



## Long-term consents received for five sewerage schemes

Council is pleased to have received long-term consents for discharging treated sewage at five townships around the district.

The Otago Regional Council has granted 35-year consents for Kaka Point, Lawrence, Owaka, Stirling and Tapanui.

The consents are based on the towns' sewerage schemes upgrading to a new Biofiltro sewage treatment plant such as the one which has been operating at Kaka Point since the beginning of 2010.

The upgrades are required to meet the new consent conditions and ensure the treated sewage being discharged is of an acceptable standard.

Council had been working with the Regional Council for several years on finding affordable solutions for the communities. The awarding of the long-term consents is a great result for the affected communities.

The new treatment system, from Wyndham-based company Biofiltro, uses proprietary technology originating from Chile to treat sewage effluent in a small and low-cost plant.

The treatment is based on digestion of

the sewage by a bioactive sawdust bed supported by a rock drainage layer.

The annual costs of the Biofiltro system are potentially significantly cheaper than the annual costs of the options previously considered for the townships.

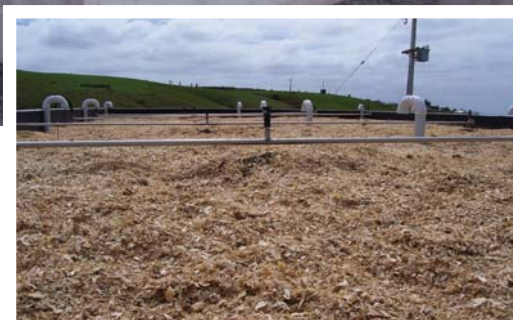
In Kaka Point, for example, the Biofiltro system costs an additional \$160 per ratepayer per year, compared to previous treatment upgrade options ranging from \$280 to \$620 per ratepayer per year. Annual costs for the other four townships range from an additional \$113 a year to \$192 a year once harmonisation\* is also taken into account.

Council is conscious that these are still significant costs, but the 35-year consents provide security for these townships.

*\*Harmonisation is where the maximum household charge for urban water and sewerage charges is capped at 1.25 times the average rate. In practise, this means that most water and sewerage customers pay a small amount extra each year so that consumers in communities with high water and/or sewerage charges pay a lot less.*



*Biofiltro sewage treatment plants with bioactive sawdust beds, such as the Kaka Point plant pictured here, will be installed at four other townships in the district.*



## New Trading in Public Places Bylaw

Council recently confirmed its new Trading in Public Places Bylaw, aimed at addressing the problem of itinerant traders gaining an advantage over established retailers.

The new bylaw means trading in public places (such as footpaths) in main retail areas and beside State Highways will be limited to no more than two calendar days in any consecutive 30 days. Trading outside those areas will not be restricted, providing some scope for longer-term activities, but preventing them from competing with established main street retailers.

The restrictions do not apply to community group fairs, markets etc, given that these are considered beneficial to the local community.

The bylaw was reviewed following concerns raised by a Balclutha main street retailer about itinerant traders. The retailer expressed concerns to Council about itinerant traders competing with established retailers who are paying rates and the other costs of having a permanent business.

After a month-long consultation period, just two submissions were received on the proposed changes, both in support. The full bylaw can be viewed online at [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

## Got a project in mind that will:

- encourage participation in the arts? OR
- support diversity in the arts? OR
- encourage young people to engage in arts?

... then you may be eligible for a grant from the Creative Communities NZ Scheme. Application forms and guidelines available at your nearest Council office or online at [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

**Applications close Mon 28 February**

Photo: Jennifer Markman



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

# Inside Council

- a look at Cemeteries in the Clutha District

In this regular feature of Council News, we profile various activity areas within Council to give you a better understanding of what we do, and how and why various activities are funded.

## *What we do*

Council directly operates and maintains six urban cemeteries - Balclutha (2), Fairfax (Milton), Kaitangata, Lawrence and Tapanui - as well as eight rural cemeteries at Port Molyneux Romahapa, Taieri Beach, Waiholo, Waikoikoi, Waipahi, Waipori and Waitahuna. Council provides financial assistance to a further four cemeteries that are managed by trustees (Clinton, Crookston, Owaka and Tuapeka).

Council also provides financial assistance towards the maintenance of war memorials throughout the district and has in recent years replaced two memorials at Kaihiku and at Katea (pictured to the right). The remains of the old memorials are buried at the site where the new memorials are now standing.

## *How this activity is funded*

Cemeteries are funded via a combination of user charges (65%) and the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) (35%). This funding method recognises the significant private benefit to the families of deceased people where burial services are provided. However, there is also ongoing community benefit in providing for the respectful treatment of deceased people who form part of the community's heritage.

There is also a community expectation that cemeteries will be mowed and kept in a tidy and visually attractive manner. Cemeteries provide quiet open spaces for people to visit, and are also of value in preserving the local history of the district.

This funding method means that everyone who pays a UAGC currently contributes around \$17 towards cemeteries in the district.

It is important to also note that Council has decided to increase plot charges over a three year period, which started in 2009/10, to ensure reserve funds are available for the future provision of cemeteries - e.g. for associated land, roading, water and beams.

## *Memorial and Ashes Beams*

**Memorial Beams** are located at the Balclutha, Kaitangata, Lawrence and Tapanui cemeteries.

They are for people whose loved ones may have been interred elsewhere, or whose ashes may have been scattered, and wish to place a plaque of remembrance at their local cemetery.

A granite plaque may be placed on the beam at the applicant's cost. There is, however, no charge for a space on a memorial beam.

**Ashes Beams** are in place at most cemeteries. They are for people who are cremated and whose ashes are to be buried. Any person may purchase a plot on the Ashes Beam and place a granite plaque on it at their own cost.



## *Remembering Our Heritage*

Council has begun a programme of installing kiosks at cemeteries throughout the district.

The kiosks house a map of the layout of the cemetery to help visitors easily locate the burial plot of their loved ones. The kiosks also house panels with historical information about the cemetery and/or other items of historical significance.

Kiosks have so far been installed at Kaitangata, Tapanui, Balclutha, and Owaka (by the Owaka Lions Club), and will soon also be erected at Lawrence and Milton.

The most recent kiosk to be installed was at the Balclutha Lawn Cemetery. It includes an information panel on Balclutha's founding citizen in 1852, James McNeil, and his son John McNeil who became the first Mayor of Balclutha in 1870.

A group of descendants of the McNeils gathered at the Lawn Cemetery recently to take part in a dedication ceremony for the kiosk. They arrived at the Cemetery to 'The Water is Wide', played on the bagpipes by Douglas McNeil Washington, a great-great grandson of James McNeil. Douglas also presented the Clutha District with a family bible which had belonged to Alexander McNeil (1863-1932), a nephew of Balclutha's first Mayor John McNeil. The bible was only recently discovered at a book stall in Auckland and handed over to the McNeil family.

The bible will be kept at the South Otago Museum, which is working to incorporate more material and information on Balclutha's founding family.

**Photo:** Mayor Bryan Cadogan is pictured with McNeil descendants Douglas Washington, left, and his son Paul Washington at the Balclutha Lawn Cemetery. Mayor Cadogan is holding the Balclutha Borough Mayoral Chain which was first worn by John McNeil.



# Improving safety on rural roads

- what you need to know about  
baleage and planting



## Baleage Ban

In 2010, Council decided to introduce a ban on the storage of produce (e.g. baleage, logs, containers) on the road corridor.

This decision is due mainly to the mud and damage caused to the road by tractors backing in and out to access the produce. These vehicles working on the road can also create a direct safety hazard for other road users.

We live in a rural area and farming activities are an integral part of our district. However, produce stored on the road corridor has become an increasing problem in recent times and road safety has to always be the main priority.

Last winter was used as an introduction period for the new rule.

However, now that new silage has been produced, farmers need to be aware it can no longer be stored in the road corridor. If it is, farmers should be aware that Council may arrange to have it removed and to have work undertaken to fix any damage

to the road with the costs to be recovered from the land owner/operator.

## Planting Ban

Another area of concern in respect to roading is the planting of trees in road reserve.

Council recently updated its policy to prevent the planting of trees, flax or other plants on the rural road reserve. This is due to the increasing costs to ratepayers of Council maintaining vegetation on road reserve where property owners have not taken responsibility for trimming and maintaining the trees. The ban will help to ensure roads are not shaded during winter months and to ensure vegetation does not impede driver visibility.

Please also take these factors into consideration if you intend planting trees on private property, as again action could be taken at the land owner's expense if trees become a hazard to the public.

More information, including brochures, are available at your nearest Service Centre or online at [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

## News from the water services team



**Stage One Restrictions** - Council has imposed standard water restrictions, Stage One - Summer Mode, which means outdoor watering is restricted to

8pm to 8am only. Watering systems and sprinklers may be used during these times but should not be left unattended and the occupier must ensure that water is not being used wastefully. Please use water conservatively, which may reduce the need for further restrictions.

**Fault Reporting** - Please contact Council (not our contractor or your Councillor) to report any problems with Council services. Please call your nearest Council office, or call 0800 801 350 if outside business hours. Our receptionist or after hours service will take the details and pass them on to our contractor for action, and your call will also be logged into our database so the response can be tracked.

**Restricted water supplies (storage)** - At least two days on-site storage of water is required, as Council water supplies are not guaranteed. Operations critically dependent on water should consider

installing greater storage capacities. You are responsible for maintenance of your private tank(s). Tanks should be checked at least annually, and cleaned as required. Tank cleaning can be arranged through Council's contractor or your plumber.

Covering of tanks with secure lids and blocking of open holes will greatly reduce the amount of contamination and frequency of cleaning. To reduce the chance that your tank may run dry unexpectedly, Council strongly recommends fitting a tank indicator, which reveals the water level at a glance. Installation can be arranged through Council's contractor or your plumber.

### Wheelie bin woes

Please remember that wheelie bins put out for collection that weigh more than 30kg, or are overfull **may not be picked up**. Waste must be fully contained within the approved wheelie bin with the lid **fully closed**. Any waste or article that could damage the bin collection truck are also not permitted.



## Free recycling drop-offs

The following items can be recycled at Mt Cooee Landfill, Balclutha, and transfer stations at Lawrence, Milton and Tapanui:



All mixed paper is acceptable in a good clean condition.



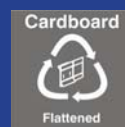
All aluminium, steel and tin cans (rinsed).



All plastics (lids removed & rinsed) numbered 1 or 2 on their base.



All glass bottles and jars (lids removed and rinsed).



All cardboard flattened and no bigger than 1 metre by 1 metre.

## Events Diary

Events sourced from the district events calendar, available at [www.cluthacountry.co.nz](http://www.cluthacountry.co.nz) and were correct at the time of printing. To have your event listed on the website, please contact Community Coordinator Jean Proctor 418 4048 or email [community@eclutha.org.nz](mailto:community@eclutha.org.nz)

### FEBRUARY

**Feb 4-7** - Catlins Woodstock, 20 artists and bands, crafts and stalls, ticketed event with limited gate sales. Contact Kev Thompson, 03 489 2039, email [ktaorangi@yahoo.com](mailto:ktaorangi@yahoo.com).

**Sun 6 Feb** - Kaitangata Wild Horse Group Trek, 9am sharp from Ali Storer's woolshed, Lakeside Road, bring your own lunch, cost \$30 includes barbeque following the trek. For further info contact Harold May (03)4139371.

**Sun 6 Feb** - Superball Stableford Golf Tournament, Tapanui Golf Club, a West Otago Health fundraiser.

**Sun 6 Feb** - Family Picnic Day Taieri Mouth, Livingstonia Park, 11am - 5pm.

**Sun 6 Feb** - Clutha Country Summer Series Lawrence, starts at Lawrence Pool, 1.30pm, entry forms from Sport Clutha, Findlaters Yamaha or from [www.sportotago.co.nz](http://www.sportotago.co.nz).

**Feb 12-13** - Designz in the Gardenz, Heriot area, a West Otago Health Facility Fundraiser.

**Sun 13 Feb** - Clutha Country Summer Series Tapanui, starts at Tapanui Pool, 1.30pm, entry forms as above.

**Fri 18 Feb** - Heriot & Districts Fat Lamb Competition.

**Feb 19-20** - Kaitangata Kitchen and Garden Tour, \$10, contact Joyce Beck (03) 413 9858.

**Feb 19-20** - Heriot Golf Classic.

**Feb 19-20** - South Otago Town & Country Club Fishing & Hunting Competition, contact [sotc@xtra.co.nz](mailto:sotc@xtra.co.nz), phone 03 418 1522.

**Sat 26 Feb** - Papatowai Challenge, A 15.5 km fun run and walk. Contact Wayne Allen, Ph 03 454 4863, email [allens10@clear.net.nz](mailto:allens10@clear.net.nz).

**Sat 26 Feb** - Clearing Sale, Fundraiser for the Health of West Otago, A&P Showgrounds, Tapanui.

**Sat 26 Feb** - Kaitangata Bob Scott Memorial Hill Climb, Whites Road Kaitangata, Contact Jean 027 3294 567.

### MARCH

**5-6 March** - West Otago Vintage Club presents International and McCormick Deering Rally, Tapanui Showgrounds, further information Charlie Davis 03 204 8848, [shirley.d@xtra.co.nz](mailto:shirley.d@xtra.co.nz), or Neil Kirk 03 204 8938.

**Tues 15 March** - Balclutha Toy Library Fundraiser, Speaker: Ian Grant from Parents Inc "How to Raise a Happy Child", Balclutha War Memorial Hall, contact Renee Judson (03) 418 3042.

**March 18-21** - Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations, Lawrence, [www.celebrategold.co.nz](http://www.celebrategold.co.nz).

**Sat 19 March** - Mai Mai tour, West Otago, Fundraiser for the Health of West Otago.

**Sun 20 March** - Johnstone Electrical Bridge to Beach, contact [lisa.lyall@hotmail.com](mailto:lisa.lyall@hotmail.com), phone 0275 427 742.

**Sun 20 March** - Kaitangata Black Gold Bush Bash Motorbike Trail Ride, contact Jean Proctor on 03 413 9769, 0274 139 349 or email [kaipromo@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kaipromo@xtra.co.nz).

**Sun 20 March** - The Catlins Canter, Owaka, contact Warren Burgess, Owaka Lions Club (03) 415 8019.

### APRIL

**April 5-9** - 'New Zealand Ploughing Finals, Clinton, contact Colin McKenzie, Committee Chairman, phone 03 415 7865, email [scott.mckenzie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:scott.mckenzie@xtra.co.nz)

**April 22-25** - Kaitangata Primary School Reunion, 145th Jubilee, Registration form available from [www.kaitangatablackgold.co.nz](http://www.kaitangatablackgold.co.nz), enquiries to: 03 413 9783.

**April 23-24** - Catlins River Festival, Woodstock Lodge, further information go to [www.catlinsriverfestival.co.nz](http://www.catlinsriverfestival.co.nz) or contact Jean Proctor 027 3294 567.

The Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations are now just six weeks away and the organisers are busy finalising what promises to be an exciting and interesting programme of events.

Here we take a look at the life and times of Gabriel Read to set the scene ahead of next month's celebrations.

Thomas Read, better known by his second name Gabriel, was born in Hobart, Tasmania on the 21st August 1825. His childhood was marred by a hunting accident in which he suffered serious head injuries. The injuries left him prone to bouts of violent and bizarre behaviour which would plague him for the rest of his life.

After relatively unsuccessful prospecting adventures in California and then Victoria in Australia, Gabriel arrived in Dunedin from Hobart on a gold prospecting tour in February of 1861.

On the 25th May 1861, Gabriel discovered gold in the Tuapeka Stream - a side stream of the Tuapeka River - which was to change Otago life dramatically.

In his own words "At a place where a kind of road crossed on a shallow bar I shovelled away about two feet of gravel,

arrived at a beautiful soft slate and saw the gold shining like the stars in Orion on a dark frosty night". In Gabriel's honour, the gully was renamed Gabriel's Gully.



*Gabriel Read*

In November of 1861, Gabriel received a reward of five hundred pounds (the equivalent of about \$500,000 today) for his discovery of payable gold. Then, to his surprise, he received a further five hundred pounds, this time in recognition of his discovery.

In 1863, Gabriel returned home to Tasmania where he became a farmer and married his cousin, Amelia Mitchell. During his time back home in Tasmania, his violent behaviour grew worse and became unmanageable in 1887 when he was admitted to the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane near Hobart. He was only 55 years old. He remained at the hospital until his death from a stroke in October 1894 at the age of 62. This was a tragic end of the man who directed the destiny of Otago along new and prosperous paths.

For more information on the celebrations, including a programme of events, go online to [www.celebrategold.co.nz](http://www.celebrategold.co.nz)

## CDC Community Directory



*Photo: Rachel Scott*

The Community Directory contains over 300 listings with contact details for local:

- Sports Clubs
- Community Associations
- Social and Service Clubs
- Arts, Crafts & Culture Groups
- Health and Safety Groups
- And much more!

The information on the directory is only as relevant as the information received. Go online to [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz) to check your group's details and get in touch if you need to make changes.



Clutha District Council  
[www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



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