



WEST OTAGO NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL - OCTOBER 2009

Clutha District Council

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

Roading cuts frustrate

Road users in the Clutha District face a massive \$7.8 million reduction in planned spending on their roads in the next three years – an overall reduction of approximately 14% - as a result of the National Land Transport Programme released recently by the New Zealand Land Transport Agency.

Mayor Juno Hayes says the government's focus appeared to now be on state highways at the expense of local roads in rural areas such as Clutha. Unlike state highways, local roads are partly funded by rates.

Mayor Hayes says the reduction in planned funding will result in less work being able to be carried out than was planned.

Council's District Assets Committee Chairman and Community Board member Peter McPherson said the funding reduction was a huge blow for areas such as Clutha, which had the potential to lead New Zealand's economic recovery through the export of primary produce and needed investment in roads for this purpose.

"About three-quarters of Clutha's 2,916km roading network is made up of gravel roads which can deteriorate very quickly. The best highways in the world will be of no use if trucks cannot get to them," Mr McPherson said.

"It appears that the powerhouse of the New Zealand economy - the southern rural sector – is being left in the cold as funding in other areas has been given a higher priority."

Recognition for St John volunteer

Beverley Peat, of Tapanui, was one of four individuals from throughout the district recognised at the recent TrustPower Clutha District Community Awards.

She was awarded a Civic Award at the awards night held in Balclutha on Monday 21 September for her 29 years of loyal and voluntary service to West Otago St John.

Beverley covered five 12-hour shifts a week as a First Aid 'Driver' Ambulance Officer from 1979 until her resignation earlier this year. She was always very willing to cover extra duties if required.

Beverley has done her fair share of first aid duties at local events over the years; she

also attended area committee meetings over a 15-year period and was a willing collector of local memberships.

For a number of years, Beverley has also been a willing driver for people who require transport for medical appointments outside the area. She would either drive the patients' cars, or her own, and in more recent years would hire a local vehicle to transport one or more patients to their appointments. Congratulations to Beverley on her award.

Youth Award: Meanwhile, Farryn Crawford of Blue Mountain College was awarded the inaugural TrustPower Youth Community Spirit Award for service to her school and community.

Farryn is a talented student, sportsperson and dancer. She excels in many areas, yet is always willing to help others, or to lend her expertise. She has an incredible list of achievements but is still described by others as being loyal and supportive. She is pictured here receiving the award from West Otago Councillor and Community Board member Jeff McKenzie and Melanie Gray from TrustPower.



West Otago Community Board briefs

Tapanui Water: Over the past couple of months, Tapanui's water quality has improved with no further complaints received. Consultants and contractors are expected to be appointed shortly to implement the \$750,000 water upgrades for the township, of which 80% is being subsidised by the government.

Rural Water: Problems with a major valve installation on the Glenkenich Scheme led to outages in late August. The offending

valve has been upgraded and the scheme performance has improved accordingly.

It is also pleasing to note that Fulton Hogan has appointed a new local operator which will enable a good standard of response to all water services issues in West Otago.

Kelso Monument: The unveiling of the Kelso Monument to mark 30 years since the flood will be held in January 2010. The actual date will be announced closer to the time.

Wheelie Bin woes

We would like to remind residents that bulky items that cannot be enclosed within a wheelie bin and any article or material which can damage the collection truck (e.g. steel bars, concrete, timber etc.) are not permitted to be placed in wheelie bins.

Wheelie bins put out for collection must weigh less than 30kg, and **waste must be fully contained** within the approved wheelie bin with the lid **fully closed**.

There have been several bins around the district recently which **have not been picked up** because they have been **too full!** Property owners are also liable for the replacement cost of a wheelie bin damaged by hot ash or any other non-permitted waste.

