

Financial Overview

Reviewing the first six months of the financial year DWC has reported a profit of \$5.1 million which is \$3m ahead of budget. Equity has increased from \$104.8m at 31 March 2014 to \$110.8m at 30 September

2014 due to strong investment returns. DWC does expect the next six months to be a more difficult trading environment and believes the year end result will be closer to budget. Total assets at the end of September were \$124.5m.

Start planning your 2015 training now

DWC is encouraging businesses to start thinking about their 2015 training needs early to make sure they can get the right training for staff and access capability building vouchers. Business Support Manager Nelia Heersink says businesses should think about their needs now so they don't miss out. "Many Coast businesses are in seasonal industries such as tourism and dairy and now is their busy time. In the past these businesses have started planning their training in winter when they have more time, however by this stage most of the good training providers are booked and subsidies can be running out," she says. DWC administers the Regional Business Partner Network and has a funding pool of \$60,000 in 2015 to help eligible business owners with their training costs in the form of capability building vouchers. "We have the money there to allocate to businesses for training but it is on a first in

first served basis. If you start your planning early then you are more likely to be successful in getting the right training and be eligible for subsidies," says Nelia. DWC is already planning to run courses in early 2015, including human resources training on staff retention and staff motivation, and business start-up. There has also been a big demand for online marketing training. The Regional Business Partner Network offers an assessment service that helps businesses prioritise training and development needs, and can also point businesses towards support that may be available from the public or private sectors. The Network has a new website to register your business. It replaces the Accelerate Success website but current clients don't need to re-register and can access the new website using existing logins. www.regionalbusinesspartners.co.nz



Chairman's Comment

The former R & N Traders site has now been cleared, giving the west end of the Greymouth CBD a new landscape. Meanwhile, DWC has also taken ownership of the old Waterfront Commission property next door to R & N Traders and will be undertaking due diligence in the near future to decide what future there is for this building. The opening of Westfleet's multi million dollar fish processing factory recently is great news leading up to Christmas. Congratulations to Westfleet Seafoods Ltd, and particularly Craig Boote for all his efforts in bringing this factory to fruition. This expansion will certainly give the local economy a much needed boost.

Up in the Buller the news is not so good with the announcement from Air New Zealand that they are ceasing their Westport service. There has been some positive talk from Sounds Air and we are looking forward to this issue being resolved. Being our final Monthly Update for the year, on behalf of the staff, Trustees and myself, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. Travel Safe!

John Sturgeon
Chairman

For further information, contact:
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photo by Stephen Roberts – shakey finger photography

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