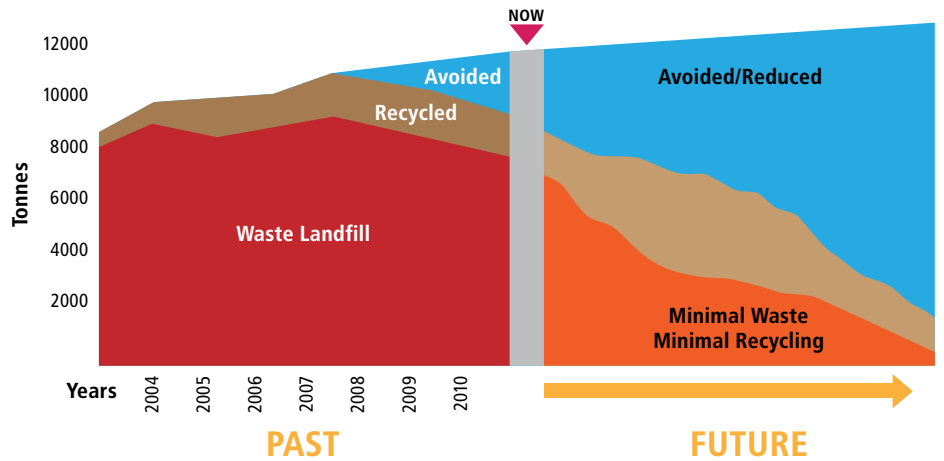


Managing our Waste

One way of increasing our sustainability is to think of waste as a potential resource. As resources become scarce and expensive it will become increasingly vital that we use materials more efficiently. The way we think about waste needs to change. The proposed new Waste Minimisation and Management Plan has been prepared with our goals and vision around sustainability in mind.

The proposed Plan provides the roadmap for our next steps on the zero waste journey. Changing the way we think about resources to increase our environmental sustainability requires changes in behaviour from all across our community, from Council, businesses, organisations, households and individuals.

The strategies and actions identified in the new Plan will help us recognise the value of the resources we consume and provide incentives to change our behaviour towards resource use.



The Plan includes actions to reduce the amount of materials generated. It proposes to reduce the frequency of the wheelie bin collection, offer a choice of wheelie bin size and to encourage more home composting. All of these actions will help us towards zero waste and a more sustainable Central Otago.

To find out more you can visit our website www.codc.govt.nz to view the full plan, request an electronic copy of the plan by emailing waste@codc.govt.nz or pick up a summary from your local service centre.

From the Mayor's Desk

CYCLE ADVENTURE

Some of you may be wondering whether we made it or not? As the photo shows we did, and what a fantastic adventure it turned out to be. Sixty nine hours and 1520 km of biking got us from one end of the United Kingdom to the other with a few detours along the way. Fantastic scenery, the ever changing countryside, a little bit of heritage and great company made this an enjoyable and satisfying accomplishment.



Photo: Bernice and Tony Lepper at John O'Groats

GLOBAL ECONOMY STRUGGLING

While we were away we got an insight into the scale of the financial crisis that the world's economy is facing. Times are universally tough and it is obvious that New Zealand and Central Otago will not be insulated from these international events. During these times it is always easy to blame someone else and the

Council is coming in for some criticism for not being development friendly enough. I look forward to working with business leaders to see how our Council can change this perception. Every day I see neat things happen. Usually this involves someone

having a great idea and the energy to follow through on making a difference and I am happy to help these people in any way that I can.



Greenwaste Mulching Trial

Council is running a greenwaste shredding trial at the Cromwell and Alexandra Transfer Stations. The mulched material will be used on the old landfill, for site maintenance and a small amount will be retained and tested to see whether it is suitable to use as mulch on our parks and reserves. If successful, we will look at how else it can be used in the community.

For this to work it would be great if you could help by separating what can be mulched (tree branches up to 400mm in diameter and small tree stumps, garden clippings, leaves, tree and hedge trimmings, other plant materials and untreated grass clippings) from waste that isn't suitable (broom, gorse, flaxes and cabbage trees as they block the shredding machine. Grasses, weeds, sawdust, timber off-cuts, crates, Gib board and wood packing also can't be mulched as they cause contamination).

Enviroschools Update

Central Otago Enviroschools have been busy on a variety of projects.

- Cromwell Primary was filmed for a Department of Conservation documentary to be screened during Conservation Week. Shots were taken of the children, screen printing native plants, planting a kowhai seedling as well as learning to germinate and propagate kowhai seeds. This will be used as part of Project Gold where communities are encouraged to plant kowhai and other native plants.
- The Terrace Primary School conducted a waste audit. Never a pleasant task sifting through a week's rubbish but the children stuck to it. The next task is to assess what they collected and this will help them identify ways to further reduce waste at their school.
- Maniototo Area School has worked on a number of projects, including; worm farms, Junk Challenge - making masks from recycled materials, setting up systems for paper and packaging recycling, a waste audit and developing their 'Care Code'.
- Tarras Primary produced a DVD on 'Sustainable Tarras'. With the help of Ella Lawton from the Otago Polytechnic, the children explored the idea of ecological footprints.



Wastebusters

Central Otago WasteBusters is one of only twenty plus locations nationwide that's been established as an e-Cycle collection depot. All types of electronic waste from TV's to microwaves are recycled all year round.

Up until recently most people thought it was okay to dump old electronic waste in landfill, not realising the toxic material it contained was harmful to water, land and human health.

In fact electronic devices are complex and contain hundreds of components; some components are quite valuable, but most are toxic such as lead, mercury and cadmium. Similarly TV's and CRT monitors can have up to 3kg of lead as well as quantities of phosphorous and mercury. Generally speaking the older the equipment the more toxic material it contains.

Our e-Cycle partner RCN processes as much e-waste as possible in New Zealand. Offshore e-waste recycling goes to factories in Australia, Singapore, Japan, and China. All factories meet international standard and are ISO 14001 accredited.

Over time, we hope that companies who produce electronic equipment will take responsibility for covering the cost of recycling their e-waste. However until then, we need to charge a minimal fee for e-waste dropped-off at our depot in Alexandra. This fee covers both the freight charge and dismantling fee to have these goods recycled in a proper manner.

We are open from 8am – 5pm from Monday to Friday.

For further information contact Central Otago WasteBusters on 03 448 9948 or visit www.e-cycle.co.nz

Celebrating Success

Over one hundred and forty guests enjoyed a special gala ceremony to announce this year's winners of the Central Otago Awards held in Alexandra. Guests were also inspired by the message given by guest speaker, mentor, author and owner of Bendigo Station, John Perriam and then they witnessed some very special and innovative people being presented with beautifully hand-crafted trophies for their outstanding achievements.

The winners for this year's awards were:

- Ella Borrie of Cromwell for the Youth Award for Culture, Alex Pasco of Roxburgh for the Youth Award for Enterprise, and Marnie Murphy-Manning of Cromwell for the Youth Award for Leadership and Community Service. All these young people are some of our community's most active and enterprising individuals.

- The winners of the Community Service Award, which recognises people and their significant contribution to their community and district, were Bettie Lawson of Roxburgh, Dave Ramsey of Alexandra, and Ken Gillespie of Oturehua.

- The Shed - Northburn Station, a Central Otago premier cellar door and venue attraction, which is owned and operated by husband and wife team Tom and Jan Pinckney took out the Central Otago Tourism Award.

Our congratulations go out to all of this year's winners and to all finalists – you are all amazing people and are leaders and 'doers' in our community.

To read more about the award winners and the evening's celebration go to www.aworldofdifference.co.nz



Photo: This year's Central Otago Award Winners

Keep in Touch

Updating Contact Details

Several years ago a list of the many community groups and associations in Central Otago was created, and now features on the lifestyle section of www.centralotaganz.com

We find that both locals and visitors regularly use this website to contact relevant community groups in our district.

This list is currently being updated. If you would like your community group or association added to the website, please contact Rebecca Findlay on rebecca.findlay@codc.govt.nz to request a Community Database Form that you can fill-in your details.

Outdoor Recreation Strategy

Central Otago is a premier New Zealand outdoor wonderland - for walking, cycling, mountain biking and swimming to boating, fishing, ice skating and skiing, we have it all.

An Outdoor Recreation Strategy for Central Otago has been developed. It reviews existing recreational products and experiences, and identifies opportunities for improvement for both residents and visitors over the next 10 years.

Central Otago has never before had an outdoor recreation strategy. Given there has been significant population growth, increased international and domestic tourism, more intensive land use and on-going land tenure changes, this has led to the realisation that if we want to retain and develop our amazing outdoor experience, we must develop a long term strategy to manage this properly.

We welcome your feedback on the draft. Copies are available from our Council Offices, libraries or visitor centres. Submissions closed on Friday 4 November.

Any questions, contact Rebecca Findlay, Community Development Manager on (03) 440 0629 or rebecca.findlay@codc.govt.nz

Join our Book Club

Do you love a good yarn, enjoy reading new books and meeting fellow book lovers, then our Book Club might be for you.

Come along and join us on the first Tuesday of every month, from 2 - 3pm at the Alexandra Public Library, anyone is welcome to come along.

For more information call Janine Gillions on (03) 448 9412.

All Blacks in our Back Yard

The Council was invited to host three All Blacks from the Rugby World Cup squad – just 1 week out from the start of their RWC campaign. Brad Thorn, Corey Flynn and Owen Franks spent the morning in Cromwell mixing with hundreds of Central Otago residents, signing autographs and running rugby drills with young players.

This was a great community day out – with the local schools creating a living 'black jersey' to welcome the All Blacks, followed

by an official welcome by the Mayor and the presentation of a scroll of best wishes messages for the All Blacks from across the region.

Special thanks must go to the Cromwell Rugby Club and the principals of the Cromwell schools whose efforts ensured everyone had a memorable morning. To quote an overheard conversation "this is fantastic – it reminds me of when I was young and the Governor General visited" and, "my goodness this has stopped the town".



Photo: Our welcome to the All Blacks

New Exciting Art Awards

A Wanaka based-artist, Andi Regan, took out the major prize at the inaugural Central Otago Art Awards.

Judges awarded the Central Lakes Trust Excellence Award of \$5000 to Ms Regan for "Central Bloom". The runner-up prize, the Central Otago News Award of \$2000 - for an outstanding Central Otago artist, was awarded to Megan Huffadine of Bannockburn for her work "A Page of Incantations".

The fifty exhibited works, selected from over 200 entries, were judged by Elizabeth

Caldwell Director of the Dunedin Public Art Gallery and Jim Geddes Director of the Eastern Southland Gallery. Nearly half of the works in the exhibition were from Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes.

The arts are very much a catalyst to Central Otago's economic development, showcasing the regions' artistic strength both nationally and internationally is an objective of the Central Otago District Arts Trust, and this new event really achieves this.



Photo: 'Central Bloom' kindly supplied by Central Otago District Arts Trust

"Give Way" Rule to Change

On March 25th 2012 the "Give Way" rule will change.

Jo Robinson, our Community Road Safety Advisor will be running free, practical workshops across the district on the changes to the rules.

The workshops will be held in March as a joint project with the Police.

"As we know, people have many commitments" says Mrs Robinson "we plan to run the workshops all day so that people can pop in any time that suits. Evening workshops will also be arranged".

Community groups can book a workshop for their own group to coincide with their March meeting. Any group wanting to book one of these sessions should contact Mrs Robinson on (03)440 0653 or email jo.robinson@codc.govt.nz

Roxburgh - Shaping its future

Having accomplished a great deal since its first community plan was developed in 2006, the Roxburgh and Teviot Valley community decided it was time to re-evaluate its vision and future direction.

The Plan provides a clear direction for future projects the community would like to achieve in the next three to five years. Topics are diverse ranging from developing produce and art co-operatives, establishing a local business group, to advocating for an ATM and free Wi-Fi, and finding out how to best support the development of trails and walkways in the area, and there is more.

Submissions will be heard by the Roxburgh and Teviot Valley Community Plan Trust in November; they will also oversee the actions identified in the Plan once it's finalised.

Art and Cultural Funding 2011

Creative New Zealand has made some changes to its funding criteria and processes. Small Grants of up to \$500 are now no longer available, however; there is now a District Grant application form for all art and cultural projects.

Applications are now open and forms are available at our local Council offices and service centres.

The closing date for applications is Friday 18 February, 2012.

The next funding round will be in September 2012.

Rail Trail Plan

The value of the Otago Central Rail Trail to our local economy is significant. It's contributed to creating new business opportunities, helped to conserve and celebrate Central Otago's rich heritage, increased visitor numbers to the district and helped revive a number of small communities.

With the number of users increasing every year, now in excess of 12,000 per annum, the need to develop a long term plan to ensure a sustainable future for the Trail was identified.

After extensive consultation, the first ever long term plan for the Trail is set to be finalised next month.

The Plan addresses a number of issues ranging from keeping the Trail's character consistent with its natural setting, greater focus on its railway heritage, improving and building on the customer experience, both in the service delivered and infrastructure available like cell phone coverage and additional toilets.

A governance group made up of representatives from the key organisations and communities will be set up to drive this Plan.

Any questions, contact Rebecca Findlay Community Development Manager on (03) 440 0629 or email rebecca.findlay@codc.govt.nz

Welcome

Nine families were welcomed as new New Zealanders at a special citizenship ceremony held in September.

As part of the citizenship ceremony, people are given the opportunity to say why they chose to come here. For the Ferdinand family, they said they were drawn by "the

outstanding beauty of Central Otago and the warm friendship of the Maniototo community – truly a 'slice of Heaven'; who would want to exchange that for anything else?"

Central Otago as a community is the richer for having these families share their skills and talents with us - we welcome you all.



Photo: The Families welcomed as New Zealand citizens

Community Projects

Funding Available

Transpower has set up a fund for one-off grants, called CommunityCare Fund specifically for community-based projects.

Any non-profit organisation or community group, non-government organisation, charity, school or educational institution, iwi or councils can apply.

Transpower is encouraging applications from Central Otago. Projects that have already been awarded a grant include:

- \$40,000 to the Alexandra Community House Trust towards the construction of the Alexandra Community House

- \$40,000 to the Central Cultural Centre Trust to help develop the Pavilion Theatre.

Funding applications are reviewed twice yearly.

The closing dates for applications are 31 January and 31 July.

For more information and to see whether or not your community group can apply, go to www.transpower.co.nz