

Christchurch Earthquake

We offer our heartfelt sympathy to the people of Christchurch after this tragic event —particularly to businesses in the CBD that have suffered loss of life or injury among their staff or their families; and for the period ahead where and if rebuilding can be undertaken.



While the state of National Emergency is in place the Clutha District Emergency Services Group is meeting weekly. For information on the resources and assistance needed in Christchurch, please contact Brendon Smith (Emergency Management (Civil Defence) Officer) by email brendon.smith@cluthadc.govt.nz or phone (03) 419 0200.

What assistance can we provide:

Registration:

If you know of anyone from Christchurch who has come to the District, please check that they have registered with the Red Cross. This can be done by contacting Ingrid Keating at the Council office (03) 419 0200 or Angela Anderson at the Balclutha iSite (03) 418 0388.

4Trades:

Do you have the capacity to take on an apprentice to ensure that their training is not interrupted, where their usual place of employment is no longer open? Apprentice coordination will be done through the Otago Chamber's 4Trades programme. If you are able to assist, please contact us with your details. Either email linda@eclutha.org.nz or phone the Otago Chamber (03) 479 0181.

Changes to Employment Relations Act and Holidays Act

Most changes will come into effect on 1 April 2011:

Key changes to the Employment Relations Act include:

- Extending the 90-day trial period to cover all businesses
- Improving personal grievance process
- Requiring employers to retain individual employment agreements (effective from 1 July 2011)
- Requiring consent to be given before a union can access a workplace, and confirming communication with employees can occur during collective bargaining
- Extending the role and power of Labour Inspectors

Key changes to the Holidays Act include:

- The option to cash-in up to one week of annual leave
- The option to agree to transfer the observance of public holidays
- Proof of sickness or injury

For more information on the changes go to the Department of Labour Website: www.ers.govt.nz



Community Law

Thursday 17 March 2011

Thursday 21 April 2011

Please phone 03 418 4048 to make an appointment

Inland Revenue

Wednesday 6 April 2011

Wednesday 4 May 2011

Phone: 03 904 0888 for an appointment



Regional Partner Network (RPN) - helping your business develop, innovate and grow

Business Assessment Tool: www.businessassessment.govt.nz

The NZ Business Assessment is a free, secure online tool that provides a structured and objective assessment to help you see the potential in your business.

After getting a sense of how your business stacks up, the tool makes it simple for you to share your information online with people who you trust to provide their professional opinion. Working with an advisor, the tool will help you identify areas for improvement, spot opportunities for growth and develop a path forward. Through the Regional Partner Network we are able to help you by assessing your business and directing you to courses, advisors, information and other business support services that will benefit you and your business. At all times, the information you provide is kept confidential and secure—you are in control of who has access to your profile and assessment results.

In some cases you may qualify for a partial subsidy, in the form of a voucher, to help pay for the cost of services that will help you build your management capabilities.

You can also access resources and information through the government's business web portal www.business.govt.nz

For more information, please contact Sarah or Linda at Enterprise Clutha, (03) 4184048.

Clutha Careers Expo

Thursday 5 May 2011

10am—3pm

Balclutha Memorial Hall

Registrations are now open for businesses and training organisations wanting to exhibit at this years expo.

Last year the event attracted over 400 people and included schools who travelled to attend. It had a strong community feel and was well supported.



If your business would like to take part, please contact Carolyn Greer, Facilitator for the Expo on (03) 418 4048.



Clutha District Youth Council

Members for the Youth Council this year are:

Danae Bradley and Tony Johnston (Blue Mountain College), Hayden Cockburn and Holly McPhee (The Catlins Area School), Natasha Cameron and Saara Cavanagh (South Otago High School), Bernie O'Sullivan and Samantha Allan (Tokomairiro High School), Terry Batt and Brianna Watt (Lawrence Area School), Brendon Morrison and Daniel Fenton (Workplace representatives) and Cr Ron Davis and Cr Chris Hargest.



2011 Youth Council with supporters on the tour of the District

Clutha District Labour Market Strategy Launch—Guest Speaker: Tony Laker

The successful launch of the strategy was attended by over 65 business people who were updated on the results of the strategy and the action plan that will see the promotion and development of new initiatives in the coming months. If you would like to receive a copy of the strategy please contact Sarah by email sarah@eclutha.org.nz.

Following the strategy presentation, Tony Laker kept the audience entertained and focused as he shared his business experience in his presentation "How the hell did that happen." No one would have left the room without taking away an idea that they could use for themselves or in their business. His key words of Attitude, Belief and Focus were the driving values behind his success and his challenge was "that if an ordinary bloke like me from Bluff can achieve what I have, then imagine what you can do."

