

# Council News



A newsletter from the Clutha District Council • May 2017 • [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz)



## From the Mayor

**Bryan Cadogan**

Mayor,  
Clutha District



Undoubtedly the biggest issue to confront our Council for some time is the \$1.963 million liability that we paid. Rightly, this is of concern to the entire district and ratepayers deserve answers and assurances that in the ensuing years every conceivable step has been taken to ensure this can never reoccur.

So, firstly on behalf of Council I apologise. Regardless of the fact this occurred a number of years ago Council must now take full ownership, deal with the here and now and have the collective determination to take a hard look at every facet of our operation.

I also want to assure ratepayers that even though we are presently bound by confidentiality obligations under the Construction Contracts Act, Council wants to be open and transparent. To that end, our statement that we support the complete disclosure of all information surrounding events be made public, and our request for the other party to agree to this still hold.

Critical structural changes have been made in recent years, namely the establishment of an Audit and Risk committee, with an independent chair. The establishment of a major projects control group, formal pre and post annual plan meetings with our auditor plus a private meeting between the mayor and the auditors, and internal processes are better defined to ensure clear channels of communication. These steps have fundamentally changed our ability to mitigate against failure but in light of this action we will be initiating a full independent review of Council's operations and if any findings show a

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It's Annual Plan time again and the 2017/18 year includes lower rates revenue and less internal debt for Council, compared with 2015's Long Term Plan that forecast 10 years ahead.

Annual Plans are completed every year and are the mechanism for Council to achieve its Long Term Plan objectives - they identify activities and the resources needed to deliver them. Feedback on this year's Annual Plan (including our Schedule of Fees and Charges) closes soon and we'd love to hear what you think. All the information, including an online feedback form, is available on our website: [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz).

This year's plan includes some changes to Council's work programme, mainly around the timing of projects. However, some new projects were identified and are worth mentioning here, including a switch to LED street lighting. This follows confirmation that central government will fund 85% of the cost meaning that whilst converting the district's 1,500 streetlights would cost an estimated

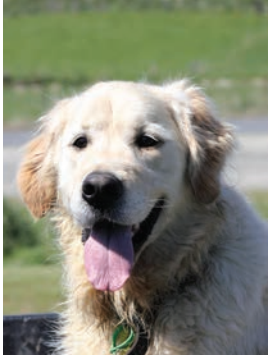
\$1 million, Clutha ratepayers will only pay \$150,000 towards it. The benefits are our streetlights will cost less to run and maintain and have less outages because LEDs last longer.

Other projects are sewerage improvements to help meet our resource consent requirements, as well as budgets to fund projects in our parks and reserves that were identified in our recent Reserve Management Plan consultation. With confirmation of a funding contribution from NZTA, we will also be repairing the Hina Hina Bridge to keep it fully functioning, read more on page 4.

You can also tell us how you think the demolition of the Kaitangata Hall should be funded and what you think of additional money being provided for the 'Working in Clutha' project that connects employers and job seekers in the Clutha District.

So, find out all the details - including more information about what it means for rates - on our website. Feedback closes on 12 May 2017 so don't forget to have your say.

# Online Dog Registrations!



Council will be posting out its dog registration forms in July and you will notice a new section that must be filled in. This identifies whether you have a 'Working' dog or a 'Non-Working' dog.

Council is legally required to record this information under the Dog Control Act. A specific definition exists for 'Working Dogs', which is dogs that are kept solely or principally for the purposes of herding or driving stock.

In other exciting news, from 1 July you will be able to pay your dog registrations online, by visiting our website [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz). You can also update your dog owner information as well. Once you've paid online, there is no need to send in your form, instead your tags will be posted to you. How easy is that?!

We are asking all those people that currently pay directly to our bank account to please use this new online service instead. Thanks in advance. Just a reminder that all dogs three months or older must be registered with Council.

Also, please be aware that if you purchase or adopt a dog, it's worth checking to make sure it is registered. Any questions, just give us ring on 0800 801 350.

## From the Mayor cont...

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need for further protective measures then we will implement those as well. Although \$1.94 million is a sickening amount as it presently stands, we are considering further legal steps that may be available to us to alleviate the impact on ratepayers.

I appreciate and join with you in your frustration that an event from so many years ago has come back and bitten us, but I am thankful that from both a political and organisational perspective there is the will to deal with this appropriately, while also continuing to focus on the many positive and productive things presently happening in our district. If at any time you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me and we will keep you posted on any new developments.

**Bryan Cadogan, Mayor.**

# Winter Reminders...

*With a winter feel in the air, we thought it was timely for the following reminders:*

**MUD AND MUCK** on our roads can be a real problem, in part caused by the storage of produce such as baleage and logs on the side of roads or reserves. The main issue is the mud and damage caused by tractors frequently accessing the produce. In some instances the produce itself can also be a hazard by limiting visibility. Please remember, there's a blanket ban on the storage of all produce on the road corridor and a bylaw in place to deter damage being done to roads. Other areas of concern include activities around vehicle entranceways that damage footpaths and overhanging vegetation that damages or is a danger on a road.

The process for dealing with such issues is in a roading brochure on Council's website: [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz).

Consumers on restricted water supplies are reminded to make sure that the pipework supplying your tank(s) is properly **FROST PROTECTED**. It's also a good time to check the connection is protected from stock damage, the strainer is clear and there are no leaks. After all, the cost of any repairs due to inadequate frost protection or stock damage will be recovered from the customer concerned. Also, it is illegal to tamper with Council water supplies, including your restricted connections. Contact us on 0800 801 350 if you're having problems, rather than taking matters into your own hands.



# Staff News



After more than 40 years working in the water area with Council, its predecessors and contractors,

Paul Slattery finished his tenure last month. Paul's contribution was immense and greatly appreciated. His knowledge and approach to trouble shooting problems and making things work will be missed by both staff and customers. We wish him all the very best for his future. In other staff news, we have been joined by Gisela Cook in the role of library assistant and Dianne Dowdall at the Balclutha Centennial Pool. Council staff turned out in force for the fundraising quiz night organised by the Clutha District Youth Council in March. The money will go toward events for young people in the district. We also officially welcome this year's youth councillors: Roy Devereux, Brei Dickie, Jack Johnston, Ella-Rose Lawrence, Annie McLaughlin, Alice Melvin, Matthew Michie, Amy Morrison, Isla Pringle, Brooke Rutherford, Keegan Tunnage, Jonty Waylaars, Meghan Woodrow, and Nicole Young.



Select a newsletter

Our Council: E-Newsletter

Rural Water Scheme: Balmoral 1

Rural Water Scheme: Balmoral 2

Clutha District Council has a new online newsletter called Our Council: E-Newsletter!

It's sent straight to your email inbox every six weeks, following Council meetings.

The aim is to keep residents, ratepayers and stakeholders informed about the latest decisions and news and to give you any other timely reminders.

It is very easy to sign-up on our website, [www.cluthadc.govt.nz](http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz), just check out the Newsletters page under Publications.

Rural Water Scheme Customers should also consider signing up to get email alerts about their water scheme. This means they'll get notices such as boil water or conserve water notices straight to their inbox.

You can subscribe to as many or few water schemes as you like.

Don't forget, another easy way to stay informed is via Facebook, just follow the Clutha District Council page. Thanks to all those current followers who already help spread important civil defence messages, lost dog notices and much more.

While we're on the subject of websites, it is also worth checking out the updated Tuapeka-Lawrence Community Company's website: [www.lawrence.co.nz](http://www.lawrence.co.nz). It's got lots of useful information about the town and community.



## 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 you flush a cupful of water from your drinking water tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the fitting. We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies

### 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 5 May  
so get in quickly!**

Photo: Jennifer Markman



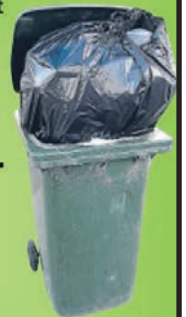
ARTS COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND TOI AOTEAROA

## ARE YOU GUILTY OF OVERFILLING YOUR WHEELIE BINS?

Remember, all bins must have their lids closed when they go out for collection and should weigh less than 30kg.

Council will be monitoring bins so thanks for doing your bit to comply.

Any questions ring our Waste Minimisation Officer on 0800 801 350 or email [steve.clarke@cluthadc.govt.nz](mailto:steve.clarke@cluthadc.govt.nz)



# Nuggets Road Sealing Project



The completion of the sealing project on the Nuggets Road was marked with an official ceremony last month. The project involved sealing the carpark, culvert work, tree cutting and rock stabilisation, widening some of the road, guardrail installation and applying a chip seal from where the road meets Karoro Creek Road all the way to the lighthouse.

The NZ Transport Agency approved a budget of \$2.7 million for the project and contributed \$1.6 million, close to 60% of the total cost. The remaining cost was met by Council. The final total project fees including the contract costs, design and professional fees was expected to come in under budget at approx. \$2.2 million.

The Transport Agency's funding is part of the Otago Transport Investment Programme, which identified the sealing of the Nuggets Road as one of four key projects that would benefit Otago.

The road is the only one to Nugget Point Lighthouse and the

Nuggets, one of the most popular visitor destinations in our district, attracting more than 60,000 visitors a year. It complements the \$600,000 investment the Department of Conservation made in the area through the initial construction of the carpark, toilet facilities and viewing platforms.

The sealing of The Nuggets Road, together with the sealing of the road between Curio Bay and Haldane in Southland, was endorsed by the Otago and Southland Regional Transport Committees as a priority one project and promoted to the Transport Agency as a "single journey" project for the Otago/Southland regions.

Clutha District Council's Group manager of Service Delivery Jules Witt said it was great to have the project complete.

"We are pleased about the improved safety and smoother driving experience this project will bring to a key destination for both locals and visitors alike."

## Hina Hina Bridge



Council's pleased that work to strengthen the Hina Hina Bridge will go ahead, making it suitable for heavy vehicles again.

The bridge has deteriorated over a number of years and has had severe weight restrictions in place for safety reasons. Locally, the bridge is considered to be a critical link to Jack's Bay.

Council included funds in its 2016/17 budget for the strengthening work, but this was subject to NZ Transport Agency approval. This approval has now been received meaning Council will fund 41% of the \$1.13m and the NZTA will fund 59%.

Once completed, the bridge will be open to vehicles weighing up to 44 tonnes, so emergency service vehicles, general farming traffic, locals and tourists will all be able to use the bridge again. The amount of work required is significant and will mean closures, which we'll keep you updated about.



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