West Coast food and beverages

Showcasing West Coast food & beverages

November will see a celebration of West Coast food and beverages, with the DWC led event Naturally West Coast Food 2020.

The month-long event will showcase gastronomic delights created with the region’s finest food and beverages. Participating restaurants and cafes will offer a signature dish using some of our best produce and ingredients, November is set to raise awareness of the Coast as a place for foodies.

A major part of the project has been trying to make a good photo gallery available for every West Coast place, person, or institution covered in Wikipedia. The project has created numerous West Coast articles, including articles on coastal topics. Every day they report on their progress, and every week the Postcard from the Coast will feature some of their work and ideas for the weeks to come. The volunteers have created a number of West Coast articles, including articles on coastal topics.

West Coast wellbeing workshop

Following the overwhelming positive feedback from the recent South Westland wellbeing workshop, DWC will be hosting another event on 4 November.

Wikipedia workshop at Westland District Library (Photo: Mike Dickison)

November is Westland. The DWC run event will be supported by the Restaurant Association of New Zealand, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Westland Business Association.

West Coast wellbeing workshop

For the past month DWC has had a roving Wikipedia working on the Coast to improve the region’s profile in the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.

“Website is increasingly the first port of call for those looking up facts or planning travel. Wikipedia has over six million articles in English, but the volunteer community in New Zealand is quite small so our coverage is often second-rate,” says Dr Mike Dickison.

Recent research has shown that improving an area’s presence in Wikipedia can increase tourist stays by 9%, so it is in everyone’s interest for the West Coast to have good accurate information and photos available.

Dr Dickison, who previously spent a year as NZ Wikipedia at Large, has spent four weeks working in Westport, Greymouth, and Hokitika, and is about to spend a fortnight in the Glacier Country. He has given presentations for tourism operators explaining what they can and can’t do with Wikipedia, and run workshops for heritage organisations like Hokitika Museum and History House to help them make their photo collections available under an open licence.

DWC has also run public Wikipedia training to build a base of local volunteers who can keep working on articles independently.

The project has been helped by over a dozen volunteers all over New Zealand and Australia working remotely on West Coast topics. Every day they report on their progress, and every week the Postcard from the Coast will feature some of their work and ideas for the weeks to come. The volunteers have created a number of West Coast articles, including articles on coastal topics.

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Dr Dickison then headed to Reefton.

New functions at Development West Coast

As a result of the Strategic Tourism Asset Protection Fund, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has funded two new positions at DWC.

Destination Development Manager – Patrick Dault.

Patrick joined DWC on Monday 12 October bringing with him a wealth of both commercial and tourism experience.

This position will consider long-term sustainability, visitor infrastructure, attracting and managing investment into attractions, amenities, access, marketing and pricing.

MICE (Meetings Incentives, Conferences and Events) Executive – Louise Woodburn.

Louise joined DWC just over a month ago and has been out and about meeting businesses and operators on the Coast and promoting the opportunities that we have here to various Professional Conference Organisers (PCOs) around New Zealand.

She is working directly with key decision makers from corporates and PCOs, and marketing the West Coast region to domestic conference delegates, corporates, sporting organisations and the general public.

Both of these positions complement the economic development function at DWC, which includes the Capability and Growth team, Regional Tourism team and Research and Innovation.