



## Annual Plan Update 2016/17

### - what Council has coming up, including work for community plans

We've just finished consulting on our Annual Plan 2016/17 with Councillors due to make their decisions later this month and then formally adopt the plan at the end of June. A lot of the information in the plan is about changes in timing to projects such as rural water treatment upgrades and when work might start on the Hina Hina Bridge or sealing the Nuggets Road. Two of the bigger issues are how to improve the stormwater drainage in Taieri Mouth and how we should deal with dust suppression on our local roads. At the same time, we asked our residents and ratepayers if they thought we should extend the liquor ban in central Balclutha and what they thought about proposed changes to our dog control bylaw and policy. Thank you to those who made a submission. We'll keep you posted on the outcomes in the coming weeks.

As many of you will know, promoting growth and investment in the district is one of Council's key platforms. Closely linked with our Living and Working Strategy is the development of community plans, which will determine the projects and priorities for each community. The plans will include how we can action the Living and Working Strategy in each place and the development of a single management plan for all the parks and reserves in one community. They will also review how Council invests in community facilities such as halls and social housing or housing for the elderly, plus much more. Some additional work by Council now means that both Balclutha, Milton and Waihola's community plans will be developed simultaneously with this planning work a focus for the 2016/17 year. Community plans for other places will follow.



### Kaitangata's new skate park

Impressive is an apt word to describe Kaitangata's new skate park. It's also a good description of the community's hard work to make the project happen. Funded by a grant from Council and community fundraising efforts the new park is a great addition to the already popular BMX park in Kaitangata.

### From the Mayor

.....  
**Bryan Cadogan**  
Mayor,  
Clutha District  
.....



The true test of a community's spirit is in the strength of its volunteer organisations, as was highlighted with our own West Otago Health Trust winning this year's overall title at the Trustpower National Community Awards (read more on page 4). This was a tremendous and much deserved achievement from what was an "all-in" community effort over a number of years. Where would we be without the contribution of volunteers throughout the Clutha District, many of whom have to make great personal sacrifices and operate in increasingly challenging environments? We all need to remember the critical part they play in maintaining social cohesion and support them whenever we can.

There's nothing like an Annual Plan to focus us all on the direction our district is taking. It has been a tonic to hear so many positive comments and new initiatives coming forward. From a housing scheme in Kaitangata to a new retirement townhouse complex in Balclutha and so many of our major employers investing millions of dollars in expansions and looking for hundreds of new employees, this is starting to gain momentum

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**USEFUL BUILDING  
INFORMATION on Page 2**

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## Building Guidelines for Customers

Council is reviewing our responsiveness to customers in the Building Department. Currently we are trying to be so immediately responsive that we aren't being efficient in everything else we are doing and that isn't fair to those customers. While we are in the review process please consider the following:

### Building and Plumbing Inspections

We've had a number of situations where customers request building or plumbing inspections on the same day as they are needed and while we aim to provide prompt services this expectation is not always practical due to time constraints. We would recommend contractors and owners give us 24 hours prior notice to ensure we can get our inspector on site when you require it. The 2004 Building Act notes the owner or occupier must give assistance to enable the inspector to view all necessary parts of the building or building work in a reasonable timeframe.

### Property Sale Deadlines

If you are buying a house or building we recommend you apply for a Land Information Memorandum (LIM) once you enter into an agreement to purchase any property. Recently there have been situations where agents and owners have left checking

Council records until just before the sale deadline date only to find several outstanding issues that they were not aware of. This puts more pressure on our staff and you, our customer, so prepare early. LIMs can take up to 10 working days to process and we also have an urgent service available for 2-3 working days when required.

### Questions for Building Inspectors

While we make every attempt to have building inspectors available for counter enquiries sometimes their schedules can be very busy and we would advise to ring ahead and book an appointment to save some disappointment, especially if you are traveling a considerable distance to see us.

### Marquees

Corporate events, show days, sports days and special occasions - if you require a marquee consent then remember to apply early as these can take up to 20 working days to process. If your marquee is over 100m<sup>2</sup> or is to be located on a site for more than one month then consent is required. We will need a fire report showing all means of escape, occupancy numbers and any fire safety provisions e.g. exit signage and emergency lighting that meet the 'Protection from Fire' requirements - these can be found at [www.building.govt.nz](http://www.building.govt.nz).

## Milton Swimming Pool



The Milton pool opened at the end of February after repairs to a fracture that ran the length of the pool and a new paint job. It was also good news when the insurance company informed Council it would pay for repairing the cracks. Since then, a crack that appears to be superficial has appeared and will be dealt with when the pool closes for the season. The next job is to investigate longer term options for the pool in conjunction with the Milton community.

## Word from the Mayor (continued)

as a truly exciting time for all of the district. Not only will Council be a key supporter of our employers with the advancements on our 'battle plan' with more speed dating job fairs and greater structural support from our economic development team but Spring will see the North Balclutha subdivision and Rosebank industrial park actually taking physical shape.

At the same time community plans for the likes of Milton will be well advanced and I am keen to discuss with Milton residents what I see as imperative developments for maximising their potential and realising the gains that having so many magnificent employers on their doorstep brings. The potential will not materialise through procrastination and quite frankly as a community and district we cannot afford the 30 years of tooth extracting deliberation that Balclutha endured. So, I am looking forward to the process, knowing it also coincides with election year, which is as always the ultimate chance for those in the district to express their feelings.

Bryan Cadogan

### Got a project in mind that will:

- encourage participation in the arts? OR
- support diversity in the arts? OR
- encourage young people to engage in arts?

... then you may be eligible for a grant from the Creative Communities NZ Scheme. Application forms and guidelines available at your nearest Council office or online at [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

**Applications close Friday 6 May**

Photo: Jennifer Markman

  
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA



## Staff Changes

Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed new staff members Gabrielle Pearman in the Risk Management Support Officer role, Barbara Belvoir as Senior Projects Engineer, Stephen Gordon as Capital Delivery Manager and Hayley Whale as our HR Administration Assistant. Current staff member Kerrod Baldwin has also taken up a new role as Operations Engineer. Meanwhile we've bid farewell to Ray Bremer our Building Control Manager after two and a half years in the role. We've also said good-bye (sort of!) to Building Inspector Ivan Coutts, who has retired after many years working in the district but will still be helping out on a casual basis.

## Resident Survey

The Resident Survey for 2015 was conducted during November with 333 residents giving their views. There were positive ratings for Council's overall performance, advice and helpfulness of staff and ease of lodging a service request. The top scorer was library services with 100% satisfaction levels. Service and information centres came in a close second. Residents were also asked about Council's goal to promote growth with a satisfaction result of 89% - a pleasing answer given the priority Council's growth strategies were given in last year's Long Term Plan. However, Council received lower ratings for how well a service request or issue was handled and resolved. Also ranking near the bottom was satisfaction with the maintenance of local gravel roads, however its score of 56% was an improvement on last year. Council uses the survey to gather feedback about our services, gauge information about projects, to provide accountability in our reporting and to see what further work needs to be done.



Welcome to the Clutha District Youth Council for 2016. This year the Council is made up of the following: Amy Morrison (chair), Nicole Hay, Matthew Day, Aimee Jones, Brea Sim, Cody Diamond, Aimee Pullar, Hannah Dewe, Eloise McLaughlin (deputy chair), Eden Wilson, Ashton Tourell, Isla Pringle, Matthew Roxburgh, and Brooke Rutherford

## Balclutha Bridge and Flood Bank Accessways



Pedestrians wanting to access the river bank near the Balclutha bridge will find it much easier with the construction of two new pathways. A gravel pathway now runs under the bridge at its southern end connecting the two cattle stops that were installed last year, while at the northern end, a gravel pathway runs underneath the bridge connecting the carpark on Barnego Road with the Strang Reserve pedestrian access. Service Delivery Group Manager Jules Witt said the main motivation for building the new paths was to make it easier for walkers, school children, sightseers and other users.

"It means people using the river banks or footpaths on the bridge no longer have to try and cross State Highway 1 or find a way under the bridge, instead there is a clearly marked gravel path." Hopefully these new paths, plus the access ways onto the flood bank installed last year by way of cattle stops mean more people can enjoy the river, and in safer manner, Mr Witt said. Council is aware that there were a couple of teething issues when the cattle stops were first installed, such as one sheep becoming stuck. However, we are no longer getting reports of any problems.



facebook

Are you on Facebook? If so, you should think about following "Clutha District Council" to keep track of our latest updates. More than 900 Facebook users currently follow us and we'd love to see that number grow as we post more and more of our news online. As well as useful information about subjects such as road closures, water notices and civil defence, you can find out the latest 'good' news like the Trustpower Award winners, when funding grants become available and you can even help reunite a lost dog with its owner. More recently we've kept the Milton community updated on the progress of repairing their pool and posted key information about our Annual Plan consultation process. You can also check out our pools and libraries and Youth Council Facebook pages.

## Reducing Waste

Did you know 8500 tonnes of household and commercial waste gets sent to the landfill in the Clutha District every year? As a community we are becoming increasingly aware of the way waste impacts on our environment. While Council can influence residents' decisions around waste creation, recycling and reuse, individuals have the ultimate responsibility for the choices they make when purchasing and using products. Council's goal is a resource efficient, less wasteful society. We need to work together to achieve this. Reducing waste is not difficult and can be done by making simple adjustments to your shopping choices. As part of our Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Council provides regular information on and holds two workshops a year to help residents reduce waste. So, please check out our website for more information.

## A big congratulations to...



A big congratulations to the West Otago Health Trust, which was named the supreme winner at the Trustpower National Community Awards in March, beating out other finalists from throughout the country. The Trust worked tirelessly to raise almost \$4 million dollars for a brand new, community-owned health centre. Representing the group at the awards were Marianne Parks, Alister Bodie and Mayor Bryan Cadogan - all pictured above with other judges and officials. Trustpower Community Relations Coordinator Suzi Luff said West Otago Health Trust was a great example of a

community group taking ownership of an opportunity and developing it further. "The magnitude of what the community has achieved together is incredible." The awards were judged by a panel of independent judges including the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector the Honourable Jo Goodhew and TVNZ's Good Sorts presenter Haydn Jones. Each team had to give an eight minute presentation on their project along with a 1000 word summary. As the supreme winner, West Otago Health received \$4000 in prize money, a \$1000 consultancy voucher and the trophy.

## Clutha's Newest Citizens



Mayor Bryan Cadogan extended a warm welcome to the district's newest citizens on 31 March 2016. Pictured here are George Lawson of South Africa and the Jewitt family from Britain. They all received the traditional welcome gift of a Kowhai tree.



Clutha District Council distributes this newsletter four times a year to ratepayers with rates notices. It is also available on our website, [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz), or from your nearest Council office or Service Centre. Feedback and ideas are welcome. Please contact Jamie Shaw on 03 419 0200, email to [rachel.askew@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:rachel.askew@cluthadc.govt.nz), or write C/- Clutha District Council, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240.