Business lunch to focus on economic profile service

How the latest economic data can help your business will be the focus of a DWC luncheon in April.

DWC has recently begun providing access to Infometrics profiles, which include economic data, trends in key industries and tools to measure economic impact and compare regions.

To help businesses make the most of this data, DWC will host events in Greyouth and Westport on 21 April with guest speaker, Infometrics economist, Benje Patterson.

Businesses wanting to upskill staff in leadership and governance are being encouraged to get in touch with DWC.

Last month 14 business people from a variety of backgrounds graduated from the fourth West Coast Leadership and Governance programme, bringing the total number of graduates to 50 people. Participants study all aspects of leadership and governance as part of the intensive 12 month programme.

DWC, Business Support Manager Neila Heersink says she is now working on organising a fifth programme.


Businesses who support the programme should be congratulated. “Their involvement benefits both their own business and the wider community,” he says.

DWC launched the programme in 2011 in conjunction with Westland Milk Products. This year participants came from Westland Milk Products, Grey District Council, Buller District Council, Westland Council, Martin & Co Mitre 10 Westport, Buller Holdings and Buller Electricity.

Karamea dairy farmer Paul McClintock was sponsored onto the most recent programme by Westland Milk Products.

As a small business owner I would highly recommend the programme and found the governance aspects the most valuable. DWC deserves kudos for organising the programme and people should take advantage of it if they get the opportunity to take part,” he says.

Past graduates have gone on to join boards of West Coast and New Zealand businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups.

DWC Chair John Sturgeon says the sponsors who support the programme should be grateful. “Their involvement benefits both their own business and the wider community with dozens of graduates ready to step up into a variety of governance roles on the West Coast,” he says.

DWC’s Helen Wilson says the awards are the highlight of the West Coast business calendar.

“As this year, aside from Tourism & Hospitality and Not for Profit, categories will reflect the size of the businesses rather than the individual sectors. Entering offers an opportunity to step back and look at your business, and becoming a finalist or winner boosts your company profile,” she says.

Entries will open in July and close at the end of August with the new entry form available online at leadinglight.org.nz from the beginning of June.

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DWC, Business Support Manager Neila Heersink says she is now working on organising a fifth programme and would love to talk to new businesses keen to get involved.

“A couple of our founding sponsors are not participating in the next programme as most of their senior staff have now completed the programme. This leaves room for new businesses to come on board which will widen the industry base and add a new dynamic to the programme,” she says.

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