

## COVID-19 Business Advisory Support

The re-emergence of community transmission of COVID-19 has seen Auckland shift back to Alert Level 3 and the rest of New Zealand to Level 2. Businesses impacted by COVID-19 can access business advisory services through DWC and the Regional Business Partner (RBP) network.

Capability and Growth Manager Fiona Hill, who looks after the RBP programme for the West Coast, says DWC has been supporting West Coast enterprises at unprecedented levels since New Zealand entered lockdown.

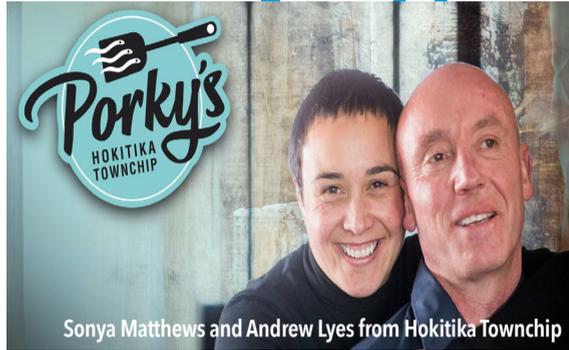
"Through the COVID-19 business advisory fund, DWC can connect firms to expert advice at no cost to the business. Advice covers topics like business strategy, finance and cash flow, continuity planning, HR and employment relations, marketing and digital enablement strategies, and health and wellness for owners and staff. There is also additional support available for tourism businesses through the Tourism Transition Fund."

To date, over 100 West Coast businesses have accessed COVID-19 advisory support through the RBP network, including Porky's Takeaways.

Sonya Matthews and Andrew Lyes took over Hokitika's iconic Porky's Takeaways business in September 2019.

"After a manic six and a half months working in the business, a near vertical learning curve, the borders closed and the country went into lockdown due to COVID-19," Sonya says.

"It was almost heart attack material. Having caught up on sleep, talked with our team and taken stock we hit the phone and with one of the first calls struck gold! We rang Fiona at



Sonya Matthews and Andrew Lyes from Hokitika Township

DWC and asked her about business coaching options."

Through the RBP network, Sonya accessed one-on-one business coaching sessions with James O'Connell from the Hospitality Company.

"We are blown away with how far we've come and what we've navigated; we are totally inspired with where we are headed; we are excited to have started building that best practice business we're striving for and we will be eternally grateful for the incredible opportunity and support DWC has enabled for us via the RBP network. So many post-COVID silver linings to be thankful for," says Sonya.

West Coast businesses impacted by COVID-19 looking to access advisory funding should first register their business on the RBP network (<https://covid19.nzte.govt.nz/page/regional-business-partner-network>). If you have already done this, contact DWC for more information.

## New Digital Engagement Officer for DWC

Vyviene Kyle has 'returned home' to the West Coast where she takes on the role of Digital Engagement Officer for DWC.

"Tēna Kotou,  
Ko Tara Tama tōku maunga  
Ko te Tai-o Rehua tōku moana  
Ko vyviene tōku ingoa.

"Hello, Tara Tama (in Westland) is my mountain, the Tasman is my sea, my name is Vyviene. That's Vivienne with a Y," she says.

Vyviene brings years of digital marketing experience to DWC.

"My work has always been focussed on people, relationships, and community. I embrace digital tools to communicate and grow communities and trust."

Her passion for the West Coast and her interest in computers, internet and relationships drew her to the role at DWC.

Vyviene has strong ties to the West Coast. Her great, great grandfather, Henry Kyle had a garden and florist store in Raleigh Street, in Greymouth. Vyviene has shifted to the Coast with her father, David, who was born and brought up in Greymouth.



Vyviene Kyle and her father, David, returning to the Coast

"Every day is exciting for him as he meets up with his cousins and sees the places of his memories. Dad and I thank you for all the kind welcomes, and we love it when you say hi!

"Now, I encourage you to follow me on my journey, see what we do at DWC, I look forward to hearing your stories too! Reach out to me on Facebook, or LinkedIn."

Vyviene will be keeping you informed about the business support services and events available through DWC, as well as showcasing the West Coast as a great place to work, live, and play.

Contact Vyviene on: [vyv@dwc.org.nz](mailto:vyv@dwc.org.nz)

## Boosting Meetings, Incentives and Events Business on the Coast

Louise Woodburn joins DWC as MICE Executive.

Louise's role at DWC is to increase the Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) business on the Coast. She will attend tradeshows and networking events to meet with professional conference organisers and event managers, in addition to reaching out to groups and organisations.

Louise will be hitting the road meeting with local operators to learn about their businesses and discovering what they can offer.

The MICE market requires more than just accommodation and conference venues, other key suppliers include tour guides, AV companies, transport operators, caterers, and more. If you think your business or service is a good fit for this market, please contact Louise to share your information so she can best promote all operators in the region.

Part of her role will be to organise and host familiarisation tours and these opportunities will be shared with local operators when available.



Louise Woodburn

Louise has close to ten years' experience in a similar role in Scotland where she worked for a destination management company. A close relationship with destination management organisations was key to identifying and maximising opportunities for MICE business and she hopes that her role at DWC will help operators on the Coast to do the same.

For more information contact: [louise@dwc.org.nz](mailto:louise@dwc.org.nz)

## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

02

**South Westland Wellbeing Workshop**

9:00am-4:00pm | Community Centre, Fox Glacier | FREE  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

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**Business Preparedness Workshops | Resilient Organisations**

12:30pm-5:00pm | St John, Greymouth | FREE  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

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**Business Preparedness Workshops | Resilient Organisations**

8:30am-1:00pm | BullerREAP, Westport | FREE  
Register online at [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

### OCTOBER

14

**Accounting for Non-Accountants | CECC | Online**

9:00am-12 noon | \$250+GST (member), \$500+GST (non-member)  
Register online at <https://cecc.org.nz>  
To see if you are eligible for NZTE business capability funding contact DWC.

Subscribe to DWC's newsletter for the latest news and events: [www.dwc.org.nz](http://www.dwc.org.nz)

## West Coast Governance Programme

DWC, in partnership with Westlake Governance, are bringing governance training to the West Coast business community.

The West Coast governance programme will commence in September 2020, facilitated by Richard Westlake and Vaughan Renner, and will be delivered across the West Coast to make it accessible for all participants. It consists of four workshops covering governance matters.

Attending this programme will help you understand the key roles and responsibilities of the board and individual directors. You will learn about board relationships, good processes and decision making along with the important elements of operations of a board.

NOTE: Maximum of 16 participants.

COST: \$2000 (+GST) per participant.

Contact DWC to see if you are eligible for NZTE business capability funding.

More info:  
[events@dwc.org.nz](mailto:events@dwc.org.nz)

## CO.STARTERS

Business Start-up & Development Programme

9 week course | \$250

## Business Development Programme

DWC's Co.Starters business start-up and development programme is set to begin in Greymouth on 22 September.

The 9 week course is designed to help you find the best approach to starting and growing a business and collaborate with others who share your entrepreneurial spirit as you work through your business model.

Kate Duthie from Grounded Garden Services attended the programme in Greymouth saying: "I found Co.Starters to be incredibly helpful and encouraging. I was challenged with questions and discussion which enabled me to look at my business ideas from different angles."

Miriam Rees from Blue Spur Milk & Honey also attended the course. "Every week at Co.Starters there is a guest speaker: local entrepreneurs, accountants and lawyers. It's fantastic to see the local community getting behind the course, spreading their knowledge and sharing their inspiring stories," she says.

If you would like to start your own business, develop your existing business, or explore and develop an idea or project then the Co.Starters programme is for you.

Greymouth programme - 22 September 2020  
Westport and Hokitika programmes - February 2021

More info:  
[events@dwc.org.nz](mailto:events@dwc.org.nz)