The first four months of the financial year has seen good performance, with the targeted surplus of $1.6m remaining intact. Initial indications are that August returns are positive and DWC should move closer to its forecast profit.

DWC’s equity has increased from $97.8m at the start of the financial year to $98.6m as at 31 July 2012. Total assets are $117.9m as at 31 July compared with $118.2m at 1 April 2012.

If you have, for example, an HR problem you can give us a call and we can put you in direct contact with the CECC’s HR Advisor,” she says.

The second alliance between DWC and New Zealand Institute of Management Southern means NZIM courses will be available on the West Coast. Upcoming courses in Greytown include a two-day Accounting for Non Accountants course on 3 October, a two-day Introduction to Performance Management on 31 October and a three-day Team Leader – Essential Skills on 28 November.

“Therm a thing about these courses is everyone in Greytown is registered for the NZTE capability development vouchers so your business may be eligible for some financial support to attend the courses, just get in touch to find out more,” says Mrs Heersink.

Contact DWC on 0800 768 0140 for more information.

More support for West Coast businesses

Business support has been boosted on the West Coast as DWC teams up with two organisations to extend their support for business.

The first partnership is with the Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce (CECC), the first source for business advice across a wide range of areas. The partnership will see DWC’s Nelia Heersink providing access to CECC resources on the Coast including advice on business strategy, finance, sales and marketing, HR and operations.

“This provides the opportunity to increase our commitment and resource on the West Coast Coast businesses, tapping into the wealth of knowledge we have available here on the Coast,” says DWC’s Nelia Heersink saying she is confident DWC can provide a one-stop-shop for business support services on the Coast.

Growth in Ross in the 1950’s and 60’s DWC Trustee Evan Jones remembers a thriving town that had three steam trains and two rail cars from Christchurch visit every day.

“I used to travel in the railcar to Westland High School, the driver would let us ride up front with him, we had a ball,” he says.

These days the end of the line is Hokitika where Evan and his family now make their home but what hasn’t changed is his love for the West Coast. “I’m passionate about the Coast because it’s paradise. It’s a great place to grow up, you can do anything and there is a real freedom.”

Evan and his wife Yvonne own Evan Jones Construction and have built many of the Coast’s major buildings. It’s an industry Evan has always enjoyed. He left Westland High at 16 with School Certificate in woodwork and drawing and took up a job as an apprentice carpenter at NZ Railways.

After two years in Greytown he moved back to Ross to work for Jim Manera and finish his apprenticeship. Initially his role was to work for Evan Jones Construction.

Despite their love of the Coast the couple also wanted to travel and went to Sydney with Evan’s brother who was working in supermarkets, high rise apartments and a 32 story office building in central Sydney. “It was good being a New Zealander in Sydney back then because people respected Kiwis as they worked hard”.

As children Anthony and Jacki grew up they developed a strong family bond. Jacki was a main place so headed home. Initially Evan worked for Ferguson’s Earth Moving buildings bridges, the Greyound Council Buildings and hydro schemes for Westpower.

The Scenic Circle Hotel in Franz wanted an extension and asked Evan if he could put a team together to do it. They then built offices in Dunedin and in 1986 Yvonne and Evan formed Evan Jones Construction, initially based in Hokitika and then with a branch in Marlborough a year later.

25 years later Evan is proud of what the company has achieved, employing 99 people at its’ height. “We’ve built two court houses, two aquatic centres, bridges, luxury lodges, hydro-schemes, supermarkets in Greytown, Hokitika and Blenheim and most of Westland Milk Products,” he says.

The company presently employs over 40 staff including son Anthony and daughter Jackie’s husband Bryan. Known for his straight talk, no-nonsense approach, Evan is also an extremely proud grandfather of six and a man who gives a lot to the community.

He is a former Westland District Councillor, on the board of the West Coast Rugby Union and two years ago was asked to put his name forward to be Westland’s Trustee at DWC. It’s a role he thoroughly enjoys.

“DWC administers a legacy for our children, and our children’s children so we have got to look after it and have confidence in the people around the board table,” he says.

Evan has no plans for retirement, his latest dream is to build a family run hotel in Hokitika. Don’t be surprised if he does it.