



# Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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November 2018

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

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## From the Mayor

With Christmas fast approaching it seems appropriate to reflect on recent trends and Council's upcoming hopes and challenges. I will remember this year fondly for a Long Term Plan that produced an overall average rate increase of 1.74% while still implementing projects and meeting core service requirements, at a pace almost unrecognisable from only a handful of years ago. The organisation wide cohesiveness and determination to bring in new structures and efficiencies is now reaping tangible

benefits. But we cannot delude ourselves that the job is done because everywhere we look the present buoyancy in our local economy is presenting opportunities. The challenge is how do we lock in long term growth, as much of the recent gains in population, are transient. It is becoming more and more apparent that Council may be the only one left standing to do the initial growth projects. And once they are in place they provide the launch pad to so many new and exciting developments.



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## water loss



Earlier this year Council did an audit of all water supplies to identify potential water losses. We looked into water produced, metered users and estimated consumption. While losses in any water distribution system is inevitable, the audit showed us that not all water Council produces makes it to households. Significant amounts are lost along the way, both in the Council's distribution system as well as within people's properties. Providing safe drinking water suitable for

domestic and livestock costs the ratepayer and this makes targeting water losses important work for council. We all need to do what we can to ensure water losses are reduced and more water makes it to our house. *What is Council doing next?* To help Council make good decisions about getting on top of water losses, more detailed information is needed. To get this, Council will be installing a network of water meters at key points on

targeting water loss is important work for council

## water loss continued

the water schemes.

These will give us more detail about the water losses on individual zones which can then be detected by various means for fixing.

*What can you do?*

Some water is always lost through leaking taps or pipes on people's properties. It is important that all of us check and repair these as soon as possible.

Less obvious is water lost from aging underground pipes and joints where it can drain into the ground without visible signs.

Sometimes leaks will create unexpected damp areas around your property which should be reported to Council. Leaks can also be found by listening – with all the water-using appliances and taps in the house turned off;

listen near your toby.

If you can hear water flowing there is likely to be a hidden leak somewhere on your property which should be further investigated.

So it is important to get your leaks repaired and report suspected leaks beyond your toby to Council.

If you suspect a leak phone us on 0800 801 350.

## mayor continued...

Who knows what will stem from the cycle trail being extended down through Milton and onto Waihola? And what part will the Milton main street upgrades, along with destination toilets, play in revitalising a town that has so much potential to blossom into the preeminent town of the district?

It was only five years ago when Council took the first tentative steps to reinvigorate Balclutha with a main street upgrade, and now we find the town on the brink of so many positive changes that it will be almost unrecognisable in a year's time. When one town grows the whole district benefits and this is a point I want to dwell on for a moment. Twenty five years ago Clutha's population was 19,200, the last census had us at 16,800. Not only is that less people to share the load, its less people in schools, shops and doctors waiting rooms. I have genuine fears that the delayed announcement of the most recent census is because it has been messed up to the point that Wellington is going to add a crystal ball element to the equation. But regardless of their findings Clutha is in a huge growth period and it is one we must take full advantage of. Our coastal community plan holds so much promise, we are clearly underperforming in capturing the true economic stimulus that the recent upsurge in tourism should provide. Council looks forward to continuing to lead the way with our growth projects and take advantage of the opportunities in our area. And the determination to make Clutha an attractive place to live, work and play – onwards and upwards.

**Bryan Cadogan, Mayor**

## spotlight on / to separate or not to separate

# // glass....



*How do we deal with glass?*

This is the most common question our waste management staff get asked. The simple answer is that we do not have a recycling option available. It is a cost benefit equation that does not stack up in favour of the ratepayer. Glass needs to be colour sorted (at the kerbside) and then sent to Auckland for recycling. The cost to each ratepayer to provide a kerbside, colour sorted collection and transport to Auckland is between \$60 - \$80. This would be a potential 4% increase on rates of \$2,000. As an alternative council offers free depositing of glass at Mt Cooe landfill and the transfer stations. Glass that is taken to Mt Cooe is stockpiled and used as roading fill when developing roading at the

landfill. However glass that is dropped off at the transfer stations is landfilled. There is no actual recycling of glass at Mt Cooe, only reuse.

*So why is it free to drop off at transfer stations then?*

Council decided that since glass was accepted for free at Mt Cooe it should be free at the transfer stations as well, irrespective of its final destination.

*So why isn't the glass at transfer stations kept separate and taken to Mt Cooe?*

This would incur a transport cost and this cost would have to be borne by the user.

*What is the impact of landfilling the transfer station glass?*

Glass is inert, it does not break down into any nasty leachable chemicals. So it's environmental impact as a

waste product is zero. However there is an environmental impact on the production of glass.

*What other alternatives are there?*

Recycling is actually the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff. The best possible outcome for the consumer and the environment is to reuse glass. Council is a signatory to a local government remit encouraging the government to look at a refund scheme for glass containers. Some residents in the district will remember bottle drives. This theory is what drives this scheme, a refund for dropping off clean, whole containers for reuse. This scheme has been running in parts of Europe and South Australia with NSW and Queensland set to adopt it.

## farewell/hello



At the end of the month we will farewell Bill Iversen after more than 35 years' service to the Clutha District Council.

Bill started with the Balclutha Borough's water services department in June of 1983 and moved to the Clutha District Council after amalgamation in 1989.

His knowledge and experience will be missed. Council wishes him the best and thanks Bill for his long-standing contribution to the Clutha district.

We also farewell Barbara Belvoir who was our Senior Projects Engineer. In the past two and a half years she has progressed a variety of projects. Barbara is leaving Council to return to the United States and we wish her well.

Gabrielle Schou who was our Risk Management Support Officer is moving to Queenstown.

During her time here, she made a major contribution toward getting our health and safety and business processes in place and promoting a culture toward this.

In other staff news, Neil de Jong who has been with Council on a fixed-term to implement a new document management system has now joined us permanently as a Business and Information Analyst role in the IT team.

In other fixed-term appointments we welcome Sanjeeva Ranasinghe who is our new Business Process Analyst; Robyn Cox who is our new Building Compliance Officer and is tasked with developing and coordinating Council's building control compliance function, including advice and support for monitoring public buildings, and Sarah van Asperen to join the Regulatory Services team as Resource Management Compliance Officer. Sarah will be checking resource consent conditions and arranging and completing on-site inspections. And secondly she will digitise historical resource consents into the Council's system.

## 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.**

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

**If you're unsure or have any questions, just give us a ring on 0800 801 350, we're happy to help.**

## Underpass exemptions

**Have you applied for your stock crossing?**

**Council's written consent is required if you plan to use any road, or part of any road reserve, for the regular movement of stock, including the droving of milking stock for milking purposes.**

**As part of these consent conditions, Council may require you to only use specified points of access to and from the farm as it considers it necessary to ensure that danger to other road users is minimised. Please contact us for an application form if you wish to operate a Stock Crossing over the Road Reserve.**

## Paying online reminders...

**When you are paying your rates online please check that you have the reference details correct. For a rates reference, put down your valuation number.**

**Also if you are paying a Council Sundry Invoice, change the reference to Customer ID and/or invoice number.**

**And when making a Water Billing payment online the reference is your valuation number.**

**For more information just ring Council on 0800 801 350.**



## clued up kids

Clutha kids sure are clued up when it comes to emergencies. The “Clued Up Kids” day held in Balclutha recently, hosted year six students from across the district where they practiced the “Drop, Cover, Hold” earthquake drill and got tips from our Emergency Management Officer Brendon Smith on being well prepared for emergencies. The event involved other agencies including fire, police, SAR, Surf Life Saving, Gun Safety, Relax Kids, Bike Safety, Train Safety and our Animal Control team. Afterwards they enjoyed a BBQ sausage thanks to Silver Fern Farms, who also sponsored the hire of the Rec Centre for the event.

## spotlight on / HOW PREPARED ARE WE?

Seven of every ten households in the Clutha District have taken at least some steps to prepare for emergencies – congratulations if your family is one of them. And many Clutha residents say they are likely to do more to ready themselves for the unexpected.

These are some of the findings from a recent survey that Emergency Management Otago commissioned to see how ready people are to cope with the common after-effects of events like serious flooding, a severe earthquake or a major storm. Extended power cuts, blocked roads and interruptions to mobile phone networks are just some of the consequences that we can expect to deal with. So have you thought about how a week with no electricity would affect your family, or how long you could manage

at home with just the food in your fridge, freezer and cupboards? Being prepared for emergencies isn't hard and doesn't have to be expensive. The most important thing is to talk to your family and make a plan so everyone knows what to do in the event of an emergency. Know where you will meet up if something happens during the working day. If you live in a low-lying area near a river or close to the coast, work out your safe evacuation routes in the event of a flood or tsunami. If you have young children, elderly or unwell family members and pets, you'll need to make sure your plans take account of their needs.



### Basic supplies every home should have to cope for at least three days:

- Stores of water – at least nine litres for every person including your pets.
- Non-perishable food.
- An alternative means of cooking – a BBQ or camp stove is ideal.
- Torches or camping lights and spare batteries.
- First aid kit.
- Sturdy bin liners and some kitty litter for an emergency toilet.
- Hand sanitiser and wet wipes for basic hygiene.
- Sufficient medication for anyone in your household with a medical condition.

Check [www.otagocdem.govt.nz](http://www.otagocdem.govt.nz) for more advice on preparing for emergencies.