



BULLER
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera O Kawatiri

Connect

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



Kāhu | Swamp harrier - *Circus approximans*
Credit: ©Glenda Rees - www.nzbirdsonline.org.nz

Connect 140 February 2026

Summer Reading Mission a success



Hadley Noble
Photo by Buller District Libraries

Buller District Libraries' Summer Reading Mission was a huge success across Buller this year, with 100 young readers registering for the challenge. An impressive 75 percent of participants completed the mission, showing real commitment to reading over the summer holidays and strong enthusiasm for books among local tamariki and rangatahi.

Participants were rewarded along the way with a range of prizes, including food vouchers from Rainbow Cake Kitchen and Nana Ni's, ice cream vouchers, and other incentives such as books, stationery, and games. These rewards helped keep motivation high and celebrated reading achievements at every stage.

We also delivered a popular holiday programme in Westport and Reefton, with more than 50 children attending events inspired by the Summer Reading Mission's comic theme.

Activities included superhero movies, creative crafts, and treasure hunts.

Buller District Libraries thanks the businesses who supported our literacy programming, and we look forward to the 2027 Summer Reading Programme!



Rural Travel Fund Open now



The Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund is a collaborative initiative between Sport New Zealand and the Buller District Council.

It aims to support junior sports development in rural communities by providing financial assistance to subsidise travel expenses.



Round 1 of 1 (FY 25/26)
Closes 02/03/2026



Total allocation
\$9,100



[Click here to learn more](#)

'DrainRight' stormwater and wastewater separation inspections begin in Roebuck Street catchment

Private property inspections signalling the start of Buller District Council's stormwater and wastewater separation programme, DrainRight, are now underway in the Roebuck Street wastewater pump station catchment (see map). Affected homeowners in this area have been notified in writing if their property requires an inspection.

Many private properties in Westport currently discharge rainwater (from roofs and paved areas) directly into the wastewater (sewer) system, instead of into appropriate stormwater outlets.

While Westport's wastewater system and treatment plant work well in dry weather, medium and heavy rain events overwhelm the system, causing wastewater to overflow into the Buller and Orowaiti Rivers and often onto backyards and streets, placing additional pressure on pump stations and downstream infrastructure.

The resource consent that previously allowed these overflows has now expired and to renew the consent, the West Coast Regional Council requires BDC to commit to a programme to reduce the volume of stormwater in our wastewater network over the next 10 years. The inspections are required to ensure compliance with the conditions of the new discharge consent.

The DrainRight programme focuses on identifying and fixing stormwater-wastewater cross-connections on private property to help reduce the amount of stormwater entering the wastewater network. If an issue is found on your property following inspection, you will

receive a letter explaining what needs to be done.

Council will then engage a certified drainlayer to fix any cross connections. This work is a beneficial improvement to the property, provided at no cost to the homeowner, and will be noted on the property's Land Information Memorandum (LIM).

If residents who receive an inspection letter have any questions about the process involved, they can email drainright@bdc.govt.nz. Inspections won't take place without advance notice and agreement.

Further catchments across Westport will be inspected as the programme progresses.

Roebuck St Catchment



Buller District Libraries drop-off points for Handbag Appeal

Meetings Feb - March 2026

For the third year in a row, the Sue Thomson Casey Memorial Library in Westport and the Reefton Visitor and Service Centre are proud to be 2026 drop-off points for the Love Grace Handbag Appeal, supporting women in our community who are affected by family violence.

Running from 14 February (Valentine's Day) to 8 March (International Women's Day), the appeal invites people across Aotearoa to donate handbags filled with everyday essentials. These thoughtfully prepared bags are shared through Women's Refuge services and given to women who have left unsafe situations, providing practical support along with a powerful message of care and solidarity.

Family violence impacts communities nationwide, with Women's Refuge services responding to an average of 71 crisis calls every day. Although the appeal was established in memory of Grace Millane, it continues to support Kiwi women from all walks of life.

To learn which items to include in your bags, visit: bullerlibraries.nz find us on facebook, or speak with staff at Buller District Libraries.



**DONATE A
HANDBAG FILLED
WITH ESSENTIALS
FOR WOMEN IN
NEED**

14th February - 8th March 2026

The full meeting calendar can be found at: bullerdc.govt.nz/meetings

Please check the calendar for any updates and additional meetings.

Workshop: Annual Plan 2026/27
• 25 February, starting 12:00 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Ordinary Council Meeting
• 25 February, starting 3:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Inangahua Community Board Meeting
• 10 March, starting 5:00 pm
Reefton Women's Institute Rooms

Community Committee Meeting
• 11 March, starting 3:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Risk and Audit Committee Meeting
• 11 March, starting 5:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Workshop: Strategic Risk Register
• 18 March, starting 3:00 pm
Clocktower Chambers

Ordinary Council Meeting
• 25 March, starting 3:30 pm
Clocktower Chambers

All Council meetings will be livestreamed to Council's YouTube channel. There may be elements of the meeting that are public excluded. The meeting agenda will explain why the public is excluded under LGOIMA 1987.

A public forum session is available at the beginning of Ordinary Council meetings. If you want to address Council during the public forum session or have any questions about these meetings please contact:

Governance Assistant,
phone: **0800 807 239** or email:
governance.assistant@bdc.govt.nz

Water supplies

Council reminds consumers to flush their taps by letting about a mugful of water run through in the morning, prior to use.

This applies to all supplies including rainwater. Visit Council's web page: bullerdc.govt.nz/plumbosolvency for details.

A permanent boil water notice applies for Little Wanganui Subdivision, Mōkihinui, Ngakawau/Hector, South Grnity and Waimangaroa.



Funding from the Creative Communities Scheme is available for community-based arts activities in the Buller District.

The Scheme aims to increase participation in the arts at a local level and increase the range and diversity of arts available to communities.



Round 3 of 3 (FY 25/26)
Closes 09/03/2026

[Click here to learn more](#)

Hughes Place stormwater outfall upgrade

Buller District Council has begun works to renew and upgrade a section of the Hughes Place/Disraeli Street stormwater main near the Buller River, at the western end of Hughes Place and The Esplanade.

Buller District Council has begun works to renew and upgrade a section of the Hughes Place/Disraeli Street stormwater main near the Buller River, at the western end of Hughes Place and The Esplanade.

These works form part of a series of improvements to this key stormwater asset and will upsize the pipeline and align its capacity with newly determined stormwater modelling data to accommodate current and future needs.

The works will be carried out in a staged process by contractor WestReef Services Limited, forming part of an ongoing strategy to help resolve long-standing upstream drainage issues, such as those

experienced on the corner of Disraeli and Queen Streets and in southern Peel Street during local heavy rain events.

The project will be undertaken ahead of any potential floodwall activities planned for the same general area, preparing for the future with the installation of long-life, brand-new pipes and structures.

The work is technical in nature, extending deep underground and utilising deep trench shields and box shields during construction. These protect staff working onsite and have

the advantage of stabilising the surrounding ground and allowing excavation widths and trench benching requirements to be kept to the smallest possible footprint.

The budget for this repair is \$600,000, which is being co-funded by central government's Better-Off Funding (\$200,000) and existing BDC stormwater budgets (\$400,000). It is expected the project will be completed in late March, weather and river conditions permitting.

There will be no disruption to the Kawatiri Coastal Trail (KCT) itself for the duration of this work. During the second half of project construction, the carpark for the KCT near the Buller Bridge will not be available, but the trail will still be open and accessible.

There will be no through-route available on the Kawatiri River Trail (KRT) from the Toki Poutangata Bridge to the Buller Bridge for the duration of the project, however trail users can use the footpath or road along The Esplanade to connect with the KCT to Carters Beach. While the through-route will be blocked at the upstream end of the river trail, the rest of the KRT's internal loop will remain open throughout. Signage will be placed at the trailhead to advise users.

Council apologises for any inconvenience to trail users

Westport office
6-8 Brougham Street, PO Box 21,
Westport 7866, New Zealand
Freephone 0800 807 239
Phone 03 788 9111

Reefton Visitor & Service Centre
67-69 Broadway, PO Box 75,
Reefton 7851, New Zealand
Phone 03 732 8821
Phone 03 732 8391

24 hr Noise & Animal Control Services
Phone 03 788 9115
After hours Operations emergencies
Phone 03 788 9119 Westport,
or 03 732 8821 Reefton



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