



# Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

p2  
**Winter Roads**

p3  
**Annual Plan**

p4  
**Creative Projects**

August 2017 | [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 was always going to be a defining time for Council with an unprecedented 140 or so projects on the go, and I believe it's time we embrace the opportunities that present themselves in this relatively stable economic climate. Our flagship initiative to unleash communities' potential is the "Our Place community plans". I am excited about what's been revealed from your comments and suggestions in the Milton and Balclutha plans (see article below). The

thousands of comments will not only help us formulate our next steps, they reflect your dreams of a better place to live, work and invest, and show a groundswell of belief that collectively it's time to roll up our sleeves and make changes. I want to thank everyone that cared enough to get involved, the easiest thing to do is remain inert and it's been humbling to see the belief and enthusiasm. It's our intention to develop a plan for every community, and



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## Update on the Our Place community plans for Milton and Balclutha

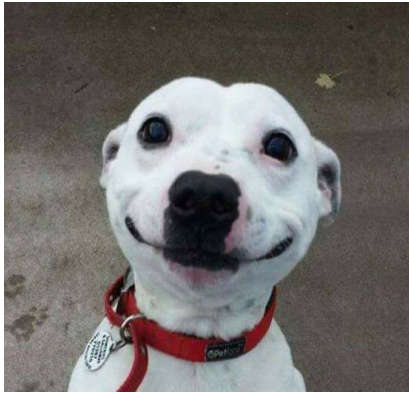
Feedback on the Our Place Milton community plan closed in July and we are now working our way through all of your comments and suggestions. Thanks to all those who made the effort to have their say. We will keep you updated as work progresses and feel free to keep an eye on our website for the latest information. Remember, these community plans centre on what Council can do with its key facilities and, importantly, how we can work with the community to make things happen. They are a way of putting our Living and Working and Economic Development strategies into action. Council has

also been working away on the Our Place Balclutha feedback, we received about 2,400 pieces of feedback. Staff are now in the process of working on project plans. These include identifying which projects should be community-led and which should be driven by Council, after all the key to success will be Council working together with the community. The project plans centre on the key topics as indicated by you, broadly described as the bridge and its surrounds, the town hall and visitor hub, walking and cycling, destination parks and reserves and the Balclutha Pool and its surrounds.

**Working with the community will be key to success**



# Notice to all dog owners



## Are you registered yet?

All dogs should have been registered by the end of **July**. It's important to register dogs over three-months-old as otherwise you may be issued with an **infringement notice**.

Remember, you can now also register your dog and pay online at: **onlineservices.cluthadc.govt.nz**. If you haven't done so yet, please register your dog **immediately** and remember to tell us if it's a "working dog" or not.

## spotlight on / WINTER ROADS

# “brrrrr...”



### *With winter well and truly here, remember to take care on our roads*

Winter conditions can make driving on our roads hazardous. Our key advice is drive to the conditions. This includes slowing down and not following other vehicles too closely. It's also useful to check conditions before leaving home and avoid driving in bad conditions if possible. When winter weather hits,

our contractors will be out gritting and clearing roads as necessary. But, be aware they grit and clear snow from priority roads first - a roading hierarchy dictates this. Remember, you still have to drive to the conditions, even on roads that have been gritted. If you notice any consistently dangerous areas, e.g. with ice, then

ring us on **0800 801 350** to report it. We do our best to tell people of road closures as soon as we can, but our staff and contractors need to check the roads first, so it can take some time for us to be advised of all these. Stay up to date by following us on Facebook or checking **www.cluthadc.govt.nz**. Remember the Transport

Agency website **www.nzta.govt.nz** has the latest state highway info, such as on SH1 and SH8. We also try to keep you up-to-date with weather warnings, but it's best to check **www.metservice.com** for the latest. Lastly, If you're interested in rainfall and river data, check out the Otago Regional Council's water website **water.orc.govt.nz**.

From the Mayor continued...

the magnificent response to date reflects the fundamental reasons why we live in the Clutha District. I want to express Council's gratitude for your considered input.

For the towns presently in the middle of this process, it is obvious some common themes are developing, and that every town has its own needs to address.

We will keep you informed about the feedback and the next steps, along with costings and suggestions of how we can work collaboratively to mitigate the impact on rates, while pushing forward in a manner that reflects your future needs and dreams of a more vibrant place to live.

**Bryan Cadogan, Mayor.**

**keep warm and read on >**

# Annual Plan Decisions



## farewell/hello

As many of you may know we farewelled our popular receptionist Ingrid Keating in July, following her decision to retire. For more than 23 years Ingrid was the first face and voice of Council to many customers and she certainly set the bar for how to help people. We miss her, but wish her all the best for the future and thank her for her service. This customer service role has been filled by Melissa Graham, who some of you may know from her role at NZ Post/Kiwibank in Balclutha, welcome to the team Melissa.

In other staff news, we also welcome our new Capital Delivery Manager Gerry Essenberg to the Service Delivery department, Gerry will be leading the capital delivery team in a range of construction projects throughout the district. We also welcome Justine Barrie as Executive Assistant to the Mayor. Justine is replacing Rachel Askew in this part-time role, while Rachel will continue as our Communications Coordinator also in a part-time capacity.



A quick update on the Annual Plan budget decisions made by Councillors in June, these included...

Funding of \$30,000 towards developing a business case for the extension of the cycling/walking Clutha Gold Trail from Lawrence through Milton and Waihola. This funding will come from Council's Opportunities Fund and have nil impact on rates. An additional \$10,000 to the South Otago Historical Society for curator wages for the 2017/18 year only. Funding of \$32,500 towards Cosy Home's Milton airshed pilot programme. Council also approved a six-month loan of one of its vehicles to the Milton Health Trust, while the Trust works to find a more permanent solution. The Trust is responsible for all

costs while the vehicle is on loan and it's expected to have minimal impact on the car's resale value. Funding of \$85,000 was confirmed for the demolition of the Kaitangata Hall (\$25,000 funded from reserves and \$60,000 from the Kaitangata Community Services rate, spread over 25 years). Councillors approved \$60,000 for the 'Working in Clutha' programme run by Clutha Development and \$10,000 for Clutha Development's project management support to the Clutha Gold Trail project. The overall rates increase was 2.56%, less than the 3.23% forecast in the 2015 Long Term Plan. The average urban rate increases ranged from 5.27% in Kaitangata to 1.09% in Lawrence. Average rural rates showed little change.

check us out at  
[www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

## Public Health Notice

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water left standing in the fittings for several hours. Although the risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends flushing a cup of water from your drinking tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the fitting. This simple precaution is recommended for all households, including public and private supplies.

## Balclutha Pool

With the colder weather, you might want to exercise indoors. The Balclutha Pool is open Monday to Friday from 6am to 8pm, Saturdays from 1pm to 4.30pm, and Sundays from 10.30am to noon; and then from 1pm to 4.30pm. You can swim lanes, reduce stress on your joints by walking, or have a soak in the therapeutic pool. So come along, have fun, and stay warm, while getting fit this winter!

## Service Requests

If you need to report any problems with Council services, for example road damage or water leaks, it's easy to get in touch, just ring 0800 801 350 and lodge a service request or visit the Contact Us section on our website: [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



## Water Notices

The best way to stay up to date with water information is to follow us on Facebook or check out the road and water notices page on our website. That's where we post the latest news about water outages, conserve water notices and more. Also, if you're a rural water scheme customer, it's worth signing up to our online notices, so you get an email about any water advisories straight to your inbox. It's easy to sign up via the online newsletters page of our website. Of course, if you are having any water issues, call 0800 801 350 any time to report it.

## spotlight on / CREATIVE COMMUNITIES

If you're looking for funding to support a local project then check out the Creative Communities Funding Scheme, which provides money for a broad range of local arts.

Examples of projects that funding could be applied for include exhibitions, productions, concerts and training workshops.

The scheme is administered by Clutha District Council on behalf of Creative New Zealand and is designed to support activities that increase participation and make arts and cultural activities more attractive to local communities.

In recent funding rounds, successful applicants have included the Balcutha Floral Art Club, which received \$430 for a play

date by the beach workshop using kelp and driftwood. The West Otago Art and Craft Exhibition received \$1,900 for an exhibition that attracted crowds of over 200, and \$1,500 was granted to pay for a tutor to run camera classes in Kaitangata.

The next funding round closes shortly on 4 August, but we have more than one round a year, so keep an eye on our website. We strongly encourage anyone with an arts or cultural project in mind to get in touch with Council to check their eligibility. More information is on [www.cluthadcc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadcc.govt.nz) or by ringing us on 0800 801 350 and speaking to Karen Piercy.

