

# Connect

February 2022 • Issue 116

Keeping you up to date with news from your Buller District Council

Welcome to the first edition of Connect for 2022. I hope you all enjoyed some time with family and friends during the summer holiday season and like me are looking forward to a busy year ahead.

This is the final year of the current election term with the community having the opportunity to vote for a new Council in October. It is really important we have a diverse range of candidates come forward for election and I encourage those considering the idea to engage with us during the year to fully understand the opportunities and challenges the role brings.

Council will be working through the Annual Plan process over the next few months before confirming the plan for 2022/23 in June. This is an opportunity to check in on progress against the Long Term Plan and consider any adjustments required.

Our major projects will continue during the year including the Westport water trunk main replacement, effectively completing the suite of projects staged over the past three-years to totally renew the water conveyance from the mountain intake through to Westport.

I'm looking forward to the flood recovery housing project in Alma Road taking shape during the year, this will be a significant development and a great support to our housing options into the future. Last year was challenging for the district as we navigated Covid-19 and flooding impacts, however we navigated that by working together as a community and with our central government partners.

The year ahead is sure to hold a new set of challenges but I remain confident that together we will find solutions and strategies that continue to move us forward. **Mayor Jamie Cleine**

## New book return service for Karamea

Buller District Libraries have partnered with the Karamea Information Centre and Karamea Express to offer a FREE book return service for the Karamea community.

Now Karamea residents can return their Buller District Library books and items by dropping them off at the Karamea Information Centre. The Karamea Express will deliver them to the Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library in Westport on behalf of customers.

The idea was born after library staff recognised that Karamea residents often incurred overdue charges on their library items. They realised that customers had to specifically travel to Westport to return their books.

The project has been in the making since June 2021 but was delayed due to the floods in July and the ever-changing Covid-19 situation.



Library staff hope that Karamea residents will enjoy their books without feeling the pressure to make an extra trip to Westport to return them.

Staff will review the uptake over the next six-months and assess if the service will be continued beyond July 2022.



## Westport's Toki bridge opening celebration



We are delighted to announce that the opening of the Toki Poutangata bridge will take place on 23 February 2022.

The project has run smoothly since the physical works began 11-months

ago, despite significant challenges from the July 2021 flood event and Covid-19.

The bridge reconnects Westport's town centre to the Buller River, and thanks to further funding from central government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund, will create a compelling link to the Kawatiri Coastal Trail, the floating basin and Kawatiri River Trails.

Read more about the project's progress on page three.



Photo: Nomad Audio and Video



**There is a lot happening. Check out some of the amazing initiatives, people, & organisations that Council supports to create a thriving, inclusive, healthy, and vibrant community.**

## New pump track opens in Westport

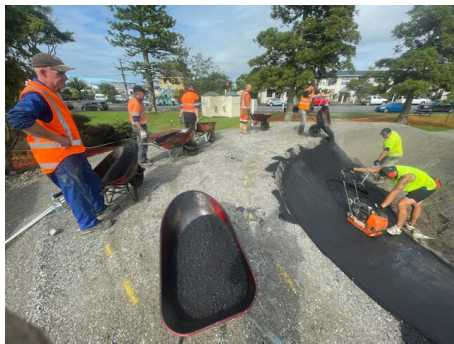
Buller Cycling Club finished the new pump track at Victoria Square in Westport just in time for the Christmas break.

Victoria Square received an exciting new addition in December with the new pump track being finished.

The pump track was first discussed at a community workshop in 2017 as part of drafting a plan for the Victoria Square Recreation Zone. After Buller Cycling Club (BCC) secured \$70,000 through Council's Community-Led Revitalisation Fund in 2020 the project could start with BCC taking the lead.

Additional funding and support from local businesses and getting the community involved enabled BCC to halve the building cost and engage VeloSolutions, a world leader in pump track design and construction.

BCC began to prepare the site at Victoria Square for contractor VeloSolutions early in October.



The next step was installing drainage pipes and filling the area with gravel to lay the foundation for VeloSolutions to do their part.

The VeloSolutions team got off to a cracking start at the beginning of December with the

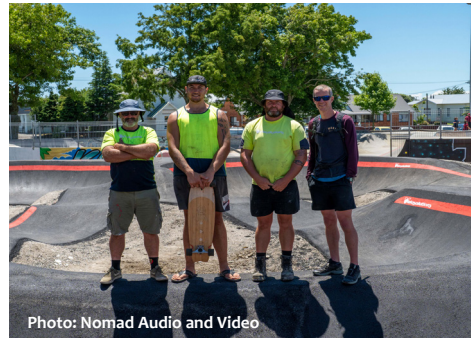


Photo: Nomad Audio and Video

first berms of the track being shaped within a few days after the crew arrived.

The next big step was to lay down the asphalt to seal the gravel foundation and create the surface to ride on.

Supported by volunteers the VeloSolutions team braved wild weather and added the last finishing touches to the track.

BCC treasurer Glenn Irving said the community support behind this project was incredible.

"There have been heaps of people, businesses, and organisations helping to make this project happen, including Buller District Council, the West Coast Community Trust, West-Trak, South Peak Homes, Mitre10, Craig Neal Plumbing, Norwood Farm Machinery, Adam's Construction, Rainbow Cake Kitchen, Nomade Audio & Video, Buller Tree Services, RPS, Sean Casey and Westport New World.

Their willingness to support the project from start to finish was integral to bringing this project over the finish line."



## Community Grants funding

**Do you need financial support for your community project? Community Grants funding applications are open NOW!**

This fund supports the work of community groups and volunteer organisations, which provide community and social projects and services within the Buller District.

Funds are available to support projects that enhance the wellbeing of our communities and align with Council's community outcomes.

Applications will be considered in March.

Application forms are available online from Council's website or can be collected from Council offices in Westport and Reefton.

Applications must be submitted no later than 4:30pm Monday 21 February 2022.

Late applications will not be accepted.

**More info at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/funding](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/funding)**

Photo: Reefton Publight - A community grants supported project



## Rural Travel Fund OPEN

**Buller District Council is calling for applications to the Rural Travel Fund.**

This fund is open to both rural sports clubs and school teams with young people aged between 5 and 19 years.

Funds are available to support sport clubs and school teams to cover travel costs to regular local sporting competitions.

Applications will be considered in March.

Application forms are available online from Council's website or can be collected from Council offices in Westport and Reefton.

Applications must be submitted no later than 4:30pm Monday 21 February 2022. Late applications will not be accepted.

**Find out if your project fits the criteria, get in touch, and get your application in quick!**





# The Toki Poutangata Bridge



The Toki Poutangata Bridge is part of Westport's Waterfront The Riverbank Project revitalising the area between the Buller River and the town.



The Toki bridge connects the town centre to the river and enables walkers and cyclists to easily and safely access the new riverbank space from Westport's main street.



The name and design for the bridge Toki Poutangata, was chosen in consultation with local iwi Ngāti Waewae. The name describes a ceremonial adze of chiefly authority, and consists of a pounamu blade lashed to an elaborately carved handle. It represents strength, mana, bravery and triumph, all traits and characteristics synonymous with the Buller District.

Since the announcement in 2020 craftsmen, designers, engineers, contractors, and Council staff worked on the ambitious project.

The \$2M project, funded mainly from the Provincial Growth Fund, required a diverse team to turn it into reality.

Championing innovation in design, incorporate new technologies, finding unique engineering solutions, and utilising the skill of local contractors, Toki came to life.



Photo: Nomad Audio and Video



Celebrate the opening of the Toki Poutangata Bridge on 23 February 2022.

Event information can be found at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)



Read some of the amazing things that are happening in our district, meet the people behind them, and find out how you can get involved in shaping our district.

## Blacks Point Museum receives Te Papa funding

Blacks Point Museum secured \$25,000 of funding from the National Services Te Paerangi (Te Papa) museum hardship fund.

The funding enables the Blacks Point Museum Trust to employ a part time curator and a part time stamper battery operator for one year and develop a new e-commerce capable website.

The museum fell into financial difficulties when COVID-19 hit causing a significant decrease in visitor numbers in 2020/21.

Buller District Council's socio-economic development officer in Reefton Rachel Fifield says the museum was in financial difficulty.

"The museum's collections are important history for Inangahua and for Aotearoa/New Zealand. The amazing collections tell the story of discovery of the first gold-bearing quartz reefs near Reefton in 1870 and the years that followed".

Ms Fifield worked with the museum's secretary Pat Russel to submit a funding application to Te Papa so that the public will still have access to historical items showing the eight decades of industry progression, technology and innovation, community life, woman's suffrage movement, and the development of the hydroelectric plant which brought the first public electricity supply to Reefton in 1888.

The funding ensures the ongoing operation of the museum as well as injects the necessary investment to revitalising the museum.

Ms Fifield says the funding enables the trust to let the museum's amazing collection shine, make it more accessible, and create new income sources to reduce the need for outside funding.

"Looking back COVID-19 had a big impact on the museum, but it forced the trust to re-evaluate how the museum can stay viable."

## Stand up for your district

Local government elections are held in October this year. This is your chance to shape our district!

Local government elections are held in October 2022 voting for not only the Mayor and Council (including the Inangahua Community Board), but also the Buller representatives on the West Coast Regional Council and Development West Coast.

Taking up a role as a Councillor, member, or trustee of any of the above is your chance to shape our district.

You can access a comprehensive guide to the election process on Council's website [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/elections](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/elections).



The Blacks Point Museum was founded in the 1960s by Blacks Point residents to preserve the history of the Inangahua area.

The museum houses a historical collection celebrating the past 150 years history of the Inangahua area. One of the only two working water driven stamper batteries in the southern hemisphere is part of the collection.

More information, including opening hours, are available through email to [reeftonhistory@gmail.com](mailto:reeftonhistory@gmail.com).



## New waste compactor boosts Karamea's waste management

The Karamea Recycling Centre received a new waste compactor in November through a partnership between the Karamea Waste Management Group (KWMG), Buller District Council, and WestReef Services Ltd.

The new waste compactor compresses and bales plastics 1, 2 and 5, cardboard and paper, as well as aluminum and steel cans. This means the material can be transported in a compressed form. This reduces the freight costs to move recycling from Karamea to other places around the country.

Hamish Macbeth from KWMG says: "More and more people dropped off cleaned, unsquashed, and de-lidded plastic at the Karamea Recycling Centre. The staff sorted the material by hand and put it into sacks to be taken to recycling processing facilities around the South Island.

Sending out about 80% air with each load of recycling seemed really unsustainable. The best way was to reduce the volume."

Read the full story at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz).





We live in a stunning place so let's care about the magnificent environment we call home. Explore how you can help improve Buller's waste and recycling footprint by reducing, reusing, and recycling.

## Sacret Heart students master the art of composting - doing good for the environment



One of Sacred Heart School's zero waste actions is to try to reduce the amount of cardboard that we put in the recycling bin.

The students use cardboard to make a brown layer in our school compost bin. It helps keep

the organic waste from blowing around and reduces flies and wasps in the summer

Each day the food waste is emptied into the compost bin, followed by a layer of paper towels from our bathrooms, and grass clippings. At the end of the week we put a layer of cardboard on top. Sometimes we also add a layer of cardboard on top of our worm farm. This keeps the worms happy as it creates shade and keeps the moisture in.

We also used cardboard in our raised gardens over the winter where we built up layers of organic matter and food waste before adding soil on top.

At home some of our students, Isobel and Ruby Webb used cardboard instead of weedmat in their garden to stop the

weeds coming through before adding a layer of mulch.

They also used cardboard to create a no-dig vegetable garden, before adding compost and soil. Ruby, aged eight said that "reducing cardboard by using it in the compost and garden is good because it stops it being sent to places like India to be recycled, which is bad for the environment because of all the smoke from the ship."

Our students visited the Westport Transfer Station and were shocked to see the amount of stockpiled bales of paper and cardboard, ready to be recycled but had no where to go.

This motivated us to try to reduce our cardboard and paper use and try to compost these at school. All of our used paper towels are composted, as well as cardboard and most of our paper.

As an Enviroschool we are committed to reducing our waste footprint.

**Our students encourage residents to reduce their waste footprint too. Reduce, reuse and recycle!**



## FREE battery recycling available in Buller

A partnership between the Karamea Waste Management Group, Buller District Council, Martins Mitre10 Westport and SmartEnvironmental Ltd enables everyone living in Buller to recycle their household batteries responsibly.

Batteries can be dropped off for FREE at the battery buckets located at the Karamea Recycling Centre, the Reefton and Westport Transfer Station, and Martins Mitre10 Westport during opening hours.

Batteries accepted include AA, AAA, bigger C batteries, square 9V batteries, smart phone batteries, watch, hearing aid batteries, and coin-shaped batteries. Rechargeable batteries, lithium and phone batteries need to have the terminals isolated (through being taped by residents) prior to being dropped off.

For more information go to [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-)



## All you need to know about recycling and refuse in Buller

**The Buller District is divided into three zones. Each of these zones has specific refuse and recycling guidelines which you can find on Council's website.**

Council provides recycling kerbside collection only in zone one. You can find the recycling map and instructions how to determine your collection day online on Council's website under Recycling and Refuse Recycling Collection Map.

If you live in zone one, place your wheelie bin and glass crate as close to the kerb as possible and clear of the footpath by 7:30am on your collection day.

Overfull glass crates are a safety hazard. You must ensure the glass is level with the top of the crate or it may not be picked up. Extra bottles can be taken to the transfer station for FREE.

You must follow the local recycling rules. If you do not follow these rules, Smart Environmental Ltd can refuse to collect your bin. It's important we all manage our waste correctly to minimise waste going into landfills.

For more information go to Council's website Recycling and Refuse.



**Reduce Reuse Recycle**  
**BULLER**  
*Shaping our district*





# Information for Flood Affected Residents

## Meet the Navigators!

These are our fantastic Navigators...

Our Community Hub is a free one-stop-shop for flood affected residents. The Navigators can assist you with all of your flood-related enquiries.

- temporary accommodation,
- financial assistance,
- insurance and legal advice,
- wellness and stress,
- community events and initiatives.

If you are feeling a little isolated or overwhelmed and just want to call in and have a cuppa and a chat, the Navigators and team at the Community Hub are a friendly and welcoming bunch!

### Community Hub

175 Palmerston Street, Westport  
Phone 0800 768 348

#### Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday 9.30am to 4pm  
Saturday 12 noon to 2pm



## Temporary housing update

In December 2021 the Government announced a temporary accommodation village will be built in Westport, as they continue to support the town's ongoing recovery from the devastating floods in July.

"This Government is committing \$17.08 million for the village, providing assurance to the Westport community that temporary accommodation support will continue to be there for them as they repair and rebuild," Associate Minister of Housing Poto Williams said. "Twenty-three per cent of Westport's available housing stock was damaged by the floods, including 71 homes that were deemed unsafe and red-stickered."

The village will be located at Alma Road and the houses will be a mixture of two and three-bedroom homes, pre-built and transported onto site. To date, the Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) has deployed portable cabins, provided motorhomes for homeowners who want

to stay close to home, and secured motel rooms for other households.

In addition to the temporary village, three houses, originally built for the response to flooding in Napier, have now been transported to Westport along with five houses from Kāinga Ora.

"This is a truly multi-agency response," Poto Williams said.

If you have been impacted by the Westport Flood and require assistance with temporary accommodation, register your interest at the Community Hub. Our Navigators are working closely with MBIE to find suitable accommodation for those individuals and whānau with flood affected properties through the Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS).

## Mayoral Relief Fund

The Mayoral Relief Fund is still open to applications from flood affected individuals and families or organisations.

The MRF committee welcomes applications for assistance if you need support through what has been, and still is a challenging time. You can pick up an application form from Council's Westport office, the Community Hub or download it from Council's website:  
[www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/flood-recovery/financial-assistance](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/flood-recovery/financial-assistance)

To be eligible your property must have been yellow or red stickered following the July flood. The Mayoral Relief Fund can be used towards insurance excesses and to replace essential items eg. basic furniture, whiteware and floor coverings.

Remember, our Community Navigators are on hand to assist you with your application, as well as support you to access other services related to the flood recovery.



# Removing the red or yellow sticker from your property file is important

If you have had repairs done to your home you must ensure that any red or yellow sticker classifications are removed from your property file, or risk significant issues in the future.

If you are returning to your home after repairs you need to check that any red or yellow sticker classifications are changed to white on your property file. It is an easy process and there is no cost. The licensed builder, electrician, or plumber carrying out the repairs, or your insurer, should complete it for you – however as the homeowner the onus is on you to check that this is done.

For more information on the process for removing the red or yellow sticker classification, visit the link at the end of this article.

## What happens if I don't remove the red or yellow sticker from my property?

Removing red and yellow classifications from your property shows the Council, insurers and banks that your repair work has been carried out to an acceptable standard.

Darren Wright, from the Residential Advisory Service (RAS), the Government Agency supporting residents through the insurance process, says if either of these classifications remain on the property, it could create significant insurance problems in the future.

"If you want to sell your property, or if your insurer requires a full property valuation for a fixed-sum insurance policy, it is important to have a LIM (Land Information Memorandum) that is clear of any red or yellow classifications. Insurers are not likely to cover properties that have repairs that have not been signed off.

"A LIM that has outstanding red or yellow classifications could hold up the sale of your property while you try and find old documentation, or scramble to have work done. It could also mean that you are limited to only cash buyers, as banks may only lend on insurable properties.

"So, removing a red or yellow classification now could save you a lot of time, effort and stress in the future."

### Remember:

All work must be signed off by a Licensed Building Practitioner and the record of works submitted to Council on completion to remove a red or yellow sticker on the property house.

All electrical work must be signed off by a registered electrician and a Code of Compliance supplied along with the Licensed Building Practitioner record of works submitted to Council.

If you are unsure about the process please either call in to see one of our navigators at the flood recovery hub, or call the Council for advice. Whatever you do, don't ignore it – get it sorted!

### Don't sign off on repair work if you're not happy with it!

As a homeowner you need to be confident that the repairs to your home are up to the standard required. Removing Red or Yellow stickers from your LIM is important, but you should not sign-off work you feel is substandard or incomplete.

***If you are unsure, or are feeling pressured to sign off work that you are unsure about, get a second opinion from a trusted building professional, or contact our Navigators at the Community Hub and they can connect you to the right support.***

For details on how to change your property's classification from red or yellow to white, go to:  
[www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/flood-recovery/checklist-for-flood-affected-dwellings](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/district-council/your-council/flood-recovery/checklist-for-flood-affected-dwellings)



Text home to  
**5477**  
for latest updates

A confirmation text will be sent upon successful opt in.  
Standard msg/data rates may apply

## Support agency details

### Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS)

Phone 0508 754 163, 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday  
Or register online <https://tas.mbie.govt.nz/west-coast-flooding>

### Residential Advisory Service (RAS)

Phone 0800 777 299  
Email [info@advisory.org.nz](mailto:info@advisory.org.nz)  
[www.advisory.org.nz](http://www.advisory.org.nz)

### Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

Phone 0800 559 009  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz)



# Community and Council notices

## Covid-19 and Council services and facilities

### Council has adjusted how we deliver our services under the traffic light system.

Since the government announced Buller District with the rest of New Zealand has moved to the COVID-19 Protection Framework, we have implemented the government's requirements and guidelines for orange and red across all of our facilities while the traffic light system is in use.

Key things to know under red and orange:

- Please continue to scan in at our sites, wear a mask, maintain hand hygiene and physical distance.
- If you feel unwell, get tested and isolate, as per Ministry of Health guidelines. Vaccination is our best defence against contracting and transmitting the virus, we urge everyone to get fully vaccinated and be issued a My Vaccine Pass.
- Council will be managing visitor numbers at our facilities to ensure we can maintain physical distancing rules.
- Council offices and service centres in Westport and Reefton are open. You don't need a My Vaccine Pass to enter these facilities. You will need to scan in or sign in, wear face coverings, and follow hand hygiene, and physical distancing protocols.

**Get more information about requirements for Council's facilities like the libraries, NBS Theatre, the Westport Port, Westport Airport, and Reefton**

## Water notices

### Water supplies

Council would like to remind consumers to flush their taps with a mugful of water in the morning prior to use. This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit Council's website 'water - plumbosolvency' for details.

There are different levels of water treatment in Buller. The Cape Foulwind Water supply (Wilson's lead road and Bulls Rd) is a stock supply not intended for human use. A permanent boil water notice applies for Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mokihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Granity and Waimangaroa. Reefton is on a permanent precautionary boil water notice.

For more information contact Council or your local water supplier for Ngakawau/Hector and South Granity or visit <https://bullerdc.govt.nz/water/>

### Sewer systems

Council operates sewerage treatment in Little Wanganui, Reefton and Westport.

Please don't flush any wipes, including those labelled as flushable or paper towels into the sewer.

People who have a connection to the Orowaiti sewerage scheme are reminded that they should no longer be using septic tanks and should be connected to the reticulation.

For more details contact Council or visit [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/sewerage/](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/sewerage/)

### Storm water

It is important that storm water is not incorporated into the sewer within the Westport reticulation.

Storm water that enters the sewer must be treated as sewerage, this represents a significant cost and can cause sewer capacity problems during prolonged and heavy rainfall.



## Rates Rebate

Don't forget to submit your Rates Rebate applications for the rating year 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

Forms can be collected from Council offices in Westport and Reefton or via our website [www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz).

**Applications will be accepted until 30 June 2022.**

## Meetings February to April

Meetings are held at the Council Chambers, Palmerston Street, Westport unless otherwise stated.

The 2022 meeting calendar can be found at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings).

### ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

23 February, 3pm  
30 March, 3pm to adopt the Draft Annual Plan  
27 April, 3pm

### COMMUNITY, ENVIRONMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE

16 March, 3pm

### INANGAHUA COMMUNITY BOARD

8 February, 5pm, Reefton Women's Institute Rooms  
12 April, 5pm, Reefton Women's Institute Rooms

### FINANCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

16 February, 3pm  
20 April, 3pm

### CREATIVE NZ SUBCOMMITTEE

14 February, 11am, Brougham House

Any persons wanting to address Council during the public forum section of the meetings should contact governance assistant, email [governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz](mailto:governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz) or phone 0800 807 239.

Like what you see? Sign up to receive our newsletter via email at [www.bullerdc.govt.nz/community-newsletters](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz/community-newsletters)

6-8 Brougham St, PO Box 21, Westport 7866  
Ph 03 788 9111 or 0800 807 239

66 Broadway, PO Box 75, Reefton 7851  
Ph 03 732 8821 or 0800 808 821

[www.bullerdc.govt.nz](http://www.bullerdc.govt.nz)

24 hr Noise and Animal Control Services  
Ph 03 788 9115

After hours Operations emergencies  
Ph 03 788 9119 Westport, or 03 732 8092 Reefton