

THE PERFECT BREW

You won't find it down at your nearest pub but a locally-generated agricultural probiotic friendly bacteria is certainly hitting the spot, as Andre Prassinis, left, watches Clutha District Mayor Bryan Cadogan enjoy his sample. See page 5.



Taking a punt p7



Mighty mouse p10



CRUISING FOR CANS

Bikers do their bit for charity

THEY'RE known as the Big River Bikers and they're getting set for an unusual cruise on Saturday.

It's a can cruise, around various parts of the Clutha District, to collect non-perishable food for the Salvation Army Community Food Bank.

Organiser Jean Proctor said the can cruise was where the food bank got most of its food for the year.

"They desperately need the donations, this year's been a really challenging year for the food bank with the needs placed on them."

Read more, and find out all the details, [page 3](#).



PROCESS WORKERS NEEDED

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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

The freshest probiotics

Clutha brewing up a probiotic storm, writes Laura Roozendaal.

A DIFFERENT kind of probiotic is being brewed in Clutha – and it's making its mark.

BioBrew is an agricultural probiotic that can be used for animal nutrition and it is kept and delivered fresh, making the number of active bacteria high. Probiotics are friendly bacteria needed for good health and vitality and the BioBrew company has been in the business since 2009.

It continues to expand and now has production facilities at Paretai and in the Waikato, and a brewery in Prebbleton, outside of Christchurch.

Otago director Andre Prassinis said no-one in New Zealand developed something like their probiotic on a systematic basis for animals.

The probiotic can be added to the water that the animals drink.

“The main point of difference is it's fresh and priced reasonably. It's \$3.95 a litre,” Mr Prassinis said.

“Nobody on the planet has taken this approach but there's no reason this couldn't have happened 30 years ago.”

Other probiotics on the market were shelf-stabilised, which compromised the number of microbes that were in it, he said.

“Just like with yoghurt, what's best is fresh.”

A trial by Lincoln University showed that BioBrew had five



Taste test: BioBrew Otago director Andre Prassinis, left, watches as Clutha district mayor Bryan Cadogan tries some of the BioBrew probiotic.
Photo: LAURA ROOZENDAAL

million live lactobacilli per millilitre. Other brands that were tested contained 500 lactobacilli per millilitre.

Mr Prassinis said they left it to the farmers to decide how to use it.

“The most common use is for animal nutrition, for young and mature dairy cows, beef, sheep and even deer.

“Everything on a farm is microbial and farmers can use fermentative digestion to optimise all of those different systems.”

Mr Prassinis said they have the capacity to deliver product any-

where in New Zealand.

“We're only limited by resources and the speed at which we can grow.”

The Clutha district had been very supportive.

“The Clutha Agricultural Board had good experience in handling trials and good experience in the district.

“It was a pleasant accident that we ended up here first.”

SHORT AND SHARP**Milton and Lawrence air zones**

The Otago Regional Council has endorsed a future change to the Regional Air Plan that will see Milton change to Air Zone One and Lawrence to Air Zone Two. In Milton, there will be tighter standards for new burners, and some existing coal burners and wood burners will not comply and will be unusable. In Lawrence, the standards will apply for new burners in all properties. The proposals will have to go through a formal consultation next year.

Liability management

The Clutha District Council will vote if it should change borrowing limits, at its December 15 meeting. The corporate services committee has recommended the liability management policy be changed so that the gross interest expense of all debt will not exceed 10 per cent of annual rate revenue, with total debt per capita not exceeding \$1500. They also recommended that the internal borrowing rate is referenced to a three-year borrowing rate and council may borrow externally.

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