



## Operation Tidy Fox



From the desk of **Helen Wilson**  
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION MANAGER

My two days' worth was just a drop in the ocean, or should I say the riverbed, but every little bit helps. Why did I go? Basically I couldn't think of a good reason not to. Climbing mountains, tramping in the bush and wandering along riverbeds admiring fish has provided me with a lot of enjoyment in my life, and possibly kept me sane as well. I owe the landscape of Tai Poutini so much. I really couldn't ignore an opportunity to return the favour.

On 26 March 2019 floodwaters from the Fox River flowed through the old dump site dragging untold amounts of rubbish down into the riverbed and out into the ocean.

You will have seen the photos. 555 rugby fields worth. I wanted to get a sense of it myself - I needed to nudge myself to do better in terms of my own footprint. And to seal the deal, I was in a position to be able to put my hand up when DWC agreed to match a personal day with a paid leave day.

Two days on a riverbed watched over by the impressive Aoraki. The rubbish wasn't smelly or dirty, but it wasn't a simple case of 'picking' it up. The force of the flood left indestructible bread bags from thirty years ago intricately wrapped around the roots of toppled trees requiring detangling with assorted tools.

It was hard work but I was in good company, with great food, well deserved beers at the end of the day and all that goes with it. The support from the local community and businesses was outstanding.

Yes I know, I wasn't supposed to be having fun. But I did, I really

enjoyed it. It was te tangata, the people. I met young tourists paying it forward, some retired ex-Coasters from Kapiti Coast who wanted to pay it back, a whole pile of old tramping-type folk like me in our trusty boots and gaiters and an old bloke from Northland making his way to Southland to deliver a dodgy car to whanau, getting some free accommodation and food in return for some work.

Kudos to the DOC staff who have had to herd cats, feed them and keep them safe, on a riverbed for days on end.

Our region's pristine environment is so important to our way of life and our economy. It was heartwarming to see so many people working together to help restore it.



## Whataroa Community Hall open and ready for next 100 years

**DWC support has enabled the refurbishment of the Whataroa Community Hall.**

The Whataroa Hall is used by the school next door throughout the week, by the badminton club, for meetings, and events including weddings and funerals. The hall was in need of a complete refurbishment and if the renovations were not undertaken it would have likely been deemed unusable leaving a significant void in the community.

To help restore the hall, the Whataroa Community Association secured Major District Initiative funding from DWC. The refurbishment included a kitchen and toilet upgrade, re-piling, re-cladding and compliance work.

"It's nearly 100 years old and the funding DWC has given will ensure the Whataroa Community Hall will be fully functional for the next 100 years. Not only will the Whataroa residents benefit from the upgrade of the hall, but the whole of the South Westland community," says Dave

Nolan from the Whataroa Community Association.

DWC business development manager Dave Lynch attended the recent opening night for the Whataroa Hall, saying: "My wife and I were warmly welcomed to the event. The impressive turnout highlighted how important the hall is to the whole community. It was attended by people of all ages, with everyone having a great night. The hall is a real asset to South Westland."



## Women in Business on the Coast



**Join us for a business breakfast celebrating women in business on the West Coast.**

The Coast has always been a region of trail-blazers, and we are blessed with many innovative female entrepreneurs who are leading the way in their industries.

To celebrate this entrepreneurial spirit DWC is hosting a business breakfast on 13 August with presentations from three inspiring businesswomen on the Coast:

Emily Miazga - Em's Power Cookies  
Patsy Bass - Reefton Distilling Co.  
Andrea Rogers - The Crafty Chook

Come and hear the stories behind these great Coast businesses and share a conversation with the innovative entrepreneurs.

**To register for the business breakfast visit [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)**

## Upcoming Events

### AUGUST

07

#### Celebration of Tourism

10:00am-5:00pm | Shantytown, Greymouth | \$20 per person  
5:00pm-9:00pm | Monteith's Brewery, Greymouth | FREE  
Register online at [westcoast.co.nz/operators/celebration-tourism/](http://westcoast.co.nz/operators/celebration-tourism/)  
Ph: 03 769 7000

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#### Business Breakfast: Women in Business on the Coast

7:30am-9:30am | Paroa Hotel, Greymouth | \$30 (incl. breakfast)  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

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#### Business Mentor Start-up Workshop

5:30pm-7:30pm | St John Training Rooms, Greymouth | FREE  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

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#### Delivering Outstanding Customer Service ANZ Workshop

5:30pm-8:30pm | Paroa Hotel, Greymouth | FREE  
Register online at [www.eventbrite.co.nz](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

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#### Promote your Business using Digital Channels ANZ Workshop

9:00am-12:00pm | St John Hall, Hokitika | FREE  
Register online at [www.eventbrite.co.nz](http://www.eventbrite.co.nz)

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#### Seminar: Small Town and Regional Development in NZ

Presented by Dr. Sean Connelly & Prof. Etienne Nel from University of Otago  
5:30pm-7:00pm | TPP Conference Room, Greymouth | FREE  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

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#### Development West Coast Annual Public Meeting

7:00pm-8:30pm | Beachfront Hotel, Hokitika | FREE  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

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#### Seminar: Small Town and Regional Development in NZ

Presented by Dr. Sean Connelly & Prof. Etienne Nel from University of Otago  
7:30am-9:00am | Denniston Dog, Westport | \$20 (incl. breakfast)  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

### SEPTEMBER

05

#### West Coast Leadership Programme | NZIML Courageous Conversations Workshop (3 spaces available)

10:00am-3:30pm | Greymouth | \$380 + GST  
Contact [events@dwc.org.nz](mailto:events@dwc.org.nz) for more information and to see if you are eligible for NZTE business capability funding.

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#### Accounting for Non-Accountants | NZIML

Over 2 days 19-20 September | 9:00am-4:00pm  
Tai Poutini Polytechnic, Greymouth | \$750 + GST  
Contact [events@dwc.org.nz](mailto:events@dwc.org.nz) for more information and to see if you are eligible for NZTE business capability funding.

## Free Business Development Clinics

These one-on-one clinics are open to businesses from all sectors, all sizes and at all stages of development. They are aimed at helping you gain knowledge, connect with the right people and grow your business. Visit [dwc.org.nz](http://dwc.org.nz) to find out more.

**Contact DWC to book a time between 12:30pm-3:30pm**

### AUGUST SCHEDULE

**Greymouth**  
12, 19 and 26 August

**Hokitika**  
7, 14, 21 and 28 August

**Westport**  
8, 22 and 29 August

**Karamea**      **Reefton**  
8 August      21 August

**Blackball**  
28 August