



LAWRENCE-TUAPEKA NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL - July 2009

Clutha District Council

1 Rosebank Terrace
PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240
Phone: 03 419 0200
www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Lawrence Service Centre and Library contact & hours

5 Peel Street, Lawrence
Phone: 03 485 9909
Fax: 03 485 9013
Hours: Mon - Fri 8.30am - 12.30pm
& 1.30pm - 5pm

Upcoming Lawrence-Tuapeka Community Board meetings

Wed 12 August 2009, 3pm,
Lawrence Service Centre

Wed 23 September 2009, 3pm,
Lawrence Service Centre

Wed 4 November 2009, 3pm,
Lawrence Service Centre

This newsletter is released via the Tuapeka Times following every second Community Board meeting - approximately every two months. Colour copies are also available on the Council website - www.cluthadc.govt.nz, at the Lawrence Service Centre, or if you wish to receive this newsletter direct by email, please contact the Council directly. Our phone number is 0800 801 350.



Service Centre/Library Upgrade: You may have noticed the Lawrence Service Centre and Library is receiving an upgrade. The work, being undertaken by R & D Barkman Builders of Waitahuna, includes new entry doors, the 'opening up' of library and office space, and new paint and carpet. The Council Chambers section of the renovation has now been completed and library and other services will operate from this area temporarily while the rest of the work is carried out. The work is expected to be complete by the end of July and Council thanks customers for their cooperation during the building process.

Lawrence '150 Years' Project Manager appointed

Wanaka-based Katy McPherson has been contracted as Project Manager for the Lawrence 150 Year Celebrations.

Katy is an experienced event manager with over 24 years worth of experience in project management, marketing, relationship and personnel management, sponsorship and finance management.

As Project Manager, she will be responsible for the development

and framework for the successful implementation of the celebrations in Lawrence on Otago Anniversary weekend of 2011 to mark 150 years since payable gold was discovered in the area.

Katy also has a complementary current role in organising the 2010 Cavalcade finale celebrations.

One year's funding for the Project Manager role has been secured from NZ Lottery Grants Board.

Creative & TrustPower Awards nominations called for

Applications for financial assistance under the Creative Communities Scheme are now being called for. Funding is available for distribution to arts and cultural activities within the Clutha District Council area. The scheme is designed to increase access and participation in the arts through the support of local arts activities. Groups or individuals with a specific arts and cultural project in mind should contact us to check the funding criteria. Applications close 31 August.

Nominations are also being called for the annual TrustPower Clutha District Community Awards. The awards are divided into two main categories - one for voluntary groups or organisations and the second main category recognises and celebrates the contribution individuals make to the community. Nominations can be made by contacting Council or on the TrustPower website www.trustpower.co.nz. Nominations close Friday 14 August 2009.





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Are you eligible for a rates rebate?

The Rates Rebates Scheme was established in 1973 to provide subsidy to low income homeowners on the cost of their rates. The scheme helps those who own their own homes, but have limited income, such as pensioners.

The rates rebate income threshold for the 2009/10 year has been increased from \$21,180 to \$21,910, with the maximum annual rebate increasing from \$530 to \$550.

However, even if your income exceeds this threshold, you may still be eligible for a rebate depending on the amount of rates you pay.

Please get in touch with the Lawrence Service Centre once you receive your first rates bill for 2009/10 in early August to check your eligibility for a rates rebate.

Service Requests

Please initially contact Council staff (rather than your local Community Board member, Councillor, or our contractor) to report any problems with Council services. Please contact the Lawrence Service Centre or call 0800 801 350 if outside of normal office hours.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.CLUTHADC.GOVT.NZ OR CALL 0800 801 350

Summary of what the Lawrence-Tuapeka community had to say on Council's Long Term Plan 2009-19

Council would like to thank everyone who sent in their responses to the Draft Long Term Council Community Plan questionnaire which was included with the Tuapeka Times in May. The purpose of this questionnaire was to make it easier for Lawrence/Tuapeka residents and ratepayers to comment on key issues raised in the draft plan and to give background information for Councillors to supplement/sit alongside formal submissions when considering changes to the draft plan. A total of 49 responses were received from the Lawrence Tuapeka ward and a summary of these responses, as well as Council's decisions, are presented here.

In addition to the Lawrence Tuapeka questionnaire, Council also received over 1,000 other responses from residents and ratepayers via a telephone survey and a district-wide questionnaire distributed and mail-outs to out-of-district ratepayers.

Lawrence pool

What you said: When asked, 86% of the Lawrence Tuapeka respondents believed that retaining a pool in Lawrence is important or very important. The idea of a community/volunteer run pool was supported by 79%, and 91% agreed that it is time to investigate building a new pool in Lawrence.

Council's decision: During consultation the Lawrence community decided to work towards building a new community-operated pool at an estimated cost of \$1.57 million. Council has agreed to fund 55% of the cost through both the Lawrence community services rate (\$497,733) and Lawrence's Community Board rate (\$414,778). The remainder will need to come from grants and fundraising.

Improving water quality

What you said: The upgrades planned for Lawrence's urban water supply were supported by 83% of respondents and 64% indicated that they supported upgrades in rural schemes.

Council's decision: Council will be pushing ahead with the \$835,000 upgrade of Lawrence's water supply. Ninety percent of this cost will be paid for by central government's Drinking Water Assistance Programme.

Recycling

What you said: The idea of recycling drop off centres was supported by 92% of respondents and 81% indicated that they would use one if there was one available in Lawrence. Half of the respondents were prepared to pay an extra \$18 a year for kerbside recycling and only 5% were prepared to pay an extra \$174 a year for a third wheelie bin to pick up green waste.

Council's decision: Council has decided to introduce a recycling drop off centre at

Mt Coote and possibly in other parts of the district depending on costs, and also to introduce a second wheelie bin for recyclables in 2011/12. Council decided against introducing a third wheelie bin for green waste at this stage due to costs.

Seal Extensions

What you said: Council proposed in the plan that seal extensions go on hold for two years to help reduce the overall rates by 2%. When asked, 62% of respondents indicated that they agreed with this proposal and 70% believed that Council should resume the seal extensions after the two year pause.

Council's decision: Seal extensions have been put on hold for two years.

Sewage treatment upgrades

What you said: 41% of respondents indicated they would be prepared to pay up to \$100 to improve sewage treatment in Lawrence. 38% of respondents were not prepared to pay anything and 15% were prepared to pay up to \$250.

Council's decision: A significant upgrade is needed to meet new resource consent conditions and options for improving sewage treatment are being investigated. \$665,000 has been budgeted for this work for 2009-2011.

Harmonisation (Helping our smaller communities with water and sewerage costs)

What you said: The majority of respondents (82%) indicated that they would be prepared to pay an extra \$11-16 a year, so that smaller towns pay up to \$260 less for water and sewerage services.

Council's decision: Council has decided to introduce 'harmonisation', with the maximum household charge for urban water and sewerage services to be set at 1.25 times the average.