

Buller Arts & Recreation Trust Newsletter #1



BULLER ARTS & RECREATION TRUST

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Trustees:

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Welcome....

It is with great pleasure that the Buller Arts and Recreation Trust welcomes you with our very first newsletter to all our supporting businesses. This newsletter will keep you up to date on the district projects being undertaken to upgrade our community facilities.

I must say, it has been very heartening to see how willing our local business have been in showing support and committing pledges towards the

projects at this very early stage. This really reflects the positive drive amongst the business community to see our district move forward.

Our fundraising goal from local business is \$1million and our total achieved to date (over 5years) is \$700,000. There are still a large number of local businesses yet to be approached. In fact, we have had businesses, who feel left out, come to us offering their pledge!

So if your business or someone you know is keen to pledge please contact me or one of the trustees.

On behalf of the BART trustees, I would like to wish you all the best for the festive season, and we look forward to bringing you more news and updates in 2007.

What projects are underway?

There are a number of projects currently underway in the district, aimed at improving our community facilities.

Work is currently progressing on;

- Establishment of a sport and leisure facility in Westport
- Upgrade of the Westport CBD streetscape
- Refurbishment of the St James theatre

- Identification and prioritizing of community facilities projects in Inangahua ward
- Identification and prioritising of community facilities projects for the Seddon ward

The Buller District Council is also facilitating discussions with key stakeholders around education and the promotion of Denniston as a heritage area and tourist attraction.

There is strong community involvement in all these projects with extensive working groups (made up of community representatives and stakeholders) working to progress them.





Westport CBD upgrade

This project will see some substantial investment put into enhancing the central business district environment. This will improve the appearance and the functionality of the main street, making the business district more inviting and pleasant for residents and visitors.

Council has allocated \$250,000 to this project. Like all the community facility upgrade projects, an equal amount will come from fundraising, providing a total project budget of \$500,000.

The Streetscape group are working towards the prospect of central Palmerston Street becoming more pedestrian orientated with better placement of pedestrian crossings, traffic calming, plantings, feature lighting, shelter, seating and artworks. It is hoped that plans with some detail will be available later December/January for the public to view.

We look forward to bringing you information on these plans once the group have progressed this work.

Streetscape works have really revitalised many towns in New Zealand. This project is a real opportunity for us to breathe some new life into our business district. A working group consisting of representatives from key user and stakeholder groups is working with consultants to progress this project.

If you would like any additional information on the Streetscape project, get in touch with any members of the working group. The group is being chaired by Councillor Max Gallivan and includes representatives from local business (Kathryn Bainbridge) and the Buller Business Association (Brent Oldham).



Other project updates....

St James theatre refurbishment

A working group has been progressing this project. The Council budget for the refurbishment is \$700,000 with a further \$700,000 to be raised from external sources. The group has worked through a range of issues and presented a paper to Council at the December meeting, requesting approval for the high

level design concepts. The work is likely to involve new seating, upgrades to both the front of house, performance and backstage areas, and will address heating and ventilation issues.

Sport and Leisure facility update

Work is progressing on the tender

documents for the sport and leisure centre. Pre-registration for tenderers has been called, and the tender documents will be available for prospective contractors around April next year. The designs and concepts for the facility are available to the public and can be viewed at the Council office on Brougham Street.

A big thank you to all our local businesses who have shown their generous support through pledges.

