

KARAMEA CO.STARTERS GRADUATE

Business pitches and collaboration marked the recent celebration night in Karamea for the participants of Development West Coast's Co.Starters programme.

Co.Starters is a ten-week business start-up and development programme that equips aspiring entrepreneurs with the insights, relationships and tools needed to turn business ideas into action.

The latest programme held in Karamea, and delivered by Zoom, was facilitated by Jessie Creedmore and Paul Murray.

It concluded on Wednesday with Celebration Night where participants shared their inspiring business pitches to the local business community.

The cohort met in person to celebrate with guests joining on Zoom, including Buller District Mayor Jamie Cleine.

Elizabeth Kerlake took home the prize for best pitch of the night on her business Weathertop Karamea – winning a business promo video filmed by NOMAD Audio and Video. She also won the prize for the most customer interactions, winning a business branding package from Tinker Creative.

Cheese-maker, Dianne Anderson, won the prize for Team Choice voted by her peers – winning 12 months



Credit: Paul Murray

of mentoring through Business Mentors New Zealand.

The event was hosted and catered by Vinnie's Café in Karamea. Vinnie is a Co.Starters graduate from the 2016 Karamea cohort.

DWC's Programme Co-ordinator Rachel Doolan was impressed with the level of community support for the programme.

"Thank you to the many award sponsors for donating such generous prizes and the weekly guest speakers who shared their experiences in business over the course of the programme."

To register your interest in the CO.STARTERS programme, please contact DWC on: events@dwc.org.nz

BUSINESS AWARDS TICKETS NOW ON SALE

Join us at the 2022 Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards.

Tickets are now on sale and we would love you to join us in celebrating some of our amazing West Coast businesses with MC, Stephen Caunter, and guest speaker, Kevin Biggar, it is sure to inspire and motivate!

Tickets are \$120 + GST per person and includes a three course meal, beverages and entry to the Awards ceremony for an entertaining night out.

To purchase please contact Rachel on: 03 769 7011 or rachel@dwc.org.nz



2022 Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards

DATE: 20 May 2022

TIME: 6:00pm - 11:30pm

VENUE: West Coast Events Centre, Shantytown

TICKETS: \$120 + GST

DWC SUPPORT FOR TECH ROADSHOW

Development West Coast has teamed up with Digital Natives Academy, Victory Up, Drive Safe West Coast and Go With Tourism to hold a Tech roadshow for Techweek22.

Empower: Te Haerenga/The Journey is a roadshow across the West Coast raising awareness of digital technology careers/pathway options through experiential learning opportunities.

DWC Vocational Coordinator Latham Martin says, "the roadshow will help our rangatahi gain a deeper understanding of the digital career opportunities that exist and are available to them."

The roadshow will be travelling from Karamea to South Westland from 16 to 27 May, presenting digital wellbeing courses at West Coast schools and digital hubs, covering topics such as: internet usage, wellbeing (Te Whare Tapa Whā reworked), social media, cyber bullying, internet safety, online gaming and social spaces, and career pathways.

"The courses will help expose students to new technology, connecting gaming with the world of work, and help develop a better understanding of careers and pathways aligned to digital technology, coding and eSports," Mr Martin says.

Virtual reality headsets, driving simulators, and other tech tools will be available to students during the roadshow.

As part of Techweek22, DWC will also be hosting free business and community workshops presented by Digital Natives Academy. This includes public workshops showcasing digital technology and how it can revolutionise business, and workshops for whānau and community on cyber safety and digital wellbeing.

"The roadshow and events wouldn't be possible without the support of Te Wheke Digital Hub, Byte - Māwhera Digital Hub, and the West Coast Technology Education Trust."

www.techweek.co.nz/whats-on/

UPCOMING EVENTS



Innovation workshop with Dorenda Britten | Greymouth

Wednesday, 18 May 9:00am - 12:30pm
Byte - Mawhera Digital Hub | FREE
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz



Accredited Employer Work Visa, Immigration New Zealand | Webinar

Wednesday, 18 May 11:00am
Online | FREE
Register online at www.dwc.org.nz



Techweek: Creating & expanding your online presence | Greymouth

Thursday, 19 May 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Byte - Mawhera Digital Hub | FREE



Techweek: Creating & expanding your online presence | Greymouth

Friday, 20 May 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Byte - Mawhera Digital Hub | FREE



Development West Coast Leading Light Business Excellence Awards | Shantytown

Thursday, 20 May 6:00pm - 11:30pm
West Coast Events Centre, Shantytown | \$120 + GST



Techweek: Creating & expanding your online presence | Fox Glacier

Thursday, 26 May 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Te Wheke Digital Hub - Fox Glacier | FREE



Techweek: Creating & expanding your online presence | Whataroa

Friday, 27 May 5:30am - 6:30pm
Te Wheke Digital Hub - Community Hall, Whataroa | FREE

278 NEW JOBS ON THE COAST

Over the past year there has been 278 new filled jobs on the West Coast, and 81 less Coasters receiving Jobseeker benefits.

Job numbers have risen from 14,559 in March 2021 to 14,837 in March 2022, according to Statistics New Zealand.

Over the same period there has been a drop in Jobseeker recipients - falling from 1,536 in March 2021 to 1,455 in March 2022, according to the Ministry of Social Development.

A recent report from TradeMe showed job listings on the West Coast have risen by 29 percent in the first three months of this year - the second highest growth rate in the country.

"The jump in job listings on Trade Me, and fall in job applications, is in line with what we are seeing and hearing from local businesses. Many are struggling to fill both skilled and unskilled positions," says Mr Milne.

"At a time when the region is experiencing a rise in demand for workers, we are facing labour shortages.

"The return of migrant workers with the opening of the borders will bring some relief."

However, Mr Milne says a new work visa by Immigration New Zealand (INZ) may add more complications to the hiring process for West Coast businesses, as well as additional costs.

INZ is replacing three visas - the essential skills, the talent (accredited employer) work and the long-term skill shortage list - with the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWW).

Employers bringing migrant workers into New Zealand will have to be accredited for the AEWV, starting in July.

"It is important that Coast businesses who hire migrant workers are prepared for the changes coming," Mr Milne says.

INZ is hosting a free webinar about the AEWV on Wednesday, 18 May at 11am.

westcoast.co.nz/businessesevents