

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Community Services Committee will be held in the Council Chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue, Gore, on Tuesday 14 March 2017 at 4.00pm.

- A private briefing for elected members will commence at 3.30pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Parry".

**Stephen Parry**  
**Chief Executive**

**8 March 2017**

## **Agenda**

- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
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| 3. | Report from Parks and Recreation Manager         | Pages 6-14  |
| 4. | Report from Gore District Library Manager        | Pages 15-18 |
| 5. | Report from Aquatic Services Manager             | Pages 19-25 |
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## COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2017

1. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR - DECEMBER 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017**Eastern Southland Gallery**

Exhibitions by distinguished artists Eion Stevens and GT Moffitt concluded the Gallery's 2016 calendar and the latter presentation featured 33 Moffitt paintings gifted to our permanent collection by supporter and arts patron Enyth Good of Auckland. Our donor was in town to view the exhibition prior to its closing and we were able to host a small "thank you" function in her honour.

On 25 February the Gallery opened *Yarns over the Farm Fence* – a three part photographic installation by Otago School of Art Masters graduate Stacey Butler. This exhibition was shot largely on the artist's family farm at Ardlussa and explores the theme of sustainable agriculture. It runs through until early April.

Local themes continue at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre with mixed media works by Geraldine Edgar of Balfour, and a concurrent aviation based presentation by former Gore artist Michael Osborne. Both exhibitions run through until 31 March.

Further gifts to the Gallery's permanent collection for this quarter include two small etchings by Barry Cleavin as well as an excellent landscape painting from 1969 by former Gore High School art teacher Geoffrey Hughes; kindly donated by the artist's family.

**Exhibitions**

***Eion Stevens – A Jigsaw Life*** – until 11 December

***Michael Osborne – The Magnificence of Flight*** (Mandeville) until 31 March

***Geraldine Edgar Mixed Media Exhibition*** (Mandeville) until 31 March

***GT Moffitt – Paintings: 1966 to 2001*** – until 19 February

***Stacey Butler – Yarns over the Farm Fence*** – until 7 April

***Nigel Brown – All the Jokes about Survival*** – from 4 March

**Events**

***MP Presentation – Hon Chris Finlayson*** 4 November

***Concert – Alpaca Social Club*** 16 November

***Floor Talk – Eion Stevens*** 11 December

***Concert – The Bend (Fane Flaws, Tony Backhouse, Peter Dasent)*** 16 December

***Stacey Butler – Launch*** 26 February

**General**

Stephanie Herring is currently preparing a display commemorating the war service of three local men: Brigadier James Hargest (Mandeville), RB Bannerman and Wilfred

Elder (Gore). This will be based at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre and coincide with this year's Mandeville Fly-In.

David Luoni has largely completed display and interpretation planning for the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre, which has included landscaping options and fit-out proposals. He is also working with the Maitua & District Historical Society and the Southland Regional Heritage Committee on a variety of projects.

The Hokonui Moonshine Museum is enjoying its on-going partnership with Invercargill Brewery, and a new '*Hokonui*' product line is coming on stream for the forthcoming 2017 Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival. Generic research and collection management work continues at the Hokonui Heritage Research Centre and the level of local, national and international research enquiries remain constant. Work is also continuing to reduce the backlog of items waiting to be formally identified, considered and accessioned for the museum collection.

### **Grants and donations**

Several district projects have been recipients of grants and donations since 1 November. The East Gore Art Centre development attracted a very welcome \$110,000 grant from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage (announced 4 November) with a further \$15,000 in additional project funding coming from private sources. We were also delighted to receive an art centre site visit from representatives of the Hong Kong based Michael Nock Art Foundation to discuss possible future collaborations. The MLT and the Trusts Community Foundation kindly granted the 2017 Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival Committee \$30,000 and smaller grants towards the Willowbank Windmill Restoration Project and Gore Historical Museum were gratefully received from the Southland Regional Heritage Committee.

The Willowbank Windmill Committee has proved to be a highly motivated and skilled community group and we have been working with them to secure the necessary expertise to instigate the first stage of the Category One windmill and water-tank restoration plan.

### **Talks and tours**

- Invercargill City Council
- Gore District Historical Society
- River Valley Lions Club
- Silver Fern Rally Competitors
- Gore High School (Year 13)
- St Peters College (Year 13)
- GDC - famil
- Moatrek Tours

### **Meetings and representations**

- Arts Foundation of NZ
- Southland Regional Heritage Advisory Group
- Supervision of Roving Museum Officer

- Willowbank Windmill Restoration Committee
- Southland Regional Heritage Committee
- Len Lye Centre staff
- 2017 Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival
- Nock Art Foundation
- Massey University Museum Studies – Post Grad mentoring
- Venture Southland

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

## 2. REPORT FROM THE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS COORDINATOR (Emma Carle)

December was busy with some of the bigger Council-run events of the year and 2017 has got off to a busy start with Go Shear events in association with the World Shearing and Woolhandling championships, and the Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival just around the corner.

### **NZ Silver Fern Rally**

The NZ Silver Fern Rally crew was impressed with the effort Gore put in to welcoming its competitors. Several of the international drivers who were extending their stay in New Zealand after the rally said they were keen to return to Gore when the event was over. They loved the GoRe rally car sticker we created for the event and thought the car show-style parc ferme was a great idea.



There were mixed reports from cafes and restaurants as to the value of the event, but all were pleased to have had the opportunity to get involved. Unfortunately, the evening we were promoting for the public to view cars was a cold one, so there was never a critical mass of people. But over the course of the night hundreds of people stopped to view the vehicles and it certainly drew attention having them parked up at the trout statue.

A few cars had mishaps during the day and therefore made use of the vehicle repair businesses that had offered to stay open late, and the dry cleaners were busy with the driving suit cleaning service, all of which we helped facilitate.

About 15 international drivers had a tour of the Hokonui Moonshine Museum with the Arts and Heritage curator.

A couple of drivers commented that Gore didn't have enough accommodation - at least one stayed in Invercargill and another in Mataura. However, Gore's accommodation wasn't exhausted and if we had known we could have easily housed all the drivers.

It was terrific for Gore that local driver Derek Ayson won the event overall.

We will keep in touch with the organisers about future events in their stable stopping in Gore. We have proved we are capable of successfully hosting these national events.

### **Santa Parade/Christmas in the Park**

The Santa Parade and Christmas in the Park benefitted from a lovely fine day. More than 50 floats took part making it a larger than usual parade, and the presence of the Ascot Park brass band was a highlight. The band is keen to return next year.

The parade start time was moved back an hour to 1.00pm for the benefit of retailers. However, it appeared not too many retailers took advantage of the opportunity.

The roading team's new layout for the parade, with floats congregating in Ordsal Street rather than Fairfield Street, worked well and I'm sure will be the ongoing arrangement.

A large number of people turned up to Christmas in the Park with the weather, the variety of things for families to do, plus the fact everything was free being drawcards. The yarn bombing and oversized crochet Christmas decorations in the trees were a highlight.

### **Gore Youth Awards**

This was again a successful event on the youth calendar and Te Radar proved a popular MC. For future events there will need to be some retraining as some key youth councillors with expert knowledge are in their last year of school this year. It was also the last year for former councillor Anne Gover, who did a lot of work for the event.

### **Go Shear**

The Council helped local groups work together on events to coincide with the World Shearing Championships in Invercargill, with the idea being to capitalise on the large number of visitors to the region and attract them to Gore. Unfortunately there was not the number of visitors we had hoped for, and with it being Waitangi weekend, not a huge uptake from locals either. The A&P Show had an excellent day, but it's hard to say whether there were international visitors present. The \$5000 prize pool for Sunday's Speed Shear should have been a huge drawcard but it seems the message did not get out to the World shearing competitors as only 27 entries were received and the audience was small. There was a bigger crowd for the dog bark up but again not the international audience we might have expected or hoped for.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

### 3. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

In December gardeners were busy preparing Gore main gardens and the Main Street for the 2016 Santa Parade and Christmas in the park. Both events were well received by the community and successful.

The annual bedding displays throughout the district gardens have grown out well and provided a constant floriferous display. Hanging baskets have also put on a good show which has complemented the annual bedding display. During February the hanging baskets on the western side of the main street have been suffering from a mildew burden. This has been attributed to the damp weather conditions where they are not getting enough warm morning sun. This is confirmed as similar varieties on the eastern side of the main street are flourishing.

Plots of stock in the main gardens and a plot in the Birch Lane garden plots have also suffered with the damp season. These may end up having to be removed earlier than anticipated.

Turf maintenance tasks remained a priority and mowing continued on over the festive period where the weather conditions gave no respite in terms of growth. As the summer progressed we did see a slowing of grass growth in early February which was pleasing.

Council officers have contracted a professional pest control service provider that has undertaken control measures on several public reserves and cemeteries over the summer. This delivery has been undertaken by a negotiated rate for the three month trial period. The Council will enter into a formal contract with this service provider to delivery pest control services on an ongoing basis. In terms of eradicated pests, the initial three control rounds accounted for 200 pests (rabbits, hares and possums).

Another unwanted weather feature this past summer was wind. While the district missed out on the typical spring equinoctial winds, nature made up for this delivering it to us in summer. Staff were required on more than one occasion to collect wind fallen branches and 'hangers'. A hanger is a wind fallen branch that get hung-up in other tree branches and require physical removal. No significant trees were lost in the course of the wind events.

- ✶ Attached is a letter of thanks from the Mataura Fire Brigade commending the Council for how Tulloch Park was presented for a recent event.

#### **Property**

Work on the Gore Cenotaph resumed in mid-February. This entailed fitting refurbished marble plaques that had been historically vandalised, to the eastern cenotaph frontage. The other issue that has come to light is the four corner light fittings on the cenotaph. Existing fittings have degraded to the extent that electricians advise it is unwise to reinstall them. At the time of writing, Council officers are exploring replacement options that are in keeping with original design.





*Six plaques affixed to the Gore Cenotaph, two to go.*

### **Mandeville War Memorial**

For several months staff from the Council and Venture Southland have been working through a proposal for the refurbishment of the Mandeville war memorial. A funding application was submitted to Venture Southland for funding of the repairs.

Council officers were pleased to receive confirmation in January from General Manager Tourism, Events and Community Bobbi Brown for Venture Southland of funding approvals to the value of \$6,000 for this community project.

The scheduled work was quoted at \$6,826.00 from the same company undertaking the maintenance works on the Gore cenotaph. The funding breakdown is as follows:

- The Southland Regional Heritage Committee \$3,000.
- Venture Southland via a \$30,000 Community Trust of Southland grant \$3,000.
- Balance to be funded from Council reserves, \$826.00.

### **Trout refurbishment**

Contractors have been frustrated by a lack of suitable weather to perform scheduled maintenance on the District's iconic trout statue. The refurbishment includes some colour touch-up and overall lacquering to bring back vibrancy overall. The lacquering process requires consistent temperatures for lacquer curing so it is hoped that there will be a window of opportunity mid to late February. There is also some venting and internal structural assessment work scheduled while access is available.

### **Building maintenance plan**

The next iteration of the Building Maintenance Plan (BMP) is under way. This document helps form part of underlying information in the Parks, Property and Recreation Asset Management Plan. Included in this process this year will be an assessment of compliance with the updated regulations contained within the Residential Tenancies Act as it relates to rental properties and insulation. The Council

operates eight rental properties, two of which are Council owned, with the remaining six units being the leased Canning Street Flats.

### **Street banners**

Staff are currently working through options in relation to the fitting and changing of street banners. Historically this task has been undertaken by a local business. This business has been sold and the new owner is reassessing the workstreams it is involved in. The primary issue they face is one of compliance and then there is questions around resourcing for a non-core business activity. Options staff will be considering are changing the infrastructure or service provider. Both options will require an increase in funding. Whole of life cost analysis will be basis upon which staff will make a decision. Staff shall report back to the Council in due course.

### **Vandalism and wilful damage**

There has been an increase in the incidence of vandalism and wilful damage over the festive period. Compounding matters is the alignment of school holidays and children with time on their hands and possibly a lack of supervision.

Issues of vandalism and wilful damage affecting Council property are:

1. Main office and carpark peppered with stones prior to Christmas. Several panes of glass broken including a vehicle window and two vehicles received panel damage. The office building required scaffolding to access the window repairs to the second story. The resulting damage will cost approximately \$3,500 to rectify. Three juveniles were apprehended by Police.
2. Tulloch Park public toilets in Maitland were badly graffitied to the extent that it required an internal repaint of both cubicles.
3. Queens Park public toilets in Maitland have been inundated with broken glass bottles and a roof skylight was kicked in. Two mower operators spent half an hour picking up broken glass from lawns and the surrounding areas before they could mow the lawns.
4. Newman Park toilets were also subjected to graffiti.
5. Eccles Street playground fence, gate broken.

The Police have been notified on most occasions.

Work continues on a number of Council owned buildings. This work was tendered late last year. Most of the work shall be completed over the summer months.

The Maitland Community Board have held working bees over the past few months. The project was the laying of paving slabs in front of the grandstand at Tulloch Park. The paving slabs were ones recovered from the old hockey turf. This a good use for

recycled pavers. A similar path of recycled pavers was installed through the section on the corner Main Street and Carlyle Street – the old picture theatre site.



*Mataura Community Board paving project*

## **Recreation**

### **Tulloch Park Redevelopment project**

Staff and the consultant held a workshop with the Council appointed working group prior to Christmas. Work has continued in the intervening weeks and another meeting of the working group will be scheduled soon.

### **Sport Southland**

The service agreement /contract between the Council and Sport Southland has been under negotiation for several months. Council officers can now report to the Council that the re-negotiation of the contract has concluded. The contract has a term of four years, is for a value of \$24,500 for the first year and includes an inflator linked to the Consumer Price Index. The contract value aligns with confirmed financial Long Term Plan estimates.

### **Gore District Walking, Cycling and Equestrian Trails**

A feasibility study started in mid-January for this project. The lead consultant undertaking the work is Tourism Recreation Conservation (TRC) in conjunction with Xyst. Meetings commenced in January with Council and Venture Southland staff. Then there was a series of stakeholder meetings over a few days. This process was to allow the TRC Consultants to avail themselves of specific information pertaining to local opportunities. The consultants and Council officers want the ultimate strategy to be as robust as possible. Over the course of compiling information for this study the Council shall have the opportunity to attend a workshop for input from a political perspective. The date for this workshop is yet to be determined.

### **Joint Management Committee**

There has been a lot of work undertaken in the early part of this year in preparation of the annual Gore A&P Association Show. The show went off well with good public turnout on the day and particularly high entries in the cattle sections. The grounds were in tip-top condition thanks to caretaker Bevin Roy. Council officers continue to work with the committee and site stakeholders in relation to site safety. This is an ongoing process. Currently the Caretaker and staff are working through the list of currently identified risks or hazards. Good progress is being made.

### **Southland Equestrian Park Trust**

The trustees met in January. There was agreement to apply more surface material to bind in with the lime-chip to maintain the riding surface in good serviceable condition. It has been remarkably well utilised by numerous equestrian disciplines over the summer. This has also included the scheduled weekend events for dressage and showjumping. Overall this has seen the Trust's finances in the black and operating with confidence. It also funded the installation of another 25 outdoor horse yards just prior to Christmas.

### **MLT Moonshine Trail 2017**

This year's MLT Moonshine Trail multisport event took place on 11 February at Dolamore Park. It was the 11<sup>th</sup> running of this now iconic event on the mountain bike adventure racing calendar. The MLT Moonshine Trail has built a well-earned reputation as Southland's premier mountain bike and off-road run.

It saw approximately 400 attendees competing in the following events:

- **Ewan Allan Honda** 30km
- **Southland Isuzu** 39km
- **Crossroad Cycles** 50km Mountain Bike
- **Allan White Sports Shoe Clinic** 15km
- **MLT** 5km run/walk
- **Macpac** Duathlon

### **Other community interaction**

Interaction with groups, clubs and organisations over the past month:

- Sport Southland, consultation and meeting attended,
  - Contract re-negotiation
  - Learn to swim programme
- A & P Joint Management Committee, annual show held, multiple consultations, meeting attended and health and safety site assessment reviews ongoing
- Southland Equestrian Park Trust, consultation and meetings attended
- Southland Rhododendron Group, meeting attended and consultation
- Gore Garden Club, consultation and meeting attended
- Kids Hub committee – consultation in relation to landscaping
- various sub-contractors; pest control, cleaning and electrical
- property maintenance contractors, consultation and direction

- various sports club interaction
- liaison with various suppliers.

#### Collegial interaction

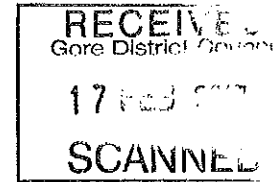
- New Zealand Recreation Association (NZRA), consultation and teleconferences
- NZRA Regional Advisory Group, consultation via email, teleconference and meeting attended
- South Island Park Managers Forum –on-going collegial dialogue
- National Park Managers Forum – ongoing dialogue
- NZRA Otago Southland Branch – six monthly meeting and workshop attended and chaired. In Dunedin at the Botanic Gardens – horticultural focus.

#### **Non-Financial performance targets**

- ↳ Appended for the Council's information is the latest update of the parks, recreation and property non-financial performance targets, based upon the Levels of Service in the Councils Long Term Plan. At this point we are on track with results.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the information be received.**

**MATAURA VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE****C/- 13 BURNS STREET  
MATAURA 9712**14<sup>th</sup> February 2017Gore District Council  
PO Box 8  
GORE**ATTENTION:** IAN SOPER

Dear Ian

On behalf of the Mataura Volunteer Fire Brigade we would like to thank the Gore District Council for letting us use the facilities at Tulloch Park for the recent Southland Combined Waterway Challenge.

Tulloch Park grounds looked immaculate on the day . A credit to the council staff.

What a great day. The feedback we have had from competitors, officials and supporters has been awesome. From the hospitality to state of the track at Tulloch Park. Great to see the fire station overflowing at the BBQ.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Russell". The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Andrea Russell  
**MVFB SECRETARY**

**2016-2017 Parks and Reserves Levels of Service - November, December 2016, January 2017**

Council Outcome	Customer Levels of Service	Core Value	Measured by	Current Target	Current Performance	Target 2016	Target Achieved
<b>Aquatic Centres</b>							
We have a choice of quality places to go and things to do	To provide safe, quality, accessible swimming pools with good opportunities for learning	Accessibility Quality Customer Service Health and Safety	Five key technical measures that reflect the core values  This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pool availability</li> <li>• Customer satisfaction</li> <li>• Swimming course enrolments</li> <li>• Health and safety incidents</li> <li>• Pool safe accreditation</li> </ul>	5/5 Indicators achieved	2013/14 4/5 achieved 2012/13 5/5 achieved 2011/12 5/5 achieved	5/5 Indicators achieved	2015-2016 – 5/5.  2016-2017 – Year to date – 5/5 – All indicators are achieved.

Council Outcome	Customer Levels of Service	Core Value	Measured by	Current Target	Current Performance	Target 2016	Target Achieved
<b>Park &amp; Reserves, Cemeteries and Public Conveniences</b>							
We have a choice of quality places to go and things to do	Parks, reserves and cemeteries provide a sense of place; active recreation spaces, as well as opportunities to interact with and beautify urban environments; facilities are safe, well-maintained and appropriate for their use with high levels of public satisfaction	Quality	Percentage of community that are satisfied across the range of property and recreation criteria surveyed  This includes: satisfaction levels for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and Reserves/Sportsgrounds</li> <li>• Playgrounds</li> <li>• Cemeteries</li> <li>• Public conveniences</li> </ul>	> 90% across the 5 criteria surveyed	Achieved.  In 2015 over 90% of respondents were very satisfied, satisfied or neutral in their response to community satisfaction with Parks Property and	> 90% across the 5 criteria surveyed	2015-2016 – Overall the specified criteria surveyed target was achieved of 94.83%, this includes sports fields. Individually the only criteria that achieved below

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The provision of community buildings or halls</li></ul>		Recreation survey questions	<p>90% were public conveniences with a score of 87%. The other four criteria ranged between 92%-97%.</p> <p>2016-2017 – Report yet to be completed.</p>
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4. REPORT FROM GORE DISTRICT LIBRARY MANAGER – DECEMBER 2016-FEBRUARY 2017 (Lorraine Weston-Webb)

### Youth services

The number of preschool children regularly attending Toddler Time indicates that this programme is just what these youngsters enjoy. On average 26 Gore and 15 Mataura children attend the weekly sessions in each library, with preschools such as ABC often coming along.

Four to five babies and their mothers attend Wriggle & Rhyme. The session focusses on the activities for the babies, but it is also an opportunity for mothers and babies to meet each other. The babies learn at a very young age that the library is a place for them, a good beginning for their later development of the reading habit. And the mothers learn what the library has to offer them and their children.

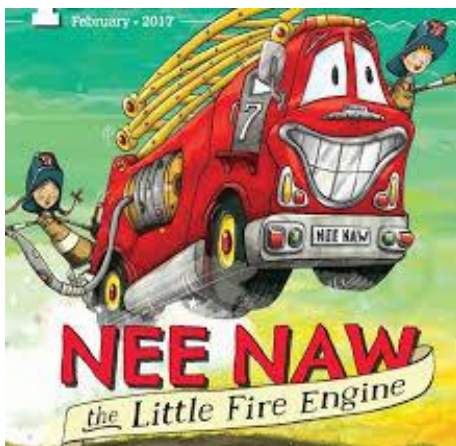
### The Great Escape Summer Reading

This year we continued with what was a very successful collaboration with Invercargill and Southland District libraries last year. We share a theme, logo and promotion activities across the libraries, then design the challenge booklet and parameters to suit each local situation. We received very positive feedback about the design of this year's challenge, new elements of which were a professionally printed booklet and bookmark for each child.

	Gore	Mataura	Total
Registered participants	116	17	133
First report in	82	8	90
Completed challenge	74	5	79

### Children's author *Mr Yipadee*

As a fun way to finish the school holidays Deano Yipadee, author of two popular new picture books, made a special visit to Gore Library on 26 January. He performed his newest book and CD release, along with other songs and humorous material, as the crowd of 120 children and 45 adults laughed and sang along. A special highlight was the arrival of a local fire engine outside the library in which the children were delighted to sit and talk to a real fireman.



The activity station was also a fun place over the school holidays. The variety of self-directed activities provided something for everyone, including teens seeking relaxation. The ***Make your own Christmas card*** activity prior to Christmas was especially popular.

The Youth Librarian has added East Gore School to her Outreach Storytime. She visits each of the four venues – the others being Gore Playcentre, Oxford Kindergarten and St Mary's School - twice per school term.

### **Mataura Library and Service Centre**

Mataura Library's twice weekly afterschool supervision sessions were well attended until the end of the 2016 school year. So far in term 1 of 2017 there has not been the need for group supervision as the children have been happily enjoying the outdoors since summer arrived, with only small numbers in the library after school. We expect to make this an active session again when the cooler weather returns.

### **Library news**



New Zealand author Deborah Challinor, known mainly for her best-seller historical novels, spoke to an evening audience of 28 in Gore Library on 22 November.



- Local author Dawn Andrews also spoke to a 28-strong audience about the challenges she faced as a working woman in the rural sector late last century, on 7 December.
- Keen readers often ask us to provide reading challenges for adults and teens as well as for children. So over this summer we trialed an adult reading challenge and a teen reading bingo, with goals to meet and the opportunity to send in reviews to post on the Library website. With encouraging feedback we plan to adopt similar challenges for adults and teens later this year.
- The Gore Poetry Group met in November, December and February in Gore Library, providing opportunity for local poets to share their poetry and work on set writing tasks in a group setting.
- The Eastern Southland Embroiders Guild ladies met in Gore Library to celebrate Stitch Day, 21 February.

- Gore Garden Club displayed a flowering planter in Gore Library to promote its mid-February flower show.
- The library subscribes to a number of databases allowing members and the visiting public access to resources that are not otherwise freely available:
  - Ancestry – a popular genealogy resource
  - Encyclopedia Britannica – trusted expert articles, images and videos
  - Access New Zealand – this national newspapers resource is currently on trial and will be fully available from 1 April.
  - Tumblebooks – talking picture books for children to watch and listen to. This resource will be available from 1 April.
- A new desk in the children's area will soon have computers with easy and dedicated use of three resources - the Library catalogue, Encyclopedia Britannica and TumbleBooks. The desk is near the staffed area so it will be easy for staff to help and supervise the children.



***Love Your Library Day*** is celebrated nation-wide on Valentine's Day, 14 February.

To keep with the mood of this year's display library staff wore pink and treated customers with pink chocolates.

Heart-shaped post-it notes were available for people to write what they love about their library:

*'Love the whole place!'*

*'Great place to relax'*

*'Your books are interesting'*

### **Book lists**

As well as new books lists prepared on a quarterly basis, library staff also create book lists on popular topics. The tenth and latest list is *Rising above tragedy: personal life stories*.

**Health and Safety**

Gore Library entrance tiles proved to be a safety hazard during the wet summer, with a number of falls by members of the public, some resulting in significant injuries. Nothing has changed about the tiles to cause this marked increase in falls, so we can only assume that people tend to be less careful in the summer rain than they are in the winter. The tiles were acceptable at the time they were laid in 1983, but they do not meet current standards. The hazard has been temporarily mitigated by an additional Slip Hazard cone. A short-term solution will be for a grit surface to be applied to the existing tiles. A permanent solution of tile replacement will be investigated as part of the proposed precinct redevelopment.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

5. REPORT FROM AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER – NOVEMBER 2016-FEBRUARY 2017  
(Kim Peterson)

**MLT Event Centre**

The MLT Event Centre was patronised by a variety of sporting codes for practices, tournaments and end of year fun sessions. Bubble ball and laser tag sessions have proved to be popular during November and December with a number of groups booking in for both.



The majority of user codes finished up in December, including, social netball, volleyball and Mini Movers.

A notable first for the stadium was the Home Straight concert after it was moved from the original site at the Waimumu Field Days. The Home Straight concert was organised by the Kids Hub committee. The Stadium Supervisor received positive feedback on the night about the venue and how well it sounded in the stadium.

The stadium staff ran laser tag and zorb ball rides at Christmas in the Park. This was very popular with the public and queues were forming until the bad weather arrived.

January was busy with bookings due most likely to the unfavourable weather, with tennis being the most popular. Other bookings included a holiday programme run by Southland cricket with 30 children attending each day and Eastern Southland tennis held part of its satellite tournament, with the younger children playing in the stadium and the rest at the Preston Street courts.

**Gore Aquatic Centre**

The Gore Aquatic Centre had a busy few months with bookings for end of year fun sessions and schools in for their G'n'D Splash & Learn to Swim lessons.

The Jasi Swim Club from Christchurch booked in their January swim camp with us again. This is the third time Jasi Swim Club has come down to use the facilities they appreciate how we accommodate all their requirements. We received great feedback on the facilities we have in Gore and the fantastic service we deliver.



During December there was a drive towards educating parents and caregivers about their parental pool supervision requirements. This evoked some good discussions with customers and as a result of this we received some good feedback, including:

*Well said. There must be some text addict parents with "orphan" children I think these days. From Granny!!!!*

*I just wanted to say well done on this email as some of the supervision at the pool is not ideal and people shouldn't rely on the lifeguards. I hope this message also get to children who are in organised programmes as the lack of attention given to these kids is not the best. I think it's great you have highlighted the problem and parents need to take a greater responsibility in looking after their children instead of looking at their phones. Kind regards. Tracey*

In line with our drive to educate parents in their parental pool supervision requirements, a new initiative was been created, a sibling lane has been put in place to ensure that siblings under 8 years of age are kept close to parents who are participating in swimming lessons. This has resulted in positive feedback from parents.

Aqualine Swim kindly donated backstroke flags to the facility and the Hug a Rig team also donated some fantastic equipment for our disabled users, all of which were gratefully received by staff and customers



At the end of January a special offer was emailed out to 311 customers who had not renewed their concession card in 2015 or 2016. This promotion was to entice the customers back to the facility. The special offer was taken up by 4.5% of those contacted. As a result, a number of replies were received, this is one of them:

*Hi I'm sorry I live overseas now. Please delete me from your mailing list. If I move back to southland I will 100% come back to your Gore pool. I loved it so clean and un-crowded! Very hard to find a good pool in London that doesn't cost a fortune and they are crowded and dirty! Thanks Megs*

There has been a recruitment drive over recent months for aquatic centre staff, due to six staff members moving off to either SIT, back to their chosen field of expertise or out of the district. Most notably, one of our customer service team who has been with us four years is moving to Hamilton. The head Coach has taken a position with the Selwyn District in a move to be closer to his fiancé.

Jacqueline Byars is currently working on advertising/promotional flyers/brochures and logos for the Aquatic Centre to bring it more in line with the Council's branding. This will be visible over the next few months.

Jamie Roy ran a social media session with the Aquatic Centre staff. This has helped immensely with the way we promote the facilities through social media.

On Saturday 25 February, staff were greeted by water flowing out the plant room door. There was an electrical failure causing the pump that feeds water back into the main pool to shut down, forcing the closure of the main pool. The pool was filled back up by late Saturday afternoon. The staff did a fantastic job at quickly responding to the situation getting information out to the public through the pool's database as well as social media and the radio. We extended the Matura pool opening hours on Monday 27 and Tuesday 28 February from 6.00am-8.00pm to accommodate our customers.

With the warmer weather it helped heat the pool to the desired level of 28.5 degrees. We were able to open again to the public on Wednesday 1 March 2017.



### **Mataura Centennial Pool**

There were a few bookings at the Mataura Pool over the past few months including a birthday party, the local Kohanga Reo and three youth group bookings and Mataura School in for an end of the year fun session.

Aquarobics numbers remain steady with an increase in lane swimmers during the 11.00am – 12noon session time. Aquarobics was a bit slow to start during the holiday period, however the evening Activ8 class was particularly successful with 10 participants in the first class for the new year.

Over the holiday period people visiting local friends and family from outside the district came into swim at the Mataura pool. These customers came from as far as the North Island and Christchurch.

### **Leaping Frogs Swim School**

#### **Under five year olds**

The Aquatic/Swim School Coordinator ran sessions with the pre-school agencies in a move to increase water safety and for under 5's to learn to swim. This resulted in nine new enrolments for end of term 2016 and numbers have increased to 19 for the first term in 2017. This is a great result here.

Sessions run in association with the local Plunket at both pools received this feedback: *Was really impressed with Mataura session – liked the way the simplest of routines were so effective at giving babies confidence from an early age.*

#### **Leaping Frogs Holiday Swimming lessons**

As per our normal holiday programme we run a week long lesson prior to Christmas with a 54% increase from the previous year. January holiday lessons were also up 3.75% for the first three weeks.

#### **Term lessons**

Term four swimming lesson enrolments were down 1.3% compared with term four in 2015.

### **Shark Squad**

Haidee McRae had fantastic results at the regional Special Olympics in Dunedin in December picking up three gold medals and a bronze. She also attended the Trans-Tasman event in Hamilton placing 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> and picked up a bronze medal. Haidee has qualified for the National Summer Games in Wellington 2017.

The Christmas Chocolate Fish Swim Carnival was held with 32 participants attending the event. Fun was had by all.

A summer Shark Squad swim camp was held in January with 16 attending. Along with swimming, team building activities were also enjoyed including laser tag, bubble ball and aquarobics.



**G'n'D Splash & Learn to Swim Programme**

During November and December St Marys and Pukerau Schools were in for their lessons, with a total of 265 children receiving the free swimming lessons. Verbal feedback from St Marys was positive; they were very impressed with the 'hands on' teaching and the instructors immediately correcting technique. Pukerau School gave us top marks in the G'n'D Splash & Learn to Swim Programme survey for instructor friendliness, assessment process, time management, class control and overall progression of students.

The first schools in for G'n'D Splash & Learn to Swim lessons in 2017 were Hedgehope and Tutura schools.

**RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

Gore Aquatic Centre Visitor Numbers			Gore Aquatic Centre G'n'D Splash & Learn Programme		
Month	July 2015 - June 2016	July 2016 - June 2017	Month	July 2015 - June 2016	July 2016 - June 2017
July	5979	7530	July	69	0
August	6705	7719	August	2032	2688
September	7379	8419	September	511	312
October	8133	8927	October	43	473
November	7293	7841	November	2309	1980
December	7232	7354	December	916	376
January	8249	8931	January	0	0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>50970</b>	<b>56721</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>5880</b>	<b>5829</b>
February	8130		February	1519	
March	8603		March	0	
April	8384		April	0	
May	6745		May	992	
June	6359		June	1943	
<b>Total</b>	<b>89191</b>	<b>#REF!</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>10334</b>	

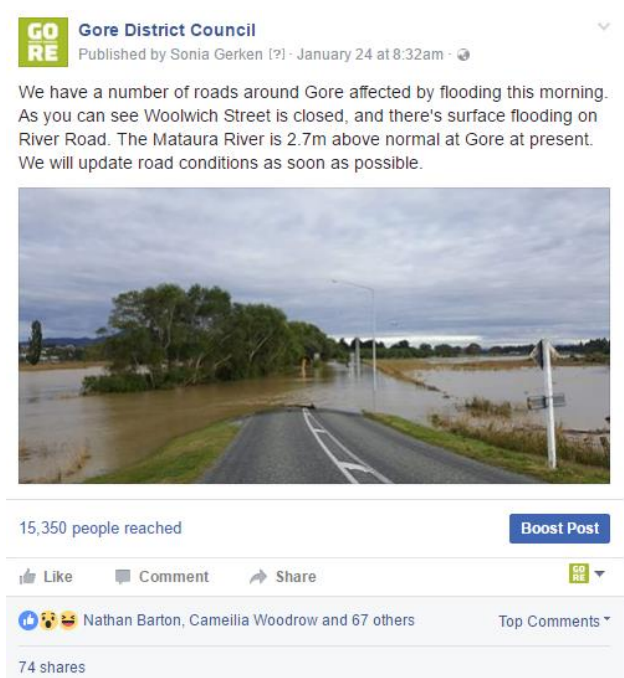
Mataura Pool Visitor Numbers			Mataura Pool G'n'D Splash & Learn Programme		
Month	2015/2016	2016/2017	Month	September 2015 - May 2016	September 2016 - May 2017
September	131	231	September	0	0
October	416	953	October	0	0
November	591	593	November	0	0
December	557	713	December	0	0
January	637	527	January	0	0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>2332</b>	<b>3017</b>	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
February	741		February	83	
March	966		March	726	
April	932		April	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>4971</b>	<b>3017</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>809</b>	

	1 July - 31 July 2015	1 Aug. - 31 Aug. 2015	1 Sept. - 30 Sept. 2015	1 Oct. - 31 Oct. 2015	1 Nov. - 30 Nov. 2015	1 Dec. - 31 Dec. 2015	1 Jan. - 31 Jan. 2016	1 Feb. - 29 Feb. 2016	1 March - 31 March 2016	1 April - 30 April 2016	1 May - 31 May 2016	1 June - 30 June 2016	1 July - 31 July 2016	1 August - 31 August 2016	1 Sept. - 30 Sept. 2016	1 Oct. - 31 Oct. 2016	1 Nov. - 30 Nov. 2016	1 Dec. - 31 Dec. 2016	1 Jan. - 31 Jan. 2017
Types of bookings																			
Tennis	120	213	215	314	348	209	41	309	368	274	260	213	260	365	145	274	283	203	139
Basketball	161	25	85	160	135	197	138	130	26	91	91	71	179	95	20	96	185	40	179
Soccer	121	20	10	15	8	7	10		200	44	58	19	167	119	51	65	305	25	9
Netball	4679	5427	1930	1434	456		13	753	1104	460	4863	4753	4982	6710	2829	600	800	160	9
Cricket	30			20	45	32		42								29			37
Disability group				47	58	16	8	42	29							39	27		
Dodgeball	18		300	170						18			13						
Volleyball	30		225	14				125	435						150	160	228	152	
Preschool activity	214	232	188	132	195	127		157	250	143	185	218	74	114	204	155	110		
Holiday programmes	31		16										64					45	
School Groups	813	1782	762	66	237	302		149	441	1329	2702	4330	1057	891	305	538	1110	885	
Childrens Day									750										
Events										625							1105		
Youth Group		60																26	
Fitness training												2							
Shooting hoops	108	83	121	131	69	103	147	102	43	88	98	70	112	56	69	67	98	110	244
Walking	5	10	14	9	4	1	35	16	12	16	27	2	8	9	3	5		3	10
Laser Tag										139	55	128	268	28	208	112	63	100	41
Bubble Ball							50	30	34	17	30	72	13	10	28	33		12	
Zorb Ball Adult							6												
Zorb Ball Child							52			7									
Bouncy castle							29			12									
Sport group	116	13	43	310	299	50				16	1239	1212	1288	306		295	653		
Total	6446	7865	3909	2822	1854	1044	529	1855	3692	3279	9608	11090	8485	8703	4012	2468	4967	1761	668
^ = up or v = down	v	^	v	v	^	^	^	^	v	^	^	^	^	^	^	v	^	^	^
Year to date patronage comparatives																			
July 2010 - June 2011	50003																		
July 2011 - June 2012	56604																		
July 2012 - June 2013	51306																		
July 2013 - June 2014	46394																		
July 2014 - June 2015	53121																		
July 2015 - June 2016	53993																		
July 2016 - Jan 2017	31064																		

## 6. REPORT FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS/PROMOTIONS MANAGER (Sonia Gerken)

It would be fair to say the start of 2017 has been dominated by getting messages out about the weather – wind warnings, rainfall warnings, and flood warnings. We take our lead on when to issue a weather warning from the MetService’s severe weather warning email alert service. However, as everyone knows predicting the weather can be a bit hit and miss, so not all warnings were realised (thankfully).

The Council’s Facebook page has repeatedly proved the best way to reach a lot of people quickly. Our analytics and community engagement for most posts exceeds 2500 people. When bad weather causes public safety issues, it was one of the more effective channels for reaching people, as shown by this message from January.



### **Emergency messaging**

The recent incident when elevated levels of e-coli were found in the Otama rural water supply scheme illustrated how effective the Council has become at quickly notifying residents.

Emails and text alerts were sent out via the Council’s scheme database, and social media engagement was high. These channels were supplemented by traditional media ie newspapers advert and radio.

The Council’s email and cellphone database of scheme users was compiled about three years ago by writing to people inviting them to notify us of their contact details. We use Microsoft Outlook to push out the alerts, however, this doesn’t provide the Council with any dashboard function to track analytics such as opens, clicks, and opt-outs.

There is also no ability for people to opt-in except to telephone or email the Council, provide their details to our staff and then we load this information into the database.

The possibility of moving to an integrated SMS messaging system was looked at just over three years ago and not considered appropriate at the time.

Given almost everyone today has a smartphone, or at the very least a phone capable of receiving text messages, it may be worthwhile revisiting this option.

It was interesting to note the high level of public interest and engagement in the boil water notice. This could indicate that while the scheme is for stock water only, there is a large number of consumers who use it in their homes as well.

**GO RE** Gore District Council  
Published by Sonia Gerken [?] · January 26 at 10:39am ·

If you are on the Otama rural water supply scheme and use the water for drinking or cooking, please boil the water for at least one minute. Unfortunately e-coli has been found in the water supply during routine testing. For more info go to <http://bit.ly/otamawater>



6,775 people reached

Boost Post

Like Comment Share

Liz Law, Manju Chadha and 6 others

Top Comments

41 shares

### Clean Air Loans

Considerable work has gone into producing branded documentation for the Council's clean air home loans, as well as working on a coordinated information campaign with Awarua Synergy and Environment Southland. This culminated with the official agreement signing between Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks and ES chairman Nicol Horrell. There has been strong interest in the scheme with 78 people clicking through from our Facebook post about the scheme to Awarua Synergy's website on the day of the scheme launch.

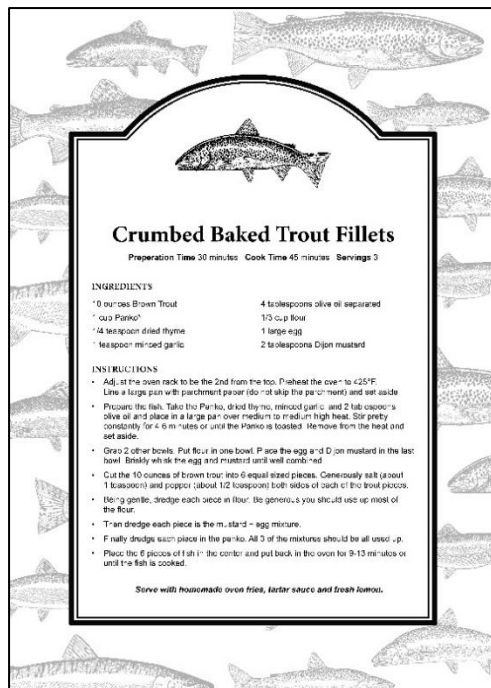
Environment Southland is looking at doing a pop-up shop in Gore to promote the scheme.

### GoRetail

The GoRetail group has held one meeting since Christmas, which coincided with a visit south by First Retail's Chris Wilkinson and Lorraine Nicholson.

The Council's initiative to provide free parking and promote this with green bags on every parking meter in town was hailed a success. The Council certainly received a lot of positive feedback from the public. While advertising clearly stated restricted time zones would be policed, there was some confusion about the Brennan Lane car park, which has a two hour time limit. A few people using this carpark for longer were ticketed.

The group is presently investigating putting a large Love Gore Shop Local sign on the south-facing wall of the building adjacent to McDonalds. It has received quotes from two local businesses and is considering funding options.



### Visitor Centre upgrade

It is said all good things take time. This could be said about the upgrade of the visitor centre and development of a line of Gore-centric merchandise.

The exterior upgrade, completed before Christmas, has received a lot of good feedback and definitely succeeded in making the visitor centre more visible. A common complaint from visitors prior to the upgrade was that the centre was hard to locate. Staff say comments such as this have stopped. The huge increase in visitor numbers over the last few months could, in part, be attributed to the more visible exterior.

Among the merchandise being created are these tea towels and a range of fishing items, from caps to pens and key rings.

Other work undertaken includes:

- 3 Waters water restrictions
- Matakura Main Street upgrade
- Document/forms rebranding
- Transmission pricing review joint awareness Facebook campaign with Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council and Environment Southland
- Southern Field Days
- Rental accommodation for MVM contractors
- Cycling Strategy
- District Growth Committee
- Emergency Management Southland

### RECOMMENDATION

**THAT the report be received.**

## 7. REPORT FROM GORE VISITOR CENTRE SENIOR CONSULTANT

The Gore Visitor Centre has experienced a busy few months with visitor enquiries reaching an all-time high. This growth in numbers has been felt throughout Southland. Staff time has largely been spent helping visitors with their bookings and enquiries.

The figures below correspond to enquiries made for travel, accommodation and activity bookings, tourists seeking local information and assisting visitors with other general enquiries. Visits to the museums have not been included.

*Visitor enquires in comparison to 2015/2016:*

<b>November</b>		
Enquiry Type	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Telephone	128	68
General	238	344
Local Accommodation	24	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>431</b>

<b>December</b>		
Enquiry Type	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Telephone	112	103
General	223	425
Local Accommodation	11	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>538</b>

<b>January</b>		
Enquiry Type	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Telephone	110	115
General	162	627
Local Accommodation	24	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>752</b>

<b>February</b>		
Enquiry Type	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Telephone	122	127
General	305	563
Local Accommodation	44	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>471</b>	<b>717</b>

In summary:

- November visitor enquires increased by 11%
- December visitor enquiries increased by 55%
- January visitor enquiries increased by 154%
- February visitor enquiries increased by 52%

Visitor centre staff strongly believe this growth is a direct result of the new signage and increased visibility of the building. Surrounding tourist destinations such as Fiordland and Central Otago have witnessed an earlier peak in their tourist season. These regions operating at capacity has resulted in Gore welcoming more visitors to the area.

#### *Other statistics of interest*

During peak season, the visitor centre saw an increase in the number of international visitors, with this group exceeding our domestic visitor numbers for the first two months of this year. The split between domestic and international visitors has been:

November:	51%	Domestic,	49%	International
December:	51%	Domestic,	49%	International
January:	33%	Domestic,	67%	International
February:	42% Domestic, 58% International			

The areas these international visitors are from have maintained on trend, with the majority being from Australia, followed by the USA and the UK.

During these months, 17% of visitors have been under 25-years-old, 55% between 26 and 59 years and 28% over 60. Of all visitors, 47% have been male and 53% female. Of all enquiries made, 42% have been visitors seeking local information.

#### **Merchandise**

The visitor centre has been working with local designers and manufacturers to create a range of local merchandise. The merchandise showcases the District and our icons/attractions, while maintaining our brand. The visitor centre intends to continue working with local designers to increase the variety of product offered and create a comprehensive range of merchandise. Images of some of the merchandise the visitor centre now stocks is shown below:



*Mataura River Embroidered Patch:*



*Fishing Pin/Magnet:*



*Fishing Key-Ring:*



*Gore District Cap:*



*Gore Fishing Cap:*



*Gore Brown Trout Fishing Tin:*

- Customers can choose from a selection of 12 Mataura specific flies to display in their tin.



### General Information Services

With the recent closure of the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), the visitor centre has taken on some of the duties typically performed by the CAB. These duties include keeping an updated list of community services, clubs, charities, societies and community groups in the District, along with the relevant contact information. The visitor centre has also created a trade directory. After receiving numerous enquiries from locals regarding local trade services, the visitor centre has begun to collate this information into one central document for public use.

The visitor centre has also been collecting information for Matura Valley Milk (MVM), creating a list of available accommodation in the area for MVM workers potentially seeking accommodation on a long-term basis.

### Renovations

The visitor centre is currently in the process of finishing the interior renovation work. However, the exterior work is now completed and staff have received numerous compliments from locals.

Photos of the visitor centre at present have been provided below.



#### **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

8. REPORT FROM EASTERN SOUTHLAND NEWCOMERS NETWORK – SEPTEMBER 2016 - FEBRUARY 2017 (Mihaela Erdeyli)

**September 2016 – December 2016**

• **Southland local settlement network**

I attended monthly meetings during this period, working as part of this group to get better access to information's relevant to our migrant community. For the period of September to November 2016 we worked on topics including accompanying spouse's settlement issues, resources utilization and cross cultural awareness and communication.

Acknowledging that making sure spouses are happily settled is critical to ensuring skilled migrants settle and stay permanently. A number of resources are available, as NZ Now and NZ Ready that can provide information's and useful tips for successful settlement.

▪ **Balclutha settlement group**

In September I was approached by members of the Balclutha settlement support group to help raising the profile to their multicultural celebration and giving a "new look" that could contribute to better celebrating diversity. I have worked with the group in October and November, providing guidelines as how we structured our culture feast, talked about their expectations of the event and how to source and contact providers.

▪ **Local school projects on cultural diversity**

I was approached to help with a joint project for the Te Tipua, Waikaia, Waikaka, Otama and Knapdale schools. Students in their last year of primary school were learning about the growing cultural diversity in their region. I have worked before with this group in 2014 and this year I brought along a migrant from Argentina to shared information's of Latin America and Latin American culture. The students had the chance to ask questions and also learned and cooked an Argentinean dish.

In November I was approached by Brigit Ryan from St Peter's College with a similar project, where high school students learned about different cultures living in our region and were provided information about migration to New Zealand. To help with this project I held an information session about migration to New Zealand, have organized a lunch with ethnic food for the students and also brought along members of our ethnic community to talk to the students about their personal experience.

- In October I held a meeting with the new Southland Plunket multi-cultural community worker. This is a new role created by Plunket NZ and is designed to connect people who have arrived from overseas with the many Plunket services and other child/family services within the Southland region. I was given an insight into how the role can help migrant families with young children. I think it would be beneficial for our migrant families to be able to access this.

- During this period of time I have provided also face-to-face settlement information services to a number of members of our migrant communities. I responded to numerous enquiries about the changes that took place in the skilled migrant category in October 2016. I referred two customers to the appropriate service, one needing the services of a licensed immigration advisor and the other the service of a lawyer, and also provided some support.
- In December I was invited to celebrate with our local communities, as they organised their Christmas parties I have been also invited to school festivities at Riversdale primary school and St Mary's school to watch the children of migrant families that I worked with perform.

### **January-February 2017**

- In the first part of January I worked closely with three migrant families trying to obtain New Zealand residence. They needed various support and information's. One family was informed by NZ Immigration of failing to pass the English language requirements. They have since contacted a lawyer to help along and I had meetings to help with correspondence and support letters. One family had completed necessary paper work and required just a checkup meeting with their immigration adviser and a follow up. The third family just started their application process. I am not a licensed immigration adviser so my support is often based on providing information on how to use immigration New Zealand website, looking for helpful information, help with printing forms and guides and also helping to get in contact with a licensed immigration advisor, should the migrants think that it would make their process easier.
- In late January I was contacted by a member of the Southland Muslim association. They wanted to meet and discuss its intention of creating a sub-group for the Eastern Southland region. The Muslim community in our region is mostly formed of halal butchers who came to work in our plants, but they are also joined by other professionals. At the moment they are looking for a space, a hall, where they could meet regularly for daily prayers and other gatherings. They use to meet in a private home but the group grew in the past years. They also expressed concerns about the association between Muslim and terrorism in recent time and would like to show that they are a peace and family loving community.
- In late January I was invited to attend an AQEEQA, a Muslim celebration of the occasion of the birth of a child. I had the chance to meet members of our local Muslim community and members of other ethnic communities as well. I have felt very privileged to be part of this celebration.
- On 9 February I attended the first meeting of the year for the Southland Local Settlement Network. The meeting was attended by Abby Cheeseman, who is the MBIE representative of the SoRDS strategy. She provided an overview of the partnership that the government intends to form with regions, in helping regional economies to succeed.

- 1 I have attached a copy of the minutes of this meeting containing all the topics discussed. Part of the topic was focused on migrant communities, creating welcome packs and Abby announcing that the government intends to launch a Welcoming Communities pilot programme. The possibility of a customised welcome pack was discussed as well, as was shared information between Immigration NZ and organisations providing settlement support could speed up the process of reaching out to this families.

Another major topic was the pathway to residence issue which impacts the dairy sector in our region. A survey for migrants will be launched to lobby the government about losing migrants.

- On 17 February English Language Partners started English Language classes in Gore. Every year this organisation provides two or more sessions of English language for non-English speakers. Due to changing policies around English Language requirements starting October 2016, there will be a need for an increased level of English. I am planning to meet up with the manager of ELP, to see how we can better support our migrants in this process.
- Late February I had a meeting with Emma Carle to discuss Hokonui Culture Feast 2017. We have set a temporary date pf 7 July and started working on funding applications, ideas for the event and also started contacting potential participants.
- I have also spent time updating the migrant community data base, responding to email enquiries, administering the Gore Eastern Southland Newcomers Face Book page. At the moment I am experiencing some difficulties with the newcomer's website and hopefully will be able to access it again soon.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**THAT the report be received.**

## Southland Local Settlement Network (SLSN) Minutes

9<sup>th</sup> February 2017

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**Present** –Fi McKay, Immigration NZ Settlement, Protection and Attraction (Facilitator); Mihaela Erdelyi, Migrant Services Coordinator, Gore; Sajitha, coordinator and Shelly, Southland Multi Cultural Council; Nalini Varghese, English Language Partners; Nikki Aaron, South Alive; Peter Saba, NZ Red Cross; Sheree Carey, Chamber of Commerce; Ann Hanning, Immigration Advisor; Steve Canny, Venture Southland; Abby Cheeseman, MBIE Cities and Regions SoRDS; Councillor Becs Amundsen, ICC; Jo O'Connor, OSEA; Jen Richardson, ESOL tutor.

**Apologies** –Ken McDonald, SIT; Karen White, Rural Women; Jennifer Richardson; Zelda de Villiers; Richard Kyte, Dairy NZ; Mary Napper, ICC Community Development; Nichola Fallow, CAB (resigned).

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### Welcome

Fi welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Abby Cheeseman, who has been the MBIE representative on the SoRDS strategy. The other members of the group then introduced themselves and a warm welcome was extended to Councillor Rebecca Amundsen.

### Previous Minutes Matters Arising

No matters arising.

### SoRDS Overview – Abby Cheeseman

Some time ago, Minister Joyce noted that the Regions needed more Central Government attention with a view to helping the regional economy succeed. It was decided to form partnerships with regions working with local government. An overview of the national picture is that there is an economic development group of Ministers who are reported to monthly on regional progress. The launch of SoRDS has been an important piece of work and government will be investing \$2.4 million in contracts from central government.

### SLSN Terms of Reference (ToR)

When the ToR for the group was agreed last year, it was decided to review them in February to make sure they were the right fit for the group and to also look at the frequency of meetings. Fi opened this item up to the meeting for discussion. It was noted that attraction of migrants into the region will not diminish, it will in fact significantly increase and there is need for a great cohesive response for settlement. There are 8 sub regions in Southland (Invercargill, Lumsden, Northern Southland, etc. and rurally remote communities need to rebuild their capacity) and it is important to work on welcoming 'packages' for these communities and this will dovetail in well to the Welcoming Communities pilot. The Destination and Tourism strategies were also discussed.

It was also noted that there is no way for communities to know who the people are who are arriving in their communities so they can welcome them. It was mentioned that Southland had run a 6 month project during the SSNZ funding model where they received information about who was coming and which employers they were starting with. This enabled a customised welcome and support to be able to be targeted to both migrants and their employers. This type of initiative and sharing of information would strengthen Welcoming Communities pilot. Fi will follow up and see if there is a possibility of this information being shared again.

Further feedback from the group included issues with young people feeling isolated and bored and that there is a trend of them begging for work. It is also an issue for young people in general to meet

38  
other young people and there are many reports of them leaving Southland because they can't strike up a relationship. There are a number of young Latino people who would love a disco/karaoke to start in town. Is there opportunity for something like this to be done? Fi suggested that the person who raised this check out the possibility of holding a disco/karaoke with South Alive and or the SMCC to see if there would be enough interest to develop it further ...

It was also reported that pathways to residency is still a major issue for the Region with it being noted the Dairy Sector is still awaiting information about permanent pathway to residency for 600 people in the South Island. The survey that has been sent out to rural areas by Venture Southland was discussed and members were asked to actively engage with those rural communities to ensure the survey gets a good response. This survey will enable the Dairy Sector to lobby government about what has been reported anecdotally in, among other things, losing migrants through attrition to other countries. Shelly asked if a column could be arranged for the media to encourage and remind people to get these completed and Also That the survey be sent electronically so that she can talk to her ethnic community and encourage them to fill it out. Steve will forward this to be included with the minutes and noted that it is strictly for rural communities and those on dairy farms at this stage.

#### **Art and Culture Project Update**

Peter Saba updated them meeting about this project. There will be an event at the Museum on a Saturday. The date is booked for 1st April 2017. It will involve music, dance, and workshops – e.g. beading an opportunity for people to get involved and learn about other cultures. More support is needed in accessing contacts and artists. Peter will forward a list of tasks to add to the minutes. Members of the LSN to forward contacts to Peter please.

#### **Next meeting dates**

- i. 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017
- ii. 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- iii. 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- iv. 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**Meeting Closure:** Fi thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 3 pm.