

Winton Outlook

April 2025

www.winton.co.nz

New Limehills principal embracing the rural life

New Limehills principal Simon Thomas – known as Mr. T – has quickly made his mark, with his red bands firmly planted in the heart of the community.

After over 10 years as a principal in East Christchurch, Simon and his wife Amanda moved south in late 2024. Drawn by the community-focused nature of the Limehills principal role, the rural setting, and the chance to make a positive impact, Simon has quickly felt at home. “It’s an awesome community. Everyone has been really supportive, and we’ve got fantastic staff. But the best part is definitely the kids. They’re capable, engaged, and a lot of fun,” he said. “There’s great family support here, we’re all working together and we’re all on the same page.”

Term 1 has been busy with BikeWise Week, the school triathlon, athletics day, and swimming, while Term 2 promises more excitement, including school camps and cross country.

With the support of his dedicated staff, Simon has worked to refresh the school curriculum, integrating the local environment and community. Classes are now grouped into teams: Lambsworth, honouring the school farm and local community, Kōwhai, reflecting the school’s connection to Kōwhai Reach, and Forest, inspired by the school’s popular ‘forest school’ excursions. Themed learning opportunities including harvest, beef and dairy, and sheep; connecting with the local community.

Though new to rural life, Simon is embracing it – including his bike commute to school, now surrounded by cows instead of cars.

The school will welcome two new teachers in Term 2 – Kerri Brand and Janelle McCallum - and in more exciting news, a new entrant class will open midyear, bringing the school back to eight classrooms. To learn more about Limehills School visit the new website www.limehills.school.nz



Mr T with some of Limehills’ younger students, and with staff at the annual athletics day at Dipton.



Central Southland Emergency Helipad begins to take shape



We are pretty stoked that after so many months of meetings, endless paperwork and being overwhelmed by the generosity of our community, we finally have started the build of our Central Southland Emergency Helipad.

Monday 17 March saw the removal of soil to put in the foundation, that will support the helicopter landing platform. We will see the project take shape over the next weeks and look forward to showing more interesting pictures in the next edition. This photo, however, shows the start of something very special for our community - a fit for purpose emergency helicopter landing facility.

For the committee, Juon Schoen

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Aquavantastic!

Crabs, touch tanks and cockle shell voting were all part of the Aquavan fun in Winton in March. Over 150 students, teachers and parents from seven local schools joined the University of Otago Marine Studies Centre Team, supported by Environment Southland and Thriving Southland, and became scientists for two hours, learning that what we do on the land affects our rivers, estuaries and seas.

Through interactive, hands-on sessions students discovered how their catchments, rivers, and coasts are all connected. The touch tank full of marine creatures was the star of the show, closely followed by the crabs. The cockle shell voting was a great way to end the sessions, with each student deciding how they would spend their cockle shell money to look after our land and water if they were the government.

Over 200 people came to the Winton community session - amazing! The fantastic St Andrews Scout Group from Otautau made a special trip to join us as their national theme is marine this term. It was so much fun!

Many thanks to Environment Southland who led the funding and organising of this programme, the amazing University of Otago Aquavan team, the Central Southland Presbyterian Church for a great venue, and the Mid Oreti Catchment Group who got funding to help make the Winton sessions happen and donated two native plants from their Mid Oreti Mini Forest Movement Project to each school to support their planting projects of their special places.

We hope schools are inspired to explore different ways they can help look after the environment. Don't forget your local Catchment Group, community groups and schools are welcome to borrow the four Thriving Southland Education Kits - How healthy is your stream? How healthy is your estuary? Solving the animal pest puzzles and Growing native plants.

*Sarah Thorne, Mid & Lower Oreti Catchment Coordinator
Thriving Southland*



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- Freshly refurbished environment
- High-Speed Internet
- Parking Facilities
- Staff parking
- Waiting area for your clients
- Common area for staff room/lunch room



Please contact **Jenna** on **021 206 8128** or
email **massage@dynamichealth.nz**
if you are interested or would like to know
further information.

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I'm sure you all felt it, but there was a timely reminder from Mother Nature with a 6.9 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Tuatapere. It's time to refresh or even start your planning about what to do when the big one arrives. The plan should include a place of safety that everyone in the family knows, enough food and water for three days and some means of communication that doesn't require cell service, power, and the internet. Your car radio is a great idea or dig out grandad's old transistor radio. If you need help getting started visit the Civil Defence website for all you need to know.

Locally, criminal offending seems to be on a bit of a climb with items going missing from farms and around the town. Between now and the winter grazing season we usually have electric fence reels getting targeted and my advice is to keep them away from the roadside fences; thieves are too lazy to walk across the paddock to steal your reels.

They are also too lazy to break into your car but are very happy when you leave your valuables sitting on the front seat with the doors unlocked - just saying.

I normally try not to repeat myself in this article, but we are still seeing people on Facebook commenting about having property stolen or that they saw a car looking suspicious, but nothing is being reported to the Police. We have offenders we have caught, with stolen property that we couldn't find owners for. So once again Facebook never arrested anyone, but we do it 24/7 and our crystal ball is broken so please help us to help you by reporting crimes or suspicious behaviour. Call us..... 111 if it is happening now and 105 if it is historic.

The same applies to any information on the idiots who are skidding up our streets. You have all seen the increase in skid marks around our town. Whilst some see this as a bit of harmless fun, it's not and poses a huge risk to those involved and other road users. There is nothing harmless about a skid that takes up both lanes on a blind corner or at SH6 Lochiel on the wrong side of the road over the brow of a hill - this is just an increase in the road toll we all don't want. If you see this happening call the Police.

Thanks, and keep safe.

Snr Sgt Peter Graham
Western Southland Manager

STREET TALK DEFENSIVE DRIVING

This Defensive Driving course is designed to help participants identify and avoid, or handle potential hazards that they may encounter while driving.

This course will run over 4 sessions. (Participants MUST attend all 4 sessions in order).

Cost: \$190 per person (includes a practical driving session).

--- UNDER 25yrs - Reduce Restricted licence time by 6 months.
--- OVER 25yrs - Reduce Restricted licence time by 3 months.

WINTON COURSES:

- 31 MARCH, 2, 7, 9 APRIL
- 11, 16, 18, 23 JUNE
- 1, 3, 8, 10 SEPTEMBER
- 8, 13, 15, 20 OCTOBER

5PM - 7PM

Contact Southern REAP to sign up:
on info@reap.co.nz or phone: 0800 111 117

WWW.REAP.CO.NZ/CENTRALSOUTHLAND

sign up online 

WORKPLACE FIRST AID - WINTON

01 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.

- Wednesday 30 APRIL
- 8.30am - 5pm
- \$125 per person
- Salvation Army - 7 De Joux Road, Winton



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

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.

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Epic adventure race raises thousands for local community causes

The third annual VetSouth Gorge Adventure Race has proven another hit, raising close to \$20,000 to be split between the Limehills Community Pool and Limehills School Home and School Association.

The adventure race, which included a 6 hour bike/trek, 6 hour trek, 3 hour trek and a new family taster event, was held on Dan and Steph Frew's farm in the Otapiri Gorge, with more than 300 participants turning out on a beautiful Southland day.

Participants were put to the test over the variety of courses, designed by experienced adventure racers Chris Brand and Sam Scott. They made their way across hilly farmland and various terrain to find checkpoints. Fun mystery activities were run by the Limehills Netball Club and DLS Rugby Club, and a highlight was the huge waterslide towards the end. There were plenty of smiles at the finish line as participants enjoyed refreshments from the Limehills Home and School and Limehills Community Pool committees – joint recipients of this year's fundraising efforts.

Event organiser Liz Gill said the event was a huge success.

"We had record numbers, a fantastic course and excellent feedback – it really was an awesome day out," she said.

"We were so very lucky to have the support of a huge number of volunteers and sponsors, which really reflects what a great and supportive community we have. We can't thank them enough for their support – they contribute hugely to the success of the event, and allow us to raise money for some wonderful causes."

The Committee would like to express a huge thank you to all volunteers and all sponsors, in particular naming sponsor VetSouth, who have been on board since the event's inception, and silver sponsors Farm Maps NZ, Shepherd Photography, Country & Co, AWS Legal, Brooklands Jerseys, New World Winton, Farm Source, Wilkins Farming Co, Offrey Farms, ADM, Mainland Mechanical, Sinclair Transport, Catalyst Performance Agronomy, Winton Night n Day, Farmers Dipping, and First Light Farms.



A huge thank you to



As well as Shepherd Photography, Brooklands Jerseys, Offrey Farms, Mainland Mechanical, Sinclair Transport, Farmers Dipping and all volunteers and sponsors.

Photos above by Tony Shepherd

FORKLIFT (OSH) & 'F' ENDORSEMENT

FORKLIFT CERTIFICATE (OSH):

Will enable you to operate a forklift within your workplace.

Course cost: \$180

FORKLIFT CERTIFICATE (OSH) + 'F' ENDORSEMENT:

Will enable you to operate a forklift within your workplace and on the road. To gain this the learner must hold a Full Class 1 licence.

Course cost: \$240 + \$62.10 to be paid at Licensing agent

Class will start at 8am with learning for Forklift certificate (OSH) running till 3.30pm. Those wishing to gain 'F' endorsement will stay on for an extra 30 mins of learning. All will break for lunch and then move to Winton Mitre 10 for the practical component.

Kindly supported by Winton Mitre 10

● **Tuesday 15 APRIL**

● Southern REAP, 224 Great North Road



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

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New astro turf a winner at Winton School



Winton School pupils can now get outside and play year-round, thanks to the installation of a large section of SmartGrass right in the middle of the school.

The new astro turfed area was first suggested by the school's PTA, who wanted to ensure pupils could play outside regardless of the weather. The idea resonated with the school Board and staff, who saw the value in being able to encourage kids to get outdoors and be active in their break times year-round.

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from Community Trust South, and financial support from the school's PTA and Board, and after much research, Christchurch company SmartGrass were enlisted to undertake the \$120,000 project, which involved clearing the space, laying the foundations, sorting drainage, and laying the turf.

Already, it's made a significant and positive difference.

"The astro turf is really fun to play games on like Seaweed and Everybody's In and a whole lot of games," commented Aris Van Miltenburg, 9. "The whole purpose of it was so we don't get muddy shoes."

"I think it's pretty good because on wet days you can still play on it, because the water soaks through," said Izzy Jenkins, 9. "I play on the astro turf every lunch time, and it's also nice to just sit on and talk."

The new turf has a lifespan of between 10 and 15 years, with proper maintenance, meaning hundreds of Winton School kids are set to benefit over the years ahead.

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, 10 April at 12.00 noon

RSVP to Kathleen 236 0250 or Jenny 236 0884

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ŌRETI COMMUNITY BOARD

The Ōreti Community Board will hold a meeting on Monday 14 April at 6pm in the Winton Memorial Hall, Meldrum Street, Winton. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

WINTON GARDEN CLUB

The next meeting is on Tuesday 8th April, at 7.30pm in the Anglican Church Hall. The guest speaker is Robyn Gill who will be demonstrating wreath making. All welcome. Enquiries can be made to Colleen 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 PATCHWORK GROUP

Meet every Tuesday, 9.30am at the Otautau Bowling Club, Rye St. Anyone interested in patchwork or quilting welcome. Bring your lunch. Contact Joyce: 021 0225 1623.

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Essential contact numbers

Winton Community Support worker
Louise 236 9934 or wcsww@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 Louise 236 9934

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
Anna Ellis 021 238 8526
Salvation Army 236 0928

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

The next edition of the Winton Newsletter will be 1st May. Closing deadline for articles and advertising: 20 April. Business advertising available: 45x90mm \$35 or 90x90mm \$50. Queries or information can be emailed to winton.nz@outlook.com

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
Coffee & Chat
Drop-in, Wednesdays 9am-11am.

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.

EASTER SERVICES

WINTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
11 Meldrum Street

Good Friday 18 April 10.00am
Easter Sunday 20 April 10.00am
and Communion

All Welcome



ANZAC Day Dawn Service



Winton RSA cordially invite members of the public to their annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service to be held on the 25th April in the ANZAC Oval at 7am. Members of the public are also invited to the morning tea after the service. The annual Poppy Street Appeal is on Friday 11th April.

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

- 13 & 14 MAY
- 8am - 5.30pm
- Southern REAP, 224 Great North Road



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

Winton Community Monthly Market
10.00am - 1.00pm
Saturday
12 April 2025
(Note: A Week Early Due to Easter)
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Meldrum Street, Winton
Enquiries: Mary 236 8821
Follow us on our Facebook page
WINTON COMMUNITY MONTHLY MARKET

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