

Round Up from the Top

This has been a very busy year for ENC – a year of development and changes.

Sue Lancaster left us to pursue her passion in humanitarian aid for Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We wish her well. Sue was replaced by Carol Taplin. Carol has been Sustainability Advisor at Landcare Research Ltd (Lincoln) for the past 18 months; immediately prior to that she was 3 ½ years with Enterprise Northland in Business Improvement as a Advisor. We welcome Carol and acknowledge she brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to this role.

We also welcome Cat Hannah as our Labour Market Advisor. Cat has been employed to assist with implementing North Canterbury's Labour Market Strategy. Cat will work primarily with employers to address their seasonal labour shortages and to inform local residents and job seekers about local job vacancies. Cat spent 10 years working in the business support sector at Business Link in South Yorkshire

Our projects this year have included:

- Initiated and facilitated the inaugural North Canterbury Exceptional Business Awards. We were extremely pleased with the 60 entries received in its first year and the calibre of entries. We look forward to growing this project and event in 2009
- The successful renewal of the contract with WDC for a further three years to promote the Waimakariri District to provide visitor information services (Kaiapoi Visitor Centre), promote and market the district, create new trails and touring routes and grow events
- The official launch of the North Canterbury Food and Wine Trail by George Hickton (CEO Tourism New Zealand)
- Development of a North Canterbury Labour Market Strategy then awarded 2 years funding from Enterprising Communities to implement the strategy
- Refreshed ENC's economic development strategy 2008-2011



- Delivery of North Canterbury's Enterprise Training Programme including workshops and coaching
- Provided Networking functions for North Canterbury businesses
- After 4 years of project managing the Hurunui Water project it has now successfully been handed over to its owners (the farmers and key stakeholders). They have employed a full time project manager to bring this project (to irrigate 42,000) closer to resource consent next year.
- Successful application to the Broadband Investment Fund to carry out a feasibility study for the establishment of broadband infrastructure in North Canterbury
- Successful application to Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Tourism to deliver Sustainable Tourism Advisor in the Region (STAR). 30 businesses will be targeted

As you can see we are a busy team building the capability of businesses in North Canterbury; coordinating a variety of activities to foster an Exceptional North Canterbury by encouraging the development of exceptional businesses, experiences, land-use and infrastructure.

I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Heather

Heather Miller
General Manager



From Carol's Desk

Kai ora tatou

I don't plan to be at my desk much after February as I hope to be spending most of my time out with you! Only a few weeks ago I took on the role Business Development Manager with Enterprise North Canterbury. It's a varied role across various parts of North Canterbury's regional economic development. Broadly speaking, I'll mainly be involved in two areas.

1. Industry Projects:

Working alongside our region's sectors and businesses to help identify needs, and provide a pair of hands to help realize opportunities and get resources into the region for prosperity and sustainability.

This is essentially a 'green fields' area of discovery with and for our regions industry leaders. I'll be at home in tourism, at ease in the wine industry (!) and on a steep learning curve about dairy!

2. Business Assistance:

- As the region's biz advisor/manager (helping people in business find out what they need to know and how to get the information and contacts)
- As the region's STAR Advisor (Sustainable Tourism Advisor in the Region) and programme manager.
- I also manage the region's Enterprise Training Programme (fully-funded training workshops for people in business),
- And will project manage the annual Exceptional Business Awards and our Women in Business Forums.

Keep an eye out in the New Year for our next 6 months' schedule of fully funded Enterprise Training workshops and for information about the STAR programme. Right now it's all about getting to know you and our region, so please don't hesitate as you are on your travels, either in person or via the email, to pop in or invite me out! I look forward to working with you as our future adventures unfold.

Carol Taplin - Business Development
Email: carol@enterprisenc.co.nz
Phone: 03 310 6860

Cat's Chat

I started with ENC in October this year and my first project is undertaking a survey of the Waipara Valley Vineyards and Wineries.

Being a recent migrant to the area from South Yorkshire in the UK, this is a great way to get out there and meet the local businesses and learn more about the area and the industry.

The survey is going well; everyone that I have spoken to so far has been really helpful and provided me with loads of useful comments!

There are some really exciting opportunities becoming apparent from the information that I am gathering and I am looking forward to addressing some of these in the New Year.

I am due to finish the main surveys before the festive holidays, but would welcome comments from other interested parties that I have not spoken to; please feel free to contact me.

Catherine Hannah - Projects Adviser
Email: catherine@enterprisenc.co.nz
Phone: 03 310 6860

Labour Market - Youth Projects

We have been overwhelmed by the support offered by over 50 local businesses to the recently developed youth projects.

There have been responses from a wide range of companies from small businesses to large employers in the area which is a really positive step forward for North Canterbury in implementing its labour market strategy.

The three projects cover:

Business Mentoring by identifying future employees for local businesses;

Scholarships/Cadetships by growing our own professionals;

and the North Canterbury Careers Expo 2009 to promote our region's careers.

If you would like to know more about any of these projects please contact Denise Wiggins on (03) 310 6860.

gems in brief

LOCAL INITIATIVES

MYOB Introduction

CPIT is running a course from their Rangiora branch starting February 4th 2009. Call CPIT on 0800 24 24 76 to secure your place and lift your confidence in MYOB (Mind Your Own Business).

OTHER INITIATIVES

Enterprising Rural Woman Award 2009

Here's an award that acknowledges the challenges rural businesswomen often have to overcome on their path to success. Entry forms and full information regards the award and prizes to be won are available on the Rural Women New Zealand website www.ruralwomen.org.nz. Entries close February 16 2009.

Sustainability Best Practice Guides

The Ministry of Tourism has recently published eight best practice guides targeted at tourism operators, to help them make their businesses more sustainable. They contain practical ideas and actions businesses can take, in a wide range of areas of sustainable best practice.

- Accommodation Best Practice Guide
- Food & Wine Best Practice Guide
- Fresh Water Best Practice Guide
- Land Activities One Location Best Practice Guide
- Land Activities on the Move Best Practice Guide
- Marine Activities Best Practice Guide
- Transport Operator Best Practice Guide
- Visitor Attractions Best Practice Guide

For your free download of the guides visit <http://www.tourism.govt.nz/Info-For-Businesses/Sustainability-Best-Practice-Guides/>

Business Tax Advice

Did you know that you can access fully funded advice regards your business tax?

- How to do a GST return (record keeping & budgeting)
- Unraveling PAYE and Kiwisaver
- Income tax returns

Lou Ireland of the IRD is available to run small and focused workshops for businesses who appreciate advice

straight from the source!

If you're interested, do email Louviene. ireland@ird.govt.nz.

If there's enough interest, Lou could run one (or two or three!) next year in North Canterbury.

She is also available to work through your individual questions in a one-on-one advisory capacity so do ask!

Fresh 'n Funky Waimakariri Website...

► Get to know about the rural destinations of the Waimakariri and what each has to offer.

► Keep up to date with events, or submit your own event to have it included on the Waimakariri Events Calendar.

► Find out about the activities of the district from cooking schools, horse riding, art studios, cruising the Kaiapoi River to blasting up the Waimakariri and much much more.

Looking for something to do, somewhere to go, somewhere to take your family or your visitors?

Visit our recently launched website and discover a world of activities in your back yard.

www.visitwaimakariri.co.nz

Business Gems is produced by Enterprise North Canterbury.

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