DWC's investments were static in March which meant income did not reach monthly targets resulting in a small loss around $200k below budget.

However the Trust is forecasting a profit of around $86k for the year to March 2013 and net assets have increased from $99m at the start of the financial year to $104m.

**DWC helps build new Westport early childhood centre**

DEVELOPMENT West Coast's Computers in Schools programme has seen 31 primary schools purchase nearly half a million dollars worth of new computer equipment over the last three years.

The schools have spent $461,000 (incl gst) on new classroom technology, $435,000 of that was funded by DWC. The money purchased 265 new computers, 135 tablets, upgraded wireless networks, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards and more.

The third and final year of the programme has just rolled out with ten schools across the region receiving new ICT equipment. They include Buller’s Westport North, Westport South, Gravity and Reefton Area Schools, Grey’s Marsden Valley, Grey School, Hokitika District High School, Grey’s Main Schools, and Westland’s Kaniere, Franz Josef Glacier and Whataora Schools.

DWC Chair John Sturgeon says DWC is proud to have been involved in the programme.

“It is great that West Coast kids are now in a position where they are ahead of the game when it comes to technology. Our kids deserve the same opportunities those in other regions get,” he says.

It is expected that by June 2014 most West Coast schools will have the ability to be connected to ultra fast broadband. ICT facilitator Eric Martini says as a result of DWC’s programme West Coast primary schools are now in a position to use ultra fast broadband to the fullest.

All of the West Coast primary schools now have up-to-date technology and as a region we must be one of the most connected and up to date in the country,” he says.

Deputy Principal of Westport North School, Cath O’Longhlin, says as a result of DWC’s programme the school has been able to purchase an iPad for every teacher meaning each class, from Year 0 to Year 8, now have two at their disposal.

“The children are using the iPads for maths and literacy as there are lots of games which practise the skills and strategies they need. They don’t even realise they are learning,” she says.

An independent review of the first year of the Computers in Schools project has found students are more engaged in learning and have increased motivation and engagement since the introduction of new technology.

**Pizza and seminars to help with business awards entries**

DWC is offering a helping hand to businesses wanting to enter any year’s business awards in the form of seminars designed to assist you with the entry process.

The hour-long lunch or dinner seminars will give ideas and tips on filling out the entry forms as well as pizza to help the creative juices flow. They will be held in Westport, Reefton, Hokitika, Franz Josef and Westport South on the 25th of June.

The seminars are designed to make the entry process as simple and easy as possible. It is not that hard or involved to fill out.

The timing of the DWC funding was perfect and it was a great relief for the Board of Trustees to know we didn’t have the stress of finding that extra $100,000. It has meant we have been able to open at least a year earlier than we otherwise would have been able to,” says Cate Barry.

In 2011 DWC made $2 million available through its EDF to each of the three West Coast district councils to fund various community assets over five years.

The Westport Kindergarten association says it plans to use its allocation to buy a piano and a video camera.

“The Westport Kindergarten Association says it plans to use its allocation to buy a piano and a video camera. As a young business owner it was a big encouragement for me to be around such successful business people and it showed me how amazing the Coast’s businesses really are.”

DWC CEO John Chang says it is heartening to see that many community and nearby halving the waiting list to send children to school.

The Kindergarten had been saving and fund raising to build the early learning centre for four years but a $100,000 funding injection from the Buller Council through DWC’s Extraordinary Distribution Fund (EDF) meant they were able to commence building a year early.

“The timing of the DWC funding was perfect and it was a great relief for the Board of Trustees to know we didn’t have the stress of finding that extra $100,000. It has meant we have been open at least a year earlier than we otherwise would have been able to,” says Cate Barry.

In 2011 DWC made $2 million available through its EDF to each of the three West Coast district councils to fund various community assets over five years.

The Kindergarten was one of the first projects to get funding approved by Buller District Council and DWC CEO John Chang says it is heartening to see it is now employing five registered teachers and two part-time staff.

“As intended the funding is playing a role in stimulating the economy at a time when things are pretty quiet on the Coast. At the end of the process we are really looking forward to enjoying the many and varied community assets on the West Coast,” he says.

The kindergarten early childhood centre is situated next door to the kindergarten and provides an all day care service for children from as young as 12 weeks old. Cate Barry says that before opening the new facility there were 120-130 children on the waiting list, now that is down to 70.

“Previously people who had to work couldn’t find anywhere to care for their children and now they are able to return to work or just get a break if they need one. We have had great feedback from parents about the calm environment that has been created and we also noticed the new centre gives children a smooth transition to kindy and that’s what parents really love,” she says.

The Westport Kindergarten Association says it plans to review the need to provide further services at the end of the year.

**Awards Seminars**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Westport</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 18</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greymouth</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 19</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Franz Josef</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 25</td>
<td>12.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hokitika</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 25</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reefton</td>
<td>Thursday, June 27</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
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To register for the seminars contact karen@leadinglight.org.nz

The seminar is to be held in the new Westport Kindergarten association’s new early childhood centre.

For further information, contact: John Sturgeon, Chair, or John Chang, CEO (03) 768 0140 or 0800 768 0140