

Financial Overview

DWC had a good start to the financial year with foreign exchange gains the main contributor to a rise in investment values. Expenditure was below budget and this also assisted the positive result. The Trust recorded a profit of \$740k in April compared to budget of \$342k. Total assets at the end of April were \$120.2m and equity is \$105.7m

Businesses “excited” about Luminaries opportunities

Excitement is building over the opportunities The Luminaries and the likely mini-series based on the book will bring to Hokitika and the West Coast.

Earlier this month over 20 interested parties attended a meeting facilitated by DWC to explore how businesses can capitalise on the interest in Eleanor Catton’s Man Booker prize winning novel.

Hokitika Take Note bookshop owner Bruce Watson says he found the meeting quite inspiring.

“It was really nice to go to a meeting where everyone was working with a common purpose. There were some good creative ideas and people are convinced that regardless of when the mini-series might happen we need to make the most of the opportunities,” he says.

To date The Luminaries has sold 105,000 copies in New Zealand alone, and a proposed mini-series on the Hokitika gold rush story is expected to broaden interest in the area even further. DWC’s Helen Wilson says whether the mini-series is filmed in Hokitika or not, it will still have tremendous spin-offs for the Coast.

“There is huge economic development potential from The Luminaries. In the short term the meeting discussed how businesses could build on existing products like Hokitika’s history walking tours and promoting the “real” stories of the Hokitika gold rush for the summer tourism season. In the longer term we must also plan for the future, in particular ensuring DWC keeps up dialogue with Film NZ and Tourism NZ so we can maximise opportunities from the mini-series,” she says.

Helen says it was great to see groups like the Hokitika Museum personnel already underway with a souvenir “flip-chart” featuring historical photographs and matching location descriptions from the book.

“We all agreed this has the potential to be a very popular publication with visitors. It is just a small part of the work the Museum team are doing to provide for the already growing visitor interest in the history of the town inspired by reading The Luminaries,” she says.

A Luminary Working Group has now been formed. If you are interested in learning more about the group contact Helen Wilson at DWC on helen@dwc.org.nz or 03 768 1067.



David Stapleton from Heritage West Coast, Julia Bradshaw and Sue Asplin from Hokitika Museum, and Jo Kearns from Step Up Solutions discuss a new publication designed by Sue aimed at ‘The Luminaries’ tourist.

Up and coming leaders meet in Franz Josef



The third intake of the West Coast Leadership and Governance programme met in Franz Josef last week for their last session with NZIM Southern. The 13 participants are sponsored by local businesses with the intensive training programme honing their leadership and governance skills so they can step up to board positions. Left to right, bottom row: Cornelia Vervoorn - DOC, Erin McGoldrick - Grey District Council, Debra Magna - Westland Milk Products. Middle row: Steven May - Grey District Council, Laura Coll McLaughlin - Chris Coll Surveying, Karen Jury - Grey District Council. Top row: Renee Rooney - Westland Milk Products, Eric de Boer - DOC, Roger Gabites - NZIM Southern, Lynn Brooks - FT Dooley Ltd, Jim Livingstone - DOC, Dylan Taylor - Buller Holdings

Business awards win leads to national recognition

Winning both the Health and Safety and Innovation categories at last years West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards gave Buller company MBC the confidence to enter and win a nationwide award.

The environmental solutions company last month won the Site Safe Award for Best Health & Safety Initiative by a Small Business at the NZ Workplace Health and Safety Awards in Auckland.

MBC’s Health and Safety Manager Morgan Newbury says it was exciting and an honour to receive the award at a gala dinner at Auckland’s Sky City Convention Centre.

“It was definitely a proud moment and exciting for the whole team and it was great to represent the West Coast. Our company is all about our people out in the field and the win was a reflection on them and their hard work and expertise,” he says.

MBC were asked to enter the awards after winning the Health & Safety category of the West Coast business awards.

“We come from a background of pest and weed control and have transformed ourselves into a multi-service company. The West Coast win gave us a bit of context and also confidence to enter the national awards,” says Morgan.

MBC took the honour for developing its own two-day training course on health and safety leadership and communications rather than relying on generic training programmes.

“We do such a dynamic range of work and we need to give our staff particular skills but we couldn’t find any courses that suited. Our technical writer and management team identified key topics and we then went on to design an in-house training package designed



Morgan Newbury from MBC accepting the award.

for specific staff and the type of work they do,” he says.

DWC CEO Joseph Thomas says it is great to see a West Coast company winning a national award.

“West Coast businesses can foot it with the rest of the country and MBC’s win is testament to that. The company should be very proud of its achievement and it is proof that the West Coast business awards are of an incredibly high standard as MBC went from winning a regional award to winning a national one,” he says.

Now in their tenth year, the NZ Workplace Health and Safety Awards are judged by a five-strong panel representing WorkSafe, ACC, NZ Council of Trade Unions, Safeguard, and an industry health and safety practitioner.

Upcoming Events

BUSINESS MENTORS VISIT THE COAST

If you think some business mentoring might help your business make an appointment to meet with a mentor when they visit the Coast in June and July.

John Barnes: Hokitika & Greymouth
June 30 – July 2 – Contact John on 03 383 3695
For more information check out: www.businessmentors.org.nz



**BUSINESSMENTORS
NEW ZEALAND**

WESTPORT BUSINESS BREAKFAST

DWC’s new Chief Executive, Joseph Thomas, is the guest speaker at a Business Breakfast being hosted by the Buller District Council.
Tuesday, July 1 – 7.30am at the Denniston Dog, Westport.

Contact the Buller District Council to RSVP. Or if you would like to meet Joseph one on one phone Belinda on 0800 768 0140 to arrange.

AGFEST HOKITIKA

Friday 4 & Saturday 5 July

Come along and see DWC in the Telecom Premier Business Hub Tent at AgFest. DWC’s Business Services Manager, Nelia Heersink will be available to discuss how DWC might be able to help you or your business. DWC’s Chief Executive, Joseph Thomas, will also be available should you wish to meet with him specifically. If you would like to book a specific time to see him at the Hub, phone Belinda on 0800 768 0140.

HEALTH & SAFETY TRAINING

Canterbury Employers’ Chamber of Commerce

Essential Training for Health & Safety Representatives
STAGE 1: August 19 & 20, 2014
November 11 & 12, 2014

Advanced Training for Health & Safety Representatives
STAGE 2: October 1 & 2, 2014

Beachfront Hotel, Hokitika 9.00am – 3.00pm
COST: Funded* \$170+GST
Non-Funded CECC Member \$600+GST
Non-Funded, Non-Member CECC \$700+GST

* These courses are supported by limited funding from ACC for key industry sectors. Contact Alexia or Mary at the CECC on 03 366 5096 to see if you are eligible for this funding.



Chairman’s Comment

The announcement of a reduction in staff at Oceana Gold’s Reefton mine is going to be a big blow to the Reefton economy. This, doubled with the loss of numerous jobs at Solid Energy’s Stockton Mine near Westport will have a huge effect on the Buller economy. While we can’t influence global mineral prices do remember that DWC is here as a resource to assist Coast businesses in a variety of ways so please do get in touch with us to ask about our services.

DWC met with representatives of the local Iwi, Te Runanga o Ngati Waewae and Te Runanga o Makaawhio, to discuss how our organisations can work together for the benefit of all West Coasters. On a similar note, DWC has also met with Ngai Tahu to discuss the West Coast timber industry and general matters. Building relationships and networks

with key organisations is an important function for DWC and can only assist the West Coast through the promotion of collaboration and information sharing.

There have been various events and workshops either being facilitated or promoted by DWC over the last month or so. It is great to be having so many of these events to bring our business community together and provide learning opportunities for them, and it is pleasing to see these being well supported up and down the region.

**John Sturgeon
Chairman**

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