DWC achieved its budget in September but remains total $100.3m, an increase from the start of the year towards the end of September. DWC's net assets now $200,000.

Development West Coast wins AUT Business Support Award

The awards recognise the most significant business support organisations in the country and were presented at a gala dinner at Auckland's Langham Hotel in front of over 700 business leaders.

DWC CEO John Chang says being publicly acknowledged for their contribution is wonderful. “DWC has received this award on behalf of all the business support organisations on the West Coast,” he says.

DWC won the award from a strong group of finalists including the West Coast Business Network, Leadership NZ, Beef & Lamb NZ and the New Zealand Small Business Council.

DWC Chair John Sturgeon says it was a proud moment to accept the award on behalf of the team at DWC.

“The Coast has had a few knocks in the last couple of years and being recognised by the rest of the country for all DWC’s hard work to help us get on our knees and continue,” he says.

Dean of AUT Business School Dr Geoff Perry says the winners demonstrated their successful leadership and planning, customer and market focus, innovation, responsible financial management, social and economic growth on the Coast,” he says.

“DWC’s success is a result of excellent business support, evaluation, improvement and business results.

“All entries go through a thorough evaluation process that is overseen by the New Zealand Business Excellence Foundation, as well as evaluators from our own Management Department at AUT Business School, and assessed against the international Baldridge criteria. With this in mind, the winners really have demonstrated they are tops of their game,” he says.

John Sturgeon re-elected as Chair of DWC

DWC chairman John Sturgeon has been re-elected as chairman of the Trust and re-appointed for a further three years as the representative of the four West Coast councils. He will be assisted by a new deputy chairman, Trustee Colin Smith. Mr Smith replaces former deputy chair Robert Buchanan, who has resigned from the role of deputy chair but will remain as a DWC Trustee.

DWC CEO John Chang says both Mr Sturgeon and Mr Smith have a wide variety of skills to offer the board.

“Colin Smith is a well respected community man on the Coast and has been a valuable member of the board in his first two years as a Trustee. I thoroughly enjoy working with John Sturgeon and appreciate all the extra time and effort he puts into the Trust as Chair,” Mr Chang says.

“I would also like to thank Robert Buchanan for his wonderful contribution to DWC. During what was one of the most challenging periods for the Trust, the governance experience and balanced approach helped steady the ship,” Mr Sturgeon says.

John Sturgeon says he is happy to serve another term. “There are still things I would like to see. DWC achieve including the Mines Rescue Training Facility. I would also like to thank Robert Buchanan for his work as Deputy Chairman, in my early days as a Trustee. I am sure I will find him an excellent sounding board,” he says.

DWC CEO John Chang and Chairman John Sturgeon receive the Business Support Award for their work on improving and promoting the West Coast.

John Sturgeon ONZM, MBE
Chairman

Tourism campaign raises awareness of West Coast

THIR $100,000 West Coast tourism campaign funded by Development West Coast has helped raise awareness of the region as a tourism destination says Tourism West Coast.

The four-week television campaign finished in mid-November, however, outdoor billboards in Christchurch and Wellington remain in prominent spots in both cities. The advertisements can still be viewed on Facebook, YouTube and the Tourism West Coast website.

Tourism West Coast CEO Jim Little says he has received a lot of positive feedback about the campaign. “The feedback from most of the operators is very good. In my experience people may not book right now but it goes on their bucket list. Next time they are planning a holiday the West Coast will be on their radar,” he says.

The television campaign highlighted the wide variety of activities available on the Coast and featured both an active and passive version of tourism highlights. DWC CEO John Chang says DWC wanted to support the region at a time when the economy has taken a hit. “While the media was telling the public about the economic problems on the West Coast DWC wanted to remind the country that we are still open for business. This campaign was about exposure, exposing all the wonderful things the West Coast has to offer and feedback says we have achieved that,” says Dr Chang.

DWC CEO John Chang and Chairman John Sturgeon re-elect for a third year.

As a young boy growing up high on the hill at Denniston Frank could never have dreamed that one day he would be part of a Trust who would help restore the Plateau as a tourism attraction.

The DWC Trustee has fond memories of his childhood. “I was an adventure playground, the incline and aerial rope way were open and we would spend hours up there thinking you think back that was the benefit of not having TV; computers or video games – you got out and enjoyed what you had,” he says.

While at Canterbury University studying for a Bachelor of Commerce, Frank knew he was training to be a teacher. Frank had planned to teach too but on the day of his graduation he was offered a job at Westport College. Frank had two children and doing both he felt and was persuaded to go back to school and study bookkeeping - ending up staying at school for another three years at Canterbury University.

"If it wasn’t for the influence of my bookkeeping teacher I wouldn’t have thought of going to university. If you had seen my potential my life would have been very different,” he says.

While at Canterbury University he was offered a job at a bookkeeping company. Frank went to Buller High School but left after his first year because of a job, he said. He then moved south to Waimangaroa. His father worked in the village and was secretary of the miners union. “It was the type of community where I gained my sense of responsibility about working within the community you live in. Not only was he involved in the unions but he was also a very committed church man,” he says.

Frank went to Buller High School but left after his first year because of a job, he said. He then moved south to Waimangaroa. His father worked in the village and was secretary of the miners union. “It was the type of community where I gained my sense of responsibility about working within the community you live in. Not only was he involved in the unions but he was also a very committed church man,” he says.

With Jo pregnant with the first of their three children they decided to head back to Westport. Within five years Frank became a partner at Wood & Drage and managed the rose business. "I used to live in town and what they decided to head back to Westport. Within five years Frank became a partner at Wood & Drage and managed the rose business. "I used to live in town but it is very difficult to live there. I decided to go out in the country and that is when he decided to move to the West Coast and to our community in the last eleven years. Having said this though we have not achieved anywhere near our set goals. We have

HOKITIKA BUSINESS BREAKFAST

7.30am – 9am Tuesday 11 December, Beachfront Hotel

Guest speaker Mark Gilbert from Christchurch’s Hassle Free Tours

Mark will talk about his recent visit to New Zealand as the winner of the PATA Young Tourism Entrepreneur Award and will talk about overcoming business challenges after the Christchurch earthquakes, why change is important and the importance of finding a落到 collaboratively

$20 CECC Member $25 Non member
To register or enquire email nelia@dwc.org.nz or phone 03 768 1076

Chairman’s Comment

It seems like we have been here before, doesn’t it? If we spend seven decades only looking like an almost daily basis, the economy on the West Coast hanging on precariously to what business it has left, the housing market holding its breath for any signs of recovery, and retailers hoping for a better trading season.

It all seems too much for Coasters to shoulder.

But allow me to say this much from someone who has spent seven decades on the West Coast - this is NOT the time to hunker down and wait for something to happen, or worse, stand still until someone else determines our future for us. No, it is at times like this that we come together and support each other to make things happen themselves, imagine, innovate, and be the change. I see this happening right now.

Grey District Council is leading the economic development forum with participating local business and community leaders. They want to take charge and make things happen.

Up in Buller, the council is leading the efforts of trying to retain more of the wealth generated locally and to assist in bringing the trustee and mayor have been fronting up to the Regional Council on support on behalf of the District. The council are leading the very important task of delivering for the future.

Down in Westland the council has been leading the way proactively promoting the West Coast through the wonders of tourism. Their latest efforts with the Whitefriars Festival in Christchurch have not disappointed.

And the Regional Council is working hard behind the scenes and out in the field to make things happen, supporting our critical West Coast industries such as tourism and dairying.

It is not just the councils of course. Here on the West Coast we still have large and small businesses contributing to the local economy and to the lives of our whanau each and every day of the week.

We at DWC are working hard also. We are proud of the fact that we have made a difference to the Coast and to our community in the last eleven years. Having said this though we have not achieved anywhere near our set goals. We have a much bigger vision, hope and desires for this region and I personally believe we can get there but only if we come together, all scrunaggring in the same direction. It is not the time for knocking others for having tried or dispelling unwarranted cynicism to those having a go. No, at times like this we must do what we do best as Coasters and that is to support each other.

I am sure we are all positives and just have a go. I know that we will come out of this stronger, better and brighter as a region. Keep smiling, keep working hard and keep supporting each other out there!”

John Sturgeon ONZM, MBE
Chairman

For further information, contact:
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