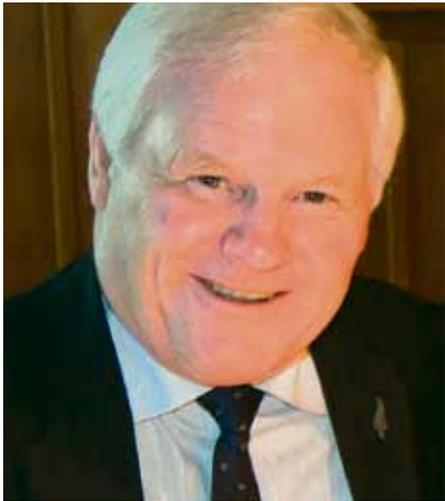


DWC welcomes new CEO

DWC's new Chief Executive, Chris Mackenzie, will start his new role on 18 May. Mr Mackenzie's appointment was announced by DWC Chair John Sturgeon last month. "The Trustees are delighted Chris has agreed to join DWC. He is well qualified for the position, and has a unique knowledge of the organisation and how it operates," says Mr Sturgeon.



Chris Mackenzie has had a long involvement with DWC. He was the Government Appointed Trustee on the Interim West Coast Development Trust prior to the establishment of DWC. In the last few years he has been involved in the review of the Trust Deed and DWC's ten year Strategic Plan.

He is currently working as a Senior Advisor with the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) and will move to the West Coast with his wife when he takes up the Chief Executive position at DWC. As well as being involved with the implementation group of CERA, he is the Independent Chair of the Horizontal Infrastructure Governance Group, responsible for setting the priorities for the infrastructure rebuild.

Mr Mackenzie says he is looking forward to working with DWC. "I have had a long relationship with the Trust and look forward to the new role. My first few months in the job will involve driving the length of the West Coast talking to councils, business people and industry groups," he says.

Opportunity to join Leadership and Governance Programme



Some of the recent graduates: Murray Perks – Westland Milk Products, Rebecca Beaumont – Westland District Council, Michelle Blanch – Martin & Co Mitre 10, Shannon Hollis – Buller Electricity, Sonya Perkin – Westland Milk Products, Dearne Thompson and Liz Burke – Grey District Council.

Businesses wanting to upskill staff in leadership and governance are being encouraged to get in touch with DWC.

Last month 14 business people from a variety of backgrounds graduated from the fourth West Coast Leadership and Governance programme, bringing the total number of graduates to 50 people. Participants study all aspects of leadership and governance as part of the intensive 12 month programme.

DWC Business Support Manager Nelia Heersink says she is now working on organising a fifth programme and she would love to talk to new businesses keen to get involved.

"A couple of our founding sponsors are not participating in the next programme as most of their senior staff have now completed the programme. This leaves room for new businesses to come on board which will widen the industry base and add a new dynamic to the programme," she says.

DWC launched the programme in 2011 in conjunction with Westland Milk Products. This year participants came from Westland Milk

Products, Grey District Council, Buller District Council, Westland District Council, Martin & Co Mitre 10 Westport, Buller Holdings and Buller Electricity.

Karamea dairy farmer Paul McClintock was sponsored onto the most recent programme by Westland Milk Products.

"As a small business owner I would highly recommend the programme and found the governance aspects the most valuable. DWC deserves kudos for organising the programme and people should take advantage of it if they get the opportunity to take part," he says.

Past graduates have gone on to join boards of West Coast and New Zealand businesses, not for profit organisations and community groups.

DWC Chair John Sturgeon says the sponsors who support the programme should be congratulated. "Their involvement benefits both their own business and the wider community with dozens of graduates ready to step up into a variety of governance roles on the West Coast," he says.

Financial Overview

As DWC has previously indicated, the fall in the equity markets through January and February has seen a loss of investment value in excess of \$1m. YTD revenue to 29 February of \$5.9m is \$500k below budget.

Expenses remain below budget. However taking into account the District Economic Stimulus Fund (DESF) and Digital Enablement Fund which were not budgeted, at the end of February DWC had recorded a loss of \$1.8m; almost \$4.4m behind target.

As at 29 February 2016 DWC had total assets of \$126.3m and equity of \$110m.

Business lunch to focus on economic profile service

How the latest economic profile data can help your business will be the focus of a DWC luncheon in April.

DWC has recently begun providing access to Infometrics profiles, which include economic data, trends in key industries and tools to measure economic impact and compare regions.

To help businesses make the most of this data DWC will host events in Greymouth and Westport on 21 April with guest speaker, Infometrics economist, Benje Patterson.

Benje works within both the forecasting and regional teams at Infometrics and has a strong awareness of how macroeconomic factors affect sectoral and regional outcomes. He will share his latest insights on the economy and its relevance to the West Coast and will introduce the Infometrics Economic Indicators tool that is now available to all West Coast businesses.

To register for these events ring DWC on 03 769 7000 or email info@dwc.org.nz.

To access the data now, go to <http://www.dwc.org.nz/Live/Work/Invest/2015ei.html>

Upcoming Events

Development West Coast

Economic Profile Data with Benje Patterson Luncheon: \$25/person	21 April 12pm – 1.30pm	Greymouth
Afternoon Tea: \$10/person	21 April 3.30pm – 5pm	Westport

Email: info@dwc.org.nz or phone 03 769 7000 for more information or to register.

Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce (CECC)

Health & Safety Changeover Training	9 May	Hokitika
Essential Training for Health and Safety Representatives (Stage 1)	10 - 11 May	Hokitika
Advanced Training for Health and Safety Representatives (Stage 2)	5 - 6 September	Hokitika
	18 - 19 October	Hokitika

Visit www.cecc.org.nz/whats-on and search "West Coast" for more information and to register.

Tai Poutini Polytechnic (TPP)

KiwiHost: Dealing with Difficult Customers	8 April	Westport
KiwiHost: Advanced Customer Service	15 April	Greymouth
KiwiHost: Active Listening	19 May	Greymouth
KiwiHost: Advanced Customer Service	17 June	Westport
Traffic Management and Workplace Safety Courses	Various	Greymouth

Visit www.tpp.ac.nz or phone 0800 800 411 for more information and to register.

Time to start thinking about your business awards entry

The 2016 West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards will be celebrated at a gala dinner at Shantytown on Friday 14 October.

This year businesses can enter one of five categories: Large Enterprise 25+ FTEs, Medium Enterprise 10+ FTEs or Small Enterprise under 10 FTEs, Tourism & Hospitality or Not for Profit.

As in previous years, there will be a Workplace Safety Award sponsored by ACC, and Environment Award sponsored by DOC. DWC is also hoping to add a Rising Star Award for businesses that have been operating for less than 5 years.

DWC's Helen Wilson says the awards are the highlight of the West Coast business calendar.

"This year, aside from Tourism & Hospitality and Not for Profit, categories will reflect the size of the businesses rather than the individual sectors. Entering offers an opportunity to step back and look at your business, and becoming a finalist or winner boosts your company profile," she says.

Entries will open in July and close at the end of August with the new entry form available online at leadinglight.org.nz from the beginning of June.