

Working at the coal face with local communities

As the District Development
Manager for the
Clutha District Council



Clutha District



A quick outline

- The Clutha District covers 6,363 square kilometres
- There is a population of 16,839 people
- The population density is 3 people per square kilometre



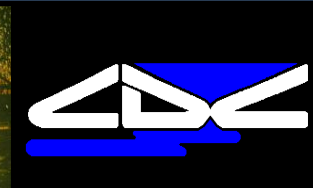
A quick outline

- The main township of the Clutha District is Balclutha, situated on the banks of the Clutha River and famous as “The Big River Town”
- Milton, Lawrence, Tapanui, Clinton, Kaitangata, Owaka, Papatowai are other important settlements in the district which basically provide services for the surrounding farms.
- The Clutha District’s economy is agricultural – still largely sheep and beef, with an expanding dairy sector, and a wood milling industry that can struggle with supply and demand.



How do we reach communities in the Clutha District?

- The Clutha District Council delivers a number of services through the **District Development Board** which holds a budget to support the following:
- a **Community Coordinator** position, 23.5 hours per week,
- **Development House** in Balclutha where contractors to Council have offices,
- **Enterprise Clutha** which provides business support (training, advocacy, mentoring etc) and other projects that are identified. Enterprise Clutha is presently driving the development of a Labour Market Strategy for the district,



How do we reach communities in the Clutha District? (cont.)

- **Clutha Agricultural Development Board** which accesses project funding and provides advocacy, mentoring and other support as required to the farming communities of the district,
- A **Youth Development Coordinator** who is employed by Enterprise Clutha to deliver a number of different youth focused programmes throughout the district.



Reaching Out

- All the above services are based at Development House and available to the whole district by phone, email, and one on one appointments.
- Representatives of these services travel to different parts of the district every 6 weeks to be available to local people as well.
- Through the Clutha District Council website, a Community Development webpage has been set up and is a major communication tool for the Community Coordinator and communities active in the district.
(<http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/Community.htm>)



Community Development - Microsoft Internet Explorer provided by Clutha District Council

http://www.cluthadc.govt.nz/Community.htm

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

This page is a resource for the communities of the Clutha District. You will find information and links relevant to your community organisation and to community development generally. If you have any good information or website addresses that do not appear on this page please [email us](#). Please choose from one of the options to the right, or scroll down the page.

Latest News from Community Coordinator Megan Burke

Events Calendar now online: View events and activities throughout the district by [clicking here](#). Summer is busy in Clutha! Be sure to use this resource when planning your community group activities. Add the link to your Favourites section for easy access.

Funding Calendar: our new funding calendar is now up and running. Organise your group's fundraising schedule by accessing this calendar. [Click here](#)

Small Town Conference 2010: Hawera, September 19-21: The goal of the Small Town Conference Advisory Group is to empower people to make a difference in communities, and to create a small town legacy for generations to come. Share ideas, experiences and initiatives with community leaders from around the country. See www.smalltownconference.org.nz for more information. Information will be posted on this webpage nearer the time.

Sports Clubs seeking charitable status - Various funders are now looking for Charities Commission registration before granting funds to applicant groups. View this information sheet from the Commission by [clicking here](#).

Funding enquiries welcome - Call Megan at Development House if you have any questions about funding applications, the Charities Commission, or for general enquiries. Tel: (03) 418 4048.

OCVS newsletter - download the latest issue of the Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector newsletter by [clicking here](#).

Rural Bulletin - December 2009 (PDF, 366kb, new window)

Peter Kenyon's 10 Key Community Development Beliefs

Peter Kenyon is a social capitalist and community enthusiast. Over the last decade he has worked with over 1000 communities throughout Australia and overseas seeking to facilitate fresh and creative ways that stimulate community

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Reaching Out

Youth Development

The Clutha District Council invests in the young people because they are the future of the district.

There are three programmes run annually

- One on one
- Leadership
- Clutha Challenge (which is a partnership with the Ministry of Youth Development)

The Clutha District Council has also supported the setting up of a Youth Council for the district.

- The Youth Council is a standing committee of Council
 - has an annual budget
 - comprises 2 representatives from each of the 5 high schools in the district, 2 work place representatives and 2 Councillors
 - meets around 7 times per year



Community Economic Development

- The following projects are examples of what communities in the district are able to achieve with the right support, advocacy, skills, relationships and direction (and all those other intangibles) ...

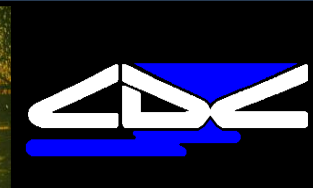


Lakes Waihola Waipori Wetlands Society



Lakes Waihola Waipori Wetlands Society

- Came together following twenty years of dislocated efforts to bring about cohesive development and protection to these wetlands.
- The partnership now involves:
 - Waihola Looking Forward
 - Otago Regional Council
 - Fish & Game
 - Department of Conservation
 - Clutha District Council
 - University of Otago
 - Land owners around the wetlands
 - Ngai Tahu
 - Tatawai Trust
 - Forestry Companies



Lakes Waihola Waipori Wetlands Society

- The cooperation of a number of experts with the local community has seen the creation of a 10 year strategic plan, including support for the development of a weed plan for the wetlands which will be implemented in 2010/2011.
- The commitment is that everyone talks to each other – issues come to the table to be resolved.



Tourism Catlins



Tourism Catlins

- Set up with the support of the local Catlins communities to bring a sustainable and planned approach to the development of The Catlins.
- The partnership now involves:
 - North Catlins (in the Clutha District)
 - South Catlins (in the Southland District)
 - Clutha District Council
 - Venture Southland (representing Southland)
 - Otago and Southland DoC Conservancies
 - Department of Internal Affairs
 - The relevant Regional Tourism operators as issues dictate
 - New Zealand Transport Agency as required
 - University of Otago – research
- To be effective Tourism Catlins requires the support of all the smaller communities of the Catlins who are encouraged to bring issues and concerns to the table for discussion and resolution.



It's complex



The lessons

- Working from the District Council perspective provides the opportunity for a supportive approach, encouraging the involvement of all available Council expertise as required, for the development of community driven projects.
- Projects that are linked to and supported to have **good relationships** with local and central government bureaucracies have a much greater opportunity to access a wide pool of expertise.
- **Effective relationships** with **all** stakeholders in a project are essential.



The lessons

- Community innovation requires that while we may not be able to predict outcomes, certain kinds of interactions are more likely to result in change than others.
- Successful groups do not hold on to the status quo. They are constantly listening and responding to what they hear. The challenge is knowing what to let go and how to do it in a manner that does not offend.
- The right people, with the right skills, in the right place at the right time are essential to the development of a successful project.

