



Back row: Richard Westlake (Westlake Governance), Heath Milne (DWC), Rebecca Pearson, Jeff Evans, Helen Wilson, Arthur Perkin, Jo Birnie, Lucas Hateley, Sally Shaw, Logan Skinner, Renee Rooney (DWC), Vaughn Renner (Westlake Governance)

Front row: Debbie Lawn, Lynda Watson, Fiona Hill, Tracey Twaddle, Jazmine McCreath, Zachary Forsyth

COAST LEADERS GRADUATE

The pool of leaders on the West Coast has had another boost with the graduation of participants from Development West Coast's Governance Programme.

The programme delivered by Westlake Governance involved a series of five one-day workshops across the region.

The programme is designed for new and aspiring board members, and for those who work directly with a board - whether in a medium-sized business, a national co-operative or a small community organisation, school Board of Trustees, or a local government body.

Over 100 West Coasters have graduated from the programme since 2011.

WEST COAST ECONOMY GROWS BY \$79M

Economic activity on the West Coast grew 3.4% over the year to September, outpacing the national average of 2.6%.

The region's economy increased by \$79m to \$2,371m, according to Infometrics latest provisional GDP estimates.

"Many aspects of the Coast economy remain resilient to the economic headwinds sweeping the country," DWC chief executive Heath Milne said.

The region's housing market is bucking the national trend with house prices rising on the West Coast despite falling prices nationwide.

Average house values on the Coast increased 6.4% to \$344,253. In comparison, house prices across the country fell by 2% to \$964,203.

The West Coast led the country in growth of residential building consents. 277 residential consents were issued for the year to September, a 42.8% increase compared to 7% nationally.

Consumer spending on the West Coast rose 7% in the year to September.

"However, with inflation at 7.2% much of this spending growth has been driven by price rises rather than an increase in real underlying spending," Milne said.

The West Coast's dairy payout for the 2021/2022 season is expected to be approximately \$450m, \$70m higher than last season, assuming that production levels from last season are maintained.

Tourism spending fell 0.7% in the September

2022 year following a steep fall in the June 2022 quarter compared with the same quarter the year before. Guest nights in the region also fell, down 8.9% in the September 2022 year.

"International tourism has started to recover now that borders have reopened," Milne said.

"With our new tourism campaign ('Pretty Great, Actually') we're hoping to entice a few more people from across the ditch, while also not forgetting all of the New Zealanders who have been our saving grace during COVID."

Over the year to September 2022 there has been 212 new filled jobs on the West Coast. Job numbers increased from 14,535 in September 2021 to 14,747 in September 2022, according to Statistics New Zealand.

The increase in jobs brought the unemployment rate down to 3.6% for the September 2022 year.

"The past year has seen job gains across a range of industries including construction, healthcare, professional services, admin services and manufacturing," Milne said.

"We should be seeing far more job growth, but there are currently hundreds of positions sitting vacant.

"The Coast is a special place that attracts a special kind of person and we're on the hunt for a few more of them to fill some great jobs and join the Coast community," Milne said referring to DWC's 'Cut out for the Coast' campaign.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Meet Josh Komen | Westport

Tuesday, 6 December 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Denniston Dog | FREE (Lunch provided)



Meet Josh Komen | Hokitika

Wednesday, 7 December 12:00pm - 1:30pm
Beachfront Hotel | FREE (Lunch provided)



Meet Josh Komen | Greymouth

Thursday, 8 December 5:30pm - 7:00pm
Paroa Hotel | FREE (Nibbles provided)

Register: westcoast.co.nz/businessesvents



MEET JOSH KOMEN

Join us for Christmas Networking Events where Josh Komen will share his incredible story.

DWC is proud to host Greymouth author, speaker and former athlete Josh Komen at the upcoming Christmas Networking Events.

At the age of 23 Josh Komen was one of the fastest runners in New Zealand, he then became one of the sickest. Josh was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia not once, but twice. A decade after this diagnosis and the battles he faced, he is alive, strong, healthy and happy.

Josh authored 'The Wind At My Back' and shares the life lessons that he gathered along the way that are an inspiration for us all.

westcoast.co.nz/businessesvents

RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY

Te Tai Poutini West Coast Renewable Energy Strategy and Roadmap released.

In April 2022 Envirostrat were appointed by the West Coast Energy Action group to develop Te Tai Poutini West Coast renewable energy strategy.

Renewable energy solutions was identified as a priority project in Te Whanaketanga Te Tai Poutini West Coast 2050 Strategy, with the action to "develop and implement a Te Tai Poutini Energy Rautaki to unlock opportunities in renewable energy investment and job creation on the Coast."

Over the past six months interviews were held with 38 stakeholders to develop a shared vision and focused on aspiration and opportunity, primary and secondary market and economic research activity was also undertaken.

Eddie Christian from Envirostrat said "Local engagement and understanding of the community's aspirations and expectations were essential in developing this strategy."

The Energy Action group will be meeting in early December to confirm the next steps.

www.tewhanaketanga.nz/resources/