pest plants are often overlooked where pest animals grab attention when carrying out management of any site to protect our native wildlife. Both need tackling! And both are features of the mahi carried out by volunteers in the South Otago branch of Forest & Bird.

### **About this plant:**



Pink buds flowered by lots of white bell-shaped flowers on *Erica lusitanica* through the winter.

Winter is a time to make an impact with trapping rats, feral cats and mustelids whilst less so for the weeds as the plants die down and put their resources into the roots not leaves. One exception is featured here: Spanish heath (*Erica lusitanica*). This plant is rapidly spreading around the Catlins and you may notice it when driving as it is found at many locations along our roadsides. It stands out as a brighter green now as it puts on new growth, then is topped with white as it comes into bloom through midwinter. Those pretty white flowers turn brown once pollinated and produce thousands of tiny seeds which fall out easily and are spread by the wind. It can flower in the second year of growth.

Spanish heath germinates well in damp, slightly disturbed, nutrient poor soils and will quickly push through grass. Hence it is a quick coloniser of the small landslips and steep slopes along our roads and any waterways where the banks have been cut back. It likes our cool climate and copes well with the wind.



Masses of one-year old Spanish heath plants growing on disturbed roadside ground.

### **How to control Spanish heath:**

Small plants can be pulled-up by hand. Larger plants need to be either sprayed when in fresh foliage or if a small enough number of plants, each stem cut and pasted with herbicide gel - preferably before it flowers! Avoid moving the plants when in seed as they will fall out everywhere and spread to the ground you carry them over. A newly germinating patch of fresh seedlings can also be sprayed off.

## .....***Continued Forest And Bird South Otago Round Up For The Winter***



Two year old plants which have germinated on roadside downwind of a large patch of Spanish heath in a nearby paddock. Stock can eat it but they prefer not to; like gorse and broom, it needs spraying out as soon as it is noticed to retain pasture area.

### **For more information:**

Weedbusters NZ - <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/spanish-heath/>

NZ Plant Conservation Trust – <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erica-lusitanica/>

### **Or do report any sightings:**

iNaturalist - <https://inaturalist.nz/>

Catlins Action Plan Governance Group member, Weed strategy contact,  
Franny Cunninghame [f.cunninghame@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:f.cunninghame@forestandbird.org.nz)

Forest & Bird S Otago branch – Catriona [catlinspekapeka@gmail.nz](mailto:catlinspekapeka@gmail.nz)

## .....Continued Forest And Bird South Otago Round Up For The Winter

Every month the weeds are tackled in the Scientific Reserve of Otanomomo. There are so many different plants which have been either planted here when it was part of the larger estate or come in with the wind and the birds (poop) but some of the key ones which we tackle are blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) and Chilean flame creeper (*Tropaeolum speciosum*) and this last month we have started on a very large patch of cherry laurel (*Prunus laurocerasus*).

Cherry Laurel



Through the winter, the cleared areas are then planted up with native trees and shrubs to give the forest regeneration a boost. You are welcome to join us on the second Sunday of the month, 1-3pm. Every working bee ending with a well-deserved cuppa and carrot cake (or choccy biscuit!).



Break time



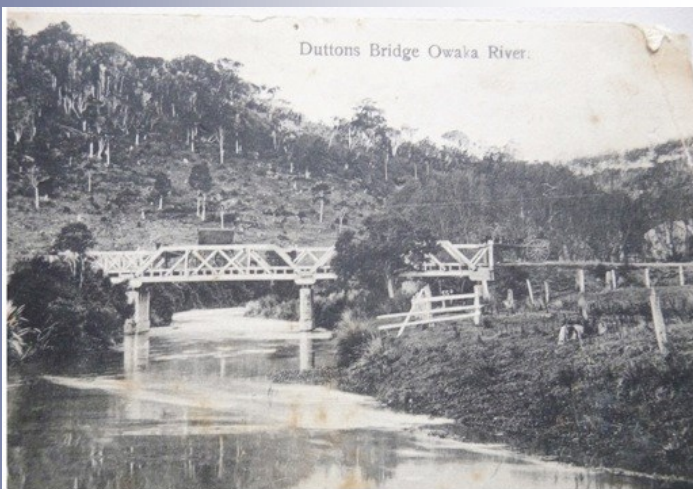
Flowering Chilean flame creeper

## .....Continued Forest And Bird South Otago Round Up For The Winter

Monthly (mostly 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 11am – except June when it will be 28<sup>th</sup> to miss Matariki weekend) we are continuing to restore the Long Yellow Ribbon of kowhai and ribbonwood trees (and the many other species!) which make up the riparian habitat which used to grow along the full length of the Owaka River. The trees are more noticeable though they still have a battle with the grasses and convolvulus so help with weed clearance is always welcome. As is wool....all those ‘worthless’ daggings are very valuable to the trees as mulch. If you have a load you would like to donate, please do get in touch with Catriona 0223 914 698.

If pest animal trapping is more your thing – we also carry out trapping year round at Otanomomo and several other sites across the district. New trappers are very welcome to take on a route even if only for once a month or a couple of months a year: contact Roy or Jim to find out more: [southotago.branch@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:southotago.branch@forestandbird.org.nz)

### *Volunteers hard at work planting at Duttons Bridge*



Duttons Bridge 1910 Clutha Heritage Collection



**Duttons Bridge**



# Welcome to the May 2025 edition of the Law Changes Review update for incorporated societies

This newsletter is designed to keep you informed about the law changes that affect incorporated societies. It gives you information about these changes and any changes in our register, services, and website.

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (2022 Act) came fully into force on 5 October 2023. To remain registered as an incorporated society you will need to reregister by 5 April 2026.

In this issue, we have information on general meetings, reregistering to keep your society's IRD number, how to apply to remove your society from the register and the Companies Office fees and levies consultation.

In our next issue, we'll provide information on a webinar we co-hosted with Charities Services, the outcome of the Companies Office fees and levies consultation and an update on the survey we ran to gauge societies' experience with the reregistration process.

## General Meetings

There's less than 11 months left for societies to reregister under the 2022 Act. As part of the reregistration process, a society needs to hold a general meeting to agree with its members to reregister and approve changes to the constitution to bring it in line with the 2022 Act.

Your society's next annual general meeting (AGM) is the perfect opportunity to do this. However, if you have already had your AGM this year, you may need to hold a special general meeting.

Before calling a special general meeting, your society's committee may also meet to ensure the constitution is suitable for presenting to members.

Make sure you call and hold your meeting in accordance with your existing rules, including:

- giving all members sufficient notice of the meeting.
- setting out details of the items to be approved or decided in your agenda.
- consider sharing a copy of the draft constitution with members beforehand so that your members can see what it contains.
- having the correct quorum throughout the meeting.
- following the right processes for voting. (N.B. see section 10(2)(a)(i) in Part 1 in Schedule 1 of the 2022 Act which says that the constitution must be approved at a general meeting by a majority vote of those members entitled to vote and voting on the question).

[Read more about getting ready for reregistering](#)

# **.....Continued 2025 edition of the Law Changes Review update for incorporated societies**

## **Reregister your society to keep its IRD number**

Reregistering your society by 5 April 2026 means that it will continue operating as an incorporated entity and get to keep its current IRD number.

Please note, if your society decides not to reregister under the 2022 Act, but wants to keep operating, you will need to apply for a new IRD number for your society. This is because when a society is removed from the register it loses its legal status as an incorporated entity and will be treated as a new entity for tax purposes.

[Learn more about reregistering to keep your IRD number](#)

## **Apply to remove your society from the register**

If your society decides not to reregister under the 2022 Act, it must be wound up and removed from the register.

You can apply to the Registrar to have your society dissolved and removed from the register.

Before submitting your application, your society must deal with any financial matters as specified in its rules, and the requirements of the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

You will also need to hold a general meeting and pass a resolution to dissolve the society.

[Find out more about applying to remove your society from the register](#)

## **EDS report highlights need to better manage cumulative impacts on the Otago coast - 06 May 2025**

The Environmental Defence Society (EDS) today released a report on the Otago Coast titled Oceans Management in a Changing Climate. The case study is part of EDS's Oceans Project which is developing concrete recommendations for oceans management reform.

“The Otago coastal area has extraordinary marine biodiversity as a result of its unique biophysical characteristics,” said case study author and EDS Policy Director Raewyn Peart.

“It features abundant krill, extensive kelp forests and rare bryozoan thickets.

“However, the area is subject to some of the most intense ocean warming experienced anywhere in the country. Keystone species such as bull and bladder kelp are suffering badly with cascading impacts on other marine life.

“The effects of climate change on the Otago coast are more extreme than would otherwise be the case, because they overlay existing pressures on the marine environment including sedimentation and the impacts of fishing activity.

“Wildlife tourism is an important component of the Otago economy but endemic species such as the Hector's dolphin, Hoiho and Otago shag are now threatened with extinction. This is thought to be partly due to depletion of their preferred fish prey.

“Exotic plantation forests, which have been identified as a major cause of sedimentation along the coast, are increasing in extent. But the Otago Regional Council's attempts to apply more rigorous rules to the sector have been stymied by recent amendments to the Resource Management Act.

“Spatial protection efforts in the marine area have been exceedingly slow and have yet reached fruition. Although the Fisheries Act has contained a requirement to protect habitats of significance to fisheries management since 1996, Fisheries New Zealand only this year released guidance on the topic, and it has yet to identify (let alone protect) significant habitats on the Otago coast.

“The revised New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement, which came into force in 2010, contains a strong directive for councils to protect significant indigenous biological diversity in the marine area, but the Otago Regional Council has yet to do so. The Council recently identified more than 100 significant marine areas, but it does not plan to notify provisions to protect them before mid 2028.

**.....Continued EDS report highlights need to better manage cumulative impacts on the Otago**

“It is over a decade since the South-East Marine Protection Forum was first established to identify a network of marine reserves along the Otago coast. Although six marine reserves were recently approved by government, implementation has now stalled due to legal proceedings.

“The East Otago Taiāpure provides an excellent example of how of how rūnanga and local communities can work together to better manage their local marine areas. Such initiatives need to be more strongly supported.

“The future health of Otago’s coastal marine area will depend on the implementation of an integrated strategy that effectively deals with cumulative pressures on the marine environment.

“This could be achieved through the development of an integrated marine spatial plan or similar. Such a collaborative exercise could be undertaken under the auspices of the Otago Biosphere Reserve, should that initiative proceed,” concluded Ms Peart.

Limited hard copies of the report will be available at EDS’s Auckland Oceans Symposium next week (12 May). An online version is available below.

A copy of the case study can be accessed [here](#).

# THINGS TO MARK ON YOUR

## Council Updates & Notices

Updates from the Clutha District Council  
Stay Informed, Stay Connected



Let's talk about water.

Consultation is open and we are asking for feedback on three options for future water services delivery.

**Southern Water Done Well** is made up of Clutha, Gore, Waitaki and Central Otago district councils, and we have united in our preferred option for the future, a jointly-owned Council Controlled Organisation (CCO).

**Have you read the Southern Water Done Well Consultation Document yet?**

You can download a copy from our website, or pick one up from your local Council office or Community Library.

**Southern  
water  
done well**



Visit our website, read more and have your say.

Consultation closes Friday, 6 June 2025.

[www.cluthadc.govt.nz/southern-water](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/southern-water)

**CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL** | [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

**Address:** 1 Rosebank Terrace, Balclutha 9230 | PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240

**Phone:** (03) 419 0200 | 0800 801 350

# Make Time



Watercolour Paintings

By Local Papatowai Artist Fergus Sutherland

And Pottery

By Local Papatowai Potter Robyn Judd

Owaka Museum Wahi Kahuika:

18 April - 28 June

# **SOUTH OTAGO FOREST & BIRD**

## **June Events – All Welcome!**

**Sun 08 June 1–3pm**

**Free a Tree – Otanomomo Scientific Reserve**

Contact: Roy (03) 418 1319 [johns-stones@rivernet.co.nz](mailto:johns-stones@rivernet.co.nz)

Jim: 027 440 9529 [janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz)

**Sun 15 June**

**10am Branch meeting**

**1pm Working bee in F&B's plant nursery**

Jim & Jane's place 145 Hinahina Rd, Owaka

Contact: [janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz)

027 440 9529 (03) 415 8532



**11am Sat 28 June**

**Plant care at Dutton's Bridge**

Contact: Catriona txt 0223 914 698

**Forest  
& Bird**  
TE REO O TE TAI AO  
*Giving Nature a Voice*

**Native Plants on sale for autumn planting**

Jim & Jane's place 145 Hinahina Rd, Owaka

Contact: [janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz](mailto:janejimmyoung@slingshot.co.nz)

027 440 9529 (03) 415 8532

# Restoring the Long Yellow Ribbon

## Autumn tree planting!

Dutton's Bridge pull-off, Owaka Hwy

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of every month

meet at 11am stay half an hour or half a day!

**26<sup>th</sup> April, 24<sup>th</sup> May, 28<sup>th</sup> June**

Together we are planting back the kōwhai, ribbonwood, mataī, tōtara, putaputawētā, mikimiki and other trees on the Owaka River side.

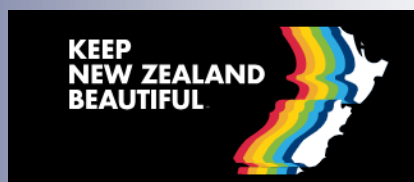
If available, bring spade, flax knife & gloves; plants (& refreshments) provided.

All welcome ☺



Wear sturdy footwear and suitable clothing, hat etc. for the weather.

For details contact: Catriona txt:0223 914 698



## Keep NZ Beautiful—dates for the diary

- **World Environment Day** – 5th June
- **World Ocean Day** – 8th June
- **KNZB Clean Up Week** – 19th–25th September
  - **World Clean Up Day** – 20th September
- **International Volunteers Day** – 5th December

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