Visitors flocking to new Coaltown museum

ESTORS are flocking to the new Coaltown museum in central West Coast with over five times the number of visitors arriving in the museum on opening day and is well up on the 240 people who visited the Coaltown museum. This includes 800 on opening day and is well up on the 240 people who visited the Coaltown museum. The museum is a living piece of Buller’s heritage telling the stories of the pioneers that battled the rugged environment in search of their fortune. On display is a huge Q wagon used on the famous Denniston Incline and a 20 tonne break drum used to slow the wagons as they raced down the incline. Collections of photographs also paint a picture of the hard daily life for miners and their families.

New sponsors and prize packages for business awards

NEW sponsors have come on board for the 2013 West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards with additional categories and prize packages also on offer. The Leading Light Trades/Manufacturing/Primary Producer award designed to recognise small businesses that are less than 5 years old and demonstrate qualities such as dynamic leadership, or innovative product/service development and have an ambition to grow and put the West Coast on the map. Also new to the awards this year is the Leading Light Community/Charity Organisation award.

Corporate sponsorship

DWC CEIO John Chang says these awards wouldn’t happen without the generosity of sponsors. “I am encouraged to see so many sponsors supporting the awards again and new ones coming on board to celebrate business excellence on the Coast,” he says. “Times are tough for businesses out there and any extra marketing exposure helps so I would recommend businesses take advantage of the awards and enter. As finalists and winners you get great publicity and there is always an opportunity that there may be someone more deserving.”

DWC CEO John Chang with some of the business owners and operators attending the Westport Awards seminar.

Chairman’s Comment

DURING the month, our CEO and I were privileged to be invited to attend the pre-opening ceremony of the newly developed Coaltown Museum and i-Site at Westport.

It was a special occasion and along with other generous sponsors DWC was pleased to have been able to financially assist the relocation and redevelopment of these two valuable community assets.

What a great job Gail Howard (Chair) and the team have done. The ultra-modern glass framed façade was a joy to see and the contrast to the wonderful and agile art deco structure of the original building and the coal mining heritage on the West Coast at the Coaltown Museum is certainly something else. If you have not yet seen our newly acquired assets, I highly recommend that you do.

There are a number of projects that management and staff are working on that are bubbling away. Trustees and I are communicating with wide and diverse groups of people within the business community listening to the current challenges and opportunities that might be available out there. DWC is always exploring innovative ways of further stimulating the local economy beyond the $10m cash injection we have already contributed in the last 18 months or so.

The 2013 West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards event team has secured the necessary level of corporate sponsorship. I know it’s not easy to commit to sponsorship, especially during a recessionary time, but the fact that the sponsors have all returned is a demonstration of just how much the event means to us all and the importance of highlighting the business excellence that exists on the West Coast. The corporate sponsors and the organisers are doing their bit - it’s now up to the local businesses to step up and participate by submitting their applications to the event. What a better way to stand out than by becoming a category finalist or even a winner at this year’s Leading Light event! Good luck to you all.

John Sturgeon
Chairman

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