



Rough and Tumble Bush Lodge

SUPPORT FOR ROUGH AND TUMBLE LODGE

DWC support helps transition the Rough and Tumble Bush Lodge into West Coast ownership and maintain local employment.

The Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust constructed and operates The Old Ghost Road and also leased and operated the Rough and Tumble Bush Lodge that is situated at The Old Ghost Road's isolated northern trailhead.

"The Lodge provides critical support services such as parking, accommodation, food, showers, and communication for trail users, all of which is delivered by local employment," said Phil Rossiter, chairperson of the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust.

These services directly reduce key barriers for visitors, and complement the user experience.

When the owners of the Rough and Tumble Bush Lodge indicated their desire to sell the property, the Mokihinui-Lyell Backcountry Trust explored options for acquiring the Lodge so that local employment and visitor service levels could be retained, and to provide certainty that the Lodge would operate as a going concern.

"DWC were attentive and positive from the outset, and their support was a critical element in the broader funding mix to ensure the Lodge transitioned into West Coast ownership, maintained local employment, and will continue to warmly welcome and host visitors to the West Coast for years to come," Phil said.

WEST COAST PREMIUM WILD GAME PIES

Emily Lucas opened the doors of a new bakery in Westport last month.

Through her business the West Coast Pie Company she aims to change consumer thinking about wild game meat.

The West Coast Pie Company specialises in premium wild game pies. Their range includes spiced wild nanny goat; wild goat and mint gravy; and a selection of wild venison pies.

"A food journalist once said a three-course meal on the West Coast was 'a pie and two beers'. We thought why can't a humble meat pie be a gourmet menu item and we set out to create a really great pie," Emily said.

Her pies are already garnering national accolades, winning a gold and silver medal at the 2022 Outstanding NZ Food Producers Awards.

The West Coast Pie Company is already employing 5 full-time and 3 part-time staff members, and upskilling her workforce is a key focus for Emily.

"Two of our full-time bakers are enrolled in a baking apprenticeship this year," she says.

"We aim to work with the local high school and Bakels, the apprenticeship provider, to offer this opportunity annually to a school leaver or in the absence of a candidate we will open it up for anyone who is interested in upskilling and gaining a formal qualification.

"Giving young people and school leavers an opportunity to live, work and train in their hometown is very rewarding for us as a business and we hope to see a long line of qualified bakers coming out of Westport in the future."

Emily believes the West Coast is a great place to



live and do business.

"There is a lot of official support for start-ups from various organisations here which makes the world of difference for small businesses such as ours. It's not easy starting a business from scratch and having a solid support network is vital.



WHEN PLANNING THE BUSINESS WE DECIDED TO APPLY FOR FINANCE THROUGH DWC SO OUR MONEY STAYED IN THE COMMUNITY RATHER THAN WITH AN OFFSHORE BANK."

Emily Lucs, West Coast Pie Co.

DWC chief executive Heath Milne says the West Coast Pie Company is a great addition to the culinary scene on the Coast.

"The West Coast is an untamed, natural, wilderness of lush green pastures, fertile soils and cool, clear water.

"Our local producers craft some of the most delicious and nutritious food and drink in the world," Heath concluded.

WEST COAST PERCEPTIONS WORKSHOPS

Understanding how New Zealanders see our region and opportunities for growth.

As part of our Destination Management approach, DWC carried out research on how the West Coast is perceived as a visitor destination by New Zealanders and, in doing so:

- Identifying how to optimise opportunities for the West Coast through understanding the travel mindsets, needs, and behaviours of the domestic audience; and
- Understanding the 'hooks' that can motivate New Zealanders to consider the West Coast as a destination.

Join us and engage with market research and brand company, One Picture, as they discuss their findings and what these opportunities mean for you and your business.



Fox Glacier, Tuesday 5 July

9:00am - 11:00am
Fox Glacier Community Centre



Franz Josef, Tuesday 5 July

1:00pm - 3:00pm
St John Rooms, Franz Josef



Hokitika, Wednesday 6 July

9:00am - 11:00am
Beachfront Hotel, Hokitika



Greymouth, Wednesday 6 July

1:00pm - 3:00pm
The Ashley Hotel, Greymouth



Westport, Thursday 7 July

10:00am - 12:00pm
Westport Bridge Club

Register: westcoast.co.nz/businessesvents

CO.STARTERS BUSINESS STARTUP AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Expressions of interest are open for DWC's Co.Starters business start-up and development programme set to begin on 26 July in Greymouth and 6 September in Westport.

The ten week course is designed to help you find the best approach to starting and growing a business, and collaborate with others who share your entrepreneurial spirit as you work through your business model.

Co.Starters graduate Kate Duthie from Grounded Garden Services said, "I found Co.Starters to be incredibly helpful and encouraging."

"I was challenged with questions and discussion enabling me to question my business ideas from different angles. The course facilitators, guest speakers, and classmates' personal experiences really complimented the resources delivered to us."

If you would like to start your own business, develop your existing business, or explore and develop an idea or project then the Co.Starters programme is for you.

westcoast.co.nz/co.starters

WEST COAST GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

Register now for governance training in August 2022.

DWC is bringing governance training to the West Coast business community once again. The West Coast Governance Programme, facilitated by Richard Westlake and Vaughan Renner of Westlake Governance, will commence in August 2022, and consists of five workshops which will help participants understand the key roles and responsibilities of the board and individual directors.

westcoast.co.nz/governance