

Financial Overview

August continued the year's trend of strong investment returns. Gains from investments of \$1.5 million were assisted by the weakening New Zealand dollar, and contributed to total income of \$1.8m and a profit of \$1.6m for the month. Year to date the surplus of \$4.3m is \$1.7m above budget. Total assets at the end of August were \$123.5m and equity is \$109.9m.

Boost for community governance skills



The WestREAP team at their training day. Back row left to right : Richard Westlake – Westlake Governance, Maureen Simpson – WestREAP Board Chair, Kerry Adams – Board Secretary, Jo Rea – Board member, Jeff Kay – Board member, Jo Kearns – Board member, Corrina Gestro-Best – WestREAP Manager, Vaughan Renner – Westlake Governance. Front row : Victoria Tumai – Board member, Dulcie Bell – Board member

A need to improve the governance skills of people serving on community boards has seen DWC launch a series of Community Governance programmes.

The board of educational provider WestREAP recently took part in the inaugural training programme. Chairwoman Maureen Simpson says it was a valuable experience which clarified how a board should be run.

“The big issue is recognising the difference between governance and management so the board can put its energies into the future of the organisation rather than the day to day running. We need to be looking at where WestREAP is going and what is happening nationwide which may have an effect on us,” she says.

Mrs Simpson says she would definitely recommend the programme. “It has already had an immediate impact. One of the first things we are doing is changing how we operate our meetings to be more forward focused,” she says.

The Community Governance programme follows on from the success of the commercially focused West Coast Leadership and Governance programme, which DWC has facilitated over the last three years.

DWC Chief Operating Officer Warren Gilbertson says the programmes are fully consistent with DWC's strategy of 'investing in capability' for the Coast's longer-term future.

“It seems a relatively small group of people are picked repeatedly for service on committees and boards. There is sometimes a lack of financial, chairing and leadership skills and constitutions and charters are lacking in many cases,” he says.

“There will also be implications in the next decade if we don't increase the number of board members in their 30s, 40s and 50s. DWC wants to invest in capability of people and help build skills that people can take into other roles as their career/community involvement progresses”.

DWC has developed two community programmes, the first is a “generic programme” aimed at people in community groups with little or no understanding of good governance. Another “tailored programme” will focus on individual organisations such as WestREAP.

If you would like to find out more about the community governance programmes contact Nelia Heersink on 768 1076 or nelia@dwc.org.nz.

DWC's business toolbox popular

DWC's annual report for the year ended 31 March 2014 was released last month at a public meeting in Greymouth. It showed DWC had a sound financial year, generating a total income

of \$8.6m and distributing \$3m in community grants and projects. It also highlighted the increasing numbers of West Coast businesses utilising the business support DWC can offer.



- Over 700 businesses now registered with DWC for a range of services
- \$47,733 of Capability Vouchers distributed to West Coast businesses through the Regional Business Partner programme
- \$107,957 worth of Research & Development projects supported through Callaghan Innovation funding (individual R & D projects received between 30-50% of project costs)
- 50 business clients utilising BIZ Mentors
- Over 200 attendees at business breakfast meetings

More money available for capability building

Accessing training and specialised business advice has become even easier with DWC obtaining extra funding to help West Coast businesses.

Funding for the Regional Business Partner network's capability building has increased by 50% this financial year. DWC Business Support Manager Nelia Heersink says New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), which administers the programme, was pleased to increase funding given the demand is present.

“113 Coast businesses are now registered with the Regional Business Partner programme. West Coast businesses should jump on board and go for it because the money for training has increased and we would love to help your business access the funding,” she says.

As a Regional Business Partner provider,

DWC provides access to business advice, research & development funding and subsidised training. If eligible, your business can obtain a voucher for 50% of training costs, ranging from training courses to one-on-one business coaching.

Dennis Cadigan from Hokitika's Service Engineering says his company utilised the subsidised training when they were having some issues.

“When you have a small business you are expected to be good at everything but that's not always the case. The voucher allowed us to access help from human resource specialists which was really useful,” he says.

For more information about how to access the subsidised training contact Nelia Heersink on 768 1076 or nelia@dwc.org.nz.

Upcoming Events

WORKPLACE LAW WORKSHOPS - THURSDAY 2 OCTOBER 2014

Andrew Shaw and Mark Williams of Lane Neave are offering two unique workshops on workplace law at Kingsgate Hotel, 32 Mawhera Quay, Greymouth

10AM - 12NOON - HEALTH AND SAFETY

Explaining the Health and Safety Reform Bill which comes into effect 1 April 2015 and how it affects your business

2PM - 4PM - IMMIGRATION

The need for businesses to develop an immigration strategy and up to date advice on immigration policy changes and best practice on recruiting, retaining and managing migrant staff. Cost: \$75.00 (plus GST) per workshop or \$125.00 (plus GST) to attend both workshops. To enquire, contact Lynn Hawkey on 03 379 3720 or e-mail lynn.hawkey@laneneave.co.nz

NZMEA BUSINESS BREAKFAST

Wednesday 22 October 2014 - 7.30am - Venue to be confirmed John Walley is the CEO of the New Zealand Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association. John will be giving an update on the manufacturing sector in 2014 and his views on what policy

changes the election result could mean for the economy in NZ. Cost: \$20 incl GST. To register, please e-mail info@dwc.org.nz or phone 0800 768 0140.

ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR HEALTH & SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES - STAGE 1 11 & 12 NOVEMBER 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 or visit www.cecc.org.nz



Chairman's Comment

I attended the annual Minerals West Coast forum on 24 July 2014 at Shantytown. This event has been growing in popularity in recent years and all sessions throughout the forum were well attended by representatives from our local mining sector. This year attracted a great list of keynote speakers from all over the country and I found the forum as a whole very interesting.

I joined the current Leadership and Governance participants for lunch at their July workshop. Now in its third intake, this programme has been a great success. The calibre of participants going through the course has been very high and the current intake of participants is no exception. They will be a great asset to any commercial or community board going forward.

In August I attended a funding announcement by The Hon Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation, along with various other conservation partners, to hear the recipients of Community Conservation

Partnership Fund grants.

The West Coast has had several parliamentary visits which have involved DWC. These included Prime Minister The Rt Hon John Key and The Hon Amy Adams to announce a contestable fund to boost the Rural Broadband Initiative which aims to increase access to internet and cell coverage in rural areas. This would certainly help businesses and those living in isolated areas of the country.

Other MPs to visit pre elections were Clayton Cosgrove, David Cunliffe and Steven Joyce. These MPs were on a fact finding mission and now that the elections are over I hope we can all settle down and get on with the business.

John Sturgeon
Chairman

For further information, contact:
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