

Financial Overview

DWC had a modest start to the financial year with April's income just over budget at \$574,000. An under-spend in expenses and projects also assisted DWC record a profit of \$350k compared to its budget of \$220k. At the end of April DWC had total assets of \$129m and equity of \$115m.

New Coasters bring diversity to region

Most people do not think of the West Coast as an ethnically diverse region but the Coast now boasts over 50 nationalities.

That diversity was highlighted this month when Hokitika's Newcomers group featured on TVNZ's Neighbourhood programme. The programme highlighted different nationalities who now call Hokitika home featuring German, Welsh, South African, Solomon Island and Filipino residents.

Birte Becker is the co-ordinator for New Coasters in Greymouth and Hokitika and, despite an economic downturn on the West Coast, says she still deals with around 12 new immigrants monthly.

"Migrant and newcomer support programmes are key to attracting and retaining skilled workers for the region. Different nationalities bring different perspectives, skills and life experiences which really do impact positively on the community," she says.

Birte says Greymouth Hospital is now the most diverse employer on the Coast but she deals with both international and Kiwi newcomers who are involved in industries as varied as farming, construction and the health sector.

"It is easy for people to feel lonely and isolated when they move to a new district or country so



The opening of Newcoasters Greymouth office on Race Relations Day.

we rely on a lot of support from the community and employers to help integrate newcomers into the district."

New Coasters had its beginnings back in 2008 when the Department of Internal Affairs and DWC set up 'West Coast Migrant Services' with the help of funding partnerships from the Ministry of Social Development and Solid Energy. At that time there was a growing migrant community on the West Coast, coinciding with increasing employment opportunities in the mining, agriculture, teaching and health sectors.

In 2009 the Migrant Services project was passed into community hands and the responsibility for

administering the project became the job of the newly incorporated society, New Coasters, which is now part of the national Newcomers Network.

Liz Sugrue says the Westport Newcomers Network runs regular events for both migrants and New Zealanders moving to the district and recently they have noticed a change in the demographic of people.

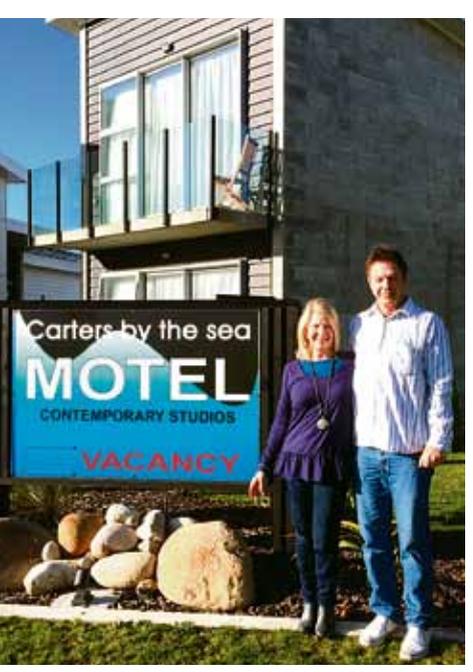
"In the past, 90% of new arrivals were involved in the mining industry but now we are seeing a move to people involved in the health and education sectors. There are also more retirement aged people," she says.

West Coast newcomer groups offer support

to those new to the district and run regular get-togethers like pot luck dinners, film nights and excursions to local events. New Coasters also offers migrant support services, including a one-day intercultural awareness and communication workshop which helps in the understanding of how to deal with people who don't have English as a first language.

For more information contact:
Greymouth and Hokitika Newcomers
027 407 0302, 03 768 6580,
birte@newcoasters.co.nz
Westport Newcomers 03 789 7659
Buller REAP Office, 111 Palmerston Street

Westport motelier optimistic about summer season



had not been a new motel opened in Westport for quite some years. We are feeling really optimistic about the summer season and want to create an environment where people want to stay more than one night to enjoy this northern part of the West Coast," says Chris.

While the winter has been relatively quiet, that was not unexpected and the couple was heartened to find a lot of their summer guests were just driving by and decided to stay, often more than one night. They believe Buller needs to consider constructing a grade two cycle trail in the area to complement the mountain biking tracks and Old Ghost Road, as well as increasing promotion of the district.

"The northern beaches of the West Coast, Cape Foulwind and Tauranga Bay are all so beautiful but they are relatively unknown. It is a great place for Coasters to come up for the weekend and we need to stop tourists going straight to Nelson".

Joining the tourism industry has been a big step for the couple and they approached DWC for advice when they started the business. They were put in contact with some experienced moteliers who were happy to act as mentors. Through the Regional Business Partner network, administered by DWC, they were also able to access training subsidies to attend social media and website marketing courses.

"It was all pretty new to us so it has been good to get some help and DWC has got some good schemes. We would not have done the courses if DWC had not helped," he says.

Chris says Tourism West Coast has also been supportive and he is confident the 2015/16 summer season will build on the record tourist numbers of last year.

Westport's newest moteliers believe the summer season will be a good one and are keen to see Buller promote itself more as a tourist destination.

Chris and Erica Cooper opened their ten unit boutique motel 'Carters by the Sea' in December. Erica grew up in Westport and had fond memories of holidays at Carter's Beach, which is just five minutes out of town. With Chris' background in construction and a desire for a change in lifestyle it seemed the perfect opportunity.

"We saw a niche for 4+ star accommodation at Carter's Beach and when we looked around there

Upcoming Events

Contact DWC before registering for any of the following training events to see if you are eligible for a subsidy through the Regional Business Partner programme.

Visit www.dwc.org.nz for further information

Kiwihost training

Franz Josef Glacier: 7 July, Advanced Customer Service
Greymouth: 14 July, Professional Telephone Skills

Cost: \$299+GST. Please register at tpp.ac.nz/kiwihost



DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST IS ON THE MOVE!

We are relocating

From Wednesday, 1st July. Visit us at 1st Floor Brunner House, 54 Tainui Street, Greymouth 7840

Our postal address and telephone numbers will remain the same: PO Box 451, Greymouth 7840
T: (03) 768 0140 F: (03) 768 0150

We look forward to seeing you at our new office.