

Financial Overview

DWC has continued to record positive results in the second month of the 2014 financial year. Investment gains contributed to a May profit of \$557k compared to

a target of \$434k. Total assets as at the end of May were \$122m and the Trust had equity of \$104.6m.

New viewing platform at Greymouth's Southern Breakwater



The new viewing platform at Greymouth's Southern Breakwater.

Visitors and residents will be able to watch some of the Coast's spectacular sunsets from a unique new viewing platform at Greymouth's Southern Breakwater.

The viewing platform, which has been created in the style of an old ship, allows stunning views over the coast and Grey River bar and on a clear day you can see south down the coast to Aoraki/Mt Cook.

Grey District Council Corporate Planning and Community Manager, Quecha Horning, says construction of the viewing platform is almost complete with only final finishing touches to be done.

"We have every expectation that it will become a popular attraction, both to locals and tourists. The Breakwater area was anecdotally referred to as Shipwreck Point and we wanted to reflect the history of the area as well as enhancing the riverside and providing

a recreational facility," she says.

The viewing platform has been built with \$300,000 funding from Development West Coast's Extraordinary Distribution Fund (EDF) with carparks, road surface upgrade and toilets still to be completed.

In 2011 DWC allocated \$2 million to each of the three West Coast district councils. Grey District Council is using its EDF allocation to build and fund various community assets and projects over five years.

"It is brilliant to have the funding to upgrade and create a feature on the riverside for everyone to enjoy. With its proximity to the cycle trail I am sure it will become a much loved community asset," says Ms Horning.

Grey District Council is also planning to use further EDF funding to enhance the Northern Breakwater area as part of a new eco-cluster which will see bird and whitebait habitat enhanced and a recreation area created.

Building company wins early bird business awards prize

HOKITIKA building company, Riley Build, won the early entry prize package draw as part of the West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards.

Award entries received before the 10th of July were eligible for the prize draw. Riley Build's Kate Riley says it was great to win and the company is now looking forward to learning whether it will make the award finals.

"The awards have already provided an opportunity to review the Riley Build operating systems and focus on our team's strengths while acknowledging our weaknesses. It would be brilliant to reach the finals, not just for our team but all our sub contractors and suppliers who work with us to maintain a high level of service," she says.

Award entries closed on 26 July and a panel of nine high profile South Island business people are now undertaking initial judging with finalists due to be announced on 30 August 2013.

DWC CEO John Chang says it is encouraging to see a good number of nominations have been received for the Hairy Lemon & The IT Team Innovation Award. This new award recognises an innovation that has made a significant difference to a business' productivity, *modus operandi*, profitability or performance.

"Early indications are that the level of innovation that exists on the Coast is really high and that is genuinely quite exciting. We



DWC Trustee Evan Jones presents Kate Riley from Riley Build with the prize package

need to promote the high degree of creativity and innovation that exists here on the West Coast and we have to market it to the rest of New Zealand and the world," says Dr Chang.

As the winners of the early bird draw, Riley Build has won a special Breakaway Package including two nights' accommodation for two at the Heartland Hotel Fox Glacier and a guided glacier walk from Fox Glacier Guides. We acknowledge the generous contribution by the sponsors for these two wonderful prizes.

Up Close and Personal with Robert Buchanan – NZ Law Society appointed trustee

DEVELOPMENT West Coast Trustee Robert Buchanan believes he is one of the luckiest lawyers in Wellington. Once a month he gets to leave the confines of the capital city to spend time on the West Coast as part of his role with DWC.

"I thoroughly enjoy the fresh West Coast air and the stimulating atmosphere around the DWC board table. The Coast is a thriving community with great values and a strong economic base and I have a passionate commitment to the region," he says.

Mr Buchanan is appointed by the NZ Law Society and became its first appointed trustee in 2009. While he now lives in Wellington he was born and bred in Christchurch. Growing up he holidayed on the West Coast and his family still has a bach at Arthur's Pass that he likes to drop in to on his way over to the Coast for meetings.

In the 1970s he completed a law degree at the University of Canterbury and then travelled, working in a deprived area of London providing legal aid for three years. "It was a life-forming experience working with a lot of ethnic communities. I learnt a lot of good values and an understanding I could be a lawyer who could make a difference," he says.

Returning to Christchurch in the early 80s he was involved in starting up the Tenants' Protection Association. As part of his job with the Association he was involved in advocating for tenants' rights which ultimately contributed to the instigation of the Residential Tenancies Act and Tenancy Tribunal.

From 1984 to 1990 he worked for the Ombudsman's Office and then went on to roles with the NZ Law Society and the Law Commission. In 1998 he became the Assistant Auditor-General, Legal, a role he had for eight years before setting up his own law practice specialising in public sector governance and risk management. He also continues to be involved in the development of government audit offices

in the Pacific and South East Asia.

When Mr Buchanan was appointed as a DWC trustee in 2009 he was also made deputy chairman. "At the time DWC needed someone

to steady the ship from a governance point of view but after the last elections I came to the view that it was important for the chair and deputy chair to be Coasters and I was happy to hand over the deputy chairmanship to Colin Smith in 2012," he says.

Mr Buchanan says the recession, the post-earthquake tourism downturn and Pike River Mine disaster have meant the Coast has had to weather some tough economic times over the last few years.

"At times like this I believe DWC's focus must be on keeping the West Coast economy going. It has been about providing assistance to existing businesses and helping to grow their people and their business capacity, while at the same time growing the Trust Fund for future use and continuing to fund major community infrastructure," he says.

"Under the leadership provided by Chairman John Sturgeon DWC trustees have looked to consolidate and restore DWC's credibility with the public, business community, and iwi bodies. This now gives us a foundation to develop a new and more integrated approach to development of the West Coast, working alongside rather than apart from the business community and the local Councils."

His hope for the future is that as the economy improves DWC will be able to use those strategies to help create some visible new ventures as well as continuing to act as a catalyst for business development.



You are invited to the **DWC Annual Public Meeting** for the presentation of the 2012–13 Annual Report

St John's Rooms, Hokitika | 7pm, Tuesday, August 27

Chairman's Comment

This week we witnessed the birth of a new future monarch in Great Britain. On the same day thirty odd thousand West Coasters saw the crowning of one of our own – the lovely Jackie Thomas – as the winner of X-Factor New Zealand. What a special moment that was for Jackie and her family - in the limelight on national television being recognised for her natural talent and years of perseverance and hard work. Jackie, you have done a stellar job and made all of us proud, congratulations!

To be a winner in the business world you will need to have the right attitude and discipline. These are critical ingredients really. It is often during times of difficulties that we get to see the real essence of the person that you are. Times are tough at the moment on the West Coast, no doubt about it. However I see our business men and women out there problem solving and adjusting their businesses to adapt to the new environment on a daily basis. Your efforts will not be in vain I am sure.

I saw the evidence of this recently at a business breakfast in Greymouth where we had Peter Townsend from CECC as our guest speaker talking about their initiatives on the Canterbury Rebuild. We were delighted to have over 40 participants attending the 7.30am function, sharing a warm meal, listening to our speaker and networking with fellow local

business leaders. Collaboration is the key to not only survive but to thrive.

DWC staff are out and about meeting with business owners and managers listening to your issues and opportunities. We are only a small team and for this reason it will be difficult to visit all of the businesses on the West Coast on a regular basis. We do however operate an open door policy so if you have a matter you want to discuss then call the office, make a booking with one of our friendly business managers and pay a visit to DWC, we will be only too happy to listen to you. What DWC cannot afford to do is overstretch its resources and go around meeting people for the sake of meeting them and as a result end up over promising and under delivering. This would be a sure way to lose our credibility.

Finally, I have been notified by our staff that the 2013 Leading Light Business Excellence Awards entries have been coming in in healthy numbers. I wish all entrants the best of luck!

John Sturgeon
Chairman

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