

## Our new online look



Central Otago District Council has launched a new website aimed at improving collaboration, communication and customer service.

In our most recent Residents' Satisfaction and Opinion Survey the community told us our old website was "difficult to navigate", "needs a makeover", "needs to be more user-friendly" and that "this avenue must continue to grow".

Redeveloping our website was identified some years ago and was scheduled for development and launch within Years 1 and 2 of the CODC Long Term Plan 2012-22.

Council partnered with Datacom to design, build and host its website. Datacom is a 100% NZ-owned (35% by NZ Government) IT services company with a dedicated Local Government Services business unit. The company promotes and facilitates knowledge sharing, and cost sharing, across the sector. Datacom has provided CODC with a solution that will not only improve communication and customer service from the outset but is a platform that can be extended to provide future online service requirements.

With 17 councils throughout New Zealand currently using the Datacom Customer Connect Platform this means costs of future enhancements can be shared across the sector.

New features available to the community on the new site include:

- public access to Geographic Information System (GIS) maps of the district;
- online feedback and service request forms,
- location maps of Council service centres, iSITES and swimming pools;

- a much more dynamic way of viewing Council news online with a homepage feature news panel and news spotlights;
- a Google calendar application for displaying our Council and Community Board meeting timetables; and
- multiple ways to navigate your way around the site including the drop-down "mega menu", an A-Z of services, search tool or our Do It Online Panel (Find It, Pay It, Request It and Say It).

The site has been created with responsive design so will adapt for viewing on mobile devices as well as personal computers. The website also integrates with BrowseAloud software, which allows users to download software that can read web page text to them.

Chief Executive Phil Melhopt said an overhaul of the website had been a long time on the work plan "but we had to make sure we got it right and did it professionally".

"Now we have our new website, which is a much superior platform, but there are a lot of improvement opportunities ahead. The challenge now is to keep it fresh and engaging and continue to build on the platform to offer more online services and interactive features."

A website project team has identified a continual improvement programme for the site, but feedback and suggestions from the community are also welcome. Please email [mkd@codc.govt.nz](mailto:mkd@codc.govt.nz).

[www.codc.govt.nz](http://www.codc.govt.nz)

### Some key features of the site

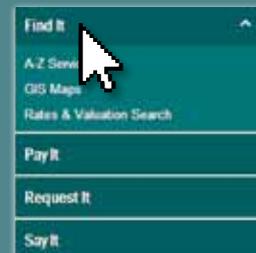
**Home:** Click on the CODC logo in the top left corner from any page within our site to return to the Home page.



**The Mega Menu:** Click on the Your Council, Services, Leisure & Culture and Publications headings to see the 'Mega Menu' drop down. This lists further sections of the website and includes changing 'spotlight' features.



**The Do It Online panel:** Click on Find It, Pay It, Request It and Say It to see quick links to navigate to popular pages on the site.



**Feature News panel:** Click on the heading beneath the large news image to change out the four feature news item for the latest news. The headline on the picture takes you through to the full news item.



**Spotlights:** Features link (both images and headings) to topical pages/info on our website.



# Annual report back to our community



The Central Otago District Council Annual Report 2012-13 has been published and is available to read on our website or copies are available at our service centres and libraries.

The annual report is a way we can provide feedback to our community on what we have achieved in the first year of our Long Term Plan 2012-22 period.

The 2012/13 year presented an increasing number of challenges for Council as we continued to balance the wishes of our community with affordability and the need to maintain assets and deliver services in an efficient and effective way. The influence of national events, Central Government initiatives and general societal trends continues to create a dynamic operating environment, to which we must respond.

While change and challenge is a given, we should take heart in the progress made and celebrate the projects, activities and initiatives we have undertaken to enhance the well-being of our community.

Our Annual Report Summary (also available online and at the above locations) overviews some of our year's highlights, achieved on top of business as usual activities.

Highlights that include: the new Alexandra Wastewater Treatment Plant, Roxburgh Water Treatment Plant upgrade, confirmed support for Central Otago WasteBusters, successful cycling tourism campaigns, welcoming online submissions, the inaugural Central's Best Young Driver competition, updating our Central Otago Economic and Business Development Strategy and getting the ball rolling on a major review of our District Plan.

We encourage you to take the time to read the summary and, for those keen for more detail, the full report to get an overview for our year's achievements and how we have performed against what we set out to do.

## TV TakeBack

Nearly 1400 unwanted television sets were recycled in the Central Otago district during the four-month TV TakeBack period. From April to August Central Otago residents recycled their TVs at a subsidised rate and the Ministry for the Environment picked up the rest of the tab. Lots of you took up the opportunity to do the right thing for the environment and save money.

TVs contain materials that are hazardous to our environment if not disposed of responsibly. They also contain materials that are in short supply internationally and so recycling the old electronic equipment rather than mining for virgin nonrenewable materials is a more sustainable choice. Responsible recycling of electronic waste comes at a short-term cost, but the cost of not doing so has greater long-term costs for us and our environment.

Now that the Government's TakeBack has finished in the South Island, the Council



continues to support safe recycling of TVs through RCN. TVs can now be recycled for \$25 and other ewaste like keyboards, monitors, cell phones and printers can be recycled at \$12 per item. Ideally, these costs would be incorporated in the initial purchase price at the store. This way, innovative design and greater stewardship for the materials would be made by manufactures and we wouldn't be so reluctant to have to pay for it when we were done with it. For more information about ewaste recycling please go to [e-cycle.co.nz](http://e-cycle.co.nz)

## Health & Safety Focus

Central Otago District Council has recently adopted an updated Health & Safety Policy and Manual.

CODC is committed to a process of continuous improvement in order to achieve excellence in the management of health in safety at all our workplaces for all employees and contractors, as well as the wider public affected by our activities.

Those interested can download the manual (which includes the policy statement at the front) from Council's website ([codc.govt.nz](http://codc.govt.nz)). You'll find it linked from our A-Z listing or under policies in our Publications section.

A coordinator role has also been established to step up Council's Health & Safety focus. Bernie Scurr, Infrastructure Administration Officer, has taken up the reigns as Health & Safety Coordinator. You can contact her on [bernie.scurr@codc.govt.nz](mailto:bernie.scurr@codc.govt.nz).

## Economic Development Strategy

The Central Otago Economic and Business Development Strategy 2013-2016 has been finalised and adopted by Council.

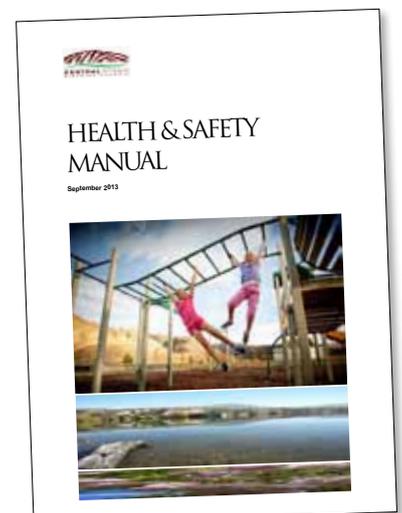
The strategy's key purpose is to help the Central Otago community focus on issues that impact on our economic and social well-being, and suggest some of the actions we can take over coming years to address them.

The draft strategy was developed following community workshops held around the district. The final strategy incorporates many of the words and sentiments the community

expressed during the submission period.

The strategy contains an action plan grouped under the four headings of Business Development, Education, Visitors and Recreation, and Infrastructure and Business Support, and it identifies those best placed to take the lead with the implementation of the key actions.

The strategy is available to download from Council's website and hard copies of the final strategy will also be available from Council service centres and libraries.



# Gearing up for change



From 1 July next year our wheelie bins will be collected every two weeks instead of weekly.

## Why is fortnightly refuse collection being introduced?

The move was agreed to by the community and Council members as one of the actions within the Waste Minimisation and Management Plan 2012 to lead us "Towards Zero Waste and a Sustainable Central Otago".

Fortnightly collection will help us:

- Reduce the amount of material going to landfill preserving capacity for further generations
- Reduce costs
- Keep material that is not waste out of the landfill
- Minimise greenhouse gas emissions

The shift to fortnightly refuse collection from 1 July 2014 will help us change our behaviour from throwing away as our first option. It's too easy to "throw things away" and expect someone else to deal with our waste, but let's face facts – there is no "away" is there?

Central Otago District Council, Central Otago WasteBusters and MAD4CO are launching a

"Gearing up for Change" campaign to tackle this challenge together throughout our communities.

As part of the campaign a regular column called Gearing Up for Change will appear in The News. Each fortnight over coming months the column will be a space we share more detailed information on practical steps we can take to minimise our waste, personal stories of some of our community's "ZeroWasters", and invitations to take part in events and Zero Waste challenges. We'll also provide plenty of opportunities to engage and interact – asking questions, sharing tips and telling our stories.

So watch that space!



## Arts Gold Exhibition

The Central Otago District Arts Trust is inviting the community to get along to the Arts Gold Awards exhibition being held at Central Stories Museum and Art Gallery in Alexandra from 26 October to 7 December.

The Arts Gold Awards is a national art competition. There were a record number of 236 submissions from artists and with just 45 works being selected, the resulting exhibition promises to be different, exciting and stimulating.

Judges for this year's awards are Jamie Hanton, Director of The Blue Oyster Art Project Space in Dunedin, and Felicity Milburn, curator from the Christchurch Art Gallery.

The Awards Ceremony on 26 October at Central Stories in Alexandra is a ticketed event. The winners of the \$5000 Art Excellence Award and the \$2000 Central Otago Artist Award will be announced on the night. Guests will be treated to an evening of wine, food, music and of course visual art. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased from all Central Otago i-SITES or online at [www.artsgold.co.nz](http://www.artsgold.co.nz).

For those who can't make it to the exhibition there will be an online gallery for people to view of all the exhibition artworks and Facebook vote for their favourite. The artist with the most votes both online and from the actual exhibition will win the Viewers' Choice Award of \$1000. All voters in the Viewers' Choice go into the draw to win a prize pack of Central Otago Wine.

## Strategy to position Central Otago as an Arts Destination

The Central Otago Arts Strategy 2013 has been finalised.

Developing the 2013 strategy involved widespread community consultation throughout, with four main themes emerging from this:

- Developing Central Otago as an arts destination,
- Growing participation in the arts,
- Supporting our arts community, and
- Promoting the importance and value of arts to our overall wellbeing as individuals and a community.

Hard copies of the final strategy are available from Council service centres and libraries, or can be downloaded from the Council website or [centralotaganz.com](http://centralotaganz.com) website.

# Water Wise Know-how

## Coming to a town near you...

Council's Water Services Team will be visiting your area over the next few months. For more information about town water in your area, water wise gardening, greywater and rainwater harvesting, water use, water conservation or water meters, mark the following dates in your calendar. You can come and visit us at our stand at the Thyme Festival Sustainable Alley (Sunday 17 November, Pioneer Park), Omakau Show (15 February), Maniototo show (19 February) or the Mt Benger Show (22 February). The invitation will go out to your newly elected members to be there too, so bring your questions along and we'll see you there.

## Learn more about Water Wise Gardening

Joining us at Thyme Festival is low water gardening specialist Jo Wakelin. Jo is passionate about showing Central Otago gardeners and landscapers how they can successfully create beautiful gardens without relying on supplementary summer water. Jo will focus on combining appropriate plant



Jo Wakelin

selection and water conservation gardening techniques. Jo is a principal lecturer at Otago Polytechnic's Central Otago campus, and over the last seven years has been trialing a large range of plants with low water requirements in her own garden.

**9-17 November**  
Creative arts and sustainable living workshops, walks and events  
Check out the programme at:  
[www.thymefestival.co.nz](http://www.thymefestival.co.nz)

## Rates Rebates 2013/14

### Do You Qualify For A Rates Rebate?

- Do you own the property you are living in?
- Were you living at the property at the beginning of the rating year, 1 July 2013?
- Is your total income (before tax) including your spouse/partner and any joint home owners low?
- Are you a superannuitant, or on a Work and Income benefit?

The rebate is aimed at ratepayers who earn less than or around \$30,000 gross per year (combined income). It is worked out on a sliding scale, therefore the higher your rates and the lower your income the more chance you have to qualify for all or part of the rebate.

You must reapply for a rebate every rating year.

If you haven't received an application form this year they are now available at any of our Central Otago District Council Offices, or you can contact Michele on (03) 440 0672 for further information or assistance with filling out your application.

## Have your say on Teviot Valley reserves



The Roxburgh Community Board is inviting the community to share its thoughts on a draft management plan for the parks and reserves in the Teviot Valley area. This includes policies and objectives for parks and reserves in Roxburgh, Roxburgh Village, Millers Flat and Lake Onslow.

The Draft Roxburgh Reserve Management Plan consultation period closes on Friday 15 November.

The purpose of the plan, which is required under the Reserves Act 1977, is to provide for and ensure the use, enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of the recreational spaces, as well as appropriate development of the reserve areas.

A copy of the full 74-page draft plan, information sheets and a submission form are available from Council's Alexandra Office or the Roxburgh Service Centres, as well as on Council's consultation portal (linked from [www.codc.govt.nz/consultations](http://www.codc.govt.nz/consultations)). Submissions can also be made online.

# Feedback wanted on Draft Rooding Policies



Whether you drive on it, cycle on it, cross it, move stock along it, work on it or hold events on it – you all use and have an interest in our rooding network.

So chances are you'll also have an interest in the content of the Draft Central Otago District Council Rooding Policies, which Council has put out for stakeholder and public engagement.

Up until now Council has had a range of separate rooding-related policies and bylaws that have covered some rooding activities, but no overarching policy or bylaw for rooding. The new draft rooding policy document brings existing policy and regulatory requirements along with new policies regarding roads together in one place.

It covers such activities as stock on roads, temporary storage on roads, fences within road reserve, road side planting, working on the road, use of paper roads, private services in roads, forming and stopping roads, road closures, road encroachments, dust suppression, and events on roads.

The Draft Rooding Policies provides a framework and guidelines for the activities of landowners, individuals or organisations which affect use of the network, and/or damage the rooding assets. The Policies would be supplementary to the Rooding Activity Management Plan, which outlines activities Council undertakes to ensure that its vision of 'a safe, efficient and fully accessible transportation network' is met.

It is intended that the policies will improve efficiency in dealing with issues as they arise, and will provide improved public information regarding activities on our roads.

The Rooding Policies will provide the background for the development of a Rooding Bylaw, set to be adopted in 2014, which will provide the ability to undertake a more simple enforcement process.

Formal consultation will be carried out on the Rooding Bylaw, but more informal stakeholder and community comment is invited on the policies that will lay the groundwork for the bylaw.

All feedback will be collated and form the basis of a report to the new Council in December.

Feedback is invited on the policies from now until 6 November 2013. The policies can be downloaded from the Council website or are available for viewing at Council service centres and libraries. Alternatively contact [rooding@codc.govt.nz](mailto:rooding@codc.govt.nz) to be emailed a copy.

Should your community group want to find out more about the policies and upcoming bylaw get in touch with Council via [rooding@codc.govt.nz](mailto:rooding@codc.govt.nz) or (03) 440 0056 to explore the option of having Council representatives come along to a meeting by invitation to present and answer questions.

### Please send your feedback to:



Draft Rooding Policies  
Engagement  
Central Otago District  
Council  
PO Box 122  
Alexandra 9340



If you prefer you can deliver your written comments to your nearest Council office/ service centre.



Or email your thoughts to [rooding@codc.govt.nz](mailto:rooding@codc.govt.nz)  
Subject line:  
Draft Rooding Policies  
Engagement

Feedback on the policies must be received by **Wednesday 6 November 2013**.