

# Connect

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Keeping you up to date with news from Buller District Council

## Buller Employment Initiative launched

A joint initiative between government agencies and Buller District Council to boost employment in Buller will see \$600,000 invested in the region.

The initiative was agreed to by Regional Economic Development Ministers last year after a proposal from Buller District Council for match-funded financial assistance to support new jobs in Buller, to address the loss of mining work in the region.

The partnership between the Ministry of Social Development, Development West Coast and Buller District Council, will allow employers who create new jobs to apply for funding of up to \$30,000 over two years.

When an employer creates a new job, they will fill in the application form available through Council. A panel will review the application to ensure the job meets the established criteria of the fund and, if approved, the vacancy will be confirmed, with suitable applicants profiled to the employer to decide who best fits the position.

People who have been affected by the downturn in Buller can put themselves forward as potential employees under the scheme, by filling in a registration at Council or by asking Work and Income to refer them to the potential jobs.

"This employment initiative is a very positive way to help businesses expand at a time when it is most needed," says Mayor Garry Howard.

"I'm very pleased at how well the parties have worked together to develop the framework and enable the project to come to fruition. The target of creating 20 new jobs won't be met overnight, but we have already had a good level of interest leading up to the launch," he said.

Ministry of Social Development Labour Market Manager Lynne Williams says that a West Coast work broker from Work and Income will be calling on employers around Buller to market the initiative, encourage involvement and answer any questions they may have.

"This is a great opportunity to make a positive difference in the Buller community and having Buller District Council's leadership and financial support from Development West Coast gives us the drive to make this project a success."

Ms Williams also points out that employers who do not fit the criteria for the initiative are still able to talk to Work and Income about other options that are available if they are considering hiring permanent staff.



## Rates Rebate for the 2015/2016 rating year

A reminder that the deadline for Rates Rebate applications is 30 June 2016.

This year the rebate has increased to a maximum of \$610.

The amount of the rebate you will qualify for will vary according to:

- the amount of your Buller District Council rates,
- the amount of your West Coast Regional rates,
- the number of children or other dependents you support, and
- your household's gross income for the tax year ended 31 March 2015.

There are various criteria applications must

meet to be considered, however two of the key criteria are:

- that you are a residential ratepayer and you reside on the property, and
- you resided on the property at 1 July 2015.

You can check your eligibility on Council's website, or contact our customer services team on 0800 807 239 or 03 788 9111.

Applications can be collected from Council offices in Westport or Reefton or downloaded via a link on our website [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/rates-rebate](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/rates-rebate)



## Special licences



If you have an event coming up where you plan to sell and supply alcohol (and you don't already have one) you will need to get a special licence

Applications for special licences must be received by Council a minimum of 20 working days before the event. Any shorter period will require a waiver to be granted by the District Licensing Committee or the application cannot be accepted.

Waivers will only be granted if there are exceptional circumstances and the need for a special licence could not reasonably have been foreseen.

Application forms and an information sheet on how to apply for a special licence are available on our website (look under 'L' for Liquor Licensing) or from the Council office in Westport or Reefton.

# It's almost time to register your dog

Please get in touch with the Animal Control Team at Council if any of this applies to you;

- You have changed address, phone number.
- If you have a new dog or no longer own a dog.
- If your dog has been neutered, spayed or microchipped and you have not advised us of this.

You are welcome to pre pay your dog registration which is due by the end of July 2016, if you wish to make part payments you can do so at the Council Offices in Westport and Reefton or on the internet but you need to use your dog owner number or surname as reference so the payments go to the right record.

## Dog exercise areas

Like us, all dogs need regular exercise to stay fit, healthy and happy. There are many places within Buller District to exercise your dog, both on and off the leash. There are also some areas that you can't take your dog. The law requires dog owners to remove their dog's fouling from public places, so don't forget to take a plastic bag with you to do this so you can then dispose of it in a rubbish bin. Failure to do so may result in a \$300 fine.

### Off-leash areas

Dogs can be exercised off the leash along river edges and on beaches and dunes (excluding conservation areas) around Buller. In Westport the dog off-leash areas also include the Westport domain, the Brougham Street domain and the southern end of the Carters Beach

domain. In Reefton off-leash areas are the Strand, the Crampton Road reserve next to the racecourse and the old cemetery on Buller Road.

### On-leash areas

Dogs need to be kept on a leash when out and about around town and in areas with speed restrictions (less than 100kph). Other areas they need to be on a leash include parks not identified as prohibited, river edges, beaches and dunes (when there is a presence of swimmers or picnickers) and other areas where they could injure, intimidate or distress people, domestic animals, stock, poultry or domestic wildlife.

### Prohibited areas

Dogs are prohibited from all playgrounds, swimming pools, hospitals, cemeteries, sports grounds around Buller.

In Westport Victoria Square and the central shopping area of Westport during business hours are prohibited as is King George VI Jubilee Park in Reefton.

Dogs are also prohibited from Paparoa National Park, Kahurangi National Park, Rocky Peninsula (Tauranga Bay) and the Seal Colony (Tauranga Bay) unless you have obtained a dog control permit from the Department of Conservation.

**Any questions on registrations or any dog-related matter, just give us a call on 0800 807 239.**



## Looking for forever homes



### Meet Storm and Milly

These two gorgeous puppies are both female Staffy cross pups, about 8 weeks old. Storm and Milly are looking for their forever homes. Please give us a call if you would like to meet Storm (brindle and white) or Milly (brindle). Genuine enquiries only to the Animal Control Team 03 788 9111 or 0800 807 239.

## New Clean Cube trialled

Our operations team is currently trialling the use of a Clean Cube litter bin outside the Westport i-Site.

The aim of these bins is to ensure we can better service the need for waste disposal in key areas and reduce the cost to ratepayers by a reduction in the frequency of regular bin empties. Another advantage of using the Clean Cube bins is also to reduce unsightly overflowing bins. These clever bins are solar powered and inform Council via an app on the level of rubbish that has accumulated. The Clean Cube bins have an 80 litre capacity, can reduce waste collection costs by up to 85% and work by compressing the rubbish and so having the space to hold eight times more waste than traditional bins. In comparison the Clean Cube bin was only emptied once between 7th-19th April whereas 60 of the regular bins had been emptied five times in the same period. Council have now installed a 120 litre version of the bin and will continue the trial for another two months.



## Community grants round open

Applications are now open for the next round of Community Grants, to be allocated in September 2016.

The Community Grants Fund was set up to support the work of community groups and volunteer organisations, who are providing community and social projects and services

within the Buller district. Funds are available in recognition of the wide range of organisations whose efforts enhance the wellbeing of our communities.

Application forms for the Community Grants Fund are available now from the Council Offices in Westport and Reefton and from our website [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/funding](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/funding).

If your group or organisation would like to be considered for a Community Grant, you need to complete an application form and return it to the Council by Monday 5 September 2016. Late applications will not be accepted.



# Building team wins award

Buller District Council is the first Council on the West Coast to offer paperless building consents through the provider Alpha One, which they started using in February.

The advantages of this system are that those applying can follow the progress of their application online and things can be processed more quickly. The system also means that the team can generate extra work and income for Council by receiving and processing applications from other councils also using the Alpha One system. Council are already receiving around 43% of all applications online. The Building Team at Council are leading the way in showing how innovative systems like

Alpha One online can be integrated with Council's system.

This system is being used effectively for cost savings and greater efficiencies for the customer as well as increased volume of work and productivity for the team at Council.

Right: National recognition has been received by the building department for implementing the new Alpha One shared service along with Grey and Westland District Councils. It is a great

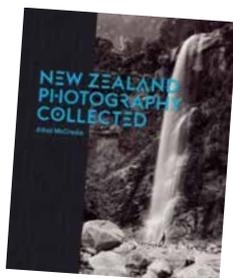
acknowledgement, and fantastic to see the team receive the award from their peers.



## Library news

Here in New Zealand we punch well above our weight in terms of literature.

This year the New Zealand Book Awards are back and the libraries currently have all of the titles except one – which is on order! There are some breathtaking non-fiction titles amongst the finalists. My favourite would have to be Athol McCredie's *New Zealand Photography Collected*.



These are photographs from the national collection at Te Papa and range from early photography right through to contemporary. For me though, many of them take me back to the New Zealand of my childhood. Must be getting old!

Many of the books are on loan but there is a great collection of fiction, poetry, non-fiction and pictorial non-fiction. Something for everyone.

The 2016 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards finalists are:

### FICTION

*The Back of His Head* by Patrick Evans  
*Chappy* by Patricia Grace  
*Coming Rain* by Stephen Daisley  
*The Invisible Mile* by David Coventry

### POETRY

*How to be Dead in a Year of Snakes* by Chris Tse  
*The Night We Ate the Baby* by Tim Upperton  
*Song of the Ghost in the Machine* by Roger Horrocks  
*The Conch Trumpet* by David Eggleton

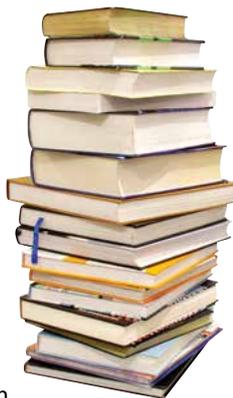
### GENERAL NON-FICTION

*Maurice Gee: Life and Work* by Rachel Barrowman  
*The Villa at the Edge of the Empire: One Hundred Ways to Read a City* by Fiona Farrell  
*Māori Boy: A Memoir of Childhood* by Witi Ihimaera  
*Lost and Gone Away* by Lynn Jenner

### ILLUSTRATED NON-FICTION

*Te Ara Puoro: A Journey into the World of Māori Music* by Richard Nunns  
*New Zealand Photography Collected* by Athol McCredie  
*Tangata Whenua: An Illustrated History* by Atholl Anderson, Judith Binney, Aroha Harris  
*Real Modern: Everyday New Zealand in the 1950s and 1960s* by Bronwyn Labrum.

– **Clenda Wockner, Library Manager**



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## Coming up at the NBS Theatre

Here are just some of the movies on June – something for everyone!



Angry Birds 3D  
 Eye in the Sky  
 Eddie the Eagle  
 The Greenstone  
 The Boss

Hunt for the Wilderpeople  
 X-Men: Apocalypse 2D & 3D  
 The Jungle Book 3D  
 The Huntsman: Winter War

### Shows

July 23

August 29

September 13

October 20-23

Wearable Arts

Operatunity – *When Irish Eyes are Smiling*

ACCA DACCA – from Australia with all your favourite AC/DC songs

NZ Navy – Pantomime for the kids and evening show for the adults

Call the NBS Theatre for details on ticket sales 03 789 4219

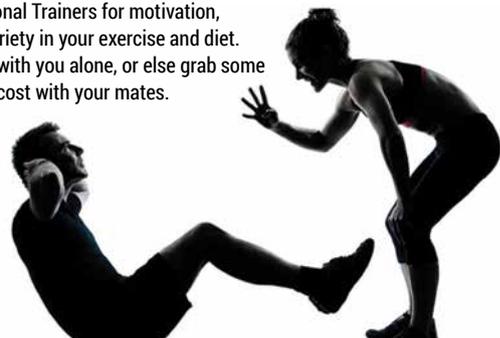
[www.nbstheatre.co.nz](http://www.nbstheatre.co.nz)

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## Short on time for exercise?

Maximise the benefit from the time you do have by using one of our Personal Trainers for motivation, direction and some variety in your exercise and diet. Our trainers will work with you alone, or else grab some friends and share the cost with your mates.

Call in and talk to our reception team to see how we can help you keep fit, healthy and active through winter.



**solidenergycentre**  
 Supported by the Buller Arts and Recreation Trust

Cnr Pakington & Domett Streets, Westport  
[www.solidenergycentre.co.nz](http://www.solidenergycentre.co.nz)

t. 03 789 8316  
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# Westport harbour update

In 2015 during the Long Term Plan process Buller District Council consulted with the community about future options for the Council-owned dredge the Kawatiri and support vessel the Bob Gower.

Both vessels are leased to Westport Harbour Ltd for the port operations. Westport Harbour Ltd (WHL) is a subsidiary company of Buller Holdings Ltd that was established to operate the port of Westport, managing the land, vessels and facilities necessary to maintain the viability of the port and the commercial viability of the company. WHL is also involved in the provision of dredging services both for the port of Westport and for contract work in other New Zealand ports.

The Kawatiri dredge is primarily used to maintain the bar depth of the Buller River for the safe navigational passage of vessels for Holcim NZ Ltd. Holcim generates over 80% of WHL revenue and 100% of revenue related to dredging the Buller River. With the closure of their Cape Foulwind operation imminent, Holcim's Westport port operations will cease from 30 June 2016.

After this date the Council intends that the Kawatiri dredge and the Bob Gower will be put into care and maintenance while further commercial opportunities for the both are explored by WHL and Council. Both vessels will be maintained in an operational state, meaning that they will both be ready to be used immediately should any new trade opportunities arise. This will mean the retention of key staff for both vessels. Both Council and WHL recognise that one of the biggest assets of the company is its highly skilled staff and the company is confident that most of these staff will be retained locally enabling a crew to be assembled at very short notice if and when they may be required.

To increase income levels for Westport Harbour

Ltd the Kawatiri will be contracted out to dredge in the Nelson area from October/ November of this year. In its absence the Bob Gower will be used to monitor the bar. It is also possible dredging will still take place in Westport, when required, to enable the larger fishing vessels to unload here.

Kawatiri is one of the most efficient dredges in New Zealand when it is operating in a shallow port with a dumping ground that is relatively close such as in Westport and Nelson. Council has approached every council with a port in New Zealand to explore possible opportunities for the Kawatiri. All possible options are still being considered and while Nelson is the only signed contract at present, there are still viable options that may result in further contracts in the future.

To this end Council has agreed to cover the cost of retention of both vessels for a period of three years to allow time to pursue and evaluate any potential new port trade or any new dredging contracts in other ports. Naturally this will come at a cost and Council is allowing for up to \$1.9 million over that three year period to meet all the costs associated with both vessels being in care and maintenance. Westport Harbour Ltd remains in contact with some potential opportunities and the three year period will also give time for these to be worked through.

Council will, in conjunction with the West Coast Regional Council, look to measure any possible impact flooding may have on the Buller River without regular dredging taking place. Work on possible flood protection measures for Westport is already taking place and the impact of dredging is part of this work.

Based on all the information we have at hand Council and Westport Harbour Ltd believe that this is the most prudent course of action for the port and for the two vessels, but it is our intention that Council will review this on an annual basis to ensure that we explore every opportunity available to keep a viable port here in Westport.

## Meetings

You are warmly invited to attend the Council meetings listed below.

Please note some venues are yet to be confirmed or maybe subject to change. Please contact Council to confirm venues closer to the meeting date.

### COUNCIL

Meetings are held at the Council Chambers, Palmerston Street, Westport

- **30 June 2016** starting at 5pm
- **20 July 2016** starting at 5pm
- **24 August 2016** starting at 5pm

If you have any queries about the above Council meetings, or would like to indicate your interest in speaking during the public forum, please contact Linda Pablecheque, [linda@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:linda@bdc.govt.nz) or 03 788 9642.

### INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

Meetings are held at the Reefton i-Site Visitor Centre, Broadway, Reefton

- **2 August 2016** starting at 4pm
- **4 October 2016** starting at 4pm
- **6 December 2016** starting at 4pm

If you have any queries about the above meeting, or would like to indicate your interest in speaking at the public forum, please contact Mary Wilson, [mary@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:mary@bdc.govt.nz) or 03 788 9618.

### FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE

Meetings are held at the Council Chambers, Palmerston Street, Westport

- **15 June 2016** starting at 7pm
- **13 July 2016** starting at 5pm
- **10 August 2016** starting at 5pm

### RISK COMMITTEE

Meetings are held at the Council Chambers, Palmerston Street, Westport

- **15 June 2016** starting at 5pm

# Update on Waimangaroa water supply

The Water Board members met with Buller District Council staff on Tuesday 3 May 2016.

This meeting was called because the Ministry of Health had recently responded favourably to a request that the funding subsidy for the original proposed Water Treatment Plant, could be used for an alternative scheme. This scheme involves a bore supply and the pumping of treated water

into the town reticulation, and is supported by the Water Board, as the existing supply from Conns Creek is very fragile.

Currently the water there is sourced from a secondary supply which doesn't always keep up with demand after a few fine days in a row. So PLEASE FIX YOUR LEAKS, and if you see any other leaks around town, please phone Council on 03 788 1111 or WestReef Services, Council's Contractor, on 03 788 9090.

The bore supply is at the exploration stage, and depends on good water and a good delivery system being found before it proceeds. It is still some time away.

Board members will update you when reasonable progress has been made. Until then, we urge you all to be sensible with the amount of water you use. Again, this is because the creek feeding the water supply is only a small creek and the quantity of water

is not always enough to fill the reservoir tank.

The Conns Creek supply is really out of action as the huge slip and river course is unstable and volatile. Accessing water from there is difficult most of the time.

*Any questions or suggestions, please contact Water Board Chair Jenni Greenland on 021 259 6304 or Lynn Brooks on 03 789 9820.*



**Westport office** 6-8 Brougham St, PO Box 21, Westport 7866  
**Reefton office** 66 Broadway, PO Box 75, Reefton 7851  
**24 hr Noise Control Services** – t. 03 788 9115  
**After hours Operations emergencies** – Westport 03 788 9119

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

t. 03 788 9111 or 0800 807 239  
t. 03 732 8822 or 0800 808 821  
**24 hr Animal Control Services** – t. 03 788 9115  
Reefton 03 732 8092

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