



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



Regional Economic Development Weekly Report

Week ending:	1 December 2017	Priority:	Medium
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Recipient	Action sought
Hon Shane Jones Minister for Regional Economic Development	Note the contents of this Weekly Report

John Doorbar
Manager, Regions and Cities
Tourism, Sectors, Regions and Cities

..... / /

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Economic Development

..... / /

Minister's comments:

Regional Economic Development Weekly Report

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Updates

Ōpōtiki school-leavers into boat building apprenticeships

Whakatōhea Mussels Ōpōtiki Limited (WMOL) is buying a second mussel farming boat to service the 3800 ha aquaculture farm off of the coast of Ōpōtiki.

As part of the contract between WMOL and **Commercial Information** school-leavers from Ōpōtiki will be trained as apprentices in Auckland.

The jobs are full-time permanent positions building a career opportunity for those young people.

Attached are the news articles from the Whakatāne Beacon about the jobs for Ōpōtiki school-leavers.

Contact Person:
Stuart Taylor, **Privacy of**

Research on the transitions to self-employment and the creation of new jobs

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has funded **Privacy of natural persons** to produce research on the self-employment behaviour of New Zealanders. **Privacy of natural persons** is an economist specialising in business and labour economics, with a particular interest in understanding New Zealand workers, firms and jobs. The research addresses two questions:

1. What characteristics are associated with entrepreneurship (starting a self-employed business)?
2. Which individual characteristics are associated with the transition from self-employment to employing others?

The paper examines gaps in rates of self-employment by gender and ethnicity, particularly for Māori and Pasifika, over the period 2005-2015. The results suggest that all non-European ethnicities are less likely to start a business than Europeans, and these gaps are particularly high for Māori and Pasifika peoples. Māori and Pasifika are also more likely to exit self-employment within five years if they start a business, and are less likely to transition from self-employment to employing others. These gaps persist even when controlling for skill and labour market experience.

Privacy of natural persons will be presenting the research results at a seminar at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on Wednesday 13 December. We assess that the communication risks surrounding the presentation are low as the majority of attendees will be government officials. We will provide you with a full briefing on the results of the research once the report is finalised. If you would like any information about the research in the meantime please contact us.

Contact Person:
Corey Allan, **Privacy of**

Tourism in Northland – case study videos

In an effort to better communicate our work in supporting the tourism industry, and to put a human face to the benefits of tourism to regional communities, MBIE has created a series of short video clips on tourism in Northland.

These clips are intended as a pilot, and will be published on our website and via social media channels. Should they prompt sufficient public engagement, we will look to produce further videos in other regions, as this can be done cheaply and easily in-house.

You can view the draft videos produced so far via the private links below. We will look to publish the videos by Friday 8 December 2017.

Twin Coast Cycle Trail

Clip one: Commercial Information

Clip two: Commercial Information

Clip three: Commercial Information

Benefits of tourism in Northland

Privacy of natural persons, Ngawha Springs: Commercial Information

Privacy of natural persons, Northland Inc: Commercial Information

Privacy of natural persons, business owner/accountant Commercial Information

Contact person:
Kerry Thomas, Privacy of

Visit to Kaikōura to monitor the business community

On 22 November, Enterprise Policy visited Kaikōura to monitor the business community and to investigate the National Recovery Office's (NRO) report that businesses in Kaikōura were concerned that the 2017/18 peak season would produce low visitor numbers.

Visitor numbers

We spoke to accommodation providers and tourism operators, including the two largest; Whale Watch and Dolphin Encounter.

- They were uniformly positive about the approaching season's prospects. General opinion is that the season will be at least as good as 2015.
- The three Moteliers also reported they had just enjoyed their best winter performance (see June 2017 in the graph below).
- Dolphin Encounters compared November 2017's forward bookings for the Jan-Mar 2018 period and said that the current bookings were sitting at 116 per cent of the same time in 2015 (and only 18 per cent down from 2016).
- Whale Watch was also optimistic and their forward bookings are sitting at approximately 80 per cent of 2015 levels.

Staffing

While Dolphin Encounter and Whale Watch have secured a full complement of seasonal staff, other businesses in Kaikōura reported finding staff, and accommodation for staff, the main challenge. In addition to finding a room for staff, providers said they couldn't compete with the hours NCTIR could offer for work on the infrastructure rebuild.

Insurance

In addition to visitor numbers, the NRO reported concerns that commercial insurance claim settlement was an ongoing impediment to recovery.

The Kaikōura business community would benefit from insurance education to help them resist any future disruption so we've asked the CECC to see if they can deliver the material to a wider audience through the soon to be formalised (MBIE funded) Kaikōura business association.

There will continue to be hardship stories from Kaikōura and we will continue to monitor the business community, but we consider that business recovery is now assured and well underway.

Contact Person:
Karl Woodhead, 04 901 1458

Business Recovery Grant Programme (BRGP)

As at 29 November, 55 grant applications have been received; 43 from Kaikōura businesses and 12 from Hurunui businesses.

In total:

- Twenty-four grant applications have been approved for a total of \$Commercial Information.
- Twenty-three grant applications have been declined.
- Three grant applications are awaiting further information.
- Five grant applications have been withdrawn.

An administrator is continuing to contact and offer help to businesses with incomplete applications.

Contact Person:
Karl Woodhead, 04 901 1458

Media and Communications Schedule

Timing	Events and Announcements	Proposed activity
Feb 18 - TBC	Waikato Regional Economic Development Action Plan launch	Your office will be provided with communications material
Feb 18 - TBC	Taranaki Action Plan launch	Your office will be provided with communications material
TBC	Bay of Plenty Ministerial visit Tauranga/ Rotorua and potential announcements	Officials are working with your office on relevant material

Upcoming Regional Visits

Timing	Region	Proposed activity
7/8 Dec 17	Bay of Plenty	TBC
Week ending 15 Dec 17	Manawatū/Whanganui	TBC
Week ending 22 Dec 17	West Coast	TBC

Upcoming Briefings

Due Ministers Office	Title	Sign Out Manager
Commercial Information		
28 Nov 17	He Poutama Rangatahi: tackling entrenched NEET rates in four regions	John Doorbar
30 Nov 17	Canterbury Regional Economic Development: Regional Growth Initiatives Funding	John Doorbar
1 Dec 17	Waitangi National Trust – Maori Battalion Museum	Karen Adair MCH & Iain Cossar
1 Dec 17	Support for Wairoa Regional Economic Development Initiatives	John Doorbar
1 Dec 17	Draft Ōpōtiki Harbour Development Cabinet Paper	Paul Stocks
1 Dec 17	He Poutama Rangatahi: Appropriation funding options	Iain Cossar
1 Dec 17	Meeting with Accelerate 25 Lead Team, 4 December 2017	John Doorbar
1 Dec 17	Cabinet paper on Funding the He Poutama Rangatahi/Youth Employment Pathways Strategy	John Doorbar
11 Dec 17	Provincial Growth Fund: Principles, Criteria, Investment framework	John Doorbar
15 Dec 17	Regional Growth Programme evaluation report and government's response	John Doorbar
18 Dec 17	Ōpōtiki Harbour Development	John Doorbar
Date TBC	Release of the Regional Economic Development Briefing	John Doorbar

Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Requestor's Name	Tracking number and Request	Due to Minister	Due to Requestor	Status	Sign Out Manager
Privacy of [REDACTED]	REDI OIA 03	15 Dec 17			John Doorbar

Departmental Official Information Act Requests

Requestor's Name	Tracking number and Request	Due to Minister	Due to Requestor	Status	Sign Out Manager
Privacy of [REDACTED]	1718-0509 Information regarding Wellington City Council's proposed "City Deal"	1 Dec 17	8 Dec 17	Gathering information	John Doorbar

Ministerial Correspondence

Requestor's Name	Tracking number and Request	Due to Minister	Sign Out Manager
Privacy of [REDACTED]	SJ104	15 Dec 17	John Doorbar
Privacy of [REDACTED]	SJ105	15 Dec 17	John Doorbar
Privacy of [REDACTED]	REDI1718-002	With office	John Doorbar

Reception

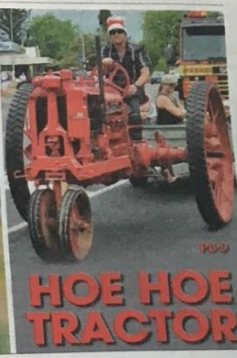
80c (Delivery: 70c urban, 75c rural) | Tuesday, November 28, 2017

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7S MAKE TOP 4 P23



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HOE HOE TRACTOR

Second mussel boat delivers new jobs



- New \$3m mussel boat
- Six jobs for Opotiki school-leavers

■ Story page 2

NEW BOAT: Michael Eaglen and Peter Vitasovich look over plans for the new mussel boat.
 Photo: Louis Klaassen D6265-14



Nurse discharged without conviction after man loses four fingers

Judge refuses name suppression

■ Story page 3

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Part of the Community of New Zealand, and the Whakatane Association.

Boat jobs for Opotiki school-leavers

Karia Akuhata
Staff reporter

AN Auckland boatbuilding business has signed a deal with Whakatohea Mussels to build a \$3 million boat and create jobs for up to six Opotiki school-leavers.

McMullen&Wing chief executive Michael Eaglen was in Opotiki yesterday to sign the contract with Whakatohea Maori Trust Board and Whakatohea Mussels.

Under the agreement, the company will construct an aluminium boat purpose-built for mussel farming. Mr Eaglen said a strong component of the deal was to create jobs for Opotiki people and he was in the area looking to employ six young adults from the town to take on job training scholarships with the company.

He said the positions were permanent and fulltime.

"We understand that [Whakatohea



Michael Eaglen, McMullen&Wing chief executive

Mussels] is owned by local people in Opotiki and there is a lot of community involvement and a lot of the people here in the community know about it and feel invested in it.

"So, it makes sense that we hire people that have an involvement with the community because it will mean that they will have a strong connection to the boat.

"This project is supporting people to become involved in the boat building industry. We plan to ... work with the iwi here and with the school itself to find people who want to work on the boat and perhaps start a career in the boat building industry."

The boat would be very similar to the Northern Quest, which is being used by Whakatohea Mussels for harvesting, although it would be slightly shorter.

Mr Eaglen said the boat would be built in Auckland so it would require those who were to be employed to relocate. Given this, he was looking for Opotiki people who had support people in Auckland that could help with the initial period of transition.

He said he expected the work on the boat would begin in the new year but was hoping to employ people before Christmas.

"Moving to the city is a big thing for any kid from any area and it is a big transition to move for work and move away from your support base and close family.

"So, we are looking for people who have support in Auckland that could help them get themselves set up."

He said he believed the jobs would provide employment and also the opportunity to carve out an interesting career.

"I am here in Opotiki to encourage the kids that might be interested in taking up the opportunity to do so. I think there is a real bright future for people in the boat building industry.

"We are seeing a lot of growth, particularly in the commercial boat building area and I truly believe that those who take up the jobs will only be limited by their own capability and what they can dream of."

Mr Eaglen said McMullen&Wing had a strong history and had been operating from its site on the Tamaki River, in Auckland, for more than 50 years.

"We have built fishing boats to super-yachts, and everything in between including the boat that won the

Second boat to increase capability

WHAKATOHEA Mussels chief executive Peter Vitasovich will present a deal that will allow the company to build a second boat and increase capacity.

Mr Vitasovich is scheduled to present the deal at the Whakatohea Mussels annual meeting today.

He said he was proud they had reached the stage where a second boat was required.

"Part of the annual meeting was confirming and signing the contract with McMullen&Wing so that we can build a second marine-farming vessel to complement the Northern Quest.

"Currently the business has grown, and we are very pleased with the results and performance."

Mr Vitasovich said the second boat would increase capability on the water and allow further development on the marine farm in the future.

"It is a proud moment for the company to be building another vessel and we are very proud to be signing with a company like McMullen&Wing that has a strong reputation in the industry."

He said he was also very pleased that the deal provided employment for people from Opotiki.

"It is a great result, not only do we get a new vessel, but we also get to create jobs in Opotiki, which could lead to a career in boat building.

"And in the future, we are hopefully going to want to build more boats and we will have people who have skills in this area as a result of the agreement."

America's Cup in 1995."

Mr Eaglen said he expected the jobs would provide an avenue into an interesting career.

He said while they hadn't signed any deal to provide work for New Zealand's boat in the next America's Cup, they expected to gain business from through tourism including work on many of the super yachts that would come to New Zealand because of the competition.

"We would be supporting and providing support for the tourism, rather than building boats for the Americas cup but it will provide a career with huge variety."

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