



Wherever I Roam, The Coast Is My Home

December the 24th 2015.

At the Coasters' Club we wish you all a very Merry Christmas. It's been a brilliant year and we continue to grow our very exclusive little club.

To celebrate the passing of 2015 we thought a good way would be for those most popular Coaster posts on Facebook to share a bit of Christmas cheer with you.

The Coasters' Club mission statement is: We will connect with as many people with current or former links to the West Coast as possible with the aim of bringing them home to visit and reconnect.

Our main objectives: Engage and mobilize people with West Coast connections around the World. Invite them home to see family and join our celebrations. Have Coasters generate tourism revenue from those coming home to boost our local economies. Promote pride in the West Coast at home and abroad. Celebrate Coasters' outstanding achievements and contributions to our communities.

12,308 members, and with our Facebook's weekly reach exceeding 225,000, now tell you part of the story. Our next target is 20,000 members and a Friday email to 100,000 Coast supporters (it's 28,000 at present) as we continue our small contribution to helping build a sustainable West Coast tourism sector.

Just spotted at the White Heron Sanctuary and it's wonderful to see Shirley, Ken and the team getting into the Christmas spirit at White Heron Sanctuary Tours in Whataroa.



Now a message from Mike Keenan a Coaster: The Coasters' Club Patron.



Another Christmas draws near and another year comes to a close. As you get older the years just fly by quicker. It certainly has been a very busy year for "THE COASTERS' CLUB", with 12,308 members, the Facebook weekly reach sometimes exceeding 225,000, and THE COASTERS newsletter send out to 28,000 people. WOW!

I like reading the daily West Coast forecast from Mark Crompton, who is so accurate with his predications. All the positive local profiles and photos of people, a lot of you did not know their full story . As they say "Everyone has a story to tell. "Their own".

To the team at THE COASTERS CLUB.....a big thanks for getting all that great news and information out there "Well Done".

In my role as community development officer for both Kumara & Ross, I am so impressed with these small towns with all the voluntary work that they do for their communities. We

are lucky to have get up and go active people Coast wide who want to make a difference to their towns.

I have had too many highlands this year for me to mention them all. In Ross we had the generous work of Matt Dove and his staff with the clearing of blackberries/gorse and other vegetation from the Totara bridge to Beach road for the newly opened Hokitika to Ross section of the cycle trail.

The Ross 150th Committee did a grand job in organizing two full days of events and activities over Labour Weekend to celebration their 150th birthday.....well done. Biddy Manera must be the most passionate person I know in Ross, for all her community projects, from the Ross Domain Memorial tree planting/Ross Cemetery land issue/to the planned Chinese Memorial garden alongside the Lake in Ross.

Jim Manera at 89 years young mows the big Ross domain sport ground on a weekly basis, which takes him 4-5 hours on his ride-on mower. He collects around 7 trailer loads of grass clippings... what a worker and such a modest man.

In Kumara there is Fiona Pollard who is the chairperson of the Kumara Residents Trust who, like Biddy in Ross, is so passionate on making Kumara a leader for other small towns on the West Coast to follow, with the information panels on the town's history and its people. With the planned Kumara Chinese Miners Memorial reserve which will be a great welcome to visitors and tourists hitting the gateway to the West Coast.

Phyllis Stuart, in her late eighties, is a grand lady always in involved with things in Kumara. There is a moral to these elder people being so active in their communities, they certainly will not rust out.

Finally I would like to wish all THE COASTERS CLUB members a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2016 New Year.

Mike Keenan

Hokitika Community Christmas Dinner

PS – You are invited to join us for Christmas dinner we provide the dinner & fellowship, at West Rugby clubrooms 12pm Midday on 25 Dec 2015.

Mark Crompton a Coaster: our weather guru.



‘Your Weather Guru is the bearer of glad tidings: it looks like it will be fine and sunny for the whole of the Christmas period from Wednesday the 23rd through to and including Sunday the 27th – just perfect for those picnics and BBQ’s. Have a great Christmas and in the New Year I wish you fair winds and kind seas.’

Patrick Phelps a Coaster:



"I work in Dunedin....but I'm from Hokitika originally!" Often the response I give when people ask where I'm from. Heaven forbid someone mistake me for a Cantabrian or worse still a Southlander.

It never feels like I'm away from the Coast for too long, I must drive back and forth about once a month or so. The drive through the Canterbury high country from the top of Porter's Pass is pleasant, whether it's the snow on the tops in winter, or the water shimmering on Lake Pearson in summer, but it can never go fast enough.

I just can't wait for the feeling of relaxation, of being home, when you cross the 'Westland District' sign just by the Otira viaduct, an area I've come to call 'the border'.

So to all Coasters no matter where you live and no matter how small your connection to the Coast is have a Merry Christmas and be safe.

Dozer Whyte a Coaster:



Scotty Alison a Coaster:



Dave Healy a Coaster:



Dr Anna a Coaster:



Ben Patterson a Coaster:



Firstly, congratulations on a great year with the coasters club.

Your initiative behind this great concept is especially apparent. I enjoy your daily or as it happens updates. Mark's weather segment on his weather views is also very good too.

On behalf of the team at Wilderness Wings, we would like thank everyone for supporting us, especially the hard working people in the I-Sites and accommodation sectors for their valuable support throughout the year....**I very much enjoy flying people from every corner of the globe over our magnificent mountains and glaciers...Merry Christmas to all.**

Ben Patterson Owner/Operator Wilderness Wings

Hokitika Airport 0800 755 8118 fly@wildernesswings.co.nz

Jason Smart a Coaster:



Hi Coasters.

Wishing you all the very best for Christmas. I hope you enjoy the wonderful scenery that the Coast has to Boast. Enjoy family and friends and remember how lucky we are to live in such a wonderful place. May all your dreams and plans come true for the New Year.

All the very best Jason Smart.

Dr Haley Pugh, a Coaster:



Hello to the Coasters' Club followers and members!

This year marks the first time in almost ten years that I have found myself back living on the beautiful West Coast in a permanent role, and I love it!

Many thanks to everyone who has supported me, sent well wishes and messages of encouragement, and generally made me feel so welcomed back to the greatest place in the world. My year was made special by my mum, Maureen, becoming an MP. Such a great honour.

I hope you all have a fantastic Christmas and New Year, and celebrate the opportunity to spend quality time with loved ones. Stay safe over the holiday period, and enjoy eating trifle for breakfast on Boxing Day without people thinking you're strange – it's the only day of the year you'll get away with it!

Merry Christmas! I hope the jolly fat man in the red suit spoils you all!

Dr Sarah Olson a Coaster:

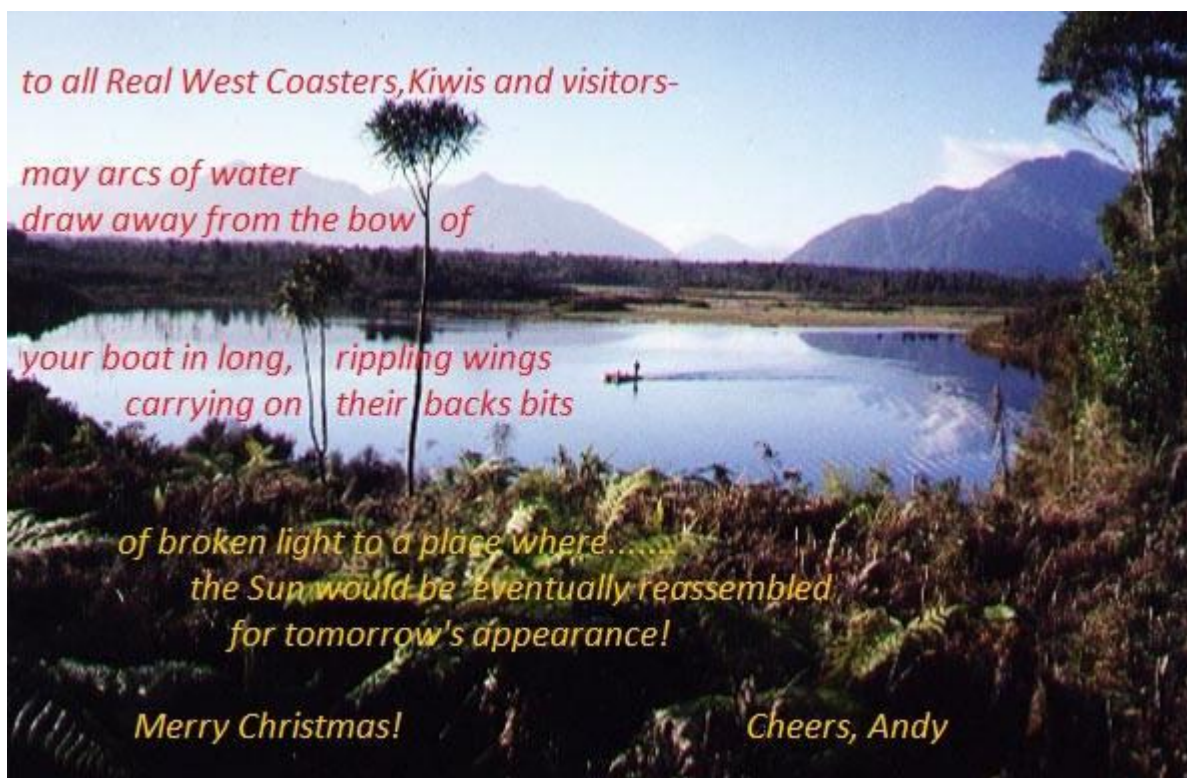


Neurosurgeon Sarah Olson nominated for Pride of Australia Care and Compassion Medal



This Coast girl is a world leader in her field. The daughter of Jon and Rayleen Olson from Hokitika.

Andy Grigg, a Coaster:





Johnny Currie a Coaster:





The Buller District abounds with natural attractions and wildlife, perfect for photographing. Its leading wildlife attraction is a trip in specially modified army vehicles, certified by Government, to watch wild red deer frolicking in their natural habitat.

This is called 'Johnny's Journey' and is named after the property owner, Johnny Currie, who has protected the wild deer for more than 30 years.

Johnny now hosts visitors, telling stories about his life living with the deer in the Awakari Valley.

Johnny's Journey is a must for visitors to Buller. The property's scenic backdrops have been used by film companies because of its outstanding lush green forests, high ranging limestone cliffs and crystal clear rivers.

The Old Ghost road our pick for attraction of the year.



Our most viewed scenery shot for 2015:

The beautiful Lake Matheson South Westland.



Paul Davidson, a Coaster, with his daughter Marie Louise:



Now here we are today it's Christmas 2015. Sharon and I have two children, Marie Louise and Colin, and both have got the same sound values that come from the family back ground. We have 2 grandchildren and I am a happy man.

Outside my family the thing that I'm really focused on is extending the experience at the Hokitika Gorge with hopefully extra tracks and maybe one day a second swing bridge. It's staggering the number of overseas visitors that stop and talk to us and are blown away by the beauty of the area.

So to all my mates out there and the many people I've met over the years, to the people I have not met, the people I've played sports with, the people I work with have a Merry Christmas with your family and if we make 2016 is as good as 2015 then we are all in good shape.

Wendy Bryan a Coaster:



Hi Coasters:

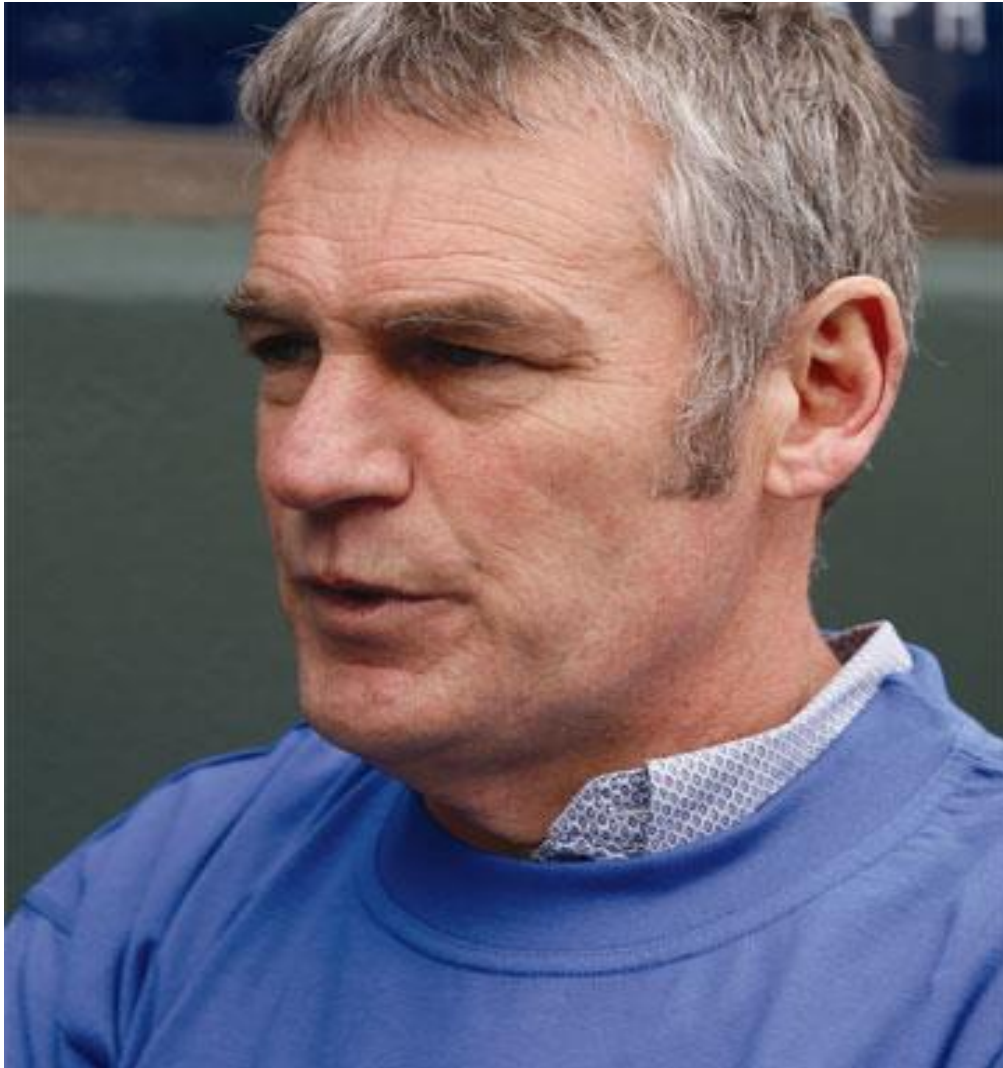
I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my friends and family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. Also to all the awesome customers that have made my first year so enjoyable at Fitzherbert Street Four Square. To my two amazing bosses for their help and support in getting me back in the work force. Shirley Grant and Yvonne Manera, may you both have an amazing Christmas with your families. My Fitzy workmates, love you all.

Remember to take care of those around you and don't let your mates get into cars and drive if they have been drinking. If you are travelling take care on our roads as some visitors don't quite have all the rules of New Zealand roads sorted.

Love, peace and happiness over the holidays and I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Wendz

Brent Oldham a Coaster:



Hi, Coasters Club you asked me to write a Christmas message for the Coaster's Club.

Those that live here will know that, as bad as 2015 has been, 2016 isn't shaping up to be much better. I heard a lot of griping and negative comments about the place (and some of the people) and if I could get one wish for next year, it's this:

As a region, the entire Coast needs to forget and, where possible, forgive the past. Learn from it, accept the challenges and get moving forward.

Nothing changes because we want it to – it changes because someone decides it has to and does something about it.

There are some wonderful people here. People that get stuck in and make a difference. Some people don't think they have the time, energy or skills to contribute much – but everyone can do something.

Take pride in where you live, if you see rubbish on the street: pick it up. If your neighbour's grounds are a mess: help them out for an hour with your lawnmower.

Wave to the tourists on the roads and help them out if they need it - our future is going to depend, more than ever, on our global reputation.

Above all else: if you hear those tired old gripes (especially if they are coming from your own mouth), keep in mind that everyone/everywhere has problems. The only thing a gripe will get you is sympathy. If you want change: offer solutions and people **will** help you achieve them.

I hope everyone will enjoy the Christmas and New Year break, spending valuable time with friends and family alike.

Roll on 2016, then let's all roll up our sleeves and get this place sorted....



Brent Oldham | Managing Director | IT@work
T (03) 789 5239 M 027 271 9716 F (03) 789 5267
149 Palmerston St, Westport 7825 New Zealand

Mr Ord a Coaster:



Gerry Morris a Coaster:



Bruce Smith a Coaster and the man we appointed to grow the club over a three year period:



To the Coasters' Club members and followers worldwide thank you for your support.

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

The Club was established so we could share our stories, promote the Coast to the World, to do our wee bit for tourism, to establish a platform to allow Coast made product to reach the world markets and to establish an online publication promoting just what a positive caring group of communities it is that make up the Coast. Finally, to those people that email in photos and posts every day you are the powerhouse behind the Club. Thank you, and keep it going.

Bruce Smith

Coasters' Club Development Team.