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LPCUpdate

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Lyttelton Port Company Community Newsletter

PORT NEWS

Whaka-Ora partnership continues to bloom

The Whaka-Ora collaboration agreement was recently re-signed by the five organisations, renewing the group for another three years.

The agreement was first signed in 2018 when Christchurch City Council, Environment Canterbury, Te Hapū o Ngāti Wheke, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Lyttelton Port Company started Whaka-Ora to support the health of the harbour.

Since then, the group has achieved significant milestones that support ki uta ki tai – from the mountain to the sea.

Like the Kaimahi for Nature programme operating at Living Springs and Rāpaki, which has reported 15 kilometres of fences maintained, 11 kilometres of tracks created, over 35,000 plants in the ground and over 3,000 predators removed.

Co-chair Yvette Couch-Lewis says that, to



reach new heights over the next three years, we must remember the past and the work that has got us to this point.

"This plan came from the community, and it is important we have buy-in from them," says Yvette.

"The magnitude and importance of the mahi we are doing is woven into the plan and into the korowai that represents us."

Co-chair Kirstie Gardener says LPC is committed to providing support, funding and expertise to the partnership.

"Whaka-Ora is not only supported by the five partner organisations but many groups, community members and research organisations that have and continue to

deliver outcomes towards the goals," says Kirstie.

For the co-chairs, it's not just about maintaining but improving.

This was reinforced by the governance team represented by each organisation.

This work encompasses returning the hills to native forest and wildlife through to returning the ocean to mahinga kai while ensuring this is also supported by regulatory framework at the council.

Having now all signed on, the group will continue to work together on initiatives around the harbour.

"A waka can't be paddled on its own, and we are stronger together," says Yvette.

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Lyttelton basks in SailGP afterglow

Lyttelton was the world’s sailing capital for two days, with sell-out crowds, helicopters and fast, furious racing on the harbour.



SailGP Lyttelton Head of Operations Pete Dawson said Lyttelton ticked all the boxes and delivered a stunning spectator experience.

“This event, more than any others, fitted the inner harbour, stadium-spectator experience that SailGP was built for,” says Pete.

Lyttelton was chosen ahead of Auckland and Wellington and was the perfect location for spectators to see racing up close from on shore and the many vantage points around the township.

“There was no need to be out on the water to watch this ... the boats were 50–100 metres from the grandstand,” Pete added.

Stunning pictures of Lyttelton and Banks Peninsula were sent around the world, including the millions who watched it streamed live [on YouTube](#).

“This was quite different for SailGP that you have the Port Hills and Banks Peninsula. Often you would see skyscrapers in the background, so visually the backdrop was unique.”

SailGP recognised the ‘unbelievable’ support from the community, council and Lyttelton Port Company.

“We can’t speak highly enough of the fantastic footprint, fan zone and entrances for the public.

The event could not have been held without the support of the Lyttelton Port Company, who made our facilities available, shutting down the harbour to commercial traffic so we could run a safe event.”

The next ITM New Zealand Sail Grand Prix event will be held in Auckland before returning to Lyttelton in 2025.

Our half year results

LPC’s net profit after tax (NPAT) for the six months at the end of December 2022 was \$12.1 million, despite a slowdown in the market. .

This is ahead of budget but down 2.61% on the equivalent period last year (\$12.4 million).

LPC CEO Kirstie Gardener says the strong revenue result is pleasing given the challenging economic environment.

“While certain trades have been negatively impacted and we have seen increasing inflation pressures, the overall result reflects positively on our diversified revenue streams, including the return of cruise vessels,” says Kirstie.

A market slowdown and the economy’s tightening saw container imports fall while exports remained strong.

Marine, cruise and bulk cargo revenue remained upbeat due to increased vessel visits, boosted by the return of large cruise ships.

“We expect the second half of this year to be similar to the first half,” says Kirstie.

“Our focus remains on delivering key infrastructure projects, managing a challenging environment around increasing operating costs and playing our role in supporting the return to normality and schedule for the container side of our business.”

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Some of LPC’s half-year highlights:



Large-scale cruise vessels returned to Whakaraupō/Lyttelton Harbour on 27 October 2022 – the first time since the Christchurch earthquakes.



The Eastern Development Programme continues with new truck lanes, **refrigeration** towers and electrical work to be completed by April 2023.



The new workshop project is progressing well and will be completed by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.



Separate projects are about to get under way to improve the inner harbour and CityDepot. These projects will provide better facilities for customers and enhance these sites’ safety and environmental performance.



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Lyttelton Tug Master and 18 times NZ rowing champion

Ian Smallman has a deep connection to the water. For over 26 years, Ian has worked at LPC, rising from a labourer in the straddle bay to Tug Master on the water, skilfully guiding large vessels in and out of the harbour.

Ian’s love for the water extended beyond his work – he was also a New Zealand rowing champion.

Born in Gisborne, Ian was first introduced to rowing at Tauranga Boys’ College as a teenager.

He quickly became passionate about the sport and competed at the highest level, winning 18 national rowing titles and competing in five world championships in the fours and eights.

Ian’s only regret was not making the 2004 Athens Summer Olympics, ousted by up-and-comer Eric Murray in the men’s coxless fours.

“Didn’t quite make it ... that was my goal,” says Ian.

Despite his success on the world stage, rowing was an amateur sport in the late 90s. Ian’s rowing coach Ray Flanagan got him a job at LPC at age 22 where he worked in various positions, including as a relieving deckhand on the tugs Purau and Godley.

Eventually, Ian landed a job as a Pilot Boat Skipper, and for the last four years, he has been a full-time Tug Master.

The 48-year-old’s work as a Tug Master requires high skill and expertise, guiding large vessels in and out of the Port in tricky conditions.

“I love handling the vessel. It’s always fun, and it’s like playing with a big toy,” smiles Ian.

“There are pressure waves that come off ships, suction waves, and then there is the weather, the wharf, obstructions that you have to negotiate as well. It is always challenging.

Ian works closely together with Tug Engineer Dave Price on the tugs Piaka and Blackadder.

“Having Dave and another set of eyes is really good. You build up that trust, we are a team.”

Ian says he likes doing the smaller Russian trawlers and vessels in and out of the dry dock.

I enjoy doing the tricky ones – pushing a container vessel around is basic and straightforward. Still, it is that skill of manoeuvring the tug, not putting weight on the line or not touching the hull holding position that I enjoy,” he says.

After retiring from rowing competitions, Ian was asked to help guide the St Margaret’s

College rowing teams and is head coach.

“I am always on the water, whether it is at work or driving a little dinghy with a 15 horse outboard giving words of encouragement to the teenage girls through the megaphone,” says Ian.

The private girls’ school even has a boat named after him – the Ian Smallman – in recognition of their world-class coach.

“It is the only eight in the shed that hasn’t won, which is frustrating,” he laughs.

Ian credits much of his sporting success to the support from LPC at the height of competing on the world stage.

“I worked in the workshop over six months and then went away and trained and competed for six months. The company was really good.”

Outside of work and rowing coaching, Ian enjoys cycling and spending time with his family. He has three children – seven-year-old twins Rosa and Charlie and 11-year-old Annabelle.

When asked if he owns his boat, he laughs out loud and says, “Hell no, it’s a money drain.”

Ian still loves the water, be it fresh or salty, 3 metre swells or like glass.

He is most proud of what he has accomplished and grateful for the opportunities that have come his way.



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Refreshing our overboard training

Every day, our Civil Maintenance Team step into punts to conduct work around the harbour.

Skilled carpenters are tasked with completing maintenance work on the wooden piles and structures, using punts to access places no one else can.

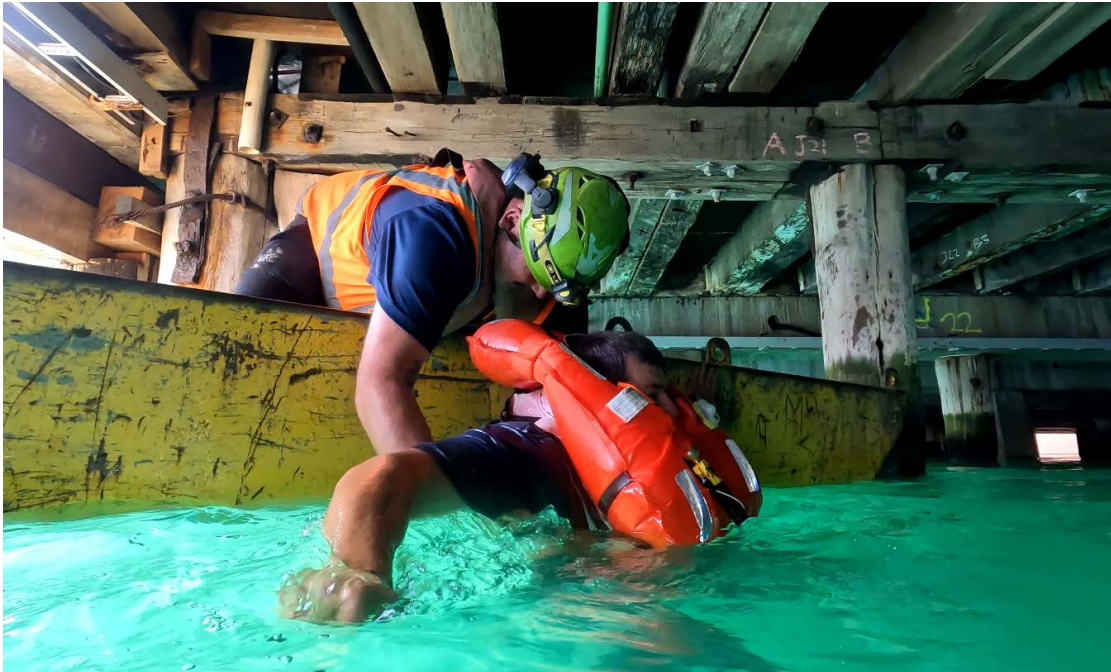
Designed to manoeuvre under the wharves, the punts are small and shallow, making proper training vital to staying safe.

This includes man-overboard exercises like the one the team conducted this month.

The exercise saw the team try out different scenarios where they had to retrieve their workmates from the water with various states of injuries.

Two groups of two put their skills and teamwork to the test, while their workmates, contractors and port users watched, with everyone successfully rescued from the water.

While we hope they never have to put this training into practice, it's important to know what to do in an emergency.



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International Women's Day

Celebrated around the world, International Women's Day is a chance to recognise women and their accomplishments across political, environmental, social, cultural and economic landscapes.

At LPC, along with celebrating our wāhine toa who work across the business, it also provides an opportunity to reflect on where we can improve.

LPC CEO Kirstie Gardener says we are at the start of our journey towards a more diverse and inclusive workplace.

"There is some great work and initiatives under way, but we can only get better," says Kirstie.

"We need to continue to embrace equity and equality because, simply, it is the right thing to do."
– Kirstie Gardener

Kirstie, the only female CEO of a port in New Zealand, says her journey hasn't always been easy.

"I've had to juggle being a woman, a mother, a partner and a leader and a career builder – it takes resilience and it takes energy.

"It's about surrounding yourself with genuine, diverse, positive people of all genders, ages and ethnicities."

LPC staff had the chance to do that when a panel hosted by Christchurch City Holdings Limited (CCHL) brought together women across the group to talk about this year's theme – equity.

The speakers shared their journeys, stories and experiences, along with answering tough questions.



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LPC Update emailed

Want to stay up to date with the latest port news? Sign up to our monthly Harbourwatch emails at www.lpc.co.nz. For more information about LPC, visit or follow us on:

