

# Council News



A newsletter from the Clutha District Council • February 2016 • [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



Credit: Richard Schofield Photography



Credit: Christian Bopp



Credit: Christian Bopp

## Main Street

It was fantastic to see Balclutha's main street lined with people in December for the Christmas parade and market but also for the official opening of the town's new look main street. Mayor Bryan Cadogan and local MP Todd Barclay did the ribbon-cutting honours and spoke about the positive feedback the project had received and the district-wide benefit of having vibrant towns and attractive main streets. Thanks once again to everyone for their patience during the upgrade and we hope you enjoy the new space.

## From the Mayor

**Bryan Cadogan**

**Mayor,  
Clutha District**



Recently I had the privilege of working in tandem with a company on a project that had the potential to boost our economy and employ many people, unfortunately it came to no avail, but it did give me an extremely interesting insight into how our district is perceived by others, and where we lose out to other districts. In a nutshell, the company was looking throughout New Zealand for the next district on the rise, but ultimately saw us as stagnating. Harsh, really harsh, but they make the rules, and it's important we change this image because to contain future costs we need growth. We need to be smart and continue to look for projects that stimulate our economy, while at the same time not loading up the ratepayer. If one community grows the entire district is the stronger, and that is why Council's "battle plan" looks to maximise every community's natural advantages and overcome any barriers. Take Milton for example, it has so many magnificent companies offering huge job potential, but the current amenities, and present lack of housing stock, act as a deterrent to people considering relocating there. We are ceding our natural advantages to the likes of Mosgiel. And why is this so critical? When I hear of the compromises many of our pensioners make on a daily basis just to make ends meet, or the pressure many working families are under, it is obvious that Council has a moral responsibility to act. So that's the plan, to continue to contain costs while facilitating growth, no easy task, but one we're up for. We know this is a change in momentum, and that all ratepayers need to know and have confidence in what we are doing. I look forward to your feedback and most of all I look forward to our future.





Above, the trees ready for planting.  
 Left, West Otago Lions' members hard at work.  
 Credit: Rebecca Hughes

## Kowhai Planting

Blue Mountain Nurseries and West Otago Lions have planted more than 200 Kowhai trees to form a nature corridor from the Blue Mountains to nearby gardens, farms and Blue Mountain Nurseries itself. It will create a food source for native birds and hopefully increase their population in the region. Denis Hughes from Blue Mountain Nurseries said plants were sourced from all through New Zealand, as well as Chile

and Lord Howe Island. "We had the plants, but not the resources to do the planting, without the assistance of the West Otago Lions we could not have achieved all we did in a weekend...likewise without the support of the Clutha District Council, none of us could do the planting." The species have been carefully catalogued for future use. Contact Blue Mountain Nurseries to find out more about the nature corridor.

## Summer Sporting Events

**13 FEBRUARY 2016**  
 Ken Milne Classic  
 range of race options  
 forms available on  
[www.sportotago.co.nz](http://www.sportotago.co.nz)

**14 FEBRUARY 2016**  
 Clutha Country Summer  
 Series Balclutha race  
[www.sportotago.ac.nz](http://www.sportotago.ac.nz)

**27 FEBRUARY 2016**  
 Papatowai Challenge  
 15.5km run and walk,  
 enquiries to Wayne Allen  
[allens10@clear.net.nz](mailto:allens10@clear.net.nz)

**12 MARCH 2016**  
 Stride, Ride and Slide  
 Balclutha, 2-6 year olds  
[www.sportotago.co.nz](http://www.sportotago.co.nz)

**20 MARCH 2016**  
 Bridge to Beach,  
 range of race options  
[www.bridgetobeach.co.nz](http://www.bridgetobeach.co.nz)

## New citizens welcome



Mr Iakopo Mala Saimoni and Mrs Maritess Ayban Daumann (pictured above) with Mayor Bryan Cadogan were welcomed as citizens in November, then in December we welcomed Mrs Lucy Hardy-Allen and Bote family members, Frances, Sherien and Allan, pictured left with their newest family member and Deputy Mayor Stewart Cowie.



## New Clinton Playground



Above is the new piece of toddler play equipment that was kindly donated by Ella-Grace Amundsen in memory of her little boy Zeke David King, who passed away in May last year. It's been constructed at the Clinton triangle, with the work completed by qualified tradespeople, along with great volunteer help from supporters and family members. The playground officially opened on 31 October 2015. Funds were raised through Facebook, donations from the Clinton Lions Club, Clutha District Council, Zeke's family and friends, as well as help from generous businesses in the district. A small plaque commemorating Zeke can be found near the play area.



As part of upskilling our district's Civil Defence controllers (who are essentially in charge during a declared emergency situation), the Council recently put Gavin Scott (a manager at Balcrom) and David Campbell (Council's Planning and Regulatory Manager) through an intensive course run by Massey University. Prior to the five day course held in Christchurch in mid-November, participants had to complete an extensive range of research and online learning. During the five days, participants were exposed to a range of topics, including leadership skills and sound decision-making, the political and community aspects of emergency management as well as a range of other emergency management case studies and exercises. Following on from this, Gavin and David must now develop and work on an action plan for fine tuning their controller skills.

## Summer water restrictions

A reminder that the normal 'Stage One – Summer Mode' water restrictions are currently in effect for the entire Clutha District, meaning watering can only be carried out between the hours of 8pm to 8am. This means that watering systems and sprinklers may be used during these times, but should not be left unattended. However, watch out for further restrictions as there may be Stage Two restrictions in place if it's a dry summer. Wet weather during the summer can make water restrictions seem redundant, but the Stage One restrictions are more about getting people into the habit of using their

water conservatively and hopefully avoiding more severe restrictions if dry conditions do prevail throughout summer.

It is also important to note that while many of the district's water schemes have plentiful sources, restrictions are required during times of high demand because the treatment plants and pipe capacity of schemes restrict the amount of water that can be delivered to consumers.

Exemptions may be granted by Council on a case-by-case basis to commercial properties and for irrigation depending on the level of restrictions in place, the extent of the dry period, and the time of the year.

## Rubbish and recycling info at your fingertips!

Unsure whether your 'waste' item is recyclable? Can't remember whether its rubbish or recycling collection week?

Have the answer at your fingertips with our free 'my-waste' smartphone app!

Scan the QR code below, or go to the Council website [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz) to download the app.



**CLUTHA**  
District Council

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



If you're thinking about lighting a fire and live in a rural area of the Clutha District then you need to contact the Otago Rural Fire Authority on 0800 673 473. Also check out its website [www.otagoruralfire.org.nz](http://www.otagoruralfire.org.nz). This contains fire danger information, permit application forms and also has the latest updates about fire restrictions and which zones are in a total fire ban. If you live in Balclutha or Milton then you need to contact the Otago Regional Council before lighting a fire as the townships fall under clean air legislation.



Credit: Jo Lowrey

## Steam train makes special stop

The 100-year-old locomotive train "Passchendaele" was welcomed by a special ceremony in Balclutha in October. It made a stop during its tour of the South Island in memory of locally-born engineer Sidney Hartley Jenkinson, who designed the locomotive's engine. Pictured left is Jenkinson family member Judith Gardner who was presented with a wreath by Steam Inc. member Wayne Mason during the ceremony, that was conducted by deputy Mayor Stewart Cowie.



**St John**

**Have you thought about giving back to your community?** St John is in urgent need of volunteers, with demand for ambulance services increasing dramatically over recent years. Now, changes to the availability of after-hours medical services means the demand for ambulances will only continue to increase. It urgently needs volunteers in all areas of the Clutha District. Training is provided for all volunteers, so if you can help or support someone else to become a volunteer, then now is the time. Contact St John at [www.stjohn.org.nz](http://www.stjohn.org.nz) or talk to one of the local team members.

### 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 Fri 26 February**

Photo: Jennifer Markman



ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

## Staff Changes

Welcome to our newest staff members, Schalk Breytenbach our new Business Analyst/IT person, and Cameron Alderton our Projects Engineer. Thelma Domacia is our new Asset Management Officer and Greg Bowie is our new Management Accountant, originally from Invercargill, he joins us after working overseas. Jordan Smith has been hired in the cadetship role of Operations Assistant and Marcus Frost of Milton is our new graduate engineer. Sue Wilkins is on board as a Planning and Policy Analyst and Brian Lane is our new Facilities Caretaker. Meanwhile we've said goodbye to Water Services Engineer Murray Reynolds and Environmental Health Officer Stewart Webster.

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



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 us on 03 419 0200, email to [help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz), or write C/- Clutha District Council, PO Box 25, Balclutha 9240.