

## APPENDIX 5.14: NOTES FROM CONSULTATION MEETINGS

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## **1 Introduction**

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A series of consultation workshops (approximately 25) and site visits to facilities (approximately 15) were carried out in the Clutha District between 16 and 20 October 2006.

Larissa Brown of Clutha District Council organised these workshops, with Dave Allan of Global Leisure running the workshops. Kelvin attended as the Sports Coordinator for the Clutha District.

The purpose of these workshops was two fold, to do a stock take of the facilities in the District and to understand the issues (wants and needs) of the District in regards to physical activity.

The report takes the form of bullet point information on key comments from participants and then a brief comment on the key issues discussed at each meeting.

## **2 Blue Mountain College Meeting**

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Meeting with Principal and HOD PE.

80 Children – Years 7-8, 170 Children – Years 9-13

- Sports Coordinator (15 hours per week)
- High participation, with lots of different sports
- Have the biggest team at Otago/Southland athletics
- Small group not participating in sport (approximately 40 students) most do other outdoor activities like shooting
- Athletics and Friday sport compulsory
- PE compulsory until Year 10
- Good indoor facilities, full size gym (40% of cost funded by community) and a hall (2/3 size of gym)
- Community has full size gym in Tapanui Community Centre
- Children get a wide range of sports
- Kapahaka group started with instructor from Moeraki
- Shooting and hunting popular with students and their families
- Volunteer parents good, most teams coached and managed by parents
- 3 age grade U14,U16,U18 plus 2 weight grade (year 7 & 8) rugby teams
- 10-12 netball teams, competition played in Gore
- Tennis competition played in Gore
- Soccer club use school fields
- Golf offer to help with fees
- Large golf and rugby club fields handy, rugby fields maintained by school
- Other sports include touch, squash, ice hockey, triathlon, equestrian, fishing, softball, dance, swimming, tennis, karate, Kapahaka
- Swimming pool (25m x 6 lane covered but unheated pool) operated by primary school with December to March season

Some key points came out of our discussion.

- Historical link to Otago and Clutha but on periphery. The school felt it fell between funding areas for community trusts and didn't get a fair deal. Received \$1,000 in

grants split between Matura Licensing Trust, CDC and Cricket Association for new artificial wicket surface

- Otago Community Trust funds per school, Southland Community Trust funds by location of home residence – Heriot misses out.
- Travel was a major factor for families as some sports were played in Southland and other competitions were played in Otago as far afield as Queenstown
- The dairy farm influence was having a negative effect on sport with shift work and reduction in primary school roll by 50% (180 to 90 roll) since dairy conversion, highly transient contract milkers on 1-3 year contracts
- Midweek indoor tennis and Friday night netball at Tapanui Community Centre is huge in West Otago

Positive points about the area

- Dan Tatham Otago Secondary Schools Sports Coordinator has been very supportive
- Wide open spaces
- Good people – volunteers

Negative Points

- Travel
- Split province
- Funding
- Impact of dairy on sport and recreation and school rolls

Five Year Property Plan

- Maintain what we have
- No major sport or recreation projects planned

Wish List

- Improve signage for fishing
- New motor cross track

### **3 West Otago Community Meeting**

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Sport and recreation activities in West Otago

- Netball (indoor on Friday nights in TCC operated by WONC – West Otago Netball Club)
- Schoolboy rugby still strong
- Soccer growing in popularity
- Gliding has local private landing ground
- Indoor tennis midweek in TCC
- Golf
- Tramping in Blue Mountains
- Shooting
- Walking
- Athletics
- Squash - courts at Heriot, Tapanui (2) and Waikaka
- Pony Club
- Basketball (social league starting)
- Heriot touch on Friday nights, main module in Gore)
- Equestrian centre in area

- Karate very strong with own dojo in former scout hall

#### Positive points

- Tapanui Community Centre and school facilities are major assets for sport and recreation
- Hunting is very important, biggest day on local calendar is first day of duck shooting
- Easy access to playing fields
- Multi purpose community centre of high quality
- Walking tracks – Whiskey Gully and Black Gully
- Social, mid – week sport
- AMP Show
- Sporting groups combining

#### Negative Points about the area

- Tapanui and Heriot don't always see eye to eye.
- Senior rugby team died
- Dairy farming influence
- Travel
- Clutha District Council rates and resources
- Clutha District Council Support
- Race day stopped
- Lack of volunteers
- Lack of funding
- No team sport for school leavers

#### Key points:

- There was a lot of comment about the change in farming practice. Now with dairy farming in the District, many families are of pre-school age. Contract milkers move on before children attend primary school, which affects junior sports teams. Dairy farmers often can't play competitive sport on Saturdays. Contract and share milkers aren't as community minded.
- With sports competitions divided between Southland and Otago parents end up travelling large distances and don't get to their own afternoon sport.
- Common view that West Otago on periphery of district and gets little support from Council.
- The most passionate comments were to do with the loss of the local rugby team and the loss of the local race day.
- The local Tapanui senior rugby team died. Heriot still has a senior team at the moment. Unlikely to combine too much history between Tapanui and Heriot. However, need to consolidate under West Otago name because reduced population cannot sustain separate Tapanui and Heriot in team sports.
- The local netball competition has centralised to Gore but vibrant social netball played indoors at Tapanui Community Centre. The issues such as travel and dairy farming have lead to a huge rise in mid week evening and Friday night tennis and netball.
- Walking is a popular activity; there are several planned walking groups.
- A poled track route across the Blue Mountains has been proposed for some time. Still seen as having great potential but is low priority for DoC.
- There were comments about travel costs, lack of coaches and team sports for school leavers.

#### Wish list

- Great community day out
- Develop tracks Whisky Gully to Black Gully and rail trail Waipahi to Edievale

- Biathlon around mountain
- A senior rugby team in Tapanui and one in Heriot
- Mini-van and trailer for gear bags needed

#### **4 Clinton Community Meeting**

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Good turn out of clubs.

Positive Points of the area

- Good range of sports offered by clubs in Clinton
- Squash is very popular and strong to the perceived detriment of some other clubs
- The rugby club has good lights and night rugby is popular
- Local ladies fitness group was (now finished because community education funding change in minimum number per group and Clinton is just below threshold)

Negative Points of the area

- Too many opportunities, not enough people to make them happen
- Travel costs
- Lack of funding
- Rising compliance costs
- Lack of volunteers
- Population loss
- Boarding school – losing children from local sport teams
- Dairy farming impact of reduced flexibility to volunteer
- Changing attitudes towards volunteering
- Cheap housing bringing new people into the community with less commitment to local community and often have high needs for support

In the past Clinton had a larger population and enjoyed more prosperity

- Each club flourished and built their own clubrooms
- Now clubs are struggling and many facilities need an upgrade
- There is a strong will to carry on as in the past with the current clubs
- The ladies fitness group folded when funding was withdrawn, also the date clashed with Tuesday golf

Wish list

- Walking and Mountain Bike Tracks
- All weather pony club facility and floodlit arena
- Population Increase
- Help with club administration
- Child care facilities and indoor venue

#### **5 Rosebank School Meeting**

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Chris Morris – Principal, a Representative from Healthy Foods in Schools, a Representative from Heart Foundation, Active Schools – Sport Otago

The Principal has a vision of what he would like in terms of physical activity in his school. The vision is A.R.P.E.P. (Active Rosebank Physical Education Project). He believes there is not enough physical activity taught in schools. Ryan Martin (teacher) tested eleven principle

motor skills. He found that approximately 30% of children were not competent with these skills; this is similar to National Trends. To drive A.R.P.E.P the teacher will be financially rewarded, as well as being provided with warm jackets. Physical activity will be structured and integrated into the curriculum with goals being set and measured. The Principal would like to see more competitive sports played between schools. The Principal believes there is a need for more funding for artificial surface and sports in general.

## **6 *Riding For the Disabled Interview***

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Sheila Moore President of local RDA.

Mental stimulation is essential for clients. Operates programmes with a professional instructor during school day and only during school terms. The RDA also offer one on one instruction to the general public with gift vouchers for instruction proving popular.

The RDA own the land and facilities which include a partly covered all weather arena. IDEAS (IHC) has recently constructed house on the site as well.

The major issue is their hand to mouth existence with a continual process of funding applications because only short term grants are available. Plans to improve funding reliability is to develop other income streams such as an upgrade of kitchen and construction of a meeting room – function facility for hire.

## **7 *Focus Group: Shand Thompson Staff***

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This group was all female, aged between 20 -45 and articulate.

- Walking and cycling were high priorities on their agenda for physical activity. They wanted walking and cycling tracks developed with better signage. This group recognised the natural environment as a real plus for the district. The Clutha River and surrounding area were identified as having great potential. The Council was seen as the key player in driving development especially areas such as mountain biking in council owned forests and reserves.
- Equestrian facilities came in for criticism as too fragmented and little sharing of resources. It was pointed out that there were many stakeholders, i.e. AMP show grounds, River Side Reserve, Riding for the Disabled, Telford and two Balclutha pony clubs. The Riverside Reserve was identified as an ideal place for an all weather equestrian facility.
- The quality and accessibility of the pool/gym complex was an important issue. New commercial gym offers another level of service which was seen as an advantage for users to have a choice.
- Falling numbers were attributed to poor equipment, hours and maintenance.
- The pool showers and changing facilities were cold and not user friendly especially for people with a disability, the elderly and small children.
- This group came up with several suggestions including:
  - A ten year plan to centralise and combine clubs.
  - Develop a river side reserve,
  - Develop a multi purpose indoor facility with easy access and lower charges for those on benefits, etc.

## **8 Health and Social Services Meeting**

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Comments made by different health and social workers as bullet points.

- Nothing for youth to do (cool)
- Need for activities for elderly
- BMX track at Kaitangata to be built
- People with mental health issues are looking for non-competitive sport, team games, easier/cheaper access to swimming pool and gym
- Exercise classes too expensive
- A need for a crèche to make exercise for mothers possible
- Sport seen for elite athletes
- Advertising too expensive (Clutha Leader)
- Discussion on charges being universal vs targets , i.e. gyms
- Sporting Chance Fund concept very good for the less advantaged
- Discussion on centralising programmes or having outreach programmes
- Mainly music has outreach programmes
- Tumble Tots – Centralise gym gear
- Transport costs considered a barrier
- Minibus pickup suggested
- Exercise classes to dance, suggestion that if the hire of the venue was free the instructors could earn all income
- Information not getting to the public so many media outlets, suggest TXT message pyramid and notice board
- Babysitting cost seen as a barrier
- Youth need a point to meet which is safe and has adequate facilities i.e. toilets
- Health and Fitness Expo suggested
- Community Wellness programme needs better local coordination
- Adult education fitness programmes were good but when funding ran out participant numbers lowered so costs rose.
- Super Masters Games was a great success
- Youth keen to interact with older members of the community i.e. bowls, pool etc

## **9 Focus Group: Fonterra Staff (Cheese Factory)**

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- The youth of the town, especially the boys required more activities
- Boys would love access to stock cars, motor cross and grass carts
- A youth centre that was organised and supervised would be great especially in the winter
- Walking and biking to and from work was popular, although the road wasn't safe. Need ooff-road path or at least dangerous corners widened with large marked shoulder to separate vehicles from cyclists
- If tracks were improved and signage was better, walking and biking would be more popular

## **10 Sporting Clubs and Associations Balclutha Meeting**

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### Issues Raised

- Funding of sport, travel distances and sustaining facilities always an issue
- Archery – needed longer indoor facility than is currently available. A covered multi-court facility could provide the required distance
- Satellite towns around Balclutha still want their own facilities i.e. Kaitangata – gym
- Issues with Council from lack of leadership on facing issues and ad hoc decisions, e.g. past “hands off” approach has contributed to duplication of clubrooms
- Lack of regular communication with Council and between sports has been poor. Regular forums like this one are needed
- Grandstand was a major issue. Seen as a white elephant. It will hinder fundraisers in their next attempt at developing a project. Should not feel compelled to attach future facilities on back of grandstand to try and make it work.
- Pony club being pushed off main field, they want their own facility
- Athletics club are debt free, good set up and don’t want to shift. 60 kids weekly
- Bowling clubs under utilised with falling membership
- Volunteers generally under pressure, same people every year
- Amalgamation seen as a way to pool resources and volunteers,
- An indoor recreation centre with covered courts is supported
- Schools and community could see advantages in funding if they cooperated in a new major facility
- There was a need for leadership to bring and keep clubs/groups together, a role for Sport Clutha Coordinator to facilitate at initial stages as a catalyst
- T-Ball strong, but a need to grow into softball
- Telford gym under utilised. Difficult for community to gain access.
- Equestrian facilities and clubs are disjointed, not big enough to run major events
- Issues such as the weather and health and safety (OSH) were seen as barriers to physical activity

### Key points:

- The meeting concluded on a positive note and the general feeling was that the cooperation was the way to go. It may take time for and evidence of amalgamation to appear.
- Further forums should be held on a twice yearly basis
- The cost of purpose built Recreation Centre will be a major hurdle for a small community but was generally supported. Covering some courts was seen as a priority.
- Support for centralisation of new facilities on SOHS site.
- Help smaller areas to heat their swimming pools
- A single competition facility for equestrian sports in Clutha
- A core provision in larger towns in district should include:
  - A floodlit grass sports field (preferably two) for use by rugby, soccer and cricket,
  - A floodlit hard court for tennis, netball, basketball (preferably covered to provide all weather and year round use)
  - A heated and covered swimming pool suitable for teaching learn-to-swim programmes.

- Preferably these should be co-located adjacent to or as part of a school to maximise use during the day and maximise efficiency for school use.

## **11 Focus Group: Tuapeka Print Staff – Lawrence**

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Many of the staff moved into the District for work.

### Positive Points

- Squash Club
- Friday night basketball
- Natural environment i.e. Gabriel's Gully
- Gymkhana Club
- Horse and hound sale
- Bike and walking trail
- Simpson Park
- Ladies walking group

### Negative Points

- Squash only has one court
- Squash club not affiliated to NZ Squash because of cost to club and players
- Local squash players are social not competition players
- Local squash players not interested in travelling to tournaments
- People have to travel for competitive sport to Dunedin or around Central Otago and Clutha depending on sport
- Fitness gym is not adequate
- Gym lacks in numbers out keep going
- Hard to get access to private land
- Pool was made shallow to heat better
- Pool now too shallow for older children and aqua jogging
- Population too small to run local tournaments

### Wish list

- New fitness gym
- More activity for older residents

## **12 Lawrence Area School Meeting**

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Met with Principal (John Auld)

- 122 pupils
- 13 teachers
- 35 secondary children
- PE teacher and
- Sports Coordinator (9 hours per week paid but does more hours) operates lunchtime programme
- Financial issues are common in all schools.
- Lawrence has an issue with DoC who owns the adjoining grounds but don't spend anything on them. Was a Domain Board before returned to Crown.
- School spend \$10,000 approx on Simpson Park complex each year, no funding from Council

- The school is looking to put Astroturf down over existing courts which costs \$80,000.
- \$5,000 has just been spent on new cricket matt. This is the first time Lawrence has had a senior cricket team. Some senior school boys will play in this team.
- \$4,000 has just been spent on P.M.P, Primary Motor Perception programme
- Spent \$11,000 on 12 canoes and a trailer with grant support.
- PTA, and the Community Trust of Otago are major funders, but this community is very supportive when it comes to fundraising.
- Gabriel's Gully is a unique natural environment which is utilised for cross country, triathlon and canoeing. An orienteering course is being planned.
- Travel is a big issue; but school has two vans purchased through grants. Travel to play ripper rugby and basketball played in Dunedin. Cricket is played in Central Otago. The school has no competitive tennis teams.
- The school has identified a group which is reluctant to participate. Play at the school is robust, age groups mix well and fair play is encouraged.
- If the principal had a magic wand he would like to resource and up skill the parent coaches. Encourage more walking groups and build a weight training facility. The principal also felt a sports coordinator would be great for the District.
- It should be mentioned that Simpson Park is a great example of a shared multi – purpose facility which is very well designed.
- The PTA funds swimming coaches to help the staff during swimming classes.

#### Wish list

- A community activity coordinator to balance economic development focus. Could have a physical activity focus as well as community development approach. Could be other half to the Sportfit Coordinator position.
- More people to lead school sport and community sport activities with appropriate skills and knowledge

### **13 Focus Group: Year 8 (12 & 13 year old) Lawrence Area School Students**

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The Peace Garden and dairy shop is where they go to hang out with friends.

#### What do they do?

- Motor Bikes
- Netball
- Rugby
- Basketball
- Ripper rugby
- Swimming
- Horse riding
- Mountain biking
- Squash
- Fishing

#### What they would like

- Ice skating pond
- Motocross track
- Indoor climbing
- 10 pin bowling

- New tennis courts
- New cricket net's

Developments they would like to happen were:

- Better rugby fields
- A motocross track
- Indoor rock climbing wall
- New cricket nets

## **14 Lawrence Community Leaders**

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- We were taken on a tour around many of the facilities in Lawrence area and walking and biking tracks and the proposed rail trail by Geoff Davidson and Geoff Blackmore
- Gabriel's Gully (DoC Goldfields Park) interpretative track and evidence of motor bike and 4WD damage to landscape.
- Simpson Park gets a \$6,000 grant per year from Council
- Golf club \$500,000 clubroom development large grant from Community Trust of Otago about \$150,000
- Gymkhana grounds. The venue for the Farmarama Field Day and has quarter mile sprint course. Trotting Club have lease.
- This community understands the benefits of a well developed walking and biking system.
- Potential for extensive mountain bike routes lining with Chinese Camp and old gold working areas as well as some major climbs to view points.
- Roxburgh to Lawrence Rail Trail concept is exciting. Roxburgh to Beaumont is on formed road but has major hurdles with access to former rail corridor now in private ownership from Beaumont to Lawrence. 3 tunnels in this section. A long term project but trust now forming to drive the project. Council asked by Central Otago District Council to part fund feasibility study (outcome unknown). Ultimately part of a complete loop with Central Otago Rail Trail.
- This is a strong do it yourself community that have provided well for itself in terms of sporting facilities.
- Heritage buildings in Lawrence a major opportunity to link with Rail Trail.

## **15 Catlins Area Meeting**

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- The Catlins Area School has a very committed part time Sport Coordinator who does many more hours than those able to be paid. She is having great success with the junior school but the older students aren't as involved.
- Volunteers are hard to find because they don't feel confident about coaching a team. The personal approach works much better than email.
- The cost of sport is an issue. Assistance in sourcing funds would be a help.
- This small school always has trouble fielding teams (numbers game).
- Travelling costs were again mentioned.
- Although it is hard to get numbers for teams, when surfing was offered the turn out was great.
- In the area there is no senior tennis team.
- There is a want to build a squash court, a gym and Astro-Turf area. The turf could be overlaid on the 5 tennis courts at the school but the surface would need to be levelled as there is a one meter drop from one end to the other. No planning or funding source was evident.

- The area is unique with its coastline, bush and open spaces. Mountain biking is becoming more popular, with a mountain biking group forming the Catlins Expeditions Club. This means the group doesn't have to focus on one activity but can try many different activities and opportunities.
- Walking again is popular. The Coastal Track Trust has identified areas of national significance but have run into land owner opposition to developing a track. Cost estimated at \$1 million for track and associated accommodation..
- A comment often heard was that the Clutha Leader could be better with promotions and results.

## **16 Focus Group: Year 10 Students Catlins Area School**

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- Outdoor recreation activities are very important because there are few alternatives available in local area. Motor bike, mountain bike and horse riding all features as well as surfing, fishing and hunting. Paintball was also mentioned
- Many of the important destinations relate to the outdoor recreation activities such as Papatowai, Kaka Point, Nugget Point, Chaslands and Cannibal Bay
- Clear preference to have local provision of activities because they feel intimidated when participating in youth activities in Balclutha.
- They want a good base for activities such as table tennis, movies and pool. One night a week would be good or every fortnight if too hard to do. The Area School is an option.
- They also wanted the Owaka Swimming pool to be heated to extend the season.
- The School organised surf day was popular and student want more surfing opportunities as part of the sport programme at the School.

## **17 Balclutha Youth Group**

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- The fitness gym was not adequate for the needs of the community. Something seriously needs to be done. Sue Downs has opened a commercial gym with better facilities and equipment.
- The whole river side reserve is ready for re-development including Blair Athol walkway. Walking tracks in general need signage and publicity.
- Biking is becoming popular, although there is a need for organised groups and developed trails.
- Splash 'n' Dash seen as a positive aspect for the community. Possibility of a bloke's triathlon or father and son triathlon. There is also a possibility for more triathlons throughout the District.
- Comments at several meetings were made about individuals in DOC, which were hard to work with.
- Lesley Schlender (Development House) is producing a walking map called 'Clutha & Coffees.'

## **18 Focus Group: Year 10 (14 & 15 year old) South Otago High School Pupils**

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Participate in a wide range of sports and individual pursuits

Positive Points

- Clean and green

- Friendly – knowing each other
- Safe
- Good school
- Fishing – Golf
- Bike Tracks – plantation
- Good grounds

#### Negative Points

- Fitness gym for adults, we are not welcome there.
- Pool too small and boring
- Currently nowhere to go in wet weather to burn off energy. Hang out at The Warehouse and down main street to The Gate café and skate park for some

#### Wish list

- Want an indoor facility as first priority for most students. Want a mix of programmed activity and sessions where they choose what type of informal pick up games and activities they do. Also lounge space where they can do passive recreation as well.
- Time Out Zone
- Indoor skate park
- An ice skating rink, rock climbing wall or bouldering wall and better swimming pool were also mentioned
- Access to a fitness gym is wanted. Do not feel welcome at either gym in Balclutha.

## **19 Interview with Irene Mosley**

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- Loss of momentum in recreation centre project is a concern. Youth still demanding an indoor venue. Still some fundraising happening
- Fitness gym options have improved with two levels of service now available with opening of Pilates Gym offering a different service. Commercial gym is available 24/7 through swipe card access is popular. Need a larger facility for Pool Gym.
- Nias Park needs an enhancement to provide better start point for Blair Athol walkway. Much feedback regarding poor condition of walkway surface, stiles and lack of prominent signage. Need a concept plan for Park and walkway.
- Lagoon and the Warehouse are where kids hang out.
- Otago Regional Council is a key player but is relatively passive regarding recreation provision.
- A walking and cycling map for Balclutha is under development by the Information Centre.
- Need more events, more innovation to get people participating. Splash and Dash is a 4 event series. Need a Blokes Triathlon. Duathlon with raft race component.

## **20 Interview with SOHS Senior Management**

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Deputy Principal at South Otago High School (John Douglas)

- The school is planning to lay down Astroturf multi-purpose surface over the three oldest tennis courts behind housing on Frances Street to north of main outdoor courts, essentially becoming an outdoor multi-use classroom when grounds are closed. Hockey, soccer, touch, netball and tennis will all be able to use it for training
- If the community chooses the school as the position for a multi-use indoor facility they would be very supportive of the idea. The school does not have a problem with the out of school hours use of the facilities or even a bar being on site.

- School promotes participation over elite sport. An example would be having two under 14 rugby teams of equal standard rather than an elite and second team.
- The school is proud that they are the only co – ed school in Otago with two under 14 teams. If they had an A Team, the B team may not get to play.
- Most children driven to school rather than walk.
- No thought of boarding or sporting academies being established.
- Issues raised included affiliation fees, i.e. netball is now at \$60 - \$70, and most players would never attain representative status and benefit from these fees directly.
- Travel costs and time is always an issue. Rugby teams now have to travel to Dunedin and Queenstown.
- Lack of leadership in the community was again mentioned as a barrier to developing sport and recreation in the District.

## ***21 Meeting with Balclutha Rotary***

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- Important recreation destinations and facilities in the area were Kaka Point, indoor swimming pool, walkways and footpaths
- Strong support for retention and improvement of an indoor swimming pool. An important all weather facility for all ages. Can see merit in co-location with SOHS in future when needs replacement
- Need more walking options that are safe for year round use. Need some tracks for MTB and others for motocross riding.
- An indoor sports centre was supported as a place to go for young people in wet weather and winter evenings for constructive activity
- Sailing is struggling
- Balclutha Scout Group is in growth phase.
- Pipe band is struggling to attract new members.

## ***22 Meeting with Glen Ward from Special Olympics***

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We had an interesting meeting with committed and hard working Glen Ward.

- Special Olympics have six main summer sports for approximately 25 athletes including swimming, athletics and outdoor bowls. In the winter they play indoor bowls, basketball and power lifting.
- Special Olympics have a good working relationship with South Otago High School sharing property and space. They also use the 'old boy's' athletics field.
- Some members integrate into general public sports from time to time.
- Glen puts a lot of time into Special Olympics. He notes that the volunteers are getting older and as a community the culture of service is disappearing.
- Funding is always an issue although The Clutha Licensing Trust and The Community Trust of Otago were good supports.
- It was suggested the council could disregard fees (Hall hire etc) for Special Olympics and special needs groups.
- Local dignitaries including David Latta and Mayor Juno Hayes are also positive supports for Special Olympics.

- Volunteers raised money to help build a meeting room at the swimming pool, which has now become the gym.
- Glen's one wish would be that every person in the Clutha District who falls into the Special Olympic category could go onto a database to ensure no one fell through the cracks.
- The comment was made that anyone who worked with Special Olympians was rewarded with gratitude making this a positive experience.
- The Halberg Trust is good but this group is not always successful at receiving funding.

## **23 Balclutha Soccer**

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Strategic planning meeting for club. Club is in a fortunate position with growing membership. The club wants to extend their clubrooms.

The junior side of the club is growing rapidly. Also many of the other towns are starting to play soccer. Balclutha junior soccer is helping these clubs with coaching and resources. This means clubs don't have to travel to Dunedin for games.

Soccer is a strong position; numbers are growing, including woman's soccer.

The issues soccer faces are:

- Wanting to extend clubrooms
- A growing membership
- A need for a strategic plan
- More fields
- More resources
- Boys going back to rugby keeping membership)

The key will be to encourage, support and resource the volunteers.

The junior club will need support and encouragement from above.

## **24 Milton Local Community Meeting**

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Positive Points

- Flat land
- Squash club
- Close to Dunedin (more options)
- New gym
- Good tramping club
- Close to sea and forestry
- Economic growth
- Natural environment (fishing, hunting)
- Good walking, flat or hilly tracks
- Youth recreation centre
- Lake Waihola
- Indoor bowls still popular
- McNally track to top of local hill is looked after by Milton Rotary Club and is a highly valued local walk.

### Negative Points

- Pool season not long enough and in recent years it never starts on agreed date
- Too close in Dunedin, some play sport in Dunedin
- Cricket struggles
- Lack of volunteers
- Volunteers get knocked by overload
- Cycling not popular – main road too busy
- No tennis
- Travel costs, uniform costs are high for some local families
- Concern that school has use of the gymnasium to 5.00pm and community could make more use of some of this time
- Lack of resources for coaches
- Lack of leadership
- Some families cannot afford sport fees
- Timing of some competition clash

### Wish list

- For the rail trail to loop through Lawrence and Milton to Dunedin
- The skate park, outdoor basketball court and playgrounds have been developed at Moore Park by Youth Advantage Trust with support from Council. However, there is a need to further enhance the Park by creating seating with wind and rain shelter, lighting, provision of a unisex and disabled access toilet and a water fountain to optimise use of the facilities. The Youth Advantage Trust will be seeking further funding support for these developments
- More opportunities for 9 -13 year olds, possibly at the Recreation Centre gymnasium
- More organised sports competition for 13 – 16 year olds, possibly at the Recreation Centre gymnasium
- Parks mowed shorter or more often
- Safer walking on Four Mile Block circuit
- Subsidise elderly recreation, negotiate daytime access to Recreation centre gymnasium for an activity programme
- Targeted subsidies or full payment of costs for hardship families so children can participate in sport
- Volunteers encouraged and recognised

## ***25 Milton Recreation Centre Trust Meeting***

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### **Met with 2 Trustees and Manager**

- Planning started in 1998 to replace the old gym. Initiated by the then Principal.
- \$80,000 allocation from Ministry of Education for an “upgrade”.
- 1999 decision to do full size court extension and fitness gym
- Alex Scott was employed as a fund raiser who did a good job in raising \$750,000 with good support from the local businesses. Calder Stewart were critical to success of project.
- A heads of agreement was drawn up with the school and Trust, with the aim being to contract out the facility. This worked for one year, with the trust now taking over the running of the facility.

- A physiotherapist has set up a practice in the building moved from part-time to full time presence. Now plans to expand his business. Physio funds part of reception costs.
- The gym is suffering poor financial returns and is in need of financial and business planning. Still has a debt of \$30,000 on facility. If this cleared then be more viable. Any assistance from Council would be appreciated.
- Many different programmes have been trialed. Indoor court is under utilised in evenings. Opportunities for paid activity leaders so not reliant on volunteers and can quality control. Operate a Friday night recreation programme for young residents was suggested.
- Could become a contractor to government agencies to provide programmes asuch as Green Prescriptions, return to work conditioning and rehabilitation programmes.

## **26 Milton Health Group**

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- It would be good to have a coordinated District approach towards funding and calendared events, i.e. eight week programme moving around the District including instructions and equipment.
- Funding
- Would be good to have a coordinated approach to funding activities/classes across the District. E.g. Tai Chi
  - Organise a teacher
  - Check facilities available
  - Check number of sessions they are able to do throughout the District, day and evening
  - Hourly rate/petrol costs
  - Put together a funding proposal and apply on the Districts behalf to various agencies to obtain 12 months of funding
  - Make a nominal charge to clients to make sure they have some buy in to the course but that it is available for any one regardless of financial circumstances.
- Would be good to have multiple classes available across the District with the same funding approach so that for example the Trusts Charitable Foundation was applied to for a decent amount of funding that would be used over a 12 month period to assist with all activity related courses that we were able to price and organise.
- Milton Recreation Centre/Gym is underutilised. Would be good to try and increase usage.
- Volunteer's availability to assist with courses/programmes on an ongoing basis can be a problem. In younger age groups many of the same parents are involved in numerous sporting groups.
- Gym has suggested that courses below could be beneficial:
- Over 65
  - Tai Chi
  - Arthritis/low impact exercise
  - Walking groups
- Pre – teen/Teen
  - Aerobic
  - Tai Chi
  - Overweight exercise/education/dietician
  - Volleyball, indoor cricket, indoor basketball (all require some specialized equipment and financial input)
- All Ages
  - Pump Class

- Aerobic
- Focus on men's interest e.g. boxing base programme
- Confidence course in gym and update outdoor behind rugby grounds and Taylor Park
- Makes some sort of measured outdoor walking track
- Look at long term safety of four mile block, incorporate walking track.
- Advertising: Negotiate with all local newspapers to run a free weekly and monthly column /calendar with all events/courses/programmes running to be advertised for free that have to do with health and well being.
- Other ideas
  - Belly dancing classes
  - Indoor ski/vertical drop
  - Assist with classes/education for existing facilities e.g. skateboarding rinks around the District. Get a good skateboarder to come and demonstrate/teach tricks, talk about safety. Motocross/Go Karting, have some open days to give kids an opportunity to check these kinds of activities out.
  - Large inflatable toy for the pool
  - Surfing
- Events including cross section of the community
- Jail break mountain bike event
- Tessa Potae maybe able to run programme with youth group at the recreation centre
- One contact person in each District to roll out District wide programme.

## ***27 Interview with Donald Stewart of Calder Stewart in Milton***

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A really positive meeting with an employer who has a progressive attitude towards the health of his employees. Employ over 120 staff with 60 at main site in Milton. The owners have a caring attitude towards their staff. Hunting rights to their forestry blocks are given to staff as a perk. Staff value this privilege. Calder Stewart sponsors staff teams in local touch and netball competitions. Lot of staff go walking on "4 Mile Block" route off main highway at lunchtime.

Strong supporter of local community projects such as the community gymnasium expansion and new fitness gym at Tokomariro High School.

Calder Stewart is building a new industrial and office complex on State Highway One with staff recreation and sport facilities such as:

- The sporting facilities will include rugby and cricket fields, tennis courts and a beach volley ball site.
- The whole area will be landscaped with trees, ponds and walking tracks.
- There will be a stand alone recreation building containing a lunchroom, café/bar, billiards, darts, mini soccer etc.
- The building will also have consulting rooms for health and safety activities such as to test hearing and drug testing.
- The designer was a keen golfer so the complex has three fairways approaching one green.
- There is no exercise gym because Calder Stewart put money into the local recreation centre at Tokomariro High School which has a gym that staff use and which is struggling for membership.

Workers had an input into what facilities would be built hence the volley ball court. Any community use will be by invitation from Calder Stewart.

The intention with new facilities is to expand on current informal recreation and sport happening now. Calder Stewart play inter-house sport with the teams being mixed up. Loggers will be playing alongside office workers not logging gangs versus office people. The next step is to increase the frequency of these activities to every Friday evening and then to start playing socially against companies that they are aligned to.

Milton Jail Break Ride, motorbike Trail Ride and Horse trail events and walking groups also use Calder Stewart forests as fundraising exercises and for recreation. Calder Stewart own 4 forests and are open to concept of a mountain bike park on fringe of a forest.

## **28 Meeting with Bill Thompson from of The Community Trust of Otago**

- Funds need to be spent in the Clutha District
- Trust tends to be reactive to applications designed to meet community needs.
- Need for Sport Otago to get more involved in the District. Supports the District Sports Coordinator concept.
- Trust has traditionally been a provider of start up grants for projects now increasingly funding to sustain initiatives
- Trust is looking at socially capital funding as opposed to bricks and mortar
- Trust sees value in supporting volunteers i.e. coaches and administration
- Bill saw value in administration hubs. i.e. a group of clubs working under one umbrella for administration purposes
- He felt many groups lacked leadership and had a poor understanding of governance. Coincide with social changes of depopulation and centralisation of services to Dunedin. Shand Thompson ran a leadership course in past, need more now. Otago Chamber of Commerce could help with governance, annual and strategic planning
- Bill was disappointed that the grandstand project is so poorly utilised.
- Indoor facilities have merit because of climate such as indoor netball courts and recreation centre, swimming pool and fitness gym
- Hockey turf practice area also seen as important facility outdoor but all weather
- Prepared to fund people – “To pick a winner who has passion and skills”.

## **29 Balclutha Recreation Workshop Group 1**

- This group had a good grasp of the changing face of sport and recreation and the issues that this District is facing.
- The group could see the need for coordination and pooling of resources.
- A one stop shop multi – purpose sports facility was high on their agenda. Other interests were biking, walking, multi – sport. Recreation activities like Rock and Roll were also mentioned. There was a feeling that achievement was now as important as winning.
- Need to effectively publicise sport and recreation options on an on-going basis.

### Positive Points

- Sporting community, outdoors people
- Good variety of opportunities
- Close to Dunedin
- Varied Climate
- Unpopulated environment/open spaces

- Volunteers
- Some facilities

#### Negative Points

- Lack of population
- Lack of volunteers
- Long working hours/weekend work
- Climate
- Grandstand, not used, poor design
- The gym
- Negative attitudes
- Red tape
- Compliance costs
- Fragmented facilities
- Volunteers, some are involved in three sports
- Rising cost
- Harder to raise funds
- Working fees
- Aging leadership
- Lack of leadership
- Traveling time and cost
- Traffic management plans
- Risk management
- Insurance for non-endorsed sports

### **30 Balclutha Recreation Workshop Group 2**

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- This group were cyclists, mountain bikers and walkers. They also had a good grasp of the changing face of sport and recreation and the issues that this District is facing.
- The group were aware of limited resources available for developing and maintaining cycling and walking facilities. Council was seen to fund and support a narrow group of traditional sports and has not changed its funding policy to cater for other activities. The ageing population in the District means that walking is gaining in importance as an inclusive physical activity
- District and local area around Balclutha has some great walking and MTB opportunities. Rural roads are good for biking with some good circuits. Landowners are generally good to work with regarding access.
- Flood banks are vital opportunity for creating a network of tracks. Need to create more loop tracks as well. ORC received criticism because local manager appears to place walking and MTB needs low down on priority list. Local regional councillor is more supportive.
- Track proposed around local lake near Kaitangata. Hasn't progressed. Reason unknown.
- The Blair-Athol Walkway is critical facility that needs enhancement such as an improved link to Rosebank and creation of loop route through connection to Hospital Road. Immediate priority is improving surface of existing walkway and replacing old stiles with a more user friendly system to pas through fence lines. Not sure who is responsible but seems like maintainance falls through the gap. An extension of the walkway to Kaihiku falls is wanted. Mountain bikers would like to create a network of tracks of varying difficulty.

- Exciting opportunity for something special in Kaitangata Hills. Need MTB and motocross activity separated. Several close misses between riders. Need to push through asap development of a MTB park and a separate motocross park before a fatality occurs.
- Motocross is popular with young people in Clutha because of good club and plenty of riding options.

### **31 Waihola Community Meeting**

- Lake is key recreation asset of area. Jetty is in poor condition but CDC has allocated funding for replacement. Lots of different activities. Concern with water quality and sedimentation reducing depth of the lake.
- Major recent project has been refurbishment of the Community Centre. The old hall and ancillary facilities are now back to an acceptable standard. Cost of \$80,000 was funded from local fundraising. Some dances are held in the facility each year as well as other gatherings.
- Table tennis has been revived and replaced badminton as the sport played in the Community Centre. Number of players ranges from 12 to 40 with about 25 the average.
- Walking is very popular pastime with good opportunities for off road walking in the area. Would like a track around the lake but recognise this is unlikely because of scale of project.
- Sailing on lake is popular with school group who come from Southland as well as from schools in the district.
- The boat shed is too small to store all of the boats. They are vulnerable to damage by vandals. Need an extension to the boat shed.