New Year, New Businesses on the Coast

The start of the new year is the perfect time to highlight some of the exciting new businesses starting up on the West Coast. It is always great to see our inspiring entrepreneurs taking the leap into business, making their mark on the Coast. At DWC we are happy to offer support and advice to help our newest business owners succeed.

Unique artworks inspired by the Coast

The wild West Coast landscape has a habit of attracting creative people, as well as drawing people back home. Leaving the Coast for nine years to travel and study, Kira Birchfield moved back with her husband in 2009. From her home-based workshop south of Hokitika, she has recently set up a new business – Kira Birchfield Jeweller. Kira has completed a four-year manufacturing jewellery trade apprenticeship learning techniques that have been used for generations, as well as modern ways of manufacturing.

Working alongside talented and respected New Zealand jewellers, Kira has gained an excellent array of skills, which she has combined with her own creativity to craft her jewellery. “My pieces reflect my connection to this unique landscape. I immerse myself in the West Coast surroundings – the rugged landscapes create incredible silhouettes, patterns ... inspiration,” Kira says.

“...I am passionate about the art of the hand-made. I melt, form, roll and polish precious materials to make unique artworks. Working making that is connected to this place is important to me.” View Kira’s work at: www.kirabirchfieldjeweller.co.nz

BRAIN TUMOURS

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S MESSAGE

The New Year brings a range of new opportunities for positive change and business growth, and myself and the team at DWC are looking forward to helping our community achieve their goals and reach new targets.

We will be implementing the Economic Development Action Plan, which was launched last year, and which will see further progression of 17 key projects. You can read more about the Action Plan’s detail on our website www.dwc.org.nz. One of the most significant projects will be the reorganisation of the economic development functions for our region, which will see DWC becoming the lead development organisation for the West Coast.

Separately, the new Regional Economic Development Minister, Hon Shane Jones, will be making his way across New Zealand communities to outline his vision for the Government’s $1b regional development fund. We will be working hard for the West Coast to ensure we tap into this funding pool and ensure our share is used to create new opportunities across our diverse and unique landscape.

I wish everyone a successful and prosperous 2018.

Chris Mackenzie
Chief Executive

Upcoming Events

CECC Health & Safety Representative Training Stage 1
12 February 2018
9am-4pm
REAP House, Hokitika

Successful Tradie Workshop – Calling for expressions of interest

If you run a trade or construction company and want to be more profitable without working evenings and weekends, this workshop is a must.

It is a story that many tradies will relate to – long hours, working nights and weekends, and constantly wondering if there is a better way to balance the feast or famine workload rollercoaster that so often comes with self-employment.

DWC is pleased to be associated with Business Mentors New Zealand. If you think some mentoring might help you in your business, give us a call to discuss what their service entails, or jump online and check

www.businessmentors.org.nz

BMNZ Business Mentor John Barnes will be on the West Coast meeting his Business Mentor clients from 29 Jan – 1 Feb, and Mike Moore from 13 Feb – 16 Feb.

For further information on the BMNZ Mentoring Programme or to register your interest, please contact DWC’s Business Services Manager Fiona Hill on tel: 03 769 7023, mob: 027 252 0143 or email: fiona@dwc.org.nz.