



# Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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Hello Farewell

November 2020

[www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

0800 801 350

[help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz)

## From the Mayor



This year seems to be delivering disruption and dilemma aplenty, with huge changes proposed to the very fundamentals of how council operates – but not all is bad news.

I hope everyone is aware that major changes are being established for the

ownership and delivery model of our nation's 3 waters infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewerage).

All councils are having to make decisions at a pace the likes of which I have never seen, pushed down from Wellington. Hobson's choice is what we have been given so far in agreeing to the first tranche of funding and, although there has been the constant chant that this funding is non-binding, I seriously suspect we will all find out just how tied in we are immediately after the election results are in.

The process has been short on specifics and deliberate in its intent. If you have a vested interest

in how your water or sewerage is delivered, if your livelihood depends on water for stock and you can remember the hours spent putting your water scheme in, then I implore you to actively participate in the discussions that will be taking place very soon.

I wish we had more details to share with you, but we don't, and that is a concern in itself. Changes of this magnitude need careful consideration of the facts, so let's hope things become clearer when Wellington delivers its final thrust.

On a brighter note the FAR (Funding Assistance Rates) allocation of road funding has just seen a change from the present 57% Central Government 43% Local Government to a 65% Central Government 35% Local Government split.

This is a massive boost for our district, when you have the 3rd longest road network in New Zealand and the government increases its allocation by this magnitude it is of benefit to all rate payers.

So its yin and yang in a year like no other, roll on Christmas.

**Bryan Cadogan, Mayor**

# Recognition of Aileen Clarke's contributions to Community Projects

Clutha District Council staff lost a special colleague when Aileen Clarke passed away recently following a long battle with cancer.

Aileen was Council's Community Plan Implementation Manager and is remembered for the contributions she made to community-based projects over the past two years, working with many people across the District.

Some of the key projects and initiatives which Aileen contributed her energy towards include:

- Preliminary plans for the Catlins Coast Trail and other Catlins walking and biking trails for inclusion in DOC's Conservation Management Strategy Review.
- The review of Community Housing options which has informed Council on proposed refurbishments and new builds to be considered in the Long Term Plan.
- Working with the Waihola Looking Forward group to revive the Waihola Lakefront Destination Playground project.

- Contributing to improvements with the NZTA to the Clutha Bridge approaches and bridge lighting, walking and cycling pathways around Balclutha, and playground improvements.
- Contributing to funding applications to PGF including for Town Hall renovations works which were recently approved by government.

In September Council approved the next stage of works for two key projects both of which Aileen was been involved with.

The site of the planned Balclutha Destination Toilet and Plaza was purchased in December 2019, and was then had been cleared, opening up a brilliant community space between Clyde Street and Charlotte Lane.

Aileen obtained initial designs for the toilet block aiming to provide a 'wow factor'. After further work, this project has now progressed to the design and build stage with funding options and design work approved by Council.



Architects have developed site plans which will see this design incorporated into an open-air plaza. The final designs for this new site aim to significantly enhance the town centre and make the site a focal point for community activities in the future.

Council has also approved funding for the next stage of the Naish and Centennial Parks development being driven by the Clutha Parks Trust. This is another community-based project that Aileen had under her wings.

Aileen also contributed to another related project which focussed on developing the Balclutha Walkway, and Wayfinding improvements, which included links from Naish Park and around to the planned Community Hub.

Aileen will be remembered for her positive, 'let's get on with it' attitude and the smiling determination with which she approached both her work at Council and her personal challenges with cancer.



## Paying online...

When you are paying your Council payments online please change the reference on your internet banking payments to reflect what it is you are paying. ie Valuation Number for Rates, invoice number for Sundry Invoice etc

Also, we do not accept payments for Otago Regional Council rates, if these have been paid to us in error you will need to phone for a refund, as they have been credited to your CDC rates account.



# “ Digitising Council’s Property Files

At Clutha District Council we are in the process of digitising all of our property files.

To date, our property files are held in paper form at our Rosebank offices in Balclutha.

Digital property files will contain a range of information including: building permits and consents, drainage plans, plans and specifications, Code Compliance Certificates, Resource Consent decisions and associated documents.

The digitisation process began in late August and will run over the next 12 months. During this time, there will be a change in how you access the property files.

If you require access to a property file it is important that you phone ahead.

This will let us make sure the file can be located and the information made available prior to your visit.

The process to retrieve a file may take up to 5 business days during this period.

This project will also have an effect on the processing times of some LIM report applications, although we expect to meet the statutory 10 day period.

We would like to thank you for your patience while this project is underway and we are looking forward to being able to offer you access to the Property Files in a digital format in the future.



The first set of files to be processed were the Resource Consents issued prior to June 2019. These files have been uplifted and the majority have now been digitised.

If you request a file or information that is in a batch assigned for scanning, we can recall the file, but there will be a delay of up to 5 days.

**If you have any questions, or to request a Property File, please phone: 03 419 0200.**

## Want to become a Drive My Life Mentor?

Clutha District Council Road Safety Coordinator Rachel Harrison is looking for people to mentor and help as part of the Community Driver Mentor Programme (Drive My Life, South Otago).

The mentor’s role is to help a student learn to drive for 1 hour a week per student with full training and support given.

The programme offers those without a drivers licence the chance to take part in a free 12 week programme which included (if needed) learners, restricted and full licence costs and 12 weeks of lessons from a mentor.

Rachel said there were a number of youth (and others) who may be out there driving without a licence, or just have no means of moving on to the next level in the graduated system.

“This way we can get as many as possible driving with a full licence and under guidance of the mentors, driving safely and confidently on our roads.”

**If you have a full licence and clean driving record and are interested in becoming a mentor contact Rachel on 03 419 0200.**



### Report a problem

Antenno makes it easy to report any problem with Council services directly to Council.

However, for URGENT issues ring us on  
**0800 801 350**  
[www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

### Have you downloaded the Antenno App yet?

Antenno lets you receive notifications about core Council services direct to your phone. Stay up to date with Council announcements and information. It is free and easy to download from your App Store or Google Play.

# Farewell/hello

We farewell the following staff members:

- Valerie Bell - HR Manager (retiring after 23 years)
- Loesje Morrison - Community Facilities Supervisor (retiring after 14 years)
- Melissa Sheppard - Visitor Information Officer
- Olivia Stewart-Groot - Balclutha Pool Lifeguard
- Sharon Cousins - Community Plan Project Manager
- Gareth Phillips - Water and Waste Operations Manager
- Jordon Smith - Contracts and Projects Officer

We welcome the following new and returning staff members:

- Steve Holden - Senior Building Control Officer
- Alison Woodhouse (maternity leave)
- Niko Trbuhovic - Roading Asset Management Officer



If you are interested in working for the Clutha District Council details of our vacancies are listed on our recruitment hub web page: [cluthadc.recruitmenthub.co.nz](http://cluthadc.recruitmenthub.co.nz)

## Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cup-full of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

## Summer Water Restrictions

Summer water restrictions will come in place across the Clutha District as of the start of December.

For details about what stage of restrictions we are in, visit [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

Watering the garden in the early morning or evening, and only as necessary is a good tip for conserving water.

Council asks that we all do our bit to conserve water and report water leaks in council pipes and fittings.

Phone 0800 801 350.

## Only rain down the drain

Stormwater drains and pipes are made to collect rainwater efficiently, and transfer that water to local streams and rivers.

There is a separate system of sewer pipes for dirty water (the water that comes from toilets, kitchen sinks, your laundry etc.)

Importantly this dirty water goes to a treatment plant, not straight into a stream or river.

These separate systems mean it is vital that dirty water is kept out of storm drains so our rivers stay clean.

To avoid polluting our waterways, we need to be aware of activities that can cause contamination.

These include washing vehicles and boats in yards and driveways, washing out paintbrushes, letting cattle wander through drains, washing spilled chemicals down the drain, and tipping away engine oil, paint thinners or the like.

Council has concerns that someone is unlawfully discharging chemicals or other liquids into its wastewater system.

Kaitangata and Waihola wastewater treatment facilities were showing signs of having been affected by chemicals being discharged into the sewer system.

Council staff are visiting all commercial properties to ensure their waste liquid is being disposed of properly.

We ask that if you see any suspicious dumping activity that you report it to Council by phoning 0800 801 350.

Council staff will assist businesses to meet the conditions set out in the trade waste bylaw which will require businesses to make an application for discharge of their waste to the sewer network.

These new charges associated with trade waste will be introduced 1 July 2021 plus their trade waste contribution.

Not sure what's safe? Then remember this - only rain down the drain!



## Milton Pool opening early November!

Monday to Friday	6.00am to 9.00am, 12.00pm to 8.00pm The pool will be available for general use and lane swimming throughout, except between 4.30pm and 6.00pm when there will only be lane swimming. Space may be limited.
Saturday	1.00pm to 4.30pm
Sunday	10.30am to 12.00pm and 1.00pm to 4.30pm
Public Holidays	1.00pm to 4.30pm