



Papatowai Beach – Photograph by Cicell Jenks

Catlins Coast Inc. Newsletter December 2018

Kia ora & Welcome

Please enjoy the newsletter from the Catlins Coast Inc.

If you would like to contribute to the next edition of the quarterly newsletter please email Catlins Coast Project Coordinator (Lisa Biginato) - projects@catlins.org.nz

Join us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Catlinscoast/>

Catlins Coast Inc. official website
www.catlins.org.nz

What's going on in The Catlins



NEWS FROM THE CATLINS COAST INC. (CCI)

The newly developed (phase 1) Catlins website www.catlins.org.nz is now live with a fresh look and new features for easier use on mobile devices.

The website is community based, thus if there is anything you would like included on the Catlins Community page, e.g. news and/or up and coming events, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Development of phase 2 of the website will commence early next year (2019), and will address further additions to the website along with businesses being able to access their own listing/s to update, change and/or add to their contact details if/where required.

If you have a business – either accommodation, food and services, outdoor activities, arts and heritage or in the community section rural contracting, service or trade – you can have a listing on the new website, which includes full contact details, a description of your business, photos, map location and links to website, Facebook page or Instagram.

The new website will make it easy for people to find out about your business. In the last year 82,000 people used this website and it has a high google ranking.

The cost for a listing is \$115 per year. Please email Rona for more information and to get the application form – ronamartinc@gmail.com

The CCI appreciates any constructive feedback re the website, to enable its continued development where required.

If the care and protection of The Catlins is important to you, please feel free to come along and attend the Catlins Coast Inc. meetings held every second Monday of each month at the Papatowai Fire Station from 7pm – 9pm

Have a very merry (and safe) Christmas and New Year!

Lisa Biginato
CCI Project Coordinator

NEWS FROM THE CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL

Glass – To separate or not to separate?

How do we deal with glass?

This is the most asked question of the Solid Waste department. The simple answer is that we do not have a recycling option available. It is a cost benefit equation that does not stack up in favour of the ratepayer. Glass needs to be colour sorted (at the kerbside) and then sent to Auckland for recycling.

The cost to each ratepayer to provide a kerbside, colour sorted collection and transport to Auckland is between \$60 - \$80. This would be a potential 4% increase on rates of \$2,000.

As an alternative council offers free depositing of glass at Mt Cooee landfill and the transfer stations. Glass that is taken to Mt Cooee is stockpiled and used as roading fill when developing roading at the landfill. However, glass that is dropped off at the transfer stations is landfilled. There is no actual recycling of glass at Mt Cooee, only reuse.

So why is it free to drop off at transfer stations then?

Council decided that since glass was accepted for free at Mt Cooee it should be free at the transfer stations as well, irrespective of its final destination.

So why isn't the glass at transfer stations kept separate and taken to Mt Cooee?
This would incur a transport cost and this cost would have to be borne by the user.

What is the impact of landfilling the transfer station glass?

Glass is inert, it does not break down into any nasty leachable chemicals. So its environmental impact as a waste product is zero. However, there is an environmental impact on the production of glass.

What other alternatives are there?

Recycling is actually the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. The best possible outcome for the consumer and the environment is to reuse glass. Council is a signatory to a local government remit encouraging the government to look at a refund scheme for glass containers. Some residents in the district will remember bottle drives.

This theory is what drives this scheme, a refund for dropping off a clean, whole containers for reuse. This scheme has been running in parts of Europe and South Australia with NSW and Queensland set to adopt it. South Australia experienced an 84% drop in glass being collected for recycling, evidence enough that this scheme works for the residents and as importantly the environment.

Steve Clarke

Solid Waste Officer

Clutha District Council

1 Rosebank Terrace, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240

DDI: (03) 419 0293 | M: 0272828075 | P: (03) 419 0200

steve.clarke@cluthadc.govt.nz



NEWS FROM THE YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN TRUST

Trust staff recently completed hoiho nest searching at Long Point and Cosgrove Creek and nest numbers were similar to last year with 16 (down one) at Long Point and 9 (the same) at Cosgrove Creek. Hatching is now underway and nests will be monitored at regular intervals to check for any issues such as disease.

In other Long Point / Irahuka news the Yellow-eyed Penguin Trust has successfully completed the fundraising to build a field/research base at Long Point |Irahuka Reserve in the Catlins.

This base will provide accommodation and facilities for our staff, volunteers and researchers to undertake various tasks including more intensive monitoring of hoiho and soft-releasing of hoiho chicks.

The base will comprise four containers which are currently being refurbished to our specifications by Metal Works Otago, with the whole project being managed by Clinton O'Brien of Recreation Reconstruction in Oamaru. Clint has years' of experience in building huts, bridges, tracks etc in the remote conservation lands administered by the Department of Conservation, however the harsh coastal climate at Long Point is offering him a new set of challenges.

Funding for this project has been received from Otago Community Trust, the Audrey Reid Charitable Trust, Alexander McMillan Trust, ANZ Staff Foundation, Clutha District Council, Grumitt Sisters Charitable Trust, AAW Jones Charitable Trust and the Heseltine Trust.

We look forward to keeping you posted about this development and hope to show you photos of the completed base in the next edition of *Catlins Coast*. – Sue Murray

An update on the “Our Hut” Sir Truby King Bridge Track Project

A meeting with the Scobie's Farms and the Clutha District Council, and Eleanor and Don Sinclair and Russell Harris on the 11th September 2018, whereby David Scobie offered us an easement of his land on the South side of the Tahakopa Bridge, to intern allow us to have safe access for the Sir Truby King Bridge track to the Tahakopa river ULR area. This kindness by David Scobie intern allows us to form the track up the ULR Southern side of the Tahakopa river, to the Sir Truby King railway bridge.

This bridge was built in 1915-16, to enable him to get his saw milled timber and milk to the Tahakopa railway station train assembly area.

Eleanor and Don and Russell are just waiting on the mechanism to be formalized, for the go ahead and get this project all done.

Thanking you
Eleanor and Don Sinclair

NEWS FROM THE CATLINS BATS!

The Catlins has bats; beautiful, tiny (8-10g), threatened – nationally critical, New Zealand endemic Long-tailed Bats – we are so lucky! They used to be everywhere, now they only seem to be in small patches, here and there across the country. Truth is we don't actually know exactly where, or how many are left.

The Catlins has bat fans – inspiring volunteers across the region who carry out annual surveys in the summer to note any bats foraging along our quieter roads – we are doubly lucky!

We go for a leisurely stroll on one warm evening in January and again in February, our bat detectors in hand (yes they really are called that!) and we listen out for the magical fast click-click-click of ultrasounds as a bat flies past, most likely unseen in the darkness and silent to our ears without the detector.

We have been surveying 5 routes from Waikawa to Owaka since 2014. Some routes are quite busy and scribbling all the 'bat passes' down becomes frantic. On other routes we have a wonderful evening's chat with friends but record no bats. We hope that the bat population on these routes will increase again. We'll be there when they do!

So why are the Long-tailed Bats here? These bats feed only on flying insects and emerge soon after sunset to catch their prey alongside the trees and the rivers. They fly fast and high and can travel 60km or more in a night.

During the day they roost in crevices of trees, principally beech trees but they have been found in other tree species too. While roosting (resting / sleeping), bats slow right down; they are an easy catch for stoats, rats and possums. Cats too are especially good at detecting and catching them as they emerge from the tree roost at dusk; they can hear the ultrasounds we cannot.

The Catlins Rainforest is conserved for its rare population of Mohua (Yellowhead forest birds). We suspect the bats have also benefitted. Undoubtedly other species, plant and animal, have too.

If you would like to find out more about our amazing bats, come along to the Bat Evening on 31st January, help Build some Bat Houses during the afternoon of 17th January – both at Papatowai firestation, or contact Catriona Gower catlinsbats@gmail.com fb: Catlins Bat Project 0223 914 698.

New surveyors are also always welcome! (all training and equipment provided). We now have detectors available in Papatowai and the Owaka iSite, for loan to Catlins residents. So, let's get out and enjoy summer with our wild neighbours this year!



Colin O'Donnell
Long-tailed Bat
(note size, colour and
calm temperament!)



Catriona Gower
Group of volunteers preparing to
Survey for bats from Purakaunui
Bay to Catlins Lake



Penelope Gillette
A Summer Programme 2018
bat spotting event on the Catlins River road

The Catlins Connections

Visit The Catlins Connection (December and January edition) on Facebook (accessed by entering the words The Catlins Connection) or get an electronic copy from Helen -May Burgess at greenwoodfarm@xtra.co.nz

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

To Paul Duffy on winning an Award at Environment Southland Community Awards for his Leadership in the project at Curio Bay (worked with South Catlins Charitable Trust with their project 'Tumu Toka Curioscape').

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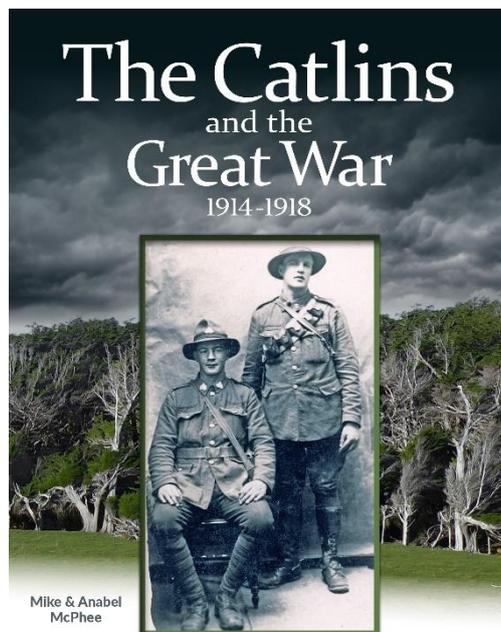
To the South Catlins Charitable Trust, the Supreme Winners of the Trust Power Southland Awards.

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To the Owaka Cavalcade Host Town Committee, the supreme winners of the Trustpower Community Awards

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To Mike and Annabel McPhee on their book launch - The Catlins and the Great War 1914-1918



The Catlins and the Great War 1914-1918

is available direct from the authors

Mike and Anabel McPhee

mamcpee@yrless.co.nz (ph 03 4158519)

or from

the **Owaka Museum.**

Price \$45.00 (plus \$8 postage and packing)

Also available from the

Otago University Bookshop in Dunedin.

LEOPARD SEALS

Leopard Seal sightings (during July, August and October), along the shores from Kaka Point to the Nuggets.....sightings were reported to www.LeopardSeals.org



Photographs by - Tony Somerville (Kaka Point resident)

Lisa Biginato
Kaka Point resident

A DOC newsletter had an interesting article.....something that be adopted in The Catlins perhaps (would be good as a National roll out)....

Are you a dog owner in Dunedin?

Dunedin's beaches can be a great place for humans and dogs to get out and enjoy nature.

[Take the Lead the Way quiz](#) to find out how to keep both your pup and local wildlife safe.



Lisa Biginato



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

NEWS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The Catlins coast is a great place to spend the summer with family, it's great to see so many people enjoying the walks and campgrounds on public conservation land, gathering shellfish (of legal size and quantity of course!) and generally making the most of our open spaces.

You may have caught up with the disheartening news that Yellow-eyed penguin nest numbers have again decreased by around 17% along the Otago & Catlins coast. Only 212 nests have been found from Moeraki to Te Rere. Much of the decline can be attributed to disease (diphtheria, malaria, leucocytozoan) and starvation. Ten nests are at Nugget point this season. Frustratingly, there could have been more, if not for the two breeding adults that were killed by dogs in separate events at the Nuggets last year. And a further two were killed by dogs at Long Point. Even more frustrating is the fact that both Long Point and Nugget Point are NO DOG areas. These yellow-eyed penguin deaths were entirely preventable!

Over the next month or so we will be keeping an eye out for female Sealions having pups, if you see an obviously pregnant pale coloured sealion regularly in an area, we would like to hear from you. If you think one may be settling on your property, and you don't really want her to, it is advisable to block access ways when she goes out to sea to forage, before she becomes resident.

Our Responsible Camping Ranger is back on deck for the summer. He is employed jointly by DOC, and the Clutha & Southland District councils, and will be making his presence felt in all those little nooks and crannies where freedom campers like to hide. Again, his focus is on education and promoting camping in approved places, but he does have the ability to issue infringement notices if required.

We have Volunteer Rangers operating at the Nuggets and Curio Bay again over the summer – they will be wearing hi-viz vests with DOC badges, and be there to provide information and guidance to visitors.

My big plea for the summer is NO DOGS near penguin areas, and keep 50m away from all wildlife. Help them survive – keep your distance.

For all after hours wildlife concerns please call the DOC HOTline (0800 362 468)

Thanks, and have a great festive season.
Cheryl.
Department of Conservation – Owaka Field Base.

THINGS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE CATLINS!

Tahakopa Christmas Festival



Weekend of December 8th - 9th
9.30am – 4.30pm at the Tahakopa Hall

Christmas Programme on

Saturday - 10.30am
- 2.30pm

Sunday 10.30am church service and shared lunch

Drop in for morning or afternoon tea (donation),
buy a gift, view the Christmas displays

Everyone welcome, come and enjoy

All funds raised to our local Salvation Army Christmas

Contact: Katrina 03 415 8817 or katjh@hotmail.com



The Catlins Summer Programme 2019 All welcome!

Contact details

Programme director **Jim Young** 03 415 8532 027 440 9529 janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz

For changes or updates

Check with the organisers and/or South Otago Forest & Bird Facebook page
www.facebook.com/ForestAndBirdSouthOtago/ - Events

Important information

- Before taking part in outdoor activities you must pay careful attention to the safety briefing and sign the register.
- Most activities are suitable for children, but children **must** be accompanied by an adult.
- Make sure that you have clothing and footwear suitable for our changeable weather.
- Activities may have limited numbers of participants so advance booking is recommended.
- Most activities don't have set charges, but a gold coin donation is appreciated.



**Forest
& Bird**

TE REO O TE TAIAO

Giving Nature a Voice

Events 2019 NB Most outdoor events last 2–3 hours

Wed 02 Jan 10am

Cryptic life in the forest

Penelope Gillette

Meet: Papatowai picnic grounds

Organiser: Penelope 0223 841048 pngillette@gmail.com

Share Pen's passion for these hidden life forms during a short walk along the Picnic Point track.

Thurs 03 Jan 10:30–12:30am ***KCC Family Day at Earthlore***

Inspector Insector aka Gordon Thompson

Meet: Earthlore car park, 129 Hina Hina Rd. KCC members free, non-members \$5/child.

Spaces limited – please book by 02 Jan.

Organiser: Catriona 0223 914698 catlinsbats@gmail.com

Inspector Insector will be leading the investigation of a special case for KCC families in the beautiful Earthlore gardens.

Thurs 03 Jan 9:30pm ***Night walk to Matai Falls***

Catriona Gower

Meet: Matai Falls car park Duration approx 1½ hours

Organiser: Catriona 0223 914698 catlinsbats@gmail.com

Discover the magic of sights and sounds in the bush at night. Birds, bats, trees, insects, lichens, maybe even glow worms! Bring a torch.

Fri 04 Jan 1pm

Birds and Bush – KCC activity open to all

Penelope Gillette

Meet: Pounaweia playground shelter

Organiser: Penelope 0223 841048 pngillette@gmail.com

Learn bird ID and some secrets of the bush, especially for children, from an enthusiastic expert. (Bring binoculars if you can.)

Sat 05 Jan 1pm

Exploring Otanomomo Bush

Roy Johnstone & Jim Young

Meet: Otanomomo Scientific Reserve, Telford Dairy entrance, 615 Owaka Hwy

Organiser: Roy Johnstone 03 418 1319 021 174 9019 johns-stones@rivernet.co.nz

A rare chance to explore the remnant lowland podocarp forest at Otanomomo and visit an historic grave site. (Marked route, not a formed walking track.) We'll be checking a few predator traps and doing some not-too-energetic weed busting en route.

Sun 06 Jan 1pm

Catlins Railway Tour – Tunnel Hill to Tawanui

The Catlins Historical Society

Meet: Owaka Museum. Return to the Museum for afternoon tea (inc). Cost \$10. Booking is strongly recommended.

Contact Leadman Ibbotson 03 4158889 or Owaka Museum (03) 4158323 owakamuseum@outlook.com

Mon 07 Jan 2pm

Birds at the Catlins River Estuary

Richard Schofield

Meet: Owaka Museum to car pool Limit: 20 Organiser: Richard 03 418 4415/027 281 8701 cluthaphotos@gmail.com

Come with Richard to find numerous bird species around the Catlins Lake – dotterels, oyster catchers, shags, white-faced herons, spoonbills, and end up viewing the world-record holding godwits.

Fri 11 Jan 6pm

Biodiversity in your garden

Gordon & Janine Thompson

Meet: Earthlore car park, 129 Hinahina Rd Organisers: Gordon & Janine 03 4158455/027 3853182 earthlore3@gmail.com

Stroll through Earthlore and find out what you can do in your own backyard to help the survival of our native species.

Sat 12 Jan 7:30pm ***The Invading Sea*** **Neville Peat**
Meet: Owaka Community Centre supper room **Organiser:** Jim 03 415 8532/027 440 9529 janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz
Dunedin writer Neville Peat presents the findings from his latest book which looks at coastal hazards resulting from climate change, and at how communities, councils and government can adapt to a rising sea and the prospect of more damaging storms.

Sun 13 Jan 1pm ***Sea lions on the beach*** **Emma Bardsley**
Meet: Owaka Museum **Limit:** 20 **Cost:** \$5 for bus **Organiser:** Jim 03 415 8532/027 440 9529 janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz
A chance to see NZ sea lions and hear from DOC ranger Emma Bardsley about their biology. The bus will drop you off at Surat Bay and pick you up approx two hours later after a 3km guided walk to Cannibal Bay (or vice versa).

Thurs 17 Jan 12–4pm ***Bird & Bat Box Making in Papatowai*** **Catriona Gower**
Meet: Papatowai Fire Station **Organiser:** Catriona 0223 914698 catlinsbats@gmail.com
Drop by any time through the afternoon and help us make boxes for our local bats and birds to use. Learn a bit more about our local wildlife while you are here. All materials provided. Bring a hammer and screwdriver if you have them.

Sat 19 Jan 10am ***Ask the Gurus – Picnic & eco-activity*** **Fergus Sutherland**
Meet: Shanks Bush cnr Tahakopa Valley Rd & Papatowai Hwy **Organiser:** Fergus 03 415 8602 fergusutherland@icloud.com
Investigate the quirky track at Shanks Bush with the gurus on hand to answer questions about the animals and plants that you meet. Bring nature photos for ID.

Sun 20 Jan 9am ***Fossils at Papatowai*** **Fergus Sutherland**
Meet: Papatowai picnic ground car park **Organiser:** Fergus 03 415 8602 fergusutherland@icloud.com
Discover Jurassic fossils including ammonites, shells and worms as you walk along the rocky shore.

Fri 25 Jan 8:30pm ***Moths–Butterflies of the Night*** **Gordon & Janine Thompson**
Meet: Earthlore car park 129 Hinahina Rd **Organisers:** Gordon & Janine 03 4158455/027 3853182 earthlore3@gmail.com
Setting up a light trap to attract the creatures of the night so we can observe them. Bring your camera as an experienced photographer will be on hand to give tips about night photography. We'll also be taking an evening walk round Earthlore's gardens where feeding stations will be set up.

Sat 26 Jan 7:30pm ***Tautuku Restoration Project*** **Franny Cunninghame**
Meet: Papatowai Fire Station **Organiser:** Jim Young 03 415 8532/027 440 9529 janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz
Hear how this ambitious landscape scale project is taking shape and why the area is important for conservation. Predator control has significantly increased and at the same time we have learnt more about the native species found within the forest.

Sun 27 Jan 9am ***Scientific Fishing in the Fleming River*** **Franny Cunninghame**
Meet: Papatowai Fire Station (9am) or Lenz Reserve carpark 614 Chaslans Highway (9:15am)
Organiser: Franny 022 6581349 F.Cunninghame@forestandbird.org.nz
The Fleming River is home to several threatened fish species – we've only just found out that some of them are here. Come along to help us check a fish trap and see these special NZ native species before we release them back into the river.

Thurs 31 Jan 7.30–9pm ***NZ Bats – film & talk*** **9:20pm** ***Catlins bat spotting*** **Catriona Gower**
Meet: Papatowai Fire Station **Organiser:** Catriona 0223 914698 catlinsbats@gmail.com
Film night and a talk about NZ bats, followed by bat spotting further up the valley (car pooling) if weather permits. Wear warm clothes and bring a torch if coming on the 'walk' (we don't walk far: bring a chair if you like!).

Fri 01 Feb 10am ***Mohua at the Wisp*** **Fergus Sutherland**
Meet: Owaka Museum to car pool/get directions **Organiser:** Fergus 03 415 8602 fergusutherland@icloud.com
Fergus will lead an exploration along the top end of the Catlins River Walk to view life in the beech forest, especially the endangered mohua (yellowhead). Approx 3 hours – bring binoculars if you have them and lunch.

Sat 02 Feb 12–2pm ***Practical penguin conservation*** **Mel Young**
Meet: Rock monument area above the Nuggets car park
Organiser: Jim Young 03 415 8532/027 440 9529 janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz
Talk to researcher Mel Young about yellow-eyed penguin biology and conservation, while painting yellow-eyed penguin decoys and building nest boxes for blue penguins. All materials and equipment provided.

Sat 02 Feb 7:30pm ***What's for Dinner? – Cameras on Yellow-eyed Penguins*** **Thomas Mattern**
Meet: Kaka Point Community Hall **Organiser:** Jim Young 03 415 8532/027 440 9529 janejimyoung@slingshot.co.nz
Penguin researcher Thomas Mattern shows how we can use new animal-borne cameras to discover what Yellow-eyed Penguins do at sea, and what foraging conditions they encounter.

KAKA POINT MARKET

A promotional poster for the Kaka Point Annual Beach Market Day. The background is a bright blue sky with a large yellow sun in the top right corner and several sunflowers on the left side. The text is centered and uses a mix of red and black fonts. The title 'KAKA POINT ANNUAL BEACH MARKET DAY' is in red. The date and time 'SATURDAY 12th JANUARY 2019 9.30am - 2pm' are also in red. The invitation 'Come along and support the Summer Market Day' is in black. The location 'Community Hall and surrounding areas outside the hall, on the foreshore, along the driveway & Garden Bar behind The Point Café & Bar' is in black. The number of stalls '60 + STALLS' is in red. The note 'NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE' is in red. The list of items for sale is in black. The activities 'PONY RIDES & FACE PAINTING for children' and 'LIVE MUSIC BY THE GARDEN BAR' are in red. The contact information 'For further information contact Pauline Simpson 034128783 or info@nuggetlodge.co.nz' is in black.

KAKA POINT ANNUAL BEACH MARKET DAY

SATURDAY 12th JANUARY 2019
9.30am - 2pm

Come along and support the Summer Market Day

Community Hall and surrounding areas outside the hall, on the foreshore,
along the driveway & Garden Bar behind The Point Café & Bar

Car Boot Sales **60 + STALLS**

NO EFTPOS AVAILABLE

Women's Clothing Crafts Jewellery Plants Artworks Travel Agent Badges
Collectables Woodwork Knitting Lavender Products Children's Knitwear
Fresh fruit and vegetables from local growers BBQ Variety of food products
Devonshire Teas Pottery Flowers for Life

PONY RIDES & FACE PAINTING for children

Coffee and much more.....

LIVE MUSIC BY THE GARDEN BAR

For further information contact Pauline Simpson 034128783 or info@nuggetlodge.co.nz

MORE EVENTS!

- Owaka Museum Heritage Tour - Catlins Railway History - Tunnel Hill to Tawanui
Sunday 6th January. Meet Owaka Museum 1pm - \$10
- Pounaweia New Year's Eve - Celebrations from 6pm. Live music from 8pm.
Great fireworks at midnight
- Papatowai New Year's Eve - Carnival and Big Dig. Starts 12.30pm and Big Dig
2pm. Bonfire and fireworks from 10pm
- Big Dig is being held at Curio Bay on Saturday 29th December - Sand Sculpture
starts at 1pm with Big Dig at 3pm

