

MCB gets behind its community's future leaders



Maniototo Area School senior students wear their Maniototo T-shirts with pride around Auckland's landmarks – Rainbow's End theme park and the Sky Tower.

The Maniototo Community Board (MCB) was proud to show its support for its future leaders in a tangible way recently.

The Maniototo community has experienced a lot of tragedy in the past 12 months. When the Board heard that the Maniototo Area School was sending its senior students up for a whistle-stop adventure-filled 'tiki tour' to Auckland at the end of term and saw the efforts students were putting in to fundraise for the trip, it wanted to get behind the initiative and chose to do so with a visual token of its support.

At a special assembly on 25 June, Board Chairman Barry Becker and Central Otago Brand Manager Shirley Howden presented about 60 senior students and teachers with personalised goodie bags that included Central Otago – World of Difference brand T-shirts, with the slogan the students themselves had chosen emblazoned on the back: "Maniototo ...Our Place in the World".

Mr Becker acknowledged that the pupils, teachers, parents and the wider community had all been through a traumatic 12 months and congratulated the staff on the initiative to take time out of school for the group to

"experience something outside of the Maniototo".

"To have raised the funds so swiftly shows you have the whole of the community and our near neighbours supporting you."

Mr Becker told the students to wear the T-shirts with pride and know there was a whole community standing behind them.

"When you look and wear these T-shirts be reminded of the very special place you come from – Maniototo – and the pride that our community has in you who are our future. We really are proud of you."

Roxburgh Pipeline under construction

Work got underway late last month on a \$650,000 pipeline linking Roxburgh township and Lake Roxburgh Village to Roxburgh's new water treatment plant.

Earlier this year the Roxburgh Community Board approved the construction of the treated water pipeline between the plant and the existing Lake Roxburgh Village reservoir. The contract to design and build the treated water pipeline was awarded to Meyer Construction Ltd, a local family-owned business based in Alexandra.

The pipeline is being laid in road reserve on the Clutha River side of State Highway 8 and will run from Roxburgh township near Tweed St to the Lake Roxburgh Village Reservoir near the Roxburgh Dam lookout.

Ratepayers with property adjacent to SH8 will be able to connect to the new pipeline and the Board strongly encourages ratepayers who may be interested in doing so to have a connection installed during the construction phase. If made at this time the connection cost has been set at \$1725 incl. GST.

The pipeline project has been partially subsidised by a grant of \$38,950 from the Ministry of Health's drinking water subsidy scheme.

A letter has been sent to all ratepayers with property adjacent to the pipeline route inviting them to connect to the new pipeline. If any interested ratepayers have not received that information and are interested in connecting, they should contact Council as soon as possible on (03) 440 0673.

New water charges

Changes to Council's funding model for water were formally adopted by Council and took effect earlier this month.

Previously funded by one all-inclusive uniform charge on the rates account, water charges will now be split into two parts for most ratepayers. The cost of operating the infrastructure will be funded by a fixed charge on the rates account and a volumetric use charge billed three times a year will cover the cost of each property's actual water use.

Two different volumetric charges have been adopted. Alexandra, Clyde, Omakau, Cromwell and Pisa ratepayers pay 58 cents (incl. GST) for every unit (1000 litres) used. Naseby and Ranfurly pay 86 cents for every unit used.

The uniform charges are more varied because of the different number of ratepayers connected to each supply. Where there are few people on a supply, the uniform charge is generally higher because there are fewer people to share the cost.

The next 12 months will be a bit of a "bedding in period" while ratepayers

work out what the changes mean for their household or business and Council staff see what effect the new charging regime has on water conservation behaviour, said Water Services Manager Russell Bond.

"Ratepayers should have an idea of their expected water use based on the monitor accounts they have received over the past 12 months, as well as some who have received high usage alerts, but we are inviting people to contact our Water Services team with any questions they might have."

Still have questions regarding the new water charges? Contact us on (03) 440 0056 or water@codc.govt.nz.

WATER CHARGES AND YOU What You Need To Know

Water charges are now split into two parts:

1. The **Annual Uniform Charge** will appear on your annual rates account and covers each ratepayer's share of funding the water supply system. This covers the cost of maintenance, replacement and development of bores, pipes, pumps and other infrastructure on your water supply.

2. The **Volumetric Charge** primarily covers the cost of the water each ratepayer uses through their meter. The meter is read and this charge collected by account three times a year (every four months). You will get an account following each read.

No Allocation: The uniform charge no longer includes a pre-paid allocation. You will be directly billed for all water you use.

Water is a 'Rate': Both the uniform and volumetric charges are a 'rate' and by law must be billed to the ratepayer, not to the tenant where properties are leased or rented.

Charges apply from 2 July. As we can't physically read all meters on 2 July, meters will be read as usual during the first scheduled read rounds for the 2012/13 financial year. Charges will only apply from 2 July (whether you have been billable in the past or monitored). Any charges on your account up until 1 July 2012 will be billed at 0 cents.

More Information to help you through the transition will accompany your water bills.

Roxburgh: Charging of Roxburgh residential ratepayers will happen later following the completion of water meter installation.



Per Connection Water Charges 1 July 2012 – 30 June 2013 (GST inclusive)			
	Uniform Charge 2012/13	Volumetric Charge 2012/13 (per unit/1000L)	Meters Read
Alexandra	\$192.70	\$0.58	Aug/Dec/April
Clyde	\$52.35	\$0.58	July/Nov/March
Omakau	\$729.25	\$0.58	Sept/Jan/May
Cromwell	\$105.70	\$0.58	Oct/Feb/June
Pisa	\$254.40	\$0.58	Oct/Feb/June
Patearoa*	\$407.29	\$1.2392	Sept/Jan/May
Naseby	\$469.70	\$0.86	Sept/Jan/May
Ranfurly	\$490.65	\$0.86	Sept/Jan/May
Roxburgh	\$675.20	\$0.86	July/Nov/March

* Status quo of an annual rate and allocation remains to align Patearoa urban and rural water supplies.



From the Mayor's Desk

Quite often we go out and ask our ratepayers what they think of what we are doing or planning to do in the future. Unless there is a hot issue pushing people's buttons at the time the response is usually quite poor.

At the time of writing this, we are just completing our Long Term Plan, our road map for the next 10 years. We received submissions from 262 of you. I was pleased with this response and especially pleased to hear some new points of view. This submission period brought out a good number of new submitters and we hope this trend continues with more of our community feeling engaged and encouraged to share their views.

Currently we have a Government that is happy to "beat up" local government, citing spiraling rates rises and out of control debt levels, and of course many of you are quick to agree with them.

If you have taken the time to get involved in our latest planning process you will see that we do not have debt and that any planned increases are modest, sustainable and based on sensible equity arguments. Our rates

rises, while more than I had hoped for, allow us to meet the infrastructure needs of our community and they let us stay involved in the things that you have come and told us are important to you.

If under the "Better Local Government" reforms we are stripped of our right to get involved in the small things that make a difference in our community Central Otago will be a sterile and, certainly for me, not so nice place to live.

Please take the time to turn your rates bill over and see what your rates are spent on and then imagine life without any of these items.

An everyday e-waste solution

Central Otago WasteBusters provides an all-year-round e-Cycle collection depot for Central Otago, taking in all types of electronic waste, including TVs, computers and microwaves, for recycling.

Until recently many people thought it was okay to dump old electronic waste in the landfill, not realising the cocktail of toxic material they contain that is harmful to water, land and human health.

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, that all meet international environmental standards.

Over time we hope that companies who produce electronic equipment will take responsibility for covering the cost of recycling their e-waste.

Until then it is necessary for us to charge a minimal fee to drop off your e-waste to us at Boundary Road, Alexandra. This fee just covers both the freight charge and dismantling fee paid directly to RCN to have these goods recycled properly.

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

Sport New Zealand Travel Fund

The Central Otago District Council has received a grant of \$9500 to distribute to local junior sports clubs and organisations, to assist with travel to and from regular local competition.

The Travel Fund is targeted at young people aged between 5-19 years. It aims to encourage more participation in sport by young people in rural communities by offering funding assistance with travel costs to regular local sporting competition.

Application forms can be requested from your nearest Council service centre. Applications close at 4pm on Friday 26 October.

For further information visit Sport New Zealand's website, www.sportnz.org.nz, or contact Judith Whyte at CODC on (03) 440 0056 or judith.whyte@codc.govt.nz.

Dog registration reminder

Dog owners in Central Otago are reminded that they need to register their dog by Tuesday 31 July to avoid receiving a 50% penalty.

Enviroschools Action for World Environment Week



As part of World Environment Week activities our three Alexandra Enviroschools, The Terrace, St Gerard's and Alexandra Primary, and the Planeteeers from Dunstan High School undertook a massive planting project on Wednesday 6 June.

The children planted 200 Mountain Beech trees in a Council reserve where previous native plantings have been undertaken. It was a typical frosty Central Otago morning but the children were kept warm

by their hard work, which included weeding the plots and picking up litter in the area, said Enviroschools Facilitator Steve Brown.

"Some of the children had been involved in the previous plantings and were thrilled to see the progress of their plants and it was very evident to see the pride in community that this sort of activity engenders.

"Well done and thanks to all who took part in a positive action for 'our place on our planet'."

Space invaders dilemma

MAD4CO World Environment Week activities centred around learning about and wiping out invasive pest plants on one side and planting indigenous species and recognising the risks to our indigenous biodiversity on the other side.

Wilding conifers are unwanted "invaders" that reduce biodiversity, dominate native species, disrupt water run-off and lower the amenity values of the landscape, so... with loads of assistance we cut them down and pulled them out!

An action day saw about 60 people arrive to chainsaw, handsaw, lop and pull out pines and woody weeds from around Alexandra Airport. People came from workplaces such as Fulton Hogan, Dunstan

Sprayers, DOC, Central Otago WasteBusters, FarmSafe, CODC and Contact, as well as many concerned individuals.

A team came from the Salvation Army community garden to help cut down and cut up the trees, then deliver the resulting firewood to needy families around our region (20 trailer loads of wood, and counting, when this newsletter went into production).

Thanks a lot to DOC for managing safe work practices on the day and to all those who gave their time. There will be more action days in future and within the next month there will be a further meeting to determine how we should progress the wilding pine invasion.

Clair Higginson



(From left) John Keene from DOC helps Trevor Fisher and John Bailey from the Salvation Army load up another truckload of firewood to go to deserving homes around Central Otago.

Paying accounts direct

To pay any accounts directly into the Council bank account follow the steps below:

- You must clearly identify what the payment is for.
- Each account must be paid for by a single transaction. Quote the reference (e.g. valuation number, debtor number, water account number) on the account for each payment.
- For payments that do not fit into one of the example categories above, use your name and address as reference as well as the service provided e.g. Smith Lorry St LIM
- Ensure if you sell and buy a new property you change your valuation number in your banking set-up.

Please note: Penalties may be incurred if the information is wrong or quoted incorrectly.

Clock ticking for festival entries

Spring is not too far "around the corner" now, so it is time to think about your participation in this year's Contact Alexandra Blossom Festival, to be held from 21-29 September.

Registration for floats and parade entries close at the end of this month and if you are keen to have a site at the Saturday markets applications close for these on 27 July. WoolOn entries also close at the end of July.

Participation in Blossom Festival is welcomed from throughout the whole of Central Otago. For further information check out www.blossom.co.nz.



FREE SWIM

We invite you to enjoy our great pool facilities

Cut out and bring along this voucher to the **Cromwell Swim Centre** or the **Molyneux Aquatic Centre** before 31 August 2012 and redeem it for one free swim (adult or child entry)

Get ready to Shake Out

At 9.26am on Wednesday 26 September New Zealand will be holding a nationwide earthquake drill, Exercise ShakeOut. You could be anywhere – at home, at work, at school or on holiday – but you are still encouraged to participate.

Participating is easy and it is a great way for you, your family or organisation to become better prepared to survive and recover quickly from a damaging

earthquake. Just follow the three simple steps:

1. Sign up now! – go to www.getthru.govt.nz (it only takes two minutes).
2. Spread the word (share with friends, family and workmates via word of mouth, Facebook, Twitter and email).
3. Do the Drop, Cover and Hold drill on 9:26-26:9.



GET READY GET THRU CIVIL DEFENCE

national earthquake drill
9:26am, 26 September 2012
DROP. COVER. HOLD

Want more involvement?

In the past emergency planning has been carried out by someone in a back office somewhere in a large government organisation that may or may not know anything about the local community.

At the next round of community civil defence meetings you will have the opportunity to help prepare your community for an earthquake and, with the support of local government and other organisations, we will develop a plan that can be tested on 26 September. This will be an opportunity for the public to participate alongside emergency services in a real civil defence emergency management (CDEM) exercise. Meetings are open to everyone and there is no obligation to attend every meeting.

Meetings will be held at 7pm at:

Roxburgh Service Centre
Monday 27 August

Ranfurly Service Centre
Tuesday 28 August

Cromwell Service Centre
Wednesday 29 August

Alexandra Service Centre
Thursday 30 August

More information about Exercise ShakeOut can be found on www.getthru.govt.nz or by contacting Emergency Management Officer Hamish Keith at the Central Otago District Council on (03) 440 0056 or civil.defence@codc.govt.nz.



DROP **COVER** **HOLD**

Central Otago Arts

Our local arts website www.centralotagoarts.com is the best way of quickly finding out what is happening in the region. Exhibitions, plays, music, movies – they're all there. Go to the events calendar on the website to check out everything that is on offer. Arts Coordinator Maxine Williams sends out a monthly arts newsletter that keeps you informed about all arts-related events. If you would like to sign up for this great newsletter email: info@centralotagoarts.com.

Art and Cultural Funding

Creative New Zealand has made changes to its funding criteria and processes. Small grants of up to \$500 are no longer available and the district grant application form has been replaced with a new application form for all art and cultural projects.

Applications are now open and forms are available at your local Council offices or by emailing judith.whyte@codc.govt.nz. The closing date for applications is Friday 17 August 2012 at 4pm.