



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

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reminder

November 2021

www.cluthadc.govt.nz

0800 801 350

help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz

From the Mayor



For over a decade now there has been one consistent trend with rate increases, where external pressures especially around consenting and environmental requirements has seen year in, year out, unrelenting, unavoidable pressure on us to increase your bill. The dominant driver is sewerage, water and to a lesser extent stormwater, ('the

3 waters'). This burden has been placed disproportionately on urban, where drinking water and sewerage standards demand exhaustive expenses. This year was a classic example, Council battled and only just succeeded in containing the overall rate rise for the wider district to 3.93%. But behind that was the true individual costs with many urban towns facing double digit increases, compared with the likes of many sheep and beef farms getting a reduction of over 20%.

And before you start on urban/rural divide, we're not, but it is imperative that we all understand the cost drivers and sustained trajectories as the first step in considering solutions, and this is the genesis of discussions our nation should have been having around the 3 waters reforms. Unfortunately what has transpired is far from that with every verified fact being confused and distorted by unsubstantiated claims, political medaling, and racist distortions.

The task was already going to be a challenge with legitimate counter arguments on all sides. For instance we are losing some control and governance versus getting the critical mass of over \$1 million consumers in entity D. Or we are selling our assets for a pittance of their worth, versus we are not selling the assets because at the end of the intended reforms Councils still own the assets. Then there is the real frustrating scaremonger that Ngai Tahu will have 50% ownership, when clearly they do not have any ownership, they have a part to play in Governance which reflects their legal entitlement of Rangatiratanga (sovereignty over water) under their treaty claims established 23 years ago, but clearly no ownership.

By the time you receive this newsletter a crucial stage of the sequencing of the reforms will have taken place, for almost a year now councils have been tasked with understanding the pros and cons of the reforms, and giving feedback to the Minister on preferred moderations to her intended proposal. This period finished on the first of October and we should be entering the stage of engagement with our public, and councils will be preparing themselves for the final 'in' or 'out' decision. But that was always dependent on the one proviso that the Minister had always maintained and that was that she would present to Cabinet a recommendation for the future trajectory of the reform process i.e engagement and decision or mandate.

Given the amount of manipulated confusion, the pendulum could well be swinging towards the latter, and that would be an extremely disappointing outcome that would deny us

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From the Mayor continued...

all the opportunity to self determination and the best outcomes for our District. I have been proud of our organisations commitment to the process, the support from staff, and the determination of Councillors to undertake exhaustive due diligence and we are fully prepared to embark on our stated intention of embracing our communities and together deciding what pathway is best for Clutha.

This has been a precarious tight rope walk to date, and understanding the natural power imbalance between Central and Local Government should have guided our collective tactical approach, but unfortunately the complexities of what should have been the more easily understood part of the process seemed beyond many councils. Preempting the process and unnecessarily entrenching positions,

along with calls for referendum or rebellion must surely have undermined the Minister's confidence in the collective ability to run due process. We are ready to play our part and I have every confidence in the ability you have to do yours. I only hope we get the chance to do what is right for Clutha, now and into the future – Onwards and Upwards.

Tech Talks: Travel in a Locked Down World

Balclutha Library is hosting the first of a series of four Tech Talks: Travel in a Locked Down World. Tourism has certainly changed with presence of COVID-19 in the world and people are rediscovering New Zealand. Throughout the week of November 8-13, Balclutha Library is hosting a selection of talks, workshops, and virtual reality experiences that will help participants discover new ways of seeing the country, especially the Clutha District, and travel in general.

Daily activities, all free, include:

- Best places to travel locally – talks and presentations
- Best travel Apps – talk and demonstrations
- Virtual Reality Travel – complete immersive experience
- Workshop – craft your own travel journal
- Clutha Camera Club Marathon – Seeing Clutha through the lens. This runs through Saturday, 13 November, and visitors in the library can observe the images captured on the day.

A schedule is available from Balclutha Library. This event replaces the earlier advertised, Creative Space, which has been postponed until February 2022.

Photo Caption: Jocelyn takes a Virtual Tour from the comfort of an armchair. →



Milton Pool set to open in November!

Keep an eye out for the opening date via the Milton Pool Facebook page or Council's website.

ATTENTION PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

To keep everyone safe at the Balclutha and Milton pools we have rules about the supervision of children.

Children Under 5 need to be kept within arm's reach and actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or older.

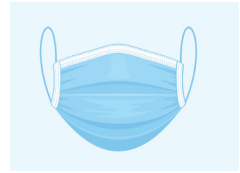
Children Under 8 need to be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or older.

Actively Supervised means you are watching your children at all times and able to provide immediate help. You and your children need to be able to see, hear and be heard by each other. Reading and using cell phones is not active supervision!

YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S LIFEGUARD
KEEP THEM SAFE



Please dispose of masks in your red lid rubbish bin



So what can I put in my yellow lidded recycling bin?

ONLY PLASTICS NUMBERED 1, 2 AND 5 ARE ACCEPTED, ALONG WITH CLEAN PAPER, CARDBOARD, AND STEEL AND ALUMINIUM CANS.

They must be clean and come from your Kitchen, Bathroom or Laundry



Here are some common examples, but always check the number!



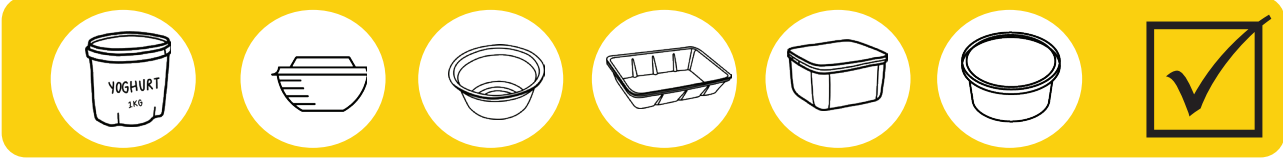
PET



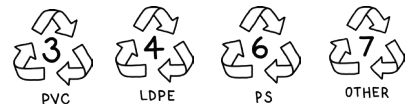
HDPE



PP



WHAT PLASTICS CAN'T GO IN:



PLEASE BE A GOOD RECYCLER, IF IN DOUBT LEAVE IT OUT.

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

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.

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. Other items not to be flushed include:

- hard objects like glass or wood
- cloth or synthetic material
- degreasing solvents
- hair clippings
- sanitary towels or condoms
- chemicals (other than standard cleaning products)

So, please think twice before hitting that flush button.

Looking ahead to the Santa Parade

It's not long now until the Clutha Country Santa Parade brings colour, fun and Santa to the streets of Balclutha.

Registrations are now open for anyone wanting to take part. Forms are available from Council's website, any of our offices, or from the parade's Facebook page.

There are also a few rules for everyone in the parade, so check them out while you're getting your form.

Saturday 4th December 2021 1.00pm - 1.30pm

...and don't forget the Christmas Market

Saturday 4th December 2021 10.00am - 2.00pm

Stall holder registration forms are available from Council's website, any of our offices, or from the parade's Facebook page.

Website: www.cluthadc.govt.nz > Your Community > Events

Facebook: search for Clutha Christmas



Summer Water Restrictions

Summer water restrictions are implemented each year on December 1 throughout the Clutha District.

Stage 1 restrictions are always put in place to try and avoid more stringent restrictions as summer progresses.

If more stringent restrictions are not implemented, the Stage 1 restriction remains in place till the end of March, and then we review whether they can be lifted or extended.

For details about what stage the district is in and the hosing restrictions visit www.cluthadc.govt.nz

Council also asks people to report water leaks in council pipes and fittings. Phone 0800 801 350.



Otago
getsready

In an emergency, knowledge is key and working together is crucial.

That's why Emergency Management Otago is asking you to 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 people prepare to be part of a co-ordinated community response.

- Do you have skills, resources or aid you can offer others in an emergency like first aid training, a 4WD, generator or language skills?
- Do you have whānau who may need extra assistance in an emergency?

If so, help yourself and others by signing up to Gets Ready now – either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code below or visit www.getsready.net to register your contact details.

It's easy to register for Gets Ready, just follow this quick and three-step process: Feel free to help friends and family who aren't as tech savvy.

1. Either scan the Otago Gets Ready QR code or go to www.getsready.net to log your contact details.
2. Fill out the Resources, Skills and Needs section – you can choose to share as much or as little information as you wish.
3. Once you receive the activation email (check your Junk Mail if it doesn't come through within a few minutes) and click on the link to activate your profile. All information is held privately and securely and is only accessible to authorised Civil Defence staff.

