



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

## **Tapanui Service Centre, Information Centre & Library**

Suffolk Street, Tapanui  
Phone: 03 204 8306  
Fax: 03 204 8302

Hours: Mon - Fri: 8.30am - 5pm (The library is open until 6pm on Fridays)

## **Roadside tree planting**

**Trees overhanging and/or shading footpaths and roads is a dangerous, yet alarmingly common issue in our district.**

Not only do trees with low and/or overhanging branches present a direct physical threat to pedestrians and motorists, but trees which shade the road surface for extended periods in winter can create an icy surface and/or reduce the structural strength of the road making driving treacherous.

It is most practical to address this issue at the time of planting, rather than having to remove offending trees at a later date.

Under our Roadside Planting Policy, no tree or hedge may be planted to allow it to overhang the legal roadside boundary, without Council's written consent. The height of any tree is also limited to ensure the road surface is not shaded between 10am and 2pm on the shortest day of the year, and no tree, hedge, or fence is permitted if it will obstruct the view of traffic at intersections or road corners.

A further provision under our District Plan means that production forestry, amenity planting, or shelter belt planting more than two rows deep cannot be planted within 10m of the legal road reserve on the eastern or northern side of any road which has a speed limit of more than 70km/h.

Single trees and shelter belts have been excluded from this provision to provide flexibility. However, under the Local Government Act 1974, Council still has the ability to have any problem tree(s) removed.

More information is available from the Tapanui Service Centre or on the Council website [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



## **Meet the new crew at the Tapanui Service Centre & Library**

There has been a changing of the guard at the Tapanui Service Centre and Library lately, with the retirement of Service Centre officer Janet Davidson, and the resignation of another long-serving staff member, library officer Angela Diamond.

They have been replaced respectively by Pam Scarlet and Gwenda Crawford - sisters who have both resided within the Tapanui and West Otago area for most of their lives and will already be familiar faces to many people in the community.



Pam, pictured on the right above, is a Tapanui local who previously worked as a case manager for Work and Income in Gore.

She is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Tapanui Service Centre, which also incorporates information services. Her day can include maintaining cemetery records, rates queries, dog registrations, roading and water service requests and Community Centre bookings.

Gwenda and her husband owned and operated the local supermarket for the past seven years and recently sold the business. Prior to that, they were farming near Tapanui.

Gwenda's role with Council means that she is responsible for the running and promotion of the Tapanui Library. The library has a wide range of books for use and caters well for all age groups. Internet is also available to use, while DVD's, tapes, puzzles and talking books are also available for hire.

Gwenda says the library will be running a reading programme for Year 9-13's, and a 'Journey Around the World' quiz for five to 12-year-olds these school holidays.

Pam replaced Janet Davidson, who was with Council and its predecessors for over 22 years, having begun as an administration officer with the Tapanui Borough Council in 1986. The West Otago Community Board held a special farewell for Janet at its previous meeting in May (pictured below with Mayor Juno Hayes).

Gwenda replaced Angela Diamond who worked for Council for over



seven years, including relief work before her permanent appointment as library officer last year. Angela has taken up the new position as office manager at the Tapanui Vets.

Council and the Community Board sincerely thank Janet and Angela for all their work over the years and wishes them well for the future.

## **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 Fri 29 May.

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 on 03 419 0200 or by visiting the TrustPower website [www.trustpower.co.nz](http://www.trustpower.co.nz) Nominations close Friday 14 August.



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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. Please get in touch with the Tapanui Service Centre 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 Tapanui Service Centre or call 0800 801 350 if outside of normal office hours.

*This newsletter is released via the Blue Mountain Express following every second Community Board meeting - approximately every two months. Colour copies are also available on the Council website - [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz), at the Tapanui Service Centre, or if you wish to receive this newsletter direct by email, please contact the Council directly. Our phone number is 03 419 0200.*



# WEST OTAGO NEWS

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [WWW.CLUTHADC.GOV.T.NZ](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz) OR CALL 0800 801 350

## Summary of what the West Otago 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 Blue Mountain Express in May. The purpose of this questionnaire was to make it easier for West Otago 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 56 responses were received from the West Otago ward and a summary of these responses, as well as Council's decisions, are presented here.

In addition to the West Otago 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.

### Proposed West Otago Health Facility Development

**What you said:** When asked, 83% of West Otago respondents believed that the proposed health facility redevelopment is important or very important. The idea that West Otago ratepayers should be involved in helping fund the facility was supported by 67%, and 75% of respondents agreed that \$100 per property a year was a reasonable amount to pay in rates towards the proposed health facility.

**Council's decision:** Council has agreed that on release of full details of the proposed facility, it will undertake full consultation with the West Otago community on any contributions from Council and how these will be funded.

### Improving water quality

**What you said:** The upgrades planned for Tapanui's urban water supply were supported by 81% of respondents and 53% indicated that they supported quality upgrades in rural schemes.

**Council's decision:** Council will be pushing ahead with the \$750,000 upgrade of Tapanui's water supply. Eighty 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 78% of respondents and 76% indicated that they would use one if there was one available in Tapanui.

Just over half of the respondents (53%) were prepared to pay an extra \$18 a year for kerbside recycling and only 11% 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 Coee 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, 63% of West Otago respondents indicated that they agreed with this proposal and 82% 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 Tapanui. 43% of respondents were not prepared to pay anything and 9% were prepared to pay up to \$250.

**Council's decision:** Council has applied for a new sewage discharge consent for Tapanui. A significant upgrade will be needed to meet new resource consent conditions and options for improving sewage treatment are being investigated. Nearly \$370,000 has been budgeted for this work for 2010-2012.

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

**What you said:** Of all respondents, 69% 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.