

**Financial Overview**

DWC recorded a profit in February of \$345,000. While investments did gain value the strong New Zealand dollar had an adverse effect on valuations and gains were more modest than in preceding months.

Year to date, DWC has recorded a net surplus of \$6.8m compared to a budget of \$3.7m. While DWC is expecting to report a strong profit in its 2013 annual accounts it is likely that year end adjustments will reduce the final audited result.

## Tourism projects benefit from DWC's Extraordinary Distribution Fund

Over half of the \$6 million fund provided by Development West Coast to the three West Coast councils has been pledged to tourism projects. The projects range from a coal museum in Buller to foreshore developments at Lake Brunner and two cycle trails.

In 2011 DWC made \$2 million available through its Extraordinary Distribution Fund to each of the three West Coast district councils to fund various community assets and projects over five years. The fund was seen as a much needed economic stimulus and each council was asked to consult with their communities about where the money was to be spent. After consultation Buller District Council has decided to spend \$500,000 of its funding to redevelop and relocate its historic Coaltown Museum and i-Site. Another \$250,000 has been committed to The Old Ghost Road Cycle Trail project.

The West Coast's two new cycle trails were significant winners in the funding stakes. Grey District Council has committed \$215,000 and Westland District Council plans to use its entire \$2 million on the West Coast Wilderness Trail although community consultation is still ongoing. The four-day trail begins in Greymouth and ends in Ross, travelling through Kumara, Milltown and Hokitika.

Greymouth is also spending \$20,000 on upgrading the Lake Brunner foreshore at Moana and has committed \$150,000 to improve the conference centre at Shantytown. Either side of the Grey River mouth will also be transformed as part of the \$450,000 northern and southern breakwater projects. The northern breakwater project will see the Cobden side of the river transformed into an ecotourism attraction while the southern side will focus on the history of the region.

Grey District Mayor Tony Kokshoorn says tourism is a big part of the growth strategy for the West Coast. "This was a great decision by DWC to fund the councils to invest in their districts. Tourism underpins our economy and is one area we can make a real difference by setting the scene and giving people that extra incentive to stay a bit longer," he says. DWC CEO John Chang says 2011 figures show the

tourism industry accounted for 14.5% of the West Coast's employment and 7.7% of GDP.

"In any healthy regional economy you need to have diverse industries and tourism plays an important role in the West Coast economy. While not a direct player in the tourism industry DWC has certainly been the single biggest funder of tourism on the Coast," says Dr Chang.

As well as the Extraordinary Distribution Fund DWC contributes \$86,000 annually to Tourism West Coast and last year gave an additional \$100,000 for the Just Add Water campaign which saw the Coast promoted nationwide through television and billboard advertising.

DWC also provided \$2.5m (in addition to \$2m from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise) towards the West Coast Tourism Major Regional Initiative in 2005 which has helped 16 tourism projects from Karamea to Haast. In addition some of DWC's \$21m Major District Initiative (MDI) funding to the three district councils has also been used for tourism initiatives like relocating the Hokitika i-Site, refurbishing Donovan's Store at Okarito and upgrading facilities at Hokitika Gorge. A complete list of MDI funding to date can be found below.



The Old Ghost Road Cycle Trail has so far opened approx 25km from both the Lyell and Seddonville ends

## Major District Initiative Funding

The Major District Initiative (MDI) funding was established in 2005 to support projects in local communities. Communities were able to submit projects to their district council who would then consider these for MDI funding. If supported by the council, the council would make an application to DWC for approval of funding for that project. Councils are responsible for the administration of the MDI funding from DWC.

Organisation	\$ Approved	Project Stage (relevant to funding)
<b>Buller</b>		
Solid Energy Centre	6,000,000	Completed
Arts & Cultural Centre	700,000	Completed
	<b>6,700,000</b>	
<b>Grey</b>		
Aquatic Centre	6,000,000	Completed
Cobden Sports Complex	50,000	Completed
West Coast Theatre Trust	400,000	Commenced
Grey United Tennis Club	20,000	Project not started
Westurf Recreation Trust	100,000	Completed
	<b>6,570,000</b>	
<b>Westland</b>		
Westland i-Site	296,952	Completed
Hokitika Regent Theatre (Stage I)	340,000	Completed
Library Relocation	489,392	Completed
Donovan's Store Refurbishment	78,375	Commenced
Hokitika Gorge Upgrade	82,014	Completed
Westland Boys' Brigade Hall	247,349	Completed
Hokitika Regent Theatre (Stage II)	570,000	Completed
Harihari Community Centre	455,000	Project not started
Franz Josef Community Centre	100,000	Completed
	<b>2,659,082</b>	
<b>Total Approved</b>	<b>\$15,929,082</b>	

## More chances to shine at 2013 business awards

MORE award categories and a streamlined entry process will make it easier for small and medium sized businesses to enter this year's West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards.

Changes have been made to the awards categories after feedback from the business community. Small and medium sized businesses will have separate categories and businesses with more than 30 employees will be eligible to enter a new enterprise award.

A new innovation award will give the local business community an opportunity to nominate a business or individuals they believe have made a significant difference to a business's performance. There will also be a new rising star award and all businesses will be eligible to enter the health and safety category.

DWC CEO John Chang says the changes have come about as a result of feedback from a survey DWC ran after last year's awards.

"There was a perception that it was unfair that smaller businesses were competing with large organisations so we now have separate categories for small and large businesses. We didn't want smaller businesses to give up before they even started the entry process," he says.

"Overall the feedback is that the business community is strongly supportive of the awards and really enjoy the gala evening at Shantytown. This is shown by the excellent level of corporate sponsorship the event attracts," says Dr Chang.

Dr Chang says he is very excited about the new DWC Innovation award. "We are looking to reward an

individual, group or business that has done something out of the ordinary which has made a big impact on a business. Entrants can be nominated by their colleagues, managers or governance board so please get your nominations to us," he says.

Event manager Karen Mercer says this year the awards entry process has been streamlined.

"We want to encourage as many businesses as possible to enter so are in the process of making the entry forms simpler. DWC staff will also be available to offer advice about your entry and we'll run seminars in each region in May or June to offer advice to businesses considering entering," she says.

Businesses that make the finals get excellent publicity and a free video on their business while winners enjoy additional marketing spin-offs. Victoria Boyes from Greymouth New World won the 2012 PWC Retail Award and says she would encourage every business to enter.

"The most overwhelming thing for us was how proud and thrilled the community was that we had won. The journey of entering and analysing your business is an asset in itself and an exercise everyone should do," she says.

Entry forms will be available on [www.leadinglight.org.nz](http://www.leadinglight.org.nz) with entries opening on 4 June and closing on 26 July 2013. As an extra incentive all entries that are received by 10 July will go in the draw to win a fabulous travel prize. The gala dinner to announce the winners will be held at Shantytown on 11 October 2013.

Award categories
<b>Section A - Medium / Large businesses (more than 30 FTE's)</b>
<b>Duncan Cotterill Enterprise Award</b> - Recognising businesses that are innovative and have a clear strategy for future growth
<b>Section B - Small businesses (less than 30 FTE's)</b>
<b>Leading Light Retail Award</b> - Acknowledging retail businesses who provide excellent customer service & quality products
<b>NZIM Service Award</b> - Celebrating Coast service providers who go the extra mile for their clients
<b>Leading Light Producer Award</b> - Recognising excellence in the Trades, Manufacturing and Primary Producer sectors
<b>Tourism West Coast Tourism Award</b> - Celebrating businesses that would not exist without tourism whose business practices, products and services set them apart.
<b>Westland Milk Products Community/Charitable Organisation Award</b> - Acknowledging the invaluable work of community and charity organisations
<b>Open section</b>
<b>ACC Health &amp; Safety Award</b> - Recognising any business leading the way in health and safety practices
<b>Leading Light Innovation Award</b> - Recognising individuals, groups or a business that has made a significant difference to the business's productivity, modus operandi; profitability or performance
<b>Finals</b>
<b>Leading Light Rising Star Award</b> - Recognising the best young business with less than ten employees from the section finalists (5 years old or less, including businesses under new ownership)
<b>Grey Star Super Nova Award</b> - The over-arching supreme winner

## Upcoming Events & Workshops

### BUSINESS BREAKFASTS

**See your store through another pair of eyes - Greymouth**  
Guest Speaker: Brian Finlayson, NZ Retailers' Association  
**7.30am, Wednesday 8 May 2013 - Kingsgate Hotel**

### Educating young West Coasters to become great employees - Greymouth

Educationalist Dr Stuart Middleton will talk about the changing face of education, in particular the move towards "real life learning" and what is being done to engage students in developing work ready skills.  
**7.30am, Thursday 16 May 2013 - Paroa Hotel, South Beach**  
Cost: \$20 per person  
**To register contact Nelia on 03 768 1076 or Nelia@dwc.org.nz**

### TRAINING COURSES

**Dealing with performance & personalities**  
**9am, Thursday 23 May 2013 - Medical Centre**  
**Franz Josef**

### HR for SME's contracts & management

**1pm, Thursday 23 May 2013 - Medical Centre**  
**Franz Josef**  
Cost: \$190 + gst (non-Members), \$95 + gst (CECC members)  
**To register contact Jo Birnie on 021 757 822 or register@prestantia-consulting.co.nz**



### Chairman's Comment

AMONG many other pleasurable things I get to do as the Chair of DWC, on 23rd March I was honoured to be a part of a special occasion when I was invited to the opening ceremony of the redeveloped Boys' Brigade Hall in Hokitika. Mary and I were so generously hosted by the Brigade. I took much pleasure in inspecting their guard of honour prior to officially declaring the new complex open. The newly redeveloped building and the many facilities have been partly funded with \$274k through DWC's MDI funding. If you have not been there before and you have a child who can benefit from joining the Brigade I strongly suggest you pay a visit and I am sure they will extend the same warm welcome they afforded me to you and to your child. We wish them every success in the future and I take this opportunity to truly thank them for the wonderful work they have been doing looking after and shaping our young future leaders.

Many of you might be aware that the Grey District Council, ably led by Mayor Tony Kokshoorn, Paul Pretorious (CEO) and Quecha Horning (Corporate Planning and Community Manger), have been working hard towards developing the Grey District's

economic development strategy. There has been strong support from all sectors of the community and business leaders, all wanting to contribute and make a difference. I have nothing but a healthy dose of respect for those who care enough and can be bothered enough to muck in and have a go - it demonstrates the core essence of being a true Kiwi. These people may not achieve all their planned goals in the process but you cannot knock them for trying. Let's not be held back or stop trying for fear of failing. We congratulate the GDC and everyone involved for their leadership!

Lest We Forget.

**John Sturgeon**  
Chairman



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