



**Clutha District Council**  
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**Tapanui Service Centre,  
Information Centre & Library**  
Suffolk Street, Tapanui  
Phone: 03 204 8306  
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Hours: Mon - Fri: 8.30am - 5pm (The library is open until 6pm on Fridays)

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 your nearest Council office or call 0800 801 350 if outside of normal office hours.

**Next West Otago  
Community Board meeting**  
Wed 3 March 2010, 9.30am

### Rates Rebates

The Rates Rebates Scheme provides 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.

***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 our website - 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 0800 801 350.***

# WEST OTAGO NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CLUTHA DISTRICT COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 2010

## Tapanui water upgrade top priority

The upgrade of the Tapanui water supply has been given top priority following the dirty water incident which affected the township late last year.

The dirty water was caused by a very low reservoir which allowed sediment to be stirred up and drawn into the reticulation. The incident could have been avoided had a critical low reservoir alarm been passed on by a monitoring service to Council's maintenance contractor, Fulton Hogan.

The issue of Tapanui's water quality has been high on Council's priority list for several years now. We have been devoting substantial effort on this matter and are very disappointed at this recent event.

One of the most frustrating aspects of this recent incident is that the Tapanui water treatment plant has been operating well and was producing good quality water throughout the incident; it was the fact that the sediment was sucked into the reticulation that caused the dirtiness.

We are confident, however, that with major upgrades to the supply over the next two years and with improved operational procedures in place, the probability of

serious problems in future will be greatly reduced.

Tapanui's water supply will receive \$700,000 of improvements, with 80% of this cost being met by the Government. The upgrades will include improvements to water quality, as well as additional treated water storage to provide for periods of high demand and to allow the treatment plant to be shut off for longer periods in case of problems.

The Tapanui upgrade has been elevated to top priority ahead of the three other major government-subsidised upgrades to take place around the district.

The Tapanui upgrade is programmed to start in March with an expected completion in June. The only exception to this is the new reservoir which is programmed for installation in late 2010.

Options for reducing the sludge build-up in the existing reservoir are also being looked at and will be reported back to the West Otago Community Board and to the community once the costs and benefits have been evaluated.

## Bursary for Tapanui student

Hannah Sim, of Tapanui, was one of three recipients of this year's Tuapeka Bursary, designed to assist students with their tertiary study.

Hannah (19) has just completed her first year at the University of Otago where she is studying towards a degree in Applied Science majoring in environmental management. In future, Hannah would also like to undertake papers at Otago Polytechnic in water reticulation. She hopes these qualifications will allow her to work to help the sustainability of natural resources for future generations.

The bursary fund was established by the

former Tuapeka County Council prior to local government amalgamation in 1989, and this is the 18th year it has been available.

The bursary is available to students who reside in the former Tuapeka County area, including the townships of Lawrence, Tapanui and Roxburgh.

There were a total of 13 applications received this year, all of a high calibre.

The other two recipients this year were Andrew Dickie (19), from Tuapeka West, and Curtis Pannett (19), of Roxburgh.

They each receive \$800.

## Stage One water restrictions remain

Council wishes to remind all residents that Stage One water restrictions are still in place for the entire Clutha District.

The 'Stage One - Summer Mode' restriction means watering is restricted to between the hours of 8pm to 8am only. This means that watering systems and sprinklers may be used during these times, but should not be left unattended and must not be used wastefully. Exemptions may be granted by Council on a case-by-case basis to commercial properties and for irrigation depending on the level of restrictions in

place, the extent of the dry period, and the time of the year. Please contact our Water Services department for more information.

These minor restrictions are designed to help ensure there is sufficient water throughout the summer period and that more severe restrictions are hopefully avoided. While many of the district's water schemes have plentiful sources, restrictions are required during times of high demand because the treatment plants and pipe capacity of schemes restrict the amount of water that can be delivered to consumers.

