

Central Otago Award Winners



Excellence, passion and bright giving individuals were the hallmarks of the 2010 Central Otago Awards winners announced at a special gala ceremony held in Roxburgh on 9 September.

More than two hundred guests were welcomed by a 'wee' taste of Roxburgh's Scottish heritage to help mark Scottish week. (Scottish Week happens to be one of the events that Roxburgh is planning to run along side next year's Rugby World Cup). Guests were also inspired by the message given by guest speaker and brand strategist, Brian Richards and then they witnessed nine very special business and individuals being presented with beautifully hand-crafted trophies for their tremendous contributions and achievements.

The winners for this year's awards were:

- Kenzie Jackson of Cromwell for the Youth Award for Culture, Rosie Whiting of Alexandra for the Youth Award for Enterprise, and Breiana Bennetts of Roxburgh for the Youth Award for Leadership and Community Service. All these young people showcase the amazing talent that is here in our young people.



Photo: This year's Awards Winners

- The winners of the Community Service Award, which recognises people and their significant contribution to their community and district, were Fred Peyton, Gordon Divers and Joan Stevens. All of these recipients come from Alexandra.
- Tyler Berland who is employed by 4Trades Apprenticeship Training Trust and works at Urban Edge Hair Design won the Apprentice Award for Overall Excellence. This award recognises excellence in training, personal achievement of apprentices working in any industry.
- The Old Doctor's Residence, a

gracious luxurious bed and breakfast accommodation located in Naseby which is owned and operated by husband and wife team Grant and Jan Bean won the Tourism Award.

- Denis Kirkpatrick who owns the third generation family business and iconic brand, Jimmy's Pies Limited took out the Business Excellence 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. To read more about the award winners and the evening's celebration go to www.aworldofdifference.co.nz.

Water Wisely



Now that spring is here many of us are thinking about our gardens and our watering systems.

More than 75% of the water we treat is used on our gardens or outside our homes over summer. Unfortunately the cost to pump and treat all that water is significant. It is in all our interests to be more proactive about reducing that water demand.

To reduce that demand we first need to understand just how much water goes onto our garden.

For people with water meters, a daily reading will give you a good indication. Read it before you start watering your

garden and then either at the end or after a set time. If you are not sure how to read your meter, call us for advice on (03) 440 0673. If you don't have a meter yet, try and be aware of just how much water you use.

There is no 'right amount' of water to use on your garden. It will depend on what is in your garden and how much garden you have.

Watering Tips

- ▶ Irrigate at night or early in the morning when the air is cool and still.
- ▶ Soak your garden once every few days rather than giving it a quick drink every night. This encourages the roots to go

deeper into the soil to seek out moisture.

- ▶ Don't over water - too much water can be as bad as too little.
- ▶ Use fine sprinklers to water lawns and gardens – 30 minutes is enough.
- ▶ Install efficient automatic irrigation systems.
- ▶ Use pebbles or stones as ground cover and plant dry tolerant plants.
- ▶ Let your grass grow taller to provide shade for the roots and soil.
- ▶ Use mulch on gardens and around trees and shrubs.
- ▶ Avoid watering the concrete or asphalt.

End of a Term

This month marks the beginning of a new term and trimester in local government for Central Otago District Council.

It also marks the end of a season for Richard Smith Maniototo Community Board Chair, John Kerr member of the Roxburgh Community Board, Lynley Claridge Councillor and past member of the Alexandra Community Board, Mary Flannery elected member for the Manuhierikia Ward on the Vincent Community Board, Cam Withington, elected member for the Alexandra Ward on the Vincent Community Board and also Cliff Crawford member of the Cromwell Community Board.

Several members give insights to their time in office:

Mary Flannery: "Thankyou for the opportunity to represent you. I wish the new board members the best for the forthcoming term. I encourage people to contact their board representative to discuss their issues when required. I believe that robust informed debate at board meetings results in the best decisions for our community."

Richard Smith: "It has been a pleasure representing the Maniototo for the last nine years. I've also valued the opportunities to be involved in Central Otago wide strategies. I have found that being willing to listen to all sides of the debate helps to make informed decisions. It has been worth putting the effort into local government and I believe I am the richer for this experience and I am only sorry that I am unable to carry on."

Lynley Claridge: "I have enjoyed my four terms representing Central Otago, both on community board and council, meeting new people and advocating for ratepayer issues. My thanks go to the ratepayers for giving me this opportunity. Central Otago is such a special place, and I'm thankful we drew the short straw to be lucky enough to live here."

John Kerr: "It has been a privilege to be part of the Roxburgh Community Board for ten of the last twelve years. There seems to be more things happening with remarkably positive and forward looking groups inspiring the Teviot Valley to continue to develop sport, recreation and tourism facilities along with town beautification where possible. I hope to see people step up to represent the community at the bi-election. Thank you for the opportunity to serve you."

We thank you for your contribution and commitment to our community in helping to make this a better place for us all.

Enviroschools Treat



Children from our Enviroschools and schools throughout Central Otago had a special treat when they spent time with Ruud Kleinpaste, 'The Bugman' at the Cromwell Chafer Beetle Reserve as part of Conservation Week activities.

Ruud, a guest of the Department of Conservation captured the children's interest with his wealth of knowledge, passion for his subject and humour. Ruud stated during his presentation how important it is to educate children to protect our environment and biodiversity and to "Love New Zealand", which was the theme for this year's Conservation Week.

The Enviroschools programme is designed to do just that, engage children in many and varied "action projects" in their school and

community environments.

Making a Difference

Cromwell Primary School is just one of the schools participating in this programme.

Enthusiasm is the word that captures the level of participation by the school in the enviroschool programme.

The students have led every step of the way with Student Council and class Inquiry action initiatives which have also involved the wider school community and local businesses.

Some of the projects to date include making worm farms, creating edible gardens, germinating native seeds that will be then planted around the school and reusing sandwich wrappers.



Photos: Ruud Kleinpaste 'The Bugman' has captivated audience - This photo was supplied by Department of Conservation. Cromwell Primary School making learning fun.

Council Responds



Council responded to the urgent request from Christchurch City Council for sixty suitably qualified building inspectors to help in the wake of the Canterbury's earthquake and aftershocks that rocked the city and surrounding area.

CEO Phil Melhopt said we were pleased to be able to send three of our building inspectors to assist with safety inspections of damaged residential buildings. We realise these earthquakes have placed a huge strain on Canterbury's people and resources, and we were glad to do what we could to help.

Our building inspectors Stewart Geddes, Murray McCutcheon and John Watson spent four, twelve hour days checking on average 35-40 buildings a day, such as this one pictured below.

Stewart Geddes said he found the whole experience quite humbling. 'Seeing people living in fear with the future of their home in jeopardy, still showing gratitude and appreciation for the assistance given. It was both a privilege to be able to give practical

support to people who were both financially and emotionally vulnerable and gain firsthand experience in a real emergency situation that we can learn from'.

Be Prepared

The Canterbury earthquake has been a wake-up call to us all and a timely reminder to be prepared. Start making plans now so that you can be self sufficient in your home for at least 3 days. Check the inside cover of 'The Yellow Pages' to find out what you need to prepare to get thru.



Photo: One of the affected houses the team inspected in Christchurch.

Rugby World Cup 2011

With under a year to go, things are starting to heat up for this big event in September and October next year.

The New Zealand Lottery Grants Board has made available a \$9.5million fund to support community and public events as part of the nationwide festival that will run alongside RWC2011.

It is good to note that a number of local community groups applied for funding. We wish you the best of luck in being a recipient of some of those funds!

Check out the 'Spin it Wide' DVD on www.spinwide2011.co.nz

This DVD was produced by the city and district councils, regional tourism organisations, and rugby unions from south of the Waitaki.

Together they have been working to create a fantastic platform for what will be an incredible event. This website also includes a full calendar of events to keep visitors and locals entertained in between matches.

Community Advice Service

The Alexandra group of volunteer workers that was providing an information, advice and support service to the community of Central Otago through the Citizens' Advice Bureau Inc is now operating under a new name: The Alexandra Community Advice Network Inc.

This locally managed Network is run by a committed group of thirty five volunteers who are still providing the same services to our community.

Located at Church House in Centennial Avenue, The Alexandra Community Advice Network Inc. operate from 9am - 2pm, Monday to Friday.

Their contact details are:
PO Box 114, Alexandra.
Ph: (03) 448 7771,
Fax: (03) 448 6579 and
Email: alexcan@xtra.co.nz

Staff Changes

Farewell

Maureen Crampton has resigned from her position as Building Control Officer with the Planning Environment Team.

We wish Maureen all the best.

Local Drivers



On Local Roads

Reports of road crashes can leave us with the impression that many are caused by overseas drivers in campervans.

However, local crash statistics show that on average, nearly 50% of drivers who crash in Central Otago are from Central Otago. A further 10% are from Wanaka or Queenstown and 28% are from other parts of New Zealand. This leaves only 12% of crashes where the driver is from overseas.

The evidence is clear, local drivers are crashing on local roads.

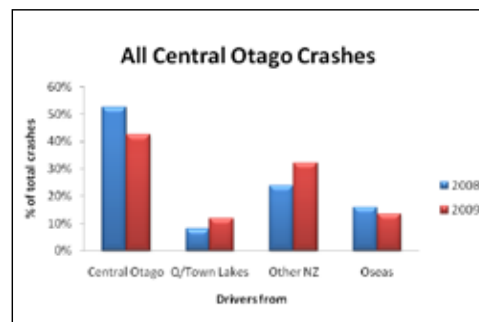
In 2009 one third of the 'at fault' drivers were aged 19-24 years, and a further 22% were aged 51-60 years. Again this dispels the notion that it is all young drivers who are crashing - they may be overrepresented by the number of young drivers that there are, but locally they are not the only "at fault" drivers.

One major cause of crashes in Central Otago is driver distraction.

Driver distractions can include eyeing the scenery, dealing with a crying baby, changing a CD or radio station, or having food and drink.

A single moment of distraction can cause you to drift from your lane and get into difficulties. Learn to ignore the many distractions around you and stay focused.

Remember, locals do crash on local roads.



Connecting with the Past

Vincent Community Board held their August meeting at the Clyde Museum in the former Vincent County Council chambers.

Vincent County was formed in 1877. The 'new' chambers were opened in 1965 and were the home of Vincent County until amalgamation in 1989.

"It is important to recognise the significance of the choice of the name Vincent for the amalgamated Alexandra and Earnsclough, Manuherikia Community Boards," Board Chair, Clair Higginson said.

"Holding a meeting in the Vincent County Council chambers, in its first triennium, is a fitting memento to Vincent Pyke and our county predecessors.

It is worth noting that with the formation of Vincent County in 1877, the new council faced the challenges of ensuring rural and industrial issues were addressed along with the county town's more urban needs.

Some parallels can be drawn with the same challenges faced by this amalgamated ward".



Photo: The Vincent Community Board meeting held at the Vincent County Council chambers - Photo supplied by Barrie Wills.

Service Requests

Often you are our eyes and ears and may see things that are broken, damaged or need fixing. This could be a leaking water pipe, damaged roads or signs or even footpaths.

Council has a service request system that you can call if you see something that needs fixing. This is a 24 hour service, just call (03) 440 0056 and say you want to make a service request.

Researching Online

With Australia being New Zealand's largest inbound tourism market, it's not surprising to learn that Australians prefer to do their research on where to stay and what to do and then book their holidays online.

Most New Zealanders travelling domestically also like to research their holidays online before travelling.

This would suggest it's important to keep your website current, informative and allow for visitors to make online bookings.

If you don't have a website for your business, perhaps you need to consider investing in one or make sure you are on the www.centralotagonz.com website.

Contact Tourism Central Otago on (03) 440 0637 or tourism@codc.govt.nz for more information.

Fire Risks

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

For more up-to-date information on the fire season status please refer to Council's Notice Board in the Central Otago News or contact our Council office on 03 440 0056.

Safe Boating



Photo: Supplied by Barrie Wills

Keeping safe on our lakes and rivers is all about understanding the local environment, knowing the rules, having the right equipment and using plenty of common sense.

For more detail about the local rules and safety tips on boating, make sure you pick up a copy of the Lake Dunstan Boating Guide at our Information Centres and refer to the Lake Dunstan Navigation Safety Bylaw on www.codc.govt.nz/documents/bylaws

To find out more about how you can support the local work of Coastguard go to www.coastguardsouth.org.nz

To learn about the range of boating courses available, contact Tony Smith the Clyde Coastguard on 021 115 7989 or go to www.cbes.org.nz

Tony has found that the day skipper's course is by far the most popular boating course. It covers all the basics of boating for example, the equipment to carry and the basic rules on the water. Normally he holds courses on demand and needs 8-10 people per course. These are usually held in Clyde but courses can be held elsewhere if there is a demand.

Be a responsible skipper and the water will be safer for all to enjoy.

New Citizens



Ten new New Zealanders were welcomed at a special citizenship ceremony held in September.

As part of the ceremony each new citizen was presented with a native kowhai, a symbolic gesture recognising their new

beginnings in this new land. Central Otago as a community is the richer for having these people share their skills and talents with us.

Congratulations on your New Zealand citizenship.



Photo: From the left Kayoko Watt (Japan), Rina Watt, Alastair Watt (UK), Philip Clark (UK), Martin Hess (Germany), Amanda Carnie (UK), Dr Hendrika Waal-Manning (Holland), Joyce Turner (UK), Andrea Murphy McIntosh (Canada), Richard Handford (UK), and the insert is Tim Hawkins (UK).