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 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 whitby 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 will 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 Business Innovation Award. This new award recognises the people and the teams that are driving change and innovation that exists on the Coast is really high and that is genuinely quite exciting.

We 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 John 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.

Chairman’s Comment

This week we witnessed the birth of a new future manager 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 of a global audience 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 possess a great deal of determination 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, we have been through some tough economic times over the last few years. “At times like this 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 market share and their business. As the same time growing the Trust Fund for future use and continue to fund major community infrastructure projects.”

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Chairman

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

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

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 are here to help you. Thank you to all of you who are now part of the West Coast business community. 

Chairman

For further information, contact: 
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