

WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

news

● Lake Brunner

Funding Secured for Lake Brunner Freshwater Improvement

The Council has secured up to \$200,000 over two years from the Ministry for the Environment "Fresh Start to Fresh Water Clean-up Fund" to undertake freshwater remediation activities within the Lake Brunner catchment. Lake Brunner is the only Special Management Area on the West Coast and is subject to specific policies and rules in the Proposed Land and Water Plan.

Funds secured under the 'Lake Brunner Project' are to be distributed between two sub-projects:

The first sub-project has up to \$20,000 available in the form of a community fund to undertake remediation activities on public land around the foreshore in the catchment. These projects will be undertaken by the newly established Lake Brunner Community Catchment Care Group, with many ideas and locations for projects already being put forward by the Group. This Group is currently being facilitated by Phil Keene of NZ Landcare Trust with close support from Council.

The second sub-project has up to \$180,000 available, and involves the preparation and delivery of up to 22 property specific Farm Environmental Plans in the catchment. This is jointly funded by the Council and Westland Milk Products. A total of up to \$10,000 of Ministry funds in the form of a works grant is available to undertake the recommendations under each Farm Environmental Plan. Projects under this works grant must go over and above the statutory rules in the catchment, and also contribute towards freshwater remediation. Council is seeking to have all farm plans completed by mid-2013.

Both sub-projects are being overseen by Katherine Glasgow (Land Management Officer at Council) who is working closely with the Lake Brunner Landcare Group, and also with individual farmers in the catchment regarding farm environmental planning. It is anticipated that this funding will assist with improving water quality in the catchment.



Katherine can be contacted on 03 768 0466 ext. 212 or by email at katherineg@wrc.govt.nz for any further information.

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE



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Warm West Coast Scheme

Who wants a warmer home this winter?

West Coasters are able to insulate their homes using a grant from the Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority (EECA) topped up by a loan from Council paid back through rates.

The first step is for interested property owners to contact one of the suppliers contracted to Council (see below). These suppliers are able to advise whether your property will qualify for an EECA grant.

Since July 2012 Council has been offering "top up" funding to property owners over and above the EECA grants. Over 40 homeowners have signed up so far.

The funding from the Council is repaid over a ten year period by way of a targeted rate that Council levies on your property.

List of Council Contracted Suppliers as at February 2013:

Supplier	Contact Details
AirCon New Zealand	0800 161 162 sales@airconnz.co.nz
Insulation South	0800 420 845 chrisdavis@envirotest.co.nz
Southtile Ltd	0800 467 855 phill@southtile.co.nz
Green Dog Insulation	0508 47 33 63 admin@greendog.co.nz

How did Diana Shaw of Taylorville benefit from this?



Diana Shaw from Taylorville decided to insulate her home using the Council scheme. Diana told us "I was feeling the cold more. After my son also had insulation installed he told me what a difference it had made to his home."

Diana phoned a supplier contracted with Council and they carried out an initial assessment of her home. The property qualified for an EECA grant (eg. built before 2000) and the balance of the cost was funded by Council.

The repayments over the ten year period for Diana will amount to less than \$10 per week.

Diana told us that after the insulation was installed "when I was walking around the house I noticed the carpet was a lot drier and warmer. It has made a big difference to the whole temperature of the house. The contractors did a great job, they were quick and tidy and I am very happy with the work that was done."

Contact Recreation

Sampling Summer 2012 -2013

The Council carries out annual water quality monitoring of popular recreation sites during the summer months to assess the health risk to public users. Levels of *E.coli* and Enterococci bacteria are used to indicate potential health risks to people swimming at these sites.

Elevated bacteria results from the first sampling rounds in January and February are likely to be a result of the moderate to heavy rainfall that occurred in the week prior to these sampling rounds. There was light rainfall in the week prior to the second December sample taken at Hokitika Beach.

High rainfall causes increased levels of faecal indicator bacteria in waterways, particularly downstream of urban areas and farmland. It is advised that people avoid swimming in these areas for at least two days following heavy rainfall.

Water quality results can be viewed on the Contact Recreation Page on the Council website:

www.wcrc.govt.nz



SITE

	Nov	Nov	Dec	Dec	Jan	Jan	Feb
Buller Sites							
Carters Beach at campground beach access	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
North Beach at tip head road steps	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Buller River at Shingle Beach	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊
Buller River at Marrs Beach	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊
Grey District Sites							
Rapahoe Beach at end of Statham St	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Seven Mile Creek at SH6 Rapahoe	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞
Nelson Ck at Swimming Hole Reserve	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊
Grey River at Taylorville Swimming Hole	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊
Cobden Beach at Bright South West end	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😞
Blaketown Beach at South Tiphead	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Lake Brunner at Cashmere Bay Boat Ramp	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊
Lake Brunner at Iveagh Bay	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Lake Brunner at Moana	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Karoro Domain at Surf Club	😊	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊
Westland Sites							
Hokitika Beach at Hokitika	😊	😊	😊	😞	😊	😊	😊
Kaniere River at Kaniere Kokatahi Rd	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊
Lake Mahinapua at Shanghai Bay	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊	😊

Key:

😞 Moderate to High Risk
>550 E.coli/100ml or
>280 Enterococci/100ml

😊 Low Risk
260-550 E.coli/100ml or
140-280 Enterococci/100ml

😊 Very Low Risk
<260 E.coli/100ml or
<140 Enterococci/100ml



▲ Gravel extraction on the Kokatahi River.

Gravel Extraction Reminder

With all the fine weather lately, and low river levels, it is no surprise that the Coast's contractors are out and about. However, it is important to remember that if you are intending to extract gravel from a consented site that you adhere to the consent conditions.

All consents will contain a requirement to:

- Have a copy of your consent on site;
- Notify the Council of intention to extract; and
- Restoration requirements for the site, including extraction areas to be left with slopes of 'gentle' contour.

These conditions are not difficult to comply with and ensure the future sustainability of the site. Prior notification of any extraction activities helps to resolve any enquiries or complaints received by the Council before further investigations are undertaken.

Your co-operation in this matter would be appreciated.



Notice of extraction activities, completed gravel return forms, or any further questions can be emailed to sandraf@wrc.govt.nz.



▲ Hamish talks with Tim Gibson (Schedule 2 landowner) about the new wetlands provisions.

Wetlands Coordinator

Hamish Fairbairn is working for the Council on a two year contract. His job is to work with Significant Natural Area (SNA) and Schedule 1 and 2 wetland owners.

Hamish has spent the last seven years living on the Coast and working in a variety of roles from drilling rigs to running the Arthurs Pass Outdoor Education Centre. He enjoys the people and the lifestyle of the West Coast.

His is a dual role with the Grey District Council and West Coast Regional Council. In his Regional Council role he has over 270 landowners to visit.

Hamish is able to assist landowners who are looking for support from the biodiversity fund for fencing and pest or weed control. He can also offer advice to those landowners who wish to enhance their wetlands with plantings or by doing fencing, pest or weed control.



If you need to contact Hamish regarding a wetland or SNA, email hamishf@wrc.govt.nz, or phone him on 768 0466 ext. 274.

Flood Event

1st – 2nd January 2013

The West Coast experienced a significant rainfall event between the 1st and 2nd of January 2013.

Parts of the region experienced 1 in 100 year rainfall totals triggering flood alarms on rivers from Franz Josef to Westport. This event resulted in the Wanganui Bridge on State Highway 6 being washed out. The areas with the most significant rainfall were from Hokitika South to Franz Josef with a localized intense rainfall burst around Reefton/Inangahua. Record breaking rainfall totals were recorded at the Cropp at Waterfall rain gauge in the mountains behind Hokitika, with 1060mm of rainfall recorded in 48 hours, of which 868mm fell in 24 hours. This produced the second highest flood on the Hokitika River since records began in 1971, with a peak flow of 2973m³/s which is around a 1 in 30 year flood. Further north a short heavy burst of rain in the Inangahua area produced 1 in 100 year rainfall with 178mm in 24 hours of which 112mm fell in only 6 hours.

● Cropp rain gauge on a fine day.





Vector Control Services – Environmental Management

VCS is a Council-owned business specialising in Pest Control and Environmental Management. Our team has a long history of dealing with RMA consenting issues, and have developed strong working relationships with most agencies and interest groups up and down the West Coast.

Consultation is a specialty of VCS and we pride ourselves on developing innovative solutions that allow everyone to enjoy the benefits of the West Coast's natural resources.

VCS will manage the consent process for you, as well as any ongoing monitoring. Whether you're running a large-scale mining operation or a family dairy farm, VCS can help you negotiate the red tape and bureaucracy, letting you get on with what you do best.

Consent and compliance issues can be a headache. We understand the importance of getting it right the first time – this is where we can help.



Contact us on 03 768 9674 or have a look at our website www.vcs.net.nz about the services we can offer.

Reefton Airshed Committee

At a public meeting in October last year, four Reefton people were appointed to represent their community on the Council's Reefton Airshed Committee. The Committee also includes District and Regional Council, and iwi representatives.

The Committee is tasked with searching for ways the community can meet the National Air Quality Standard in the township. The National Standard for particulates requires no more than three exceedances per winter by 2016, and no more than one by 2020. The 50 microgram Standard has been breached several times every year since 2006, with domestic solid fuel burning fires being the main contributor.

At the three meetings held so far, the Committee has considered a range of information including technical data provided by an air quality scientist, and results of a phone survey undertaken to identify what types of home heating are used. The Committee is keeping the community informed of its work and air quality-related issues via the local newspaper.

The Committee will present its recommendations to the Council by October 2013.



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Tips to help improve your preparedness

You never know where you will be when disaster strikes. Plan ahead for what you will do if you are in your car when it happens. In some emergencies you may be stranded in your vehicle for some time. A flood, snow storm or major traffic accident could make it impossible to proceed – remember the Wanganui Bridge washout in January this year.

Consider having essential emergency survival items in your car. If you are driving in extreme winter conditions, add windshield scrapers, brush, shovel, tire chains, warm clothing and a blanket to your emergency kit.

Store a pair of walking shoes, waterproof jacket, essential medicines, snack food, water and a torch in your car. When planning travel, keep up to date with weather and roading information.



New Staff

Wayne O'Keefe (left) and Andrew Oliver (right) have recently joined our Consents and Compliance Team.

Wayne is originally from Westport. After spending a number of years traveling overseas working in London and Australia he returned, working firstly in hospitality then opencast mining at Stockton for the past 7 years. He and partner Paulette have just completed building a new house in Greymouth.

Originally from Wellington, Andrew has worked in both the farming and mining industries, most recently at Spring Creek. Andrew is also a member of the Territorial Army here on the West Coast. The lifestyle and the people of the West Coast are two of the key reasons why he currently enjoys living here so much with his wife and two children.

Paying your rates by internet banking, direct credit or automatic payment?

Council has established a new collections account for rates payments, which will be 03 0846 00121500 02

If you are looking up the West Coast Regional Council profile on internet banking, or wish to confirm the correct Council bank account for your rates payment, please ensure that you select the profile for rate payments, with the 02 suffix.

Payment of general debtor invoices should still be made to the existing 00 suffix.

If you have an existing payment arrangement in place with Council where you are paying your rates to Council 00 suffix, we encourage you to change the payments to Council's new 02 suffix.