

Financial Overview

DWC's investments were static in March which meant income did not reach monthly targets resulting in a small loss around \$200k below budget.

However the Trust is forecasting a profit of around \$6m for the year to March 2013 and net assets have increased from \$98m at the start of the financial year to \$104m.

DWC helps build new Westport early childhood centre



Watching children playing and laughing as they enjoy the Westport Kindergarten Association's new early learning centre Operations Manager Cate Barry wonders how the community ever coped without it.

The new \$800,000 facility opened in February providing a much needed service for the community and nearly halving the waiting list to send children to the kindergarten.

The Kindergarten Association had been saving and fund raising to build the early learning centre for four years but a \$100,000 funding injection from the Buller Council through DWC's Extraordinary Distribution Fund (EDF) meant they were able to commence building a year early.

"The timing of the DWC funding was perfect and it was a great relief for the Board of Trustees to know we didn't have the stress of finding that extra \$100,000. It has meant we have been able to open at least a year earlier than we otherwise would have been able to," says Cate Barry.

In 2011 DWC made \$2 million available through its EDF to each of the three West Coast district councils to fund various community assets over five years. The Kindergarten was one of the first projects to get

funding approved by Buller District Council and DWC CEO John Chang says it is heartening to see it is now employing five registered teachers and two part-time staff.

"As intended the funding is playing a role in stimulating the economy at a time when things are pretty quiet on the Coast. At the end of the process we are really looking forward to enjoying the many and varied community assets on the West Coast," he says.

The early childhood centre is situated next door to the kindergarten and provides an all day care service for children from as young as 12 weeks old. Cate Barry says that before opening the new facility there were 120-130 children on the waiting list, now that is down to 70.

"Previously people who had to work couldn't find anywhere to care for their children and now they are able to return to work or just get a break if they need one. We have had great feedback from parents about the calm environment that has been created and we have also noticed the new centre gives children a smooth transition to kindy and that's what parents really love," she says.

The Westport Kindergarten Association says it plans to review the need to provide further services at the end of the year.

Pizza and seminars to help with business awards entries

DWC is offering a helping hand to businesses wanting to enter this year's business awards in the form of seminars designed to assist you with the entry process.

The hour-long lunch or dinner seminars will give ideas and tips on filling out the entry forms as well as pizza to help the creative juices flow. They will be held in Westport, Reefton, Greymouth, Hokitika and Franz Josef between 18 and 27 June.

DWC CEO John Chang says he wants to encourage as many businesses as possible to enter the West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards.

"The seminars are designed to make the entry process as simple as possible. It is not that hard or involved to enter but some businesses get put off by having to fill out the entry form so these seminars will help with the process," he says.

"We all recognise times are pretty tough so it's important to be ahead of the pack and get much needed exposure and recognition for the hard work you do. Entering is an opportunity to think about your business, how you are tracking and how you measure against the industry".

Owner of Styliz Hair Salon Brooke Green entered last year and made the finals. She says filling out forms and spelling isn't her strong suit but she didn't find the entry process too hard.

"I have computer software that helps me know my

figures so that was easy and I think if you have a real passion it's not hard to put the words on paper. My advice is to keep it simple, figure out what the strengths of your business are and hammer them home," she says.

Brooke plans to enter again this year and will attend one of DWC's seminars. "I absolutely loved the awards night. As a young business owner it was a big encouragement for me to be around such successful business people and it showed me how amazing the Coast's businesses really are."

This year small and medium sized businesses will have separate categories from large businesses. There will be new Innovation and Rising Star awards.

"DWC really wants to help people enter and celebrate business on the Coast. If you make the finals you will get excellent promotion and a free 30 second video on your business," says Event Manager Karen Mercer.

Entries for the awards open on 4 June and close on 26 July with the gala dinner to announce the winners at Shantytown on 11 October 2013. As an extra incentive all entries that are received by 10 July will go in the draw to win a trip for two to Fox Glacier including a guided walk and two nights accommodation. Entry forms can be found on www.leadinglight.org.nz.

Coast schools now some of the most technology savvy in country

DEVELOPMENT West Coast's Computers in Schools programme has seen 31 primary schools purchase nearly half a million dollars worth of new computer equipment over the last three years.

The schools have spent \$461,000 (incl gst) on new classroom technology, \$345,000 of that was funded by DWC. The money purchased 265 new computers, 135 tablets, upgraded wireless networks, digital cameras, interactive whiteboards and data projectors.

The third and final year of the programme has just rolled out with ten schools across the region receiving new ICT equipment. They include Buller's Westport North, Westport South, Granity and Reefton Area Schools, Grey's Marsden Valley, Barrytown and Grey Main Schools, and Westland's Kaniere, Franz Josef Glacier and Whataroa Schools.

DWC Chair John Sturgeon says DWC is proud to have been involved in the programme.

"It is great that West Coast kids are now in a position where they are ahead of the game when it comes to technology. Our kids deserve the same opportunities those in other regions get," he says.

It is expected that by June 2014 most West Coast

schools will have the ability to be connected to ultra fast broadband. ICT facilitator Eric Martini says as a result of DWC's programme West Coast primary schools are now in a position to use ultra fast broadband to the fullest.

"All of the West Coast primary schools now have up-to-date technology and as a region we must be one of the most connected and up to date in the country," he says.

Deputy Principal of Westport North School, Cath O'Loughlin, says as a result of DWC's programme the school has been able to purchase an iPad for every teacher meaning each class, from Year 0 to Year 8, now have two at their disposal.

"The children are using the iPads for maths and literacy as there are lots of games which practise the skills and strategies they need. They don't even realise they are learning," she says.

An independent review of the first year of the Computers in Schools project has found students are more engaged in learning and have increased motivation and engagement since the introduction of new technology.



DWC Trustee Frank Dooley gets a lesson on how to use an iPad at Westport North School

Chairman's Comment

EARLIER this month DWC Trustees and Executives hosted a visit from the Deputy Controller and Auditor General, Phillippa Smith, and Assistant Auditor General Bruce Robertson. I am delighted to report to you that OAG is pleased with the progress DWC has made in recent years. Encouragement was offered to continue on the path of positive change.

Staff are currently busy with final preparations before the formal launch of the 2013 West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards. This excellent event recognising the efforts of our businesses and business leaders on the Coast is in its third year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our sponsors for their belief in our region and for helping us to celebrate the successes of West Coast businesses.

As the Chair of this Trust I am pleased to report that our interim end of year result is showing a net surplus north of \$6 million. Final adjustments and provisioning will need to be done and audited but at this stage we are likely to be delivering a much healthier end of year result than the budgeted figures.

We are starting to see a number of community projects happening throughout the West Coast on the back of DWC's \$6 million Extraordinary Funding (EDF) that was distributed to the three District Councils. DWC's intended effect within

the community is starting to be realised with the fund acting as an economic stimulus for contractors, suppliers, retailers etc. No doubt the various projects and assets will be enjoyed by our communities for many years to come.

The new \$1 million development of the National Mines Rescue Training Centre at Rapahoe is progressing well. Our committee members are delighted with the progress and would like to pass on our gratitude to the contractors and the Mines Rescue team. This project funded by DWC is shaping up to be an exciting outcome. We look forward to the formal grand opening of the Centre in the near future.

John Sturgeon
Chairman

For further information, contact:
John Sturgeon, Chair,
or John Chang, CEO
(03) 768 0140 or 0800 768 0140

Awards Seminars

Location	Venue	Date	Time
Westport	Bridge Club	Tuesday, June 18	5.30pm
Greymouth	DWC Board Room	Wednesday, June 19	5.30pm
Franz Josef	Medical Centre	Tuesday, June 25	12.30pm
Hokitika	St John Rooms	Tuesday, June 25	5.30pm
Reefton	Info Centre	Thursday, June 27	5.30pm

To register for the seminars contact karen@leadinglight.org.nz