

Second goldrush for 150 Year Celebrations

A 'second gold rush' came to Lawrence in March, with thousands of visitors descending on the area to celebrate 150 years since the discovery of payable gold.

Gabriel Read's discovery on 25 May 1861 in the gully that now bears his name led to a major gold rush which saw the Lawrence-Tuapeka district's population swell to over 11,000 at the time.

A century and a half later, the Lawrence township has a population of about 400. Organisers estimate over 6,500 people passed through the gates for the Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations held March 18-21. This is a fantastic turnout, thanks to the planning, dedication and enthusiasm of the local community.

But it wasn't just the sheer number of visitors that made the Celebrations a success. The feedback received from visitors has been very positive, as is illustrated by the quotes to the right - there were many more comments along these lines.

One of the many highlights of the Celebrations, was the attendance of three of Gabriel Read's descendants. Pictured below (from right) is Gabriel's grandson Jim Read, Jim's son Andrew Read, and Andrew's son Chris Read. The Reads travelled from Australia to attend the Celebrations and were pleasantly surprised at the scale of the significance that their namesake's discovery had on the Lawrence-Tuapeka area.

More information from the Gabriel's Gully 150th Celebrations, including more photos, how to purchase memorabilia and a full list of acknowledgments, is available online at www.cluthadc.govt.nz.



"From the official opening to seeing the coach & horses rushing through the main street of Lawrence, the classic cars & tractors and the memorabilia tent - it was a marvellous day ... Congratulations and thanks to you all for arranging such a wonderful show"

- Ian Pearce

"Lawrence is a most impressive and beautiful area which has not been destroyed by the mine tailings which so often happens in areas of such enterprises. Thank you for a great weekend."

- Rod and Gwynneth Carter

"Congratulations Lawrence - came down for the celebrations last weekend and what an awesome event you had organised - the whole town did itself proud."

- Rose Quedley

A word from the Mayor

It seems hard to believe I have been in the 'new job for six months now.

It has been such a privilege and I have loved every minute of it.

The Gabriel's Gully Goldrush 150th Celebrations were a real highlight for Allyson and I. Congratulations to all those involved and thank you for projecting our district in such a positive way.

Some of the other highlights for me have been working with so many groups to focus on lowering youth unemployment in the Clutha District (more about this in the coming months) and being welcomed into the many community groups that are just getting on with making their towns a better place to live.

The Draft Annual Plan is now out for consultation (more information on this over the page). I call on everyone to please take the time to carefully consider the issues that confront our district, and have your say. As always, Council endeavours to balance fiscal prudence with our district's needs and I would appreciate your input.

One of the major items which needs to be addressed is the installation of public sewerage systems at both Benhar and Tokoiti. I, along with many of the residents of these towns, could be hopeful that procrastination will continue to win the day. However, it is becoming more apparent that forces beyond our control will bring this issue to a head and it is the responsible approach that we move on this issue in a timely and cost efficient manner rather than being forced into a rushed process. With the day-to-day running costs of sewage treatment being spread across the district through harmonisation (where the maximum sewer rate is limited to 25% above the average rate), the options for both Benhar and Tokoiti will have some effect on us all.

I look forward to receiving your input on this and other issues over the coming weeks.



Bryan Cadogan

Clutha District Council Draft Annual Plan 2011/12

Disclaimer: These disclosures have been extracted from the full Draft Annual Plan 2011/12 and can't be expected to provide a complete understanding as the full draft itself. Refer to the information below as to where the full draft plan is available.

Word from the Mayor, Bryan Cadogan

Hello and thank you for taking the time and interest to become involved in our district's 2011/12 Annual Plan.

This is my first Annual Plan as Mayor and the challenges we face on the local, national and international front have only intensified the need to continue to focus on fiscal prudence, and a desire to constantly be willing to change with the times.

The pragmatist in me accepts that while I would have personally desired further reductions in the overall rate requirement, a Draft Annual Plan figure of a 3.59% increase (down from the Long Term Plan's anticipated 8.69% increase) is under the rate of inflation, and a responsible approach from Council as we strive to push our district forward at an affordable pace.

A word of warning though, as the overall figure of 3.59% does not illustrate to some degree the fluctuations in rate demands as we move around the district. The rates change from 2010/11 to 2011/12 will vary depending on which one of the 11 different rating areas you live in.

Kaitangata township and rural areas can look forward to the prospect of a slight rate reduction, whereas towns that have undertaken significant projects face varying rate increases ranging from 10.26% in Lawrence to 2.95% in Milton.

Many of the projects like sewage treatment

and water upgrades have been forced on us by Central Government, and I applaud the efforts of staff in seeking practical, cost-effective solutions to our district's needs.

Biofiltro Sewage Treatment Plants are a prime example. Kaka Point's anticipated 2011/12 rate increase was 20.6% through traditional methods, but Biofiltro significantly reduced this amount and the draft estimate for this town is now 6.3%, and we received the maximum 35 year discharge consent. This is a brilliant outcome and one we are hoping to replicate in Lawrence, Stirling, Tapanui and Owaka this year.

Various other projects are more at our district's and your community's discretion, some like the Clutha Recreation Centre have been ratified by the previous Council, but payments and the impact on rates commence in the 2011/12 year.

Other issues are still open for debate and I implore you to get involved and have your say in this year's consultation process. This is your chance to make a difference so please take the time to consider the big picture and how each project will affect our rates and the timeframe we need to meet our objectives while not placing too great a demand on our community's ability to pay.



Key Issues in the Draft Plan

One of the major reasons next year's rates requirement is less than forecast in the Long Term Plan is that Council is proposing to put on hold all unsubsidised seal extensions in 2011/12 and review whether to reintroduce these going forward as part of next year's Long Term Plan process. Sealing gravel roads costs over \$200,000 per kilometre and this type of sealing does not attract any funding assistance from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

Council will also continue to feel the effects of receiving less NZTA funding assistance than we had previously asked and budgeted for. For residents and ratepayers, this will mean less expenditure on our roads than that recommended in our asset management plans.

Deferring the funding for two major projects – Balclutha Main Street Upgrade and West Otago Health grant has also helped keep next year's rates requirements down.

Before any upgrade of the Balclutha main street can take place, Council first needs to decide on future traffic flow for the township. After some initial consultation last year, Council identified three options for detailed investigation and further consultation which will take place in 2011/12.

Meanwhile, the West Otago Health project is not yet at the point where Council is ready to provide a \$1 million grant as provided for in the 2010/11 Annual Plan. Council has carried over the grant into the 2011/12 financial year.

In the 2009-19 Long Term Plan, Council included the introduction of kerbside recycling from the start of the 2011/12 year. This has been deferred until 1 April 2012 to give Council time to tender a new contract for Solid Waste Management, including kerbside recycling. The intention is that the kerbside recycling collection will be an additional wheelie bin that would be collected fortnightly. Part of the additional cost would be offset by reducing the waste collection service from a weekly to a fortnightly service. These collections would alternate with residents still putting out one wheelie bin each week. Glass would be excluded given the significant increased cost implications for the kerbside collection of glass. Council could look at providing further drop-off facilities for glass around the district. It is estimated the kerbside recycling service will cost an additional \$28-\$37 + GST per household per year.

Projected rating changes from 2010/11 to 2011/12

Individual rating increases/decreases depend on what is happening with the bundle of services you receive in your area and the land and capital value of your property. A summary of the projected increases or decreases for the 11 different rating areas are outlined in the table below. For more detailed information, please refer to the full draft Annual Plan.

Rating area	Land Value (\$)	Capital Value (\$)	Projected rating change
Balclutha township	44,000	155,000	4.3%
Clinton township	15,000	63,000	3.1%
Kaitangata township	17,000	52,000	0%
Kaka Point township	117,000	225,000	6.3%
Lawrence township	36,000	125,000	10.3%
Milton township	48,000	138,000	3.0%
Owaka township	27,000	102,000	7.9%
Stirling township	33,000	147,000	7.5%
Tapanui township	17,000	110,000	6.7%
Waiholo township	86,000	170,000	-0.2%
Rural example 1*	120,000	205,000	-3.2%
Rural example 2*	\$1.5m	\$1.8m	-0.6%
Rural example 3*	\$4.1m	\$4.8m	-0.5%
Rural example 4*	\$6.6m	\$7.7m	0.0%

*Rural examples include one uniform annual general charge and do not include other charges such as water, wheelie bin charges or community board rates.

What happens now?

Public consultation period	11 April to 9 May
Submissions to the Draft Annual Plan close	Mon 9 May
Council hears verbal submissions to the Draft Annual Plan	Thu 19 May
Council meets to consider submissions and debate changes to the Draft Annual Plan	Thu 26 May
Council adopts the final Annual Plan and strikes the rates	Thu 16 June

How to make a submission

You can make a submission online at www.cluthadc.govt.nz, email help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz, or by obtaining a submission form from your nearest Council office or Service Centre, or submit in writing to Clutha District Council, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240, or fax 03 418 3185. Copies of the full draft Annual Plan 2011/12 are available by going online to www.cluthadc.govt.nz, by calling us on 0800 801 350, or from any Council office, service centre or library. Get in touch with us on 0800 801 350 to find out more.

Staff comings and goings

- Civil Defence Officer retires after 20 years with Council

Council recently said farewell to long-serving Emergency Services Management and Principal Rural Fire Officer Selwyn Vigers.

Selwyn was employed by Council for 20 years. He is a familiar face to communities throughout the district, having made a tremendous contribution to helping them identify the hazards in their area and then helping them to respond and recover when the time came.

We wish Selwyn all the best for a well-deserved retirement.

Before Selwyn's departure, Brendon Smith was appointed to the position of Emergency Management Officer. Brendon, who lives in Balclutha, previously worked for Otago Power Services, is owner and a director of South Otago Security Services and is also a former member of the Balclutha fire service.

Part of his work at Council involves rural fire duties. However, Brendon won't take over Selwyn's Principal Rural Fire Officer role, owing to the discussions being held throughout Otago regarding the creation of an Otago combined rural fire authority as promoted by the NZ Fire Commission.

Shortly after beginning with Council, Brendon travelled to Christchurch to learn more about Civil Defence Emergency Management in the wake of the devastating February 22 earthquake.

District Development Manager Julie Pearse tendered her resignation in February to take up a position with the University of Otago School of Business. Her new appointment is a great opportunity for Julie, but a loss for Council and the District Development Board. During her four years with Council, Julie worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to promote and develop the district and its communities.



Selwyn Vigers



Brendon Smith



Julie Pearse

Council has also welcomed Laura Gourley who was appointed to the position of Waste Minimisation Officer in February. Laura's role involves implementing Council's waste minimisation strategy and facilitating the Enviroschools programme. Laura is from Kaitangata and previously studied eco-tourism. She has strong waste minimisation principles and actively practices it.

Brendon Harper has been appointed to the position of Policy, Planning and Monitoring Assistant for a 12-month period. Brendon is from Stirling and recently completed his Masters in Planning Degree and had some experience working with councils as part of his study.

Kate McLachlan has joined the team at the Clutha i-SITE for weekend and relief work. Kate has previously worked in the library and office at Catlins Area School, operated a farm stay for many years and is closely involved with the Cathedral Caves.

Water works

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.

Public Health Notice - Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup-full of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings. We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

Restricted Water Supplies

Frost and Stock Protection: With freezing weather approaching, consumers on restricted water supplies (all Rural Water Schemes plus Kaka Point, Waiholo, Clinton, Owaka and Heriot) are reminded to ensure that the pipe-work supplying your tank(s) is adequately frost protected. It is also a good time to check that the connection is protected from stock damage and the strainer is clear and there are no leaks. The cost of any repairs required as a result of inadequate frost protection or stock damage will be recovered from the customer concerned.

Water Storage: At least two days on-site storage of water is required. Council water supplies are not guaranteed, and storage is necessary to provide for any supply outages. 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 for debris build-up at least annually, and cleaned as required. Covering of tanks with secure lids and blocking of open holes will greatly reduce the amount of contamination.

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. These are available at a cost of about \$195 +GST for a typical installation, which is good value compared with unexpectedly running out of water.

Calling all Aspiring Leaders

In July this year, 160 young leaders from throughout the country will gather at the annual Aspiring Leaders Forum in Wellington to discuss the faith, values and the principles that underpin leadership.

Enterprise Clutha and the Clutha District Council would like to nominate and provide partial sponsorship for two young people from the Clutha District to attend.

We are looking for young people between 18 and 30 who:

- Have an exceptionally high calibre of leadership.
- Would benefit from attending the forum and learn from the interaction with our nation's leaders.
- Would be open to discuss how faith and values inform their understanding and practice of leadership.

For further information and a nomination application form please contact Enterprise Clutha, P O Box 36, Balclutha 9240 or phone 03 418 4048.

Applications close on Wednesday 18 May 2011.

Events Diary

Events sourced from the district events calendar, available at 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

MAY

Thu 5 - Clutha Careers Expo 2011

Thu 5 - Standing Committee meetings, 12.30pm, Council Chambers.

Mon 9 - Youth Council, 5pm, Council Chambers.

May 8 - 14, Indoor Bowls New Zealand vs Australia, Balclutha Memorial Hall, contact Shona Preddy 03 412 8849, markpreddy@ihug.co.nz

Thu 12 - Not-for-profit Training Workshop, 6pm - 9pm, Rosebank Lodge, Balclutha, \$30, contact Linda Moore 03 418 4048.

Sat 14 - Century Farm Dinner and Presentation, Beaumont.

Sun 15 - Milton Jailbreak Mountain Biking, 50km race or 34km recreational ride, from corner Narrowdale/Back roads, registration 9am - 9.30am, contact Stephen Kornyei 03 418 1096 or 027 418 3285, stephen@haymake.co.nz, or Faola de Montgomery 03 417 4672, benjamin.faola@kinect.co.nz, website www.miltonjailbreak.co.nz.

Thu 19 - Council Meeting, 1.30pm, Council Chambers.

Wed 25 - Lawrence's Official 150th Anniversary, details to be advised.

May 21 - 28 - Positively Clutha Women's Week for Women 2011, more details to follow.

JUNE

Wed 1 - West Otago Community Board, 10.30am, West Otago Community Centre.

Wed 1 - Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board, 3pm, Lawrence Service Centre.

Thu 16 - Standing Committee meetings, 12.30pm, Council Chambers.

Mon 20 - Youth Council, 5pm, Council Chambers.

Thu 30 - Council Meeting, 1.30pm, Council Chambers.

JULY

Wed 13 - West Otago Community Board, 10.30am, West Otago Community Centre.

Wed 13 - Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board, 3pm, Lawrence Service Centre.

Sat 16 - Waitahuna Gully 150th Gold Strike Celebrations (*now in October*).

July 16 - 30 - Clutha District Youth Council 'Our Voice - Week of Activities' for young people aged 12-24, more information to follow.

Thu 28 - Standing Committee meetings, 12.30pm, Council Chambers.

Clutha Careers Expo 2011

When: Thursday 5 May 2011

Time: From 10am - 3pm

Where: Balclutha Memorial Hall

enterprise clutha

Building Opportunities

Come along and speak to people who can provide information and guidance to ensure you make the right career decisions and choices!

For more information, please contact Carolyn Greer at Enterprise Clutha, phone (03) 418 4048 or email team@eclutha.org.nz.



Supporting Canterbury: Council staff recently held a 'Red and Black' day, raising a total of \$517 for the Christchurch earthquake appeal. As a Council, we also offered a number of personnel experienced in Civil Defence and building inspections, engineering etc. to travel to Christchurch and help out with the response. Our staff have also been coordinating accommodation for people who have evacuated from Canterbury. Council also held a reception last month to thank those personnel from emergency services, Search and Rescue, Victim Support and other supporting agencies who assisted with the response in Christchurch. To find out more about preparing yourself and family for the possibility of a major disaster, please go online to 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

Applications close Tuesday 31 May

Photo: Jennifer Markman

 creative nz

ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

TrustPower Awards

Nominations are now being called for the annual TrustPower Clutha District Community Awards.

The awards are divided into two main categories. The first category is for voluntary groups or organisations, while the second main category recognises and celebrates the contribution individuals make to the Clutha community.

Nominations can be made by contacting Council on 0800 801 350 during business hours or by going to the TrustPower website - www.trustpower.co.nz

Nominations close on Friday 24 June and the awards will be presented on Monday 25 July.