



# Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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February 2018

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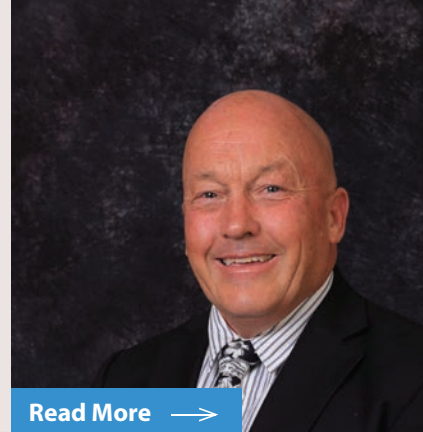
0800 801 350

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

## From the Mayor

It's 2018 and the battle continues, with this year shaping as one that will test our district's resolve. Put simply, as a Council we believe in our district's Living and Working Strategy to deliver a more vibrant and prosperous future for us all, the question I want to ask is - do you? Because now like never before I see a critical need for a collective response. I am immensely proud of our Council's determination to not accept "rural decline" as this district's future. But, to fight to recover the losses in population that we have endured over the

past 30 years, to listen to our communities' needs, and to hold firm as we take the steps required to maximise the advantage a strong economy and the hundreds of jobs that are on offer afford us, will require resolve from us all. What we most definitely need from you now is an understanding of why we are taking the "growth" approach, as well as your input as we go from community to community devising individual battle plans. The industrial park and residential subdivision in Balclutha are prime examples of initiatives undertaken



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## Long Term Plan

Councillors and staff are busy getting ready to set the district's direction for the next decade - and you will play a crucial role! We have been developing the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, which basically covers everything the Council does, and how it's paid for. All councils are legally required to set these 10-year budgets and review them every three years (we do this through our Annual Plan process). The 2018-28 Long Term Plan captures the long term vision for the Clutha District and identifies exactly what we will do to achieve this vision. The aim is always to find the right balance between investing in the future and, **continued on page 2.....**



Get ready to have your say next year...

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providing services to the level expected by you, and keeping rates fair and affordable.

The Mayor and councillors have identified a few key issues (from a long list) that we will be seeking specific feedback from you on. These will include:

- Rating changes - essentially looking at whether we're taking the fairest approach when setting certain rates.
- Mt Coee services - how we should ramp up the services provided at the district's landfill and how far some of the

- necessary improvements should go.
- Seal extensions on gravel roads - whether we should be sealing certain sections of gravel roads in towns to account for the growth factors in those areas.
- Milton's main street - upgrading Milton's main street was one of the key directives from the Our Place Milton Community Plan, now we need to know exactly what we should do, and how much we should spend.

We'll also be telling you about our financial and infrastructure strategies as

well as some other important issues that will be of interest - some of them to particular communities only. All residents and ratepayers are encouraged to have their say when consultation begins in April. This will be your chance to tell us where you think our district needs to head, what should happen in your community and which issues are important to you. It really is a key process and only happens every three years, so keep an eye out for consultation material in your letterbox and online. You'll be able to provide feedback in various ways, including through our website.

## from the Mayor continued...

by Council that have deeper underlying motivations. Did you know that just over 20 years ago Clutha's population was 19,200, compared with 16,800 at last census (and around 500 of them were incarcerated at the Otago Corrections facility) That reflects the declining school and doctor roles and the viability of our retail sectors - in fact population is the most critical factor underpinning all of our communities' resilience. Put that beside our district's most recent phenomenon where for a number of years our major employers have been unable to fill the jobs on offer and I think you can see why we are focused on our Living and Working Strategy to increase our ratepayer base. This is a battle, as our resources and options are limited, unfortunately the attitude shown from government departments entrusted with supporting districts like ours through infrastructure funding rounds means that for the time being it's a battle we must fight on our own. I think their position is beyond unreasonable, but this is a fight where the stakes are high and for Clutha losing is not an option. So, please in 2018 as you consider the future of our slice of paradise, know that Council really wants your positive input and involvement and looks forward to working with you. Onwards and upwards - Bryan Cadogan

## spotlight on / SUMMER SPRAYING

# “weeds....”



## We're updating our No-Spray Register

Is your property frontage already on Council's No-Spray Register or do you want it to be? Every summer we carry out a spraying programme on people's property frontage to keep overgrown vegetation and pest plants under control. Some homeowners choose to opt out of this, by listing

their address on our No-Spray register. To allow us to deliver this service as accurately as possible, we require residents to re-apply to be on the register every three years. Those already on the register should receive a reminder letter and form from us early in February so you can re-apply.

However, if you don't receive a letter or if you decide you'd like to be taken off or added to the register then just give us a ring on 0800 801 350. Please remember that if you choose to be on the No-Spray Register then **you must** keep the vegetation and pest plants on your road/property frontage to a minimum.

If you don't, then we will spray these areas as part of our spraying programme - this includes long grass that may be blocking signage. Also, remember you can only apply to have your **own** property frontage excluded from the spraying programme.



## new visitor maps



Launching new visitor maps: Council service centre staff and volunteers are pictured above, along with Catlins Ward Councillor Hilary McNab and graphic designer Michael Findlay at the official launch of the new maps in November last year. The maps are designed to highlight some of the gems of our district and are available at information and service centres.

# stepping UP

The Stepping UP sessions being held at the Balclutha Library are off to a roaring start, and staff are delighted with the interest in the programme.

Stepping UP is a free programme that helps people improve their digital skills in small easy steps. It is for anyone wanting to develop useful basic computer knowledge and includes tasks such as setting up and using an email account and formatting text. There are more than 30

modules to choose from ranging from internet safety, spreadsheets, home finance and Facebook.

By the end of 2017, eight sessions had been run with up to 7 participants in each. There's been a great mix of people taking part including retirees, job-seekers, digital beginners and those just wanting to increase their confidence on a computer. The sessions are free thanks to our partnership with the Stepping UP programme.

**“I enjoyed learning more about computer work, increasing that knowledge... tutors/mentors were a great help!! Thank you” -**  
quote from participant.

So far, the sessions have been held on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday mornings and staff are planning to take the modules to other towns at some point. They anticipate running another Microsoft

Word module, spreadsheets, photo books and Spark Jump this year and will look at others too.

Anyone interested in finding out more should contact the Balclutha Library on 418 1677 because prior registration is essential and staff would be happy to discuss running particular sessions for specific groups.

## 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.

## 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 with us. Just ring 0800 801 350 or 03 419 0200 and lodge a service request or visit the "Contact Us" section on our website: [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)

Please make sure you know your address when you ring to lodge a service request or lodge one online, our new system means we have to provide a physical address - which will include your rapid number if you live rurally.





## Be aware...

Just a small reminder to be careful when you come into contact with untreated fresh water such as when you're swimming or boating. In the warmer weather, water-borne diseases can develop and spread more easily so you don't want to get untreated water in your mouth or nose. There's a lot of great information on both water and food-borne diseases on the Ministry of Health website: [www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/food-and-water-borne-diseases](http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/food-and-water-borne-diseases).

## spotlight on / STREETLIGHTS

If you notice anyone out and about peering closely at streetlights, it's likely to be Council staff or contractors who have started working behind the scenes to get ready for our new LED streetlights. The LED streetlight replacement programme is being mostly funded by the NZ Transport Agency with an 85% assistance rate and you should start to see the new lights going in during the second half of 2018. Replacing our current sodium streetlights with

LED ones means our streetlights will cost less to run and they will have less outages, as LEDs last longer. There will also be both vehicle and pedestrian safety benefits from the new lights. However, some of you may notice a darker night sky when the new lights are installed, this is because LEDs, while they have a direct brightness, also have less light "spill". Check out the LEDs on Clyde Street, which were installed during Balclutha's main street upgrade.

LED streetlights on Balclutha's Clyde Street.

