



Thyme to Celebrate

31 OCTOBER – 8 NOVEMBER 2015

The Thyme Festival is a packed week celebrating sustainable living and creative arts. The theme – Cherishing Our Environment – is reflected in the workshops, demonstrations, walks, talks, working artists, performances and exhibitions.

Central Otago residents are invited to get involved in activities at Alexandra Community House and various locations throughout Alexandra; sign up for a workshop or demonstration; support local performances; and enjoy the best of sustainable activity in Central Otago.

Local EnviroSchools will share an interactive activity and the results of a reusable shopping bag competition. Plus there is a kids photographic competition with entries on display at Community House.

Events in this year's main programme include: upcycling furniture and jewellery, mindful meditation and tai chi, hot and cold composting, smart phone photography, cabaret style belly dancing and plenty more.

The week culminates with Sunday in the Park on 8 November from 10am to 3pm in Pioneer Park. Along with local market stalls and a car boot sale, this is an opportunity to bring some of your home grown produce to swap at the MAD4CO Sustainability Tent.

This local food swap is a chance to redistribute your garden surplus. No money changes hands, just bring items you wish to swap for something on the table. Make (or forage) stuff that's edible and swappable, eg a loaf of bread, a jar of preserves or eggs from your backyard chickens.

 www.thymefestival.co.nz



Make a Splash!

POOL PARTIES – When you've got a child's birthday coming up consider throwing them a pool party at the Alexandra or Cromwell pools. It's a hassle-free way to entertain little mermaids and pirates, giving you a venue where they can splash around, burn off energy and being noisy doesn't matter. At just \$3 a head per child (normal entry fee) it's a cost-effective option for a 'priceless' day's fun and laughter.

Hire the pool's BBQ for \$5 per hour and borrow trestle tables to set up pool-side. Nothing beats serving up a Kiwi favourite of sausages in bread to a hungry group after they've worked up an appetite splashing around in the pool! Talk to pool staff about your plans for the day and they can help make it happen.

LEARN TO SWIM – Central Swim School enrolments open mid-November for Term 1 2016 swim lessons. Contact centralswimschool@codc.govt.nz, phone (03) 440 0680 or pop in to enrol.

GET AQUA FIT – Both Molyneux Aquatic Centre and Cromwell Swim Centre offer aquarobics sessions. This low-impact exercise is a great way to keep fit. For those who want to push themselves beyond their comfort zone Molyneux also has a "5-week blast" called Tough it Out Training. Find out more at your local pool.

SUMMER FUN – The weather is warming up and it's not long until our district's summer pools – in Ranfurly, Roxburgh and Millers Flat – and Molyneux Aquatic Centre's outdoor pools open in early December. You'll find information on our summer pools on the website.

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 www.codc.govt.nz/pools



Spotlight on Libraries

RECOMMENDED READING – With spring upon us and summer around the corner it's a perfect time to park up in a deck chair and get stuck into a great read. Need help finding a book you'll enjoy?

- Flick through the latest edition of *Shelf Life* – copies in your library or read it online
- Like Central Otago District Libraries on Facebook, for book news and reviews
- Join/form a book club – ask your librarian for details on local groups or advice for forming one
- Scan the eye-catching displays in your library

SPECIAL GUESTS – Guess who's coming to a story time at a library near you? Some of our councillors and community board members have put their hands up to be guest readers at our regular Libraries' pre-school story times. Watch out for promotion.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE – Central Otago District Libraries will again run a summer reading challenge over the December/January period. This December children will be invited to register for the challenge at participating libraries and pick up their summer reading log.

HOLD IT RIGHT THERE! – If you're after a book that's in high demand then you can place a 'hold' on it. Reserve it from any branch of our Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes District Libraries and have it delivered to your local library for \$1. You can place a hold via the online catalogue or in person at the library.

 <http://codc-qldc.govt.nz>

What's Coming Up

A small selection of what's on in Central . . .

ARTS GOLD AWARDS 2015 EXHIBITION

 **17 October - 29 November 2015**
Russell Henderson Art Gallery,
Central Stories Museum, Centennial
Avenue, Alexandra
The Arts Gold Awards, organised
by the Central Otago District Arts Trust, aim to bring new
and interesting art to Central Otago audiences. See [www.
centralotagoarts.com/art-awards/](http://www.centralotagoarts.com/art-awards/) to view the online exhibition.

 **CUISINE @ CLYDE**
24 - 26 October 2015
Various locations in Clyde. Fabulous
local wines, fabulous regional food and a
weekend of entertainment and education!

DOWN TO EARTH WINE CELEBRATION

 **24 October - 4 November 2015**
Various locations throughout
both Central Otago and
Queenstown Lakes.
This inaugural hands-
on celebration includes
winemaking, vineyard tours,
food and wine matching, long lunches and degustation
dinners held in Central Otago's wine subregions. Go to
downtoearthwinecelebration.co.nz to be tempted by the
experiences on offer.

CROMWELL HALF MARATHON AND 10K

 **Sunday 25 October**
Cromwell Sports Club, 7 Barry
Avenue, Cromwell
The mostly flat half-marathon and
run/ walk course takes you around
many of Cromwell's features
including Old Cromwell Town and
the shores of Lake Dunstan, all while enjoying spectacular
views of orchards, vineyards and mountains.

 **ALEXANDRA THYME FESTIVAL**
Saturday 31 October - 8 November 2015
Various locations.
Visit www.thymefestival.co.nz, call COREAP
on (03) 448 6115, or pop in at Alexandra
Community House on Centennial Avenue.

 **HIGHLANDS 101**
13 - 15 November 2015
Highlands Motorsport Park, Cromwell
A weekend of full-on high adrenalin action
with big name drivers in high performance
race cars all converging on NZ's most sensational
international standard race facility. Tickets from [www.
ticketdirect.co.nz](http://www.ticketdirect.co.nz) or from Highlands Motorsport Park.

WORLD VINTAGE RUGBY CARNIVAL 2015
 **15-22 November 2015**
Queenstown is the host of the 2015
World Vintage Rugby Tournament but
all the Wednesday 18 November games
will be played in Alexandra at Molyneux
Park.

 **SUMMER OF CRICKET**
**Sunday 27 December and Wednesday 30
December, Molyneux Park**
Tickets Adult \$15, Child \$5, Family \$30.
Come support the SBS Bank Otago Volts
take on the Auckland Aces (27 December)
and the Canterbury Kings (30 December).
In a return to the good old days, pack the
picnic, bring the family or a few mates and enjoy the relaxed
environment that is Molyneux Park.

 For more events see
www.centralotagonz.com/event-calendar



CONTACT US
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www.facebook.com/centralotagodistrictcouncil

the FLIP SIDE

your CODC news

Spring 2015



THIS ISSUE: Thyme Festival | A Vibrant Valley | Q+A with CEO



From the Mayor's Desk

One of the things that we are continuously trying to improve upon is the way that we engage with you, the people who live in our community. Long ago I realised that council news is not "sexy". My impression is that you are happy for us to get on with things as long as we do not try anything that is too different.

Put quite bluntly we have to make a major muck up before we get your attention. We do that occasionally and the reaction is swift and usually very vocal. We can fill the local hall if we do something that you think is wrong. It would be nice to have the public attend our meetings, read our newsletters and submit on all our plans.

"To reach a wider audience we will be trying a few new things..."

The FlipSide will now be sent to all residents and not just ratepayers. We have a very good website and we are using social media to get the messages to you quicker and in a format that a growing number of people feel comfortable with.

We have recently begun posting videos on YouTube and Facebook that highlight some of the more important topics that have been discussed in our regular six-weekly Council meetings.

Why are we constantly trying to communicate with you in a meaningful way? Because we are committed to delivering services to our community that they value and want. One way of achieving this is by hearing from as wide a cross-section of our residents as is possible.

TONY LEPPER Central Otago Mayor

On the Agenda

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Council and Committees meeting
Wednesday 28 October, from 10.30am
Council Chambers, 1 Dunorling Street Alexandra

Teviot Valley Community Board
Thursday 29 October, from 2.00pm
Roxburgh Service Centre, 120 Scotland Street Roxburgh

Cromwell Community Board
Tuesday 3 November, from 2.00pm
Cromwell Service Centre, 42 The Mall Cromwell

Council meeting
Wednesday 18 November, from 9.00am
Council Chambers, 1 Dunorling Street Alexandra

Vincent Community Board
Tuesday 1 December, from 9.00am
Council Chambers, 1 Dunorling Street Alexandra

Maniototo Community Board
Thursday 3 December, from 9.00am
Ranfurly Service Centre, 15 Pery Street Ranfurly

For more upcoming meeting dates and to read agendas online head to www.codc.govt.nz/your-council/meetings

CONSULTATIONS

Revenue and Financing Policy
Council is proposing changes to how its activities may be funded. This may have an impact on your rates.

• Consultation closes: Friday 30 October 2015

Gambling Policy Review
The proposal is to retain the current policy and include a provision to control the relocation of venues that currently operate gaming machines.

• Consultation closes: Friday 6 November 2015

For more information on these consultations pick up a copy of the consultation material at any Council service centre or head to our website.

www.codc.govt.nz/consultation



Around the Traps

Teviot Valley

A VIBRANT VALLEY

Central Otago District Council has been successful in securing Department of Internal Affairs funding for community development work in the Teviot Valley.

CODC applied on behalf of the Teviot Valley community for funding through the Community Development Scheme and has secured a total of \$240,000 over a three-year period.

The Community Development Scheme will provide funding to employ community development project worker(s) to assist in facilitating 'grass roots' community-driven projects. The objectives for the scheme are to upskill and empower local communities so that they can be self-reliant and resilient into the future.

Key projects identified within the application were: greater integration of seasonal workers into the community; building capacity to take advantage of the newly developed cycle trails; understanding and utilising digital technology; growing successful local community events to attract audiences from outside the region; and exploring ways to celebrate Teviot Valley heritage values.

"Projects developed through this scheme will utilise and develop local skills, and will enable the Teviot community to work together on initiatives that will be sustainable beyond the three years of funding," Community Services Manager Anne Pullar said. "It's about the community working together on projects to future proof a vibrant valley."

An advisory group of local Teviot Valley members will be established over the next few months to oversee the project.

Vincent

IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Vincent Community Board is inviting interested members of the community to form a Friends of Aronui and Jolendale Park group. The idea is to have the area managed as a "neighbourhood", a Danish concept, where the community has ownership and looks after the area to an agreed vision.

Those interested in joining the group, even if just to lend a hand once a year, are invited to contact Ian Mann on 03 440 0631 or 021 891 555 or email ian.mann@codc.govt.nz.

Maniototo

PARKS FOR PEOPLE

Thank you to everyone who got involved in the early planning stages helping shape a reserve management plan for Maniototo's parks and reserves.

A Draft Maniototo Reserve Management Plan is being prepared incorporating this community input. This will go out for further community review and comment for a minimum of two months over the Christmas/New Year period, to best capture both "cribbies" and permanent residents.

In other news, our Parks team is working with the community plan group on a joint project to upgrade the Oturehua playground. The swing set will be spruced up and some new equipment installed this financial year.

Cromwell

LOWBURN CAMPING

Camping at Lowburn Inlet will be limited to self-contained vans only this coming camping season.

The decision to restrict camping access was made by the Central Otago Camping Forum in response to feedback from the community last season. There was public concern during the 14/15 season related to littering and some campers overstaying the three night maximum.

FlipSide Snippets

RATES REBATES

Do You Qualify For A Rates Rebate? The rebate scheme provides a subsidy to low-income homeowners on the cost of their rates. You must re-apply 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.

ANNUAL REPORT – OUT SOON

The Central Otago District Council Annual Report 2014-15 will be out soon.

It will be available to download and read on our website, or if you prefer a hard copy format you'll find copies at all our service centres and libraries.

Keep an eye out in the CODC Noticeboard in the *The News* or on Council's website or social media channels to find out when it is available.

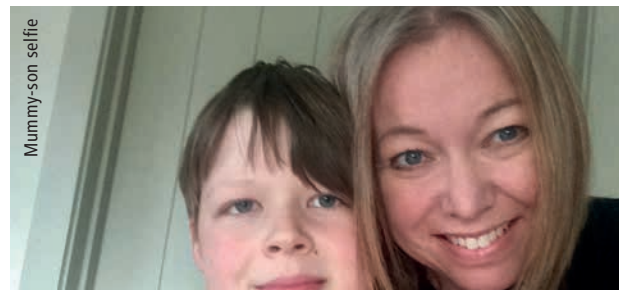
We have also produced a summary that overviews some of our year's highlights.

We encourage you to take the time to read this 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.

TIME TO TRIM

A reminder to all residents and property owners to check that vegetation around your property boundary is not encroaching on public footpaths and roads. It is important to us that everybody can safely use our footpaths and roads.

Please trim any overhanging vegetation back to your boundary to ensure it doesn't block pedestrian paths or hang low over roads and public accessways.



A Few Words with...

Leanne Mash
Chief Executive officer

Q What have been your favourite three Central Otago experiences since moving back with the family?

1. Having distinct seasons – I love watching the weather patterns change, the summer fading away, the leaves turning, the snow flurries and the bulbs popping up in spring.
2. Riding the Alex to Clyde River Track – what a gem.
3. Driving out into the Maniototo – I love the big view, the rocky outcrops and the vastness of the whole. It is magic.

Q What do you enjoy most about working in local government?

I love that it is people centric not profit centric. Money matters of course, but in local government people matter more.

I love the democratic process. I love that Citizen Joe / Josephine can stand, get elected and make a difference, drive decisions and set the vision. I also enjoy the variety – in the morning it might be water, by lunch its economic development and by the afternoon it's all about pools.

Q What are three highlights from your first eight months working at CODC?

We have small successes every day that add up to the larger, positive picture. It is the small changes in attitude and organisational culture that are my highlights. I ask "Why?"

and when the answer is "that is how we have always done it" then we can choose to rethink it. It's when we rethink it and deliver a better outcome that I'm happiest.

Q What do you rate as the two biggest challenges on your plate for the year ahead and why?

On a work front it will be delivering the big ticket infrastructure items that Councillors have determined are necessary for the well-being of Central. Along with that is influencing the cultural change I want to see in our organisation. I won't apologise for that as I want to be surrounded by happy, professional, productive, polite and thoughtful people. Anything less does not work for me.

On a personal front I am always challenged to pay more attention to my health and wellbeing. I am fast approaching the big 5-0 and I want to be in good shape for the next few decades.

Q And a fun one, if you were to go on Mastermind.... what would be your specialist topic?

Hmmm, maybe the science fiction genre of Tom Baker the fourth Doctor Who, the first three Star Wars movies or anything with Harrison Ford on screen.

Stay in Touch ...
Your next issue of *The FlipSide* will be Autumn 2016, out late April



To keep in touch with our Council news between issues be sure to check out our weekly CODC Noticeboard on page 5 of *The News*, hop on to our website www.codc.govt.nz where we regularly post news and fresh homepage spotlights to highlight what's happening, and "like" Central Otago District Council on Facebook for Council and community news.