

**FINANCIAL OVERVIEW**

Despite a good start to the financial year May has seen a net loss for the month of \$1.537 million. The volatility in the financial markets has caused the value of DWC's investments to fall with the main driver being the strength of the New Zealand dollar. Year to date DWC has recorded a loss of \$953k.

At 31 May 2011 DWC's total net assets stood at \$114.7m compared to \$116.3m in April. Income is now behind budget but overall expenses remain on target. The ongoing uncertainty in financial markets will continue to have an effect on DWC's results in the first quarter of the financial year.

**Horticulture Forum**

As part of an ongoing project to research opportunities for development of the food production and processing industry on the Coast, horticulture forums were held in Greymouth and Westport in late June.

The Agribusiness & Economics Research Unit at Lincoln University presented a draft report into the viability of a commercially sustainable horticulture industry.

In brief the report found that no one particular big scale crop will represent a large commercial opportunity on its own. However the report did establish there is an opportunity to consider developing a stronger collective branding strategy in terms of how to position our product on the market and an opportunity to develop value added products.

Around 20 people attended the meetings which were positive and constructive in terms of discussions about possible future directions.

When the final report is complete it will be available through DWC's website.

**Farewell to Gemma Schuddeboom**



It is with sadness we say farewell to Gemma Schuddeboom our Administration Assistant.

Gemma started working at DWC when she was just 17 years old. Over three years later, Gemma is heading off on her big OE adventure. It's been great having Gemma as part of our team and we are going to miss her friendly personality and can do attitude.

Staff and Trustees would like to take this opportunity to wish Gemma all the very best for the future and acknowledge her wonderful contribution to our team. We would also like to welcome Sam Coll who is taking over Gemma's position.

**BUSINESS AWARDS A GREAT SUCCESS**



MC Mark Sainsbury, left, with DWC's Helen Wilson, Julie Kissell and John Chang

**C**ongratulations to all the winners of the inaugural West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards. The black tie awards ceremony was held at Shantytown earlier this month.

"The night was enjoyed by a cross section of West Coast businesses flying the flag and acknowledging excellence," says DWC CEO John Chang.

"I'd like to applaud all the winners. It is a great achievement to be judged as the most innovative and successful in your field. The winners should be proud of their accomplishments," he says.

GT Liddell Contracting Ltd won both the Greymouth Star – Super Nova Award and the Westland Milk Products – Construction, Engineering and

Manufacturing Award.

"It was a very very good night, I would rate it as one of the best awards nights we've been to. We have put a lot of effort in setting up a company structure in the last few years and winning the super nova award is a wonderful reward for all that work," says Graham Liddell.

Feedback about the awards has been overwhelmingly positive with finalists and guests saying they had a fantastic night and relished the opportunity to celebrate business excellence.

DWC was proud to organise the awards and congratulations must go to Events Manager Julie Kissell and her team for arranging such a wonderful night.

John Chang believes the awards marked a turning point for the



The team from GT Liddell Contracting Ltd celebrate their win

West Coast in many ways.

"What I saw that evening was a whole bunch of people enjoying themselves, interacting, sharing and celebrating the successes of West Coast businesses," he says.

"When people of the West Coast come together I feel nothing is impossible and anything is indeed possible. No longer do we feel embarrassed to fly the flag and acknowledge excellence."

On the night sponsors indicated they would be keen to be involved again next year so it looks like the awards will be an important event for many years to come.

"I would like to sincerely thank the entrants and the sponsors who shared the vision with DWC of delivering a wonderful event, one that we all agree was well overdue," says Dr Chang.

**AWARD WINNERS**

- Greymouth Star – Super Nova  
GT Liddell Contracting Ltd
- Solid Energy NZ – Service and Retail  
Unichem Olsen's Pharmacy
- Duncan Cotterill - Primary Producer  
Westland Milk Products
- Tourism West Coast – Tourism  
Westland Tourism Ltd
- Buddle Findlay – Community/Charity  
Organisation  
Tai Poutini Polytechnic  
Westland Milk Products  
– Construction/Engineering/  
Manufacturing/  
GT Liddell Contracting Ltd  
ACC – Workplace Safety  
Westland Milk Products

**DEVELOPMENT WEST COAST GIVES \$100,000 TO COMMUNITY TRUSTS**

DWC will provide the West Coast Community Trust and Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust with \$100,000 this year to distribute to community groups.

DWC historically distributed community grants through several channels including Community Distributions and CEO Delegation, however Trustees have decided it makes more sense for Councils and community groups to make these funding decisions. This new direction means DWC will no longer be directly involved with community funding applications.

"The main reasoning behind this approach is to empower the local community charitable organisations," says Development West Coast Chair John Sturgeon.

"In the opinion of the current DWC Board these organisations

are better connected to their local community groups and have an integral understanding of their needs. They are better placed to make funding decisions," he says.

Last month DWC announced a \$2 million one off extraordinary distribution to each of the three District Councils. The \$6 million is expected to provide an economic boost to the three districts through to March 2016, enabling each district to fund various community assets and projects at their discretion, and should be a significant impetus for the local economy.

Together these two initiatives mean decisions about community funding will now be made by the three councils and two community trusts, not Development West Coast.

Trustees decided to allocate

\$90,000 to the West Coast Community Trust and \$10,000 to the Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust.

The West Coast Community Trust has been running for 23 years and is governed by nine trustees who represent their communities and are appointed by the Minister of Finance.

"This will be a good boost for the West Coast Community Trust, it will almost double our annual distribution. Our next grant round is October so I encourage Coasters to apply," says Chair Dennis Straker.

Chair of the Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust Chips Robinson is also welcoming the grant.

"It's going to be great for the sports community. Our Trust committee will be meeting shortly

to work out how the \$10,000 grant will be distributed," he says.

Organisations that were planning to apply to DWC for a community grant have been contacted to advise of this new direction and are welcome to lodge an application with an alternative funding organisation.

DWC will continue to consider loans to community organisations for capital development projects although this does not include maintenance. These loans will be assessed on a strictly commercial basis.

Major District Initiative funding of \$1.2 million per annum to the West Coast District Councils will continue to be distributed directly by DWC to the councils for the purpose of applying the funds to significant community projects.

**COMMENT FROM THE CHAIR**

On 8 July I was pleased to have been part of a special event that took place on the West Coast - the West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards. As the Chair of DWC, and on behalf of the organisation, I would like to take the opportunity to once again sincerely thank all those who shared the vision and participated in the event either as entrants or sponsors. I am confident this event will continue to be an important vehicle to promote excellence

in West Coast businesses and industries to the rest of the country.

DWC has made changes to how it distributes funding to the community in order to focus on its core business activities of assisting West Coast businesses and maximising returns on its investments.

DWC will continue to place importance on social responsibility, providing grants to WC community organisations and district councils however we

will no longer be making direct distributions. Changes to our deed, approved by our Settlor, Hon Bill English in June, means DWC can pass that function to a third party.

As mentioned in my earlier communications, DWC has made a significant \$6 million grant to the three district councils to be used for funding significant community projects and/or assets. Furthermore I am pleased to report that at our July board meeting Trustees have approved an additional \$100,000 to

local community trusts - \$90,000 to the West Coast Community Trust and \$10,000 to the Solid Energy Amateur Sports Trust. No doubt this will bring many benefits to the Coast.

Finally thanks and farewell to Gemma Schuddeboom - we wish her well in her travels.

John Sturgeon

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