

**Financial Overview**

February saw some reasonable returns in the equity markets and this means DWC is now tracking slightly ahead of its income target for the year. Operational expenses continue to be on or below budget however the Trust's year to date profit of \$2.88m is \$800k behind budget due to the accrual of \$1.5m of grants to projects in the region.

Total assets at the end of February were \$119.7m and equity is \$105m.

# Pool of West Coast leaders growing

The West Coast's next generation of leaders is continuing to grow with a third group starting an intensive training programme to hone their leadership and governance skills.

This is the third Leadership and Governance course to be run on the West Coast with previous graduates already stepping up to take on board positions. DWC launched the programme in partnership with Westland Milk Products in 2011 with the aim of raising the professional governance skills of business people from a variety of backgrounds.

"It's a great success and our graduates are getting shoulder tapped to join boards. The Leadership & Governance programme provides people with the knowledge and skills to give them the confidence to return to their communities and make themselves available for these board positions," says DWC Business Support Manager Nelia Heersink.

The 13 participants on the latest course are sponsored by local businesses and this year come from Westland Milk Products, Grey District Council, DOC, FT Dooley Ltd, Martin & Co Mitre 10, Buller Electricity, Buller

Holdings and Chris J Coll Surveying Ltd.

Steven May from Grey District Council says the opportunity to have such a high quality programme on the West Coast is fantastic.

"The experience of meeting other people wanting to develop their governance skill-set has been really refreshing. We are all like-minded and wanting to learn from the experts and each other," he says.

Cornelia Vervoorn from DOC agrees. "A great benefit is creating links between people and different industries, which gives you an understanding about the challenges everyone else is facing. Knowing what makes businesses tick means DOC can work with them better as we can speak the same language," she says.

Nelia Heersink says the programme is so popular there is now a waiting list of people wanting to take part. She invites anyone interested in this programme to contact her at [nelia@dwc.org.nz](mailto:nelia@dwc.org.nz) or phone 03 768 1076



DOC's Eric de Boer and Cornelia Vervoorn with presenter Roger Gabites from NZIM Southern

# Luncheon with Reserve Bank Governor proving popular

Tickets are selling fast for next month's business luncheon with Reserve Bank of New Zealand Governor, Mr Graeme Wheeler.

Mr Wheeler will speak at the luncheon at Shantytown on 22 May as part of the Reserve Bank's community engagement programme. He will discuss the New Zealand economy and outlook and how this relates to the West Coast.

DWC Business Support Manager Nelia Heersink says ticket sales have exceeded expectations.

"We don't often get speakers of Mr

Wheeler's calibre on the West Coast. The business community getting in behind and supporting this event reflects their interest in the global economy and what this means to New Zealand and our region," she says.

Tickets are still available for \$30 per person or \$220 for a table of eight. The luncheon runs from 11.30am to 2pm.

If you are interested in attending please register with Nelia by 15 May on [nelia@dwc.org.nz](mailto:nelia@dwc.org.nz) or (03) 768 1076.

# Funding brings "colour" to Westport rest home

These days when O'Connor Home General Manager Susan Watson looks around the Westport aged care facility she is overwhelmed by the brightness.

"It is beautiful and colourful, looking down the corridor it is like looking at a rainbow. The residents are delighted," she says.

O'Connor Home has just completed the first stage of a five stage upgrade to extend and earthquake strengthen the rest home. The \$3 million first stage has seen two new lounges and a dining room built and bed numbers extended from 34 to 53.

"It has made a huge difference. The rooms are bigger, the corridors are wider and we now have en-suites between two rooms. We have always been 100% occupied and have had to turn people away so it is wonderful to have more beds available," says Mrs Watson.

After the Christchurch earthquakes O'Connor Home's insurance premiums increased substantially, so stage two involves earthquake strengthening the old part of the building to 100% of code to bring premiums down.

O'Connor Home is run by a Trust which was set up by local Westport identity Eugene O'Connor. It offers day care, respite care, hospital level care, dementia care, palliative care, and residential care to residents currently aged from 51 to 99 years of age.

The O'Connor Home Trust raised the funds to undertake the strengthening and extensions in a variety of ways including

donations and bequests, selling a farm attached to the home, selling rooms and sponsoring bricks. They were also granted \$200,000 by the Buller District Council from the \$2 million Extraordinary Distribution Fund provided to the council by Development West Coast.

"The funding from DWC was hugely important, it got us over the hump stage to start the project and is greatly appreciated," says Mrs Watson.

DWC Chair John Sturgeon says Trustees were happy to see some of the funding go to the O'Connor Home project.

"It is great that people who live in O'Connor Home are seeing the benefits from this money. They have contributed to the district in their own ways and been pioneers of Buller and the rest of the country," he says.

O'Connor Home aims to extend the rest home to 85 beds in the coming years.



O'Connor Home after the refurbishment

## Upcoming Events

**LUNCHEON WITH THE RESERVE BANK GOVERNOR**  
Thursday 22 May at Shantytown  
\$30 per person, \$220 per table of 8  
RSVP to Nelia Heersink on [nelia@dwc.org.nz](mailto:nelia@dwc.org.nz) or (03) 768 1076

**ACC HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING**  
A series of 3 practical workshops run by ACC with guest speakers from industry and Worksafe NZ

Greymouth : (8.30am to noon) 26 May, 12 June & 03 July

Westport : (8.30am - noon) 27 May, 13 June, 04 July

Email [cathy.blincoe@acc.co.nz](mailto:cathy.blincoe@acc.co.nz) before 21 May if you wish to attend these free workshops or ring Cathy on 03 769 9118



## Chairman's Comment

Our regular business breakfasts are proving to be successful and are being well supported by our local businesses. The most recent had guest speaker Peter Townsend from Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce speaking on the Christchurch Rebuild. These breakfasts provide a great opportunity for our business owners and managers to network and to be informed on current topics, so do try and get along when you can. These are notified via email and if you aren't on the list to receive these, just get hold of Nelia or Belinda to have them add you to our database.

The recent consent granted to Westland Milk Products for a \$102 million purpose built nutritional drier and associated facilities at the Hokitika plant will give a great boost to the Westland District and wider region. It is great to see these significant developments progressing and this in particular will give great confidence to the dairy industry.

Another significant development over the

past month has been the announcement that Ngai Tahu, through its subsidiary Ngai Tahu Forest Estates, has purchased the exotic forest cutting rights located on the West Coast. Our local timber industry can look forward to working with the new owner who is looking forward to ensuring the continuity of supply to all parties and is anticipating harvest to increase by 10% in the coming years.

Finally, we are at the tail end of summer sports with our winter codes now predominantly up and running. Fit, active people think positively so it is important that we all continue to support and encourage our youth to get involved and stay involved in sports of any kind.

**John Sturgeon**  
Chairman

For further information, contact:  
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