

Our Champions

Central Otago Award Winners

Excellence, passion and commitment were the hallmarks of the 2009 Central Otago Awards winners announced at a special gala ceremony held in Ranfurly on 30 September.

More than two hundred guests were not only inspired by the entrepreneurial spirit of guest speaker, Jeremy Moon the founder and director of one of our growing iconic Kiwi brands Icebreaker Ltd, they witnessed fourteen very special businesses and individuals being presented with awards for their tremendous contributions and achievements.

The winners for this year's awards were:

- Kurt Verduyn who is employed by 4Trades Apprenticeship Training Trust for the Apprentice Award for Overall Excellence and Morgan Boyd who is also employed by 4Trades Apprenticeship Training Trust for the Apprentice Award for Most Developing Potential over the Year.
- The Youth Awards went to Rowan Tumai of Roxburgh for Leadership and Community Service, Margot Streeter of Cromwell for the Culture Award and Willie Miller of Ranfurly for the Enterprise Award and Kate Willyams of Alexandra received a Special Youth Award for her outstanding talent across a range categories.



Photo: Winners of the 2009 Central Otago Awards

- Cromwell Top 10 Holiday Park which is owned and operated by Kay and John Searle, Richard Wallis and Catherine Woods won the Tourism Award.
- Jackie Hamilton of Cromwell Pharmacy took out the Business Excellence Award.
- Joanne Rae of Millers Flat, Linda Armstrong of Becks, Stewart McKnight of Ranfurly, Ruth Reid of Alexandra and Hazel Harrison of Naseby all received a Community Service Award, in recognition of their significant contribution to the community.
- Ray Carey won the inaugural Brand Ambassador Award.

Our congratulations go out to all of this year's winners and to all finalists – you are all amazing people who are making a difference.

Watering the Rural Economy

Irrigation water is the lifeblood of rural Central Otago. A recently commissioned BERL(Business and Economic Research Ltd.) report told us that 15-20% of the Central Otago economy was dependent in one form or another on irrigation.

However, as the saying goes, nothing is constant but change. Much of the existing irrigation infrastructure is old, and there are a number of irrigation groups within the district actively investigating schemes to make more water available to land-holders. The project recently launched by the Tarras Community Trust is a good example, and there's work happening in the upper and lower Manuherikia, on the Ida Burn, and in the Upper Taieri.

The council has limited resources, but help where we can. This includes encouraging these groups to be as inclusive with their communities as possible and providing small grants to part-fund feasibility studies or emerging management models. We do so on the basis that we're already in the 'water business' – with quality, reliability, irrigator, manager of storm-water and waste-water, and consumer interests.

One idea we are currently exploring is lobbying collectively at the national level on behalf of the various new water supply initiatives. We believe that government investment in these projects will be money well spent!

More water unusually means land-use change. Often, this means many more animals (read 'cows') in the landscape. However, supporting the ambitions of rural residents is not the same as saying that the council is actively encouraging the spread of dairying. Water is about opportunity, and the availability of water enables land owners to become more creative and productive, whether it is dairy, viticulture, horticulture or hydroponic wasabi!

Mala Macpherson

First Roundabout for Central

Central Otago will soon have its first roundabout on one of its State Highways. Work is well underway in transforming the three legged intersection of SH8 and SH85 in Alexandra to the new roundabout.

New Zealand Transport Agency's Project Manager, John Jarvis says this roundabout will greatly improve the safety and efficiency of this intersection.

The work was let to Fulton Hogan Central Ltd for a tender price of \$230,000 and should be completed early November.

Enhanced cyclist and pedestrian facilities have been incorporated into the design, including relocating the existing Dunorling St pedestrian crossing closer to the intersection, while incorporating a new central refuge island. Improvements will also be made to the Centennial Ave pedestrian crossing nearby, by installing a central refuge island.

John Jarvis says this new arrangement should address many of the concerns raised at a public open day for this project held last year. The reconfiguration will also make it safer and easier for both cyclists and pedestrians using the intersection. The intention is to install a central refuge island and cycle lanes on lower Tarbert Street, near the Monument.

Making a Visual Statement

Now flying with pride are the recently installed fresh new street banners for Alexandra.

Not only do the two simple designs capture the abundance of summers fruits and wine available locally and the iconic Alexandra bridge piers, they visually capture what is special about this place.



Photo: Celebrating our place.

Leading by Example



Wise Water Use

Having moved from the West Coast where the annual rainfall is in excess 2.5 metres (5 metres at Franz Josef), the 320mm of Alexandra is a wild contrast. It's not surprising to me that water use soars over the hot dry summer as many of us attempt to keep our lawns and gardens green, says Phil Melhopt our new CEO.

Water use and metering is often a controversial topic around the council table and on the street. With the mighty Clutha Mata-au river on our doorstep, it seems ironic that water is seen as an increasingly scarce resource.

The costs of providing potable (drinking) water are increasing as the standards of treatment and associated infrastructure upgrades have an impact. Water metering, and the call for conservation are driven by us wanting to keep future upgrade costs at an affordable level for the community to pay, whilst still providing sufficient capacity during peak times. The key is to reduce peak consumption through wise conservation initiatives.

While the council has initiated water metering to encourage conservation by

users, we've not always practiced what we preach. The often inefficient irrigation of our parks is one example. In an effort to keep our own house in order and reduce peak demand on treated water, we've started a number of initiatives, including:

- A comprehensive review of the irrigation and mowing needs of our parks and reserves. As a result we've found we can get much smarter by irrigating the right areas at the right time. Night time irrigation is but one example.
- Drilling bores and providing ground water (untreated) irrigation for key parks and reserves. Andersons Park in Cromwell is currently having a bore sunk.
- Doing leak detection of council water infrastructure and repairs. A recent survey of Omakau's water infrastructure revealed a number of previously unknown leaks.

As we review our own practices and take initiatives to reduce peak demand, the programme of water metering installation continues. We encourage users to read their meters and for everyone to think of ways to help reduce water during peak demand.

Proposed New I-Site



Responds to Increasing Demand

An independent review of our Visitor Information Centres commissioned in 2007 highlighted, among other things, the need to relocate the Cromwell Visitor Information Centre.

Since that time a location has been identified, council has approved the next stage in the process for the proposed new Centre and is now seeking community feedback.

The proposal is to build a Centre on council owned greenspace on Murray Terrace beside the Travellers' Rest. This easily found site for visitors will also feature toilets, carparking and a bus lane. It will act as the 'public face' for visitors arriving to Cromwell, linking with and being able to promote local businesses and attractions.

The estimated cost of the proposed new centre is \$758,000. Council considers visitor information centres as a district wide function; therefore this cost would be apportioned at 1% across the district rates.

The independent review identified a number of limitations with the current Centre including:

- Visitors have difficulty finding the centre.
- Its limited size and the restricted layout detracts from the visitor experience.
- Limitations for future development.
- Lack of convenient parking close by.
- Buses are unable to stop outside the centre.

Relocating to this site has the potential to benefit the whole district. If the Cromwell Visitor Centre can capture more visitors there is a greater likelihood they will see the value of staying longer exploring more of Central Otago.

More information and submission forms are available from all Council offices, the Cromwell Visitor Centre and Council's website, www.codc.govt.nz Submissions close on 2 November 2009.

Rates Rebates

You, or someone you know, may be entitled to a rates rebate. You may qualify if:

- You own the property you live in.
- Were living at the property from the beginning of 1 July 2009.
- Your total income before tax (including that of your spouse or partner and any joint home owners) is low.
- You are a superannuant or on a Work and Income benefit.

We find that most superannuants, beneficiaries, and people on low incomes do qualify for a rebate.

Generally this rebate is aimed at ratepayers who earn less than or around \$30,000 per annum.

If you haven't received an application this year, they are now available at any of our Council offices, or you can contact Michele Airey on (03) 440 0672 for further information or assistance.

In Good Hands

Susan Finlay has recently taken up the role of Corporate Services Manager. From her knowledge and years of experience in corporate services both in private enterprise and at a central government level, Susan says she is looking forward to being able to 'give' something back to the community by being involved in local government.

Originally from Southland, Susan and her husband decided to settle in Central Otago, and says "We and our young children wanted to experience the wonderful climate and activities this beautiful region has to offer."

Managing Risk

Dunstan Hospital would like to extend a very big thanks to the community for their assistance with supporting the stringent controls in place to manage the pandemic at the hospital.

Community transmission of pandemic influenza (H1N1) is still present throughout NZ, although the number of new cases is declining. It is too soon to tell, however, if influenza like illness will continue to decline, or if there will be a second wave of infection.

Dunstan Hospital remains on high alert and asks people NOT to visit hospital patients if they have: a cough, runny nose, sneezing, aches, fever, diarrhoea, or vomiting. It is important to protect vulnerable patients from infectious viruses.

It's worth a visit



Pinders Pond is a hidden treasure in the Teviot Valley. Originally a pond left over from earlier mining days has become a popular spot for swimming, kayaking and picnicking with locals, and now they want to share it with others.

Located off Teviot Road adjacent to the Clutha River, Pinders Pond is the only major remains left from the second gold rush that the public can have access to.

A number of locals have helped with its rejuvenation. Starting in the early 1960's, the Roxburgh Jaycees transformed the Pond into a safe recreational area for families. Also Robert Watson, a member of the Teviot Valley Promotions Group maintained

the area aided by volunteers for over four years. More recently, members of the Roxburgh and Districts Rotary Club raised \$12,500 and installed a much needed toilet earlier this year. Thanks to their support, Pinders Pond can now be promoted.

The Roxburgh Community Board saw the value of Pinders Pond being vested in Council to manage as a reserve and this process was just completed last month. Plans are now underway to develop this new council reserve as a visitor destination. The intention is to have interpretation boards that tell the history of the pond and surrounding area.



Photo: Pinders Pond

Funding Available For Community Groups



The Vincent Community Board has a contestable fund for any community group that applies. At the moment there are separate funds for the Earnsclough, Manuherikia and Alexandra wards.

For groups within these wards who are keen to apply, the following points will be of interest:

- Any group with a promotions project that meets the criteria can apply.
- Funds are allocated to projects.
- Projects need to tie in with opportunities

identified with any strategic document like Community Plans or the Tourism Strategy.

- Clear outcomes or benefits must be described
- Projects that are joint ventures with other organisations will be highly rated.
- Applications will be considered quarterly – July, October, February and April.

The Board welcomes any group seeking to apply for funding. Contact Mathew Begg our Community Development Manager on (03) 440 0056 to find out whether your project is suitable.

Pisa's Plans

The Pisa district have just launched their Community Plan. This Plan highlights key issues and opportunities that will both shape and build towards a better future.

Some of the key actions the community wants to address include;

- Finding out the best methods of communication to help keep people in touch.
- Doing a skills audit of people in the community.
- Developing trails for walking and cycling within the Pisa area and down to Cromwell.
- Tidying the lakeshore in and around Pisa.

Community Plans are about community ownership and have come about from local people taking an interest in their community.

For more information about community plans contact Mat Begg, Community Development Manager, email - mathew.begg@codc.govt.nz

Fire Risks

Make sure you keep your sections mowed and cleared of long grass to help minimise the risk of fires.

Normally at this time of year the prohibited fire season is enforced in our district - this includes both rural and urban areas. This means there is no burning in open areas except for gas BBQ's.

For up to date information, please refer to Council's Notice Board in the Central Otago News or contact our Council office on (03) 440 0056.

We can all do our bit to help protect this special place.

Naseby Clean Up Day

Naseby Vision is organising a Clean Up Day for Naseby property owners on Saturday 24 October starting at 9.00am.

The Clean Up is all about helping to reduce the risk of fire. This clean up is not about rubbish, its about cleaning up anything that would provide fuel for fire, including long grass, shrubs too close to houses, tree trimming and branch removal.

For all Naseby residents and crib owners make sure you get involved.

To find out more contact Kath Thomas on (03) 444 9920 or,

kath.thomas@xtra.co.nz .

Quality Service Assured



Photo: Qualmark Quality Endorsement

The Alexandra and Cromwell i-SITE Visitor Centres have just received a Qualmark quality endorsement, and are now certified as Endorsed Visitor Information Centres.

Qualmark offers quality assurance to a full range of tourism businesses, from museums to horse trekking, art galleries to wildlife encounters, rental vehicles to mountain biking, and gardens to shopping.

Qualmark is designed to identify professional and trustworthy operators to enable both international and domestic visitors to book and buy tourism products and services with confidence.

Qualmark is New Zealand tourism's official quality assurance agency. It is a Government backed initiative supported by Tourism New Zealand and endorsed by other leading tourism industry organisations.

Ranfurly i-SITE Visitor Centre will undergo their assessment later this month.

Save Dollars

Help your Environment

The cost of sending all of our district's waste to the Victoria Flats Landfill is already costly and the charges will only increase. All the more reason for us all to stop unnecessary waste filling our wheelie bins, like greenwaste - lawn clippings and garden trimmings.

Mulching is a practical way to recycle greenwaste. Consider sharing the cost of a mulching machine with your family, friends or neighbours. It saves watering your garden, inhibits weed growth and returns nutrients to the soil.

Alternatively, take your greenwaste to the greenwaste site at your nearest transfer station. Here the material is broken down and then used to spread over the closed landfill to help improve the soil quality for future plantings.

By recycling your greenwaste you are not only helping to prevent the production of methane (a major greenhouse gas) you are helping to reduce the high cost transporting your greenwaste to the landfill.

Your actions are helping to protect our environment and reducing the costs of carting greenwaste to landfill. Looks like a win/win situation for all....

Plastic Recycling Options

Recycling your baleage wrap is a great way to safeguard stock health, avoid damage to machinery and protect the environment.

Agrecovery can provide a user pays collection service from your property or Central Otago WasteBusters provide a free drop off service at their Boundary Rd Resource Recovery Park. Wrap and netting must be dry and well shaken to remove any feed or dirt.

Used agrichemical containers can also be recycled with Agrecovery. Clean, empty containers are collected in a specially equipped Agrecovery truck that travels to collection sites, including Roxburgh and Alexandra.

So, instead of burning or burying waste, let's use the environmentally responsible option to dispose of used agrichemical containers, baleage wrap and netting. Your farm, vineyard or orchard will thank you for it!

For more information contact;

Central Otago WasteBusters, (03) 448 9948
Agrecovery, 0800 AGRECOVERY (0800 247326)

www.agrecovery.co.nz

