



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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Bridge

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From the Mayor

There was a time back in the 80's when Clutha District's population was well over 19,000.

The economy was buoyant, and our communities benefited from the growth and vibrancy that occurred.

Then things changed, and there was a sustained period of decline - any new housing

virtually stopped, many of the well-paying managerial positions were centralised to the cities, and most debilitatingly our young people left in their droves, most never to return.

The insidious malaise was avoided by some sectors, and painfully affected others.

The labouring jobs that were plentiful, evaporated, and along with it the big wages.

Over time the strong social, sporting, and cultural groups that were all integral threads in the tapestry of our communities withered.

From Council's perspective it was a very precarious business model.

Put bluntly there were less and less people in the rating pool and the peak of 19,200 had dwindled to 16,400. We increasingly became a low wage economy, and with an aging population.

Not only was there a nervous conservatism to embracing

change but for many the decline had happened over such a long period that the dangers they presented were not even being recognised.

I take this bumpy walk down memory lane because especially in these cluttered times, where it seems we are being devoured by the enormity of external events, it's important that we still take the time to consider the bigger picture and celebrate the fact that our local economy is performing exceptionally well.

Our population is now estimated to be 18,215 and most importantly young people are returning, seeing a prosperous future here in Clutha.

Deluding ourselves was never going to create the environment conducive for positive change - the first step in breaking the inertia is acknowledging reality, the second step is to formulate a plan for change.

That plan for Council has been 'Our Place Community Consultation' and this month heralds West Otago's version as we continue to embrace our communities, collectively exploring the potential changes required to enhance the positive momentum and unique qualities that contribute to our district's vibrancy and upwards trajectory.

The wider community consultation process has taken a long time to gain traction, however fortunately as we move from community to community, the concept is becoming more readily understood and the potential for tangible change is being grasped.

Every town is different, Balclutha and Milton identified the

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We're backing

Our Place



How about you?

Council is about to start work on the Our Place West Otago Community Plan and we are keen to hear your thoughts and ideas on a range of topics including development opportunities, community facilities, main street improvements, walking and cycling opportunities, landscape and the environment, and more.

We'll be out and about in West Otago from late January until March, gathering feedback to help inform this plan.

Keep a look out for one of the events we are planning through the ads in the Blue Mountain Express. Or you can find more information and fill in the online survey on Council's website www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Come along to one of the West Otago events to talk with the Mayor, Councillors and staff about your ideas and suggestions for **Our Place West Otago**.



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From the Mayor continued...

gaps in key facilities, The Catlins' focused on attention to detail, and Kaitangata rolled its sleeves up and added to the family focused themes coming through their town.

So, what could the process mean for West Otago? It is not for me to say. In the coming weeks it's time for the

locals to get excited about the prospect, and collectively devise their cunning plan. You can see in West Otago's health and community facilities that they already punch above their weight, who knows what could be identified when they put their minds to it.



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

Visual guide to summer water restrictions

A sign which will update prevailing water restrictions in Tapanui has gone up in the centre of the West Otago town.

Clutha District Council (CDC) has put up the sign, which is similar to fire risk signs used by Fire and Emergency New Zealand, highlighting the five stages of water restriction.

These are: Conserve water (no restrictions), summer mode (watering allowed between 8pm and 8am), hand-held hosing (sprinkler and irrigation ban; hand-held hosing only between 8pm and 8am), hand-held hosing once a week, and complete ban (on all outdoor water use).

The colour-coded sign will highlight for users whichever water alert prevails at any given time in the same way fire risk signs do.

West Otago Community Board chairwoman Barbara Hanna said the sign, put up at the board's request, would be a useful guide for locals who didn't have social media or other similar forms of communication to let them know about changes to restrictions.

It would also serve as a useful reminder that even though the area can have lots of rain from time to time, people could

not be complacent about water use, and use it indiscriminately for watering their gardens, Mrs Hanna said.

Because essential activities such as firefighting relied on access to sufficient water in a dry season, it was important urban dwellers used it wisely, she said.

Summer Mode restrictions took effect December 1, and the council is reminding people, especially those watering gardens at home, to be mindful of when they water and for how long.

CDC Group Manager Service Delivery Jules Witt said the summer mode restrictions were in place in anticipation of a warm, dry summer, and were designed to insure against the need to impose more severe restrictions as summer wore on.

While they mostly targeted urban dwellers, rural water scheme users were reminded to check for leaks and be considerate about their water use.

The council grants exemptions on a case-by-case basis to commercial properties for irrigation depending on the level of restrictions in place, the extent of the dry period, and the time of the year.

People throughout the district can do their bit for water conservation by:



- Reporting leaks in council pipes and fittings to their nearest council office, or by calling 0800 801 350 outside of business hours.
- Fixing drips and leaks in their own plumbing and outdoor troughs.
- Watering the garden in the early morning or evening, and only as necessary.
- Not leaving water running unnecessarily.
- Favouring showers more than baths because they are less demanding on water resources.
- Using a bucket to wash the car.

“ clutha heritage

Sharing Clutha's heritage online?

Few things are as rich for a community as its history. In Clutha Heritage (heritage.cluthadc.govt.nz), individuals and groups have a ready-made digital hub for creating and sharing local stories of past and present.

The creation of content on this site is a collaboration between Clutha District Libraries and the district's communities, groups, clubs, societies, schools, and individuals.

Collaboration is the key word – with the aim of growing the existing collection of digitised files to connect our shared heritage.

We encourage you to explore, to comment, and to share your stories.

The Clutha Heritage site

includes links to other digital resources on our heritage held by libraries, museums, and community groups in the Clutha District.

Government funding has enabled Clutha District Council to set up the Clutha Heritage site, fund the digitisation equipment and appoint a coordinator, Tiffany Jenks.

Tiffany says Clutha Heritage is designed to improve access to local history – whether historic or contemporary - celebrate it, and support existing heritage institutions.

She started her role in April, initially setting up the Clutha Heritage website, then basing herself in Lawrence working with organisations such as the Lions Club, fire brigade,



Tiffany Jenks is digitising a piece of Clutha's history, a Bruce Woollen Mill Pattern book so it can be viewed and enjoyed for all online.

and the Catholic church to upload local history in old file formats to the web.

More recently she has been based in Milton, with her next stops Owaka and Kaitangata.

“We've been designed so the public can come and use our equipment

and upload their histories straight to the website. It's easy to use – people just need to click a couple of buttons.”

To find out more, go to <https://heritage.cluthadc.govt.nz/pages/FAQ> or contact Tiffany at tiffany.jenks@cluthadc.govt.nz

Clutha creative sector urged to access funding

Creative Communities Scheme funding in Clutha is going unspent, and groups and artists with suitable proposals are being urged to take maximum advantage of its availability.

The Clutha District Council administers the scheme locally on behalf of Government agency Creative New Zealand and has an allocation of \$25,620 for the 2021-22 financial year.

Clutha Creative Communities Scheme assessment committee chairman Cr Ken Payne said the funding was available to ensure the local arts and culture sector thrived and was sustainable.

Cr Payne encouraged groups and individuals who had been thinking about applying, but had been unable to for whatever reason, to do so.

“We want to encourage our local

arts and culture scene, and provided people satisfy the criteria, there is no reason why their good ideas for projects shouldn't get financial support.”

The committee received just two applications in the recent round, one of which was approved.

The Tuapeka-Lawrence Community Company's application for \$4,020 to fund the projection of an image and audio-based film onto the exterior of the Tuapeka Goldfields Museum during the museum's heritage weekend in Lawrence on November 6 and 7.

The projectionist is Dunedin-based multimedia artist Leben Young, who will be using a high spec laser projector to map original content from the museum's film archives.



Cr Payne said the committee's approval of such a significant sum of money for the project reflected the hard work and imagination of the project organisers.

There is no maximum amount for applications, with the range usually between \$200 and \$5,000.

The next funding round closes on March 1, 2022.

Further information, including an application guide, and application form, is available on the Clutha District Council website www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Hinahina bridge project receives national recognition



The new Hinahina bridge in the Catlins has received national recognition.

The project, funded jointly by Clutha District Council and Waka Kotahi, and managed by Concrete Structures (NZ) Ltd, is one of three finalists in the 2022 NZ Bridges awards Small-Medium Structure (under \$5 million) category.

The category winner, along with other awards, will be announced at a dinner during the NZ Bridges annual conference in Wellington in March.

The new \$3.6 million, single-lane Hinahina bridge, recently opened, allows traffic to

cross the Catlins Lake, near Owaka. Its predecessor was built in 1957.

The new bridge has a separate cycle lane and allows for an increase in future sea level.

Concrete Structures Christchurch contracts manager James Kelly said his company, in collaboration with CDC, was delighted to have been nominated as a finalist in the awards category.

“This nomination reflects the hard work, innovation, and strong partnerships that made this demanding project a success,” Mr Kelly said.

“Concrete Structures would like to take this opportunity to thank Clutha District Council for the opportunity, as well as our partners in the project – Thomson Earthmoving, Macroventures, and Geosolve,” he said.

Clutha District Council Group Manager Service Delivery Jules Witt said the nomination reflected the high standard of workmanship and structural integrity the contractors had brought to the project.

To have that recognised nationally within the infrastructure sector was testament to that, he said.

Kaka Point visitors will enjoy the new Murray walkway

This summer the many visitors to Kaka Point can enjoy the Murray Walkway which was officially opened late last year.

Clutha District Mayor Bryan Cadogan congratulated the Kaka Point community on their efforts to achieve this project milestone.

The council funded the cost of raw materials for the project and the physical work was done by a core group of about six locals, with about 20 people altogether involved to a greater or lesser degree.

Mr Cadogan said the council was pleased to have been able to fund the project, but that the community deserved to be congratulated for its hard work and foresight in making it happen.

The 150-metre long walkway links Totara Street and Tarata Street through a reserve and features interpretative panels describing the Murray family’s association with the area, and commemorating the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook’s first sighting of New Zealand’s southeast coast, just north of Kaka Point.

What not to flush!

Baby wipes or wet wipes have been identified as the main culprit blocking up sewer pumps in the district.

These wipes appear to be made of fairly indestructible material, so please don’t flush them down the loo.

Even if they say on the packet that they are flushable, they are not!

Wipes and fats, known as “fatbergs” can cost Council a lot of money to unblock the pipes and also clean the pumps at the pump station.

Unfortunately, if repeated blockages occur eventually the property owner or occupier will be billed for the costs.



Download our new app?



Download the ‘Otago Gets Ready’ app and help do your bit to get us through in a Civil Defence emergency.

‘Otago Gets Ready’ is a proven two-way communication tool that can send Otago residents real-time localised email/text alerts during emergencies and help be part of a co-ordinated community response.



Either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or visit www.getsready.net