



Council News

a newsletter from the Clutha District Council

p2

Representation
Review

p3

Unsung
heroes

p4

Upcycling
success

August 2024 | www.cluthadc.govt.nz | 0800 801 350 | help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz | [CluthaDistrictCouncil](#)



From the Mayor

Thank you for taking the time to inform yourself on the multitude of changes that are taking place at council. One of the key points of interest will undoubtedly be the changes proposed through our representation review that is presently taking place. This is a statutory requirement, but it also comes at a crucial time for Clutha.

Mayor Bryan Cadogan

Over the last decade the pace of change in councils has exponentially increased. Looking back things were of a gentler nature, not that many years ago when you compare it to the present \$1.4 billion-dollar organisation, with double the staff, and triple the expectations. Every single component of our organisation has gone through necessary restructuring to better meet the demands now placed on council, except the political arm. We are still structured the same as we have always been, and the deficiencies of this old structure are now impeding our ability to perform.

We analysed what both our communities and the organisation require, things like having a councillor assigned to each region. We know the value you place on having an identified councillor for your area, there is also the rapidly increasing time demands now placed on councillors of over 20 hours a week. This commitment is really starting to have consequences.

Councillors that work are burning through all their annual leave and needing to take leave without pay. Holidays with the family are taking second fiddle and any councillor that might find themselves in the job market, are impossibly disadvantaged because how can they compete after requesting at least one day off a week? More often than not their attention is diverted with thousands of pages of reports to read and the requests from ratepayers that must be attended to with urgency.

Our present structure excludes a large amount of people that are just as passionate and committed to their communities but are not financially able to sacrifice their income in order to serve their district.

I know the first concern will be how much more is this going to cost ratepayers and the answer is categorically not one cent. This is because the pool of money determined by the independent Remuneration Authority stays the same. What we are suggesting is that the number of councillors is reduced from the comparatively large 15 at present, to a more fit for purpose nine councillors, spread throughout our district. By correctly sizing a more fit for purpose group, we would be able to attract the cross-section of our communities that presently is not happening and establishing a structure that better reflects the diverse nature of Clutha.

It was said that no councillor does this for the money, and that is true. But the unintended consequence is that we become heavily skewed in a limited cohort of representatives.

[Read More](#) →

From the Mayor continued...

To truly reflect our district's cross section of needs we need to encourage everyone to participate. Please if you don't think this is happening have a look at the photo gallery of previous councils and you will see a hugely disproportionate representation of my ilk – it's time there were more young people getting excited about local politics, more females and more diversity. There is the old adage about what it means if you keep doing the same thing but somehow hope that desperately needed changes are somehow still going to happen.

We hope to hear from as many of you as possible on this matter. There is a formal process that will be followed so please get involved.

We know that for some, change is difficult to contemplate but if there is one thing constant in Local Government at the moment, it is change.

- Onwards and Upwards

Balclutha Pool update

The Balclutha Centennial Swimming Pool is closed from for its annual maintenance and will remain closed for longer than usual, until September, to replace an aging filtration system.

Clutha District Council CE Steve Hill said the filtration system was 20 years old and had reached the end of its lifespan.

The new system is currently being manufactured by New Zealand company Filtration and Pumping, in preparation for installation.

"An effective filtration system allows us to maintain safe, clean water for our customers," Mr Hill said.

The pool will be emptied to complete work on the tiles with all silicone joins being removed and replaced and any broken or chipped tiles also replaced.

Annual servicing on the boiler and heating systems will also take place



alongside an annual spring clean.

The pool is scheduled to re-open for business on Monday, 2 September 2024.

This work allows the pool to operate with fewer disruptions during the year and keeps it looking attractive and clean for our customers, so thank you for your patience during this period.

Please keep an eye on Council's website and the Balclutha Centennial Pool Facebook page for any updates.

spotlight on / Representation Review 2024...



Consultation on the initial proposal to begin



We are reviewing our representation arrangements, something we are required to do once every six years.

The review gives Council and the community an opportunity to consider if the existing representation is effective and fair, by looking at the number of councillors in our district and how they are elected, community boards, and the wards and their boundaries.

After seeking early feedback, Council has put together an initial proposal which we

are formally consulting on in preparation for the October 2025 elections.

Consultation on the representation review initial proposal will open on Thursday, 1 August and we are encouraging everyone to have their say online via our website.

Copies of the initial proposal, maps setting out the areas of the proposed wards, community boards, and a hardcopy consultation form will be available from the Rosebank Council

office, local community libraries and the Clutha isite Visitor Information Centre. Written submissions can also be downloaded from our website, printed and returned by free post.

Consultation will close on 2 September 2024.

For more information and to have your say please visit:

www.cluthadc.govt.nz/representation-review

Clutha's unsung heroes celebrated at Community Awards

Our local volunteers were recognised and celebrated at the 2024 Clutha District Community Service Awards, held at the Te Pou Ō Mata-Au War Memorial & Community Centre on Thursday, 11 July.

Generous with their time and talents, the individuals and community groups that have been working tirelessly in our communities bringing life to many incredible endeavours throughout the Clutha District, were formally recognised for the great volunteer work they have been doing.

Clutha District Council Mayor Bryan Cadogan said the event was an evening to celebrate our local champions.

"These people are out there taking great strides, helping achieve the ambitions and goals of their communities. We are just so appreciative of what they have achieved and continue to achieve for Clutha, and it is an honour to be presenting these awards and recognising their efforts", Mayor Cadogan said.

The Clutha Gold Cycle Trail Extension Committee was the Supreme Winner of the group award, for the successful completion of the Clutha Gold Cycle Trail extension from Lawrence to Waihola, which was officially opened

in August 2023.

The extension project involved years of dedication and collaboration with various communities between Waihola and Lawrence. The group's outstanding efforts and ongoing maintenance of the trail has brought a new vibrancy to our district, enjoyed by locals and visitors alike and contributing to Clutha's economic, social and cultural growth.

Other groups presented with awards in the various categories included:

Milton Elder Care Trust – for Health and Wellbeing (combined winner)

Special Olympics South Otago Trust – for Health and Wellbeing (combined winner)

Papatowai Forest Heritage Trust – for Heritage and Environment

Lawrence Domain Volunteer Group – for Recreation and Leisure

Balclutha Primary School Whanau & School Committee – for Educational and Child/Youth Development

Winning recipients in each of the Community Group categories received \$1,000 and the Supreme Winner received \$2,000. Combined winners' prizes were shared.



From left to right: Jill Allison, David Vollweiler, Symon Howard, Colin Turner and Mayor Bryan Cadogan

The Youth Spirit Award was presented to two exemplary Year 13 students, Anna Harrex of the Lawrence Area School, and Ollie Shore of South Otago High School, as combined winners for their outstanding individual contributions to their schools and communities. The prize of \$750 was shared between the Youth Spirit Award recipients.

Individual awards were presented to Rachel and Ash Prasad, and Kevin Sutton, in recognition of their outstanding community service to the district.

You can read more about each deserving award recipient from Council's website:

www.cluthadc.govt.nz/award-winners-2024

Notice to all dog owners

All dogs should have been registered by the end of July.

Every dog who is older than three-months must be registered by their owner every year.

Registering your dog is easy, you can use Council's online portal: onlineservices.cluthadc.govt.nz

If you haven't done so yet, please register your dog immediately.

If you have moved or did not receive your invoice please call us on 0800 801 350.



Did you know?

Clutha District Council produces a public version of the Rating Information Database.

The rates database holds the names and addresses of all ratepayers in the district.

If you don't want your name to be searchable by the public, you can ask us to withhold it.

Your request must be in writing.

For more information contact Council help.desk@cluthadc.govt.nz or call 0800 801 350.

Please let us know if your postal address changes.

Update on the Long Term Plan 2024/34

All councils in New Zealand are required to produce a Long Term Plan every three years.

In July Council adopted our plan for the next 10 years. Our new Long Term Plan 2024/34 outlines the long-term vision for the Clutha District and set out the services, projects and infrastructure Council intends to deliver to the community over a 10-year period, and how these will be funded.

In April we produced a consultation document to help explain key issues and decisions Council was facing, and to ask for your feedback.

The month-long consultation process resulted in us receiving 665 submissions and holding three days of verbal hearings.

Councillors made decisions based on five key Council

documents that were consulted on, including the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan, Living and Working, Infrastructure, Finance, and Climate Change strategies.

We are grateful to everyone who took the time to be involved and give their feedback.

Want to know more?

The full Long Term Plan 2024/34, including major strategies, financial details, and all the key decisions, is available on our website. Copies will be available to read at our community libraries in August.

www.cluthadc.govt.nz/long-term-plan



Upcycling of food and beverage cartons successful

The first compressed bale of upcycled food and beverage cartons from the Clutha District has been created, as part of the Clutha District Council-led trial which began over a year ago.

The trial, which began in early 2023, saw over 8,000 food and beverage cartons (often referred to as Tetra Pak) received at 6 public drop-off points located throughout the district.

The cartons were collected, baled, and then sent to saveBOARD in Hamilton, a sustainable recycling and upcycling company that takes food and beverage cartons from across New Zealand and uses compression and heat to turn the product into wall board. This initiative meant a staggering 3000kg of high value product package was saved from the landfill.

Prior to being sent to saveBOARD loose cartons were stored at Mt Cooee landfill before reaching the Pakeke Lions Club in Gore, where volunteers managed the task of baling the cartons for transport.

Clutha District Council Waste Education Officer Scott Martin says, "Food and beverage cartons are not accepted as a part of kerbside household recycling, due to the composite nature of the packaging comprised of cardboard, plastic and aluminium. This mix of materials cannot be separated into the individual components for conventional recycling."

Food and beverage cartons need to be cut and rinsed thoroughly in order to be accepted at drop off points, to prevent contamination in the upcycling process.

"We were impressed with the uptake of the initiative, and even more astounded at the vigilance of consumers to prepare their cartons for drop off. The bale received by saveBOARD was 100% contamination free, which emphasises the desire in our communities to participate in the initiative and recycle these cartons into long-life construction materials."

"It's great to have a simple system in place for consumers, and knowing that our waste is being recycled within New Zealand for creating products available locally is an excellent

driver for us," Mr Martin said.

Since December 2021, saveBOARD has been turning composite packaging waste into products that re-enter the local supply chain, eliminating future waste. Collected food and beverage cartons are diverted from landfills then shredded, compressed and heated to create MBIE-approved plasterboard substitutes, available throughout New Zealand as a special order through selected building supply stores.

Increasing the scope of the scheme is a key goal for Mr Martin, striving towards removing food and beverage cartons packaging from our landfill. He encourages any local businesses, schools or community groups wanting to contribute to the initiative or offer their store as a drop off point for in the Clutha District to reach out directly by email at scott.martin@cluthadc.govt.nz.

To participate in the initiative and contribute to reducing waste in the Clutha District, clean cartons can be dropped off for collection at Mt Cooee Landfill, Health 2000 or Café 55 in Balclutha, Tokomairiro Community Hub in Milton, Tahatika Coffee Traders in Owaka, or The Lost Gypsy Gallery in Papatowai.

To prepare cartons for recycling, participants should leave any plastic lids on, as these form the glue that binds the board together during the heating process. Cut along the top and side of the carton to open it up, and then thoroughly rinse the container clean.

