

## Resource consent processing performance scores top marks

The Gore District Council's planning team has received an A+ on its report card from the Ministry for the Environment.

A biennial Resource Management Act survey of local authorities shows that in 2012/13 the Council received 53 resource consent applications and processed all of them within the statutory timeframe.

This puts it in the top 32 percent of local authorities in New Zealand for processing resource consents received within the time required. The Council has steadily improved in recent years, going from 81 percent in 2007/08 to 100 percent in 2012/13.

Minister of the Environment Amy Adams has congratulated the Council on its "excellent performance". She says, in a letter to Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks, that the Council has contributed to the Government's goal of creating a resource management system that is more certain, less costly and enables growth while protecting core environmental standards.

Planning and regulatory committee chairman Cr Bret Highested said the performance was indicative of a council that was supportive of economic development and worked hard to ensure the consenting process was smooth and efficient. Senior planner Howard Alchin acknowledged the efforts of staff, in particular planning consultant Keith Hovell and planning officer Rosie Given.



**Gore Aquatic Services manager Kim Peterson** is counting down the days until there is a return to normality at the Gore pool as contractors get to the business end of a major maintenance and refurbishment project. Signal Management project manager Stefan Box said work was going to plan and the pool was expected to reopen on Monday 9 June. Replacement of the resin floors was well underway and tiling the main pool nearing completion. Grouting and tiling the leisure pool were among the tasks to be finished over the next couple of weeks, he said. The project, which has a budget of \$328,895, is the first time the pool has been closed for an extended period since it opened in 2002.

## Books on Prescription @ your library

The Gore Library now has a special selection of books called 'Books on Prescription' thanks to a collaborative scheme between the Southern Primary Health Organisation (PHO) and Southland and Otago public libraries.

The books deal with a variety of mental health topics and were selected by the Southern PHO on the recommendation of medical professionals. The PHO has ensured libraries have a copy of each title and prescribers' packs have been given to doctors, practice nurses and other agencies.

This enables health professionals to refer people to the library with a 'prescription' for a particular book. The books can also be borrowed directly by library members.

These books are on display in the adult nonfiction health section during May and June. After that they will be shelved with other books on the same topic, identifiable by the distinctive 'Books on Prescription' label, and searchable on the library catalogue under 'Books on Prescription'.

Topics include anger, anxiety, bereavement, depression, post-natal depression, eating disorders, chronic illness, obsessions and compulsions, panic, traumatic stress, relationships, self-esteem, stress, worry, fears and phobia, and giving up smoking.

If you want one of these books or would like to know more please ask the friendly library staff



**The Barton Family (from left) Rhonda, Mckay and David** have plenty to smile about after receiving two VIP tickets for all shows during the New Zealand Gold Guitars country music festival. They were winners of the Council's photographic competition, run in conjunction with the rebranding earlier this year. Outstanding sponsorship enabled the Council to offer a first prize package of tickets to major local events, such as the Gold Guitars, NZ Country Music Awards, Hokonui Fashion Design Awards and the Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival. The Barton family's winning photo was of David and son Jadyr fishing on the Maitara River.

## Ashes in wheelie bins a hot topic

Gore and Maitara residents are being asked to be more careful when they are disposing of ashes in their wheelie bins.

With the colder weather setting in, there has been an increase in the number of incidents where ashes have been put in yellow recycling bins instead of the red rubbish bins.

In the last few weeks in the Gore District, 41 out of 217 properties (19 percent) have been sent letters about putting ashes in the wrong bin. Ten of these were in Maitara and 31 in Gore.

WasteNet Southland senior waste officer Donna Peterson said putting ashes in the recycling bin contaminates all the good recycling items. Ashes can also be harmful to the sorting team at the material recovery facility.

Collection drivers can easily spot when ashes have been put in a bin by the 'ash cloud' that's created as it is being emptied, she said. When this happens, drivers put a contamination notice on the bin's handle and the offending address is reported to WasteNet.

"If residents are unsure about what can be placed in the yellow recycling bins they can check the sticker under the lid or visit our website [www.wastenet.org.nz](http://www.wastenet.org.nz) for more information."

Ms Peterson said there have also been issues with hot or warm ashes going into wheelie bins. This can damage the bin and, in some cases, cause it to go on fire. Ashes need to be cold before being disposed of, she said.

Residents are responsible for any damage to bins caused by hot ashes. New replacement bins cost about \$100 as well as a \$46.40 delivery fee.

## Toddler Time

Join library staff at Gore and Maitara each week for stories, rhymes and fun activities. Toddler Time is held at the Gore Library each Tuesday and the Maitara Library each Thursday, starting at 10.30am. It is suitable for three and four-year-olds but younger children are welcome.

### Gore Themes

27 May : Superheroes  
3 June : Birthdays  
10 June : Windy Days  
17 June : Chickens  
24 June : Big & Gray

### Maitara Themes

30 May : Chickens  
6 June : Dinosaurs  
13 June : Birds  
20 June : Monkeys  
27 June : Autumn

## Meeting Schedule

The Gore District Council will hold the following meetings, in June, in the Council Chambers, 29 Civic Avenue, Gore:

### Tuesday 3 June

Committee meetings, starting at 4pm, with the

- Community Services Committee, followed by
- Operations Committee, followed by
- Regulatory and Planning Committee, followed by
- Finance and Policy Committee.

### Monday 9 June

Extraordinary Council meeting, starting at 1pm, to hear submissions to the draft Annual Plan 2014/15.

### Tuesday 17 June

Extraordinary Council meeting, starting at 4pm, to consider submissions to the draft Annual Plan 2014/15.

### Tuesday 24 June

Ordinary Council meeting, starting at 7.30pm.

Agendas will be available on the Council's website [www.goredc.govt.nz](http://www.goredc.govt.nz), at the Civic Centre, in Gore, and the Gore and Maitara libraries.

Stephen Parry, **Chief Executive**

## Potential flood area records updated

The Council has updated its records of areas within the District potentially subject to inundation during high rainfall and floods, as part of its changes to the District Plan.

In rural areas, the identification of properties that may be subject to inundation does not impact on their use, unless they are located on the river side of flood protection works. However, in cases where a dwelling is being erected, it may be appropriate to have a minimum floor level for living areas.

Within the Gore and Maitara flood ways, flooding is common on the river side of the flood banks. The controls that have been in place for a many years, to avoid damage to land and impeding water flow during a flood, have not been altered.

Current practices will also continue in the Gore and Maitara urban areas. This means the Council will provide land owners with the relevant informant and leave it to them to determine the level of protection for their land, in the event the flood protection banks were breached or fail. Within areas without protection, the Council will seek advice from Environment Southland as to whether it is appropriate to issue building consents and approve subdivision proposals, and any conditions that may have to apply. This continues existing practices.

If anyone has any queries please contact Planning Officer Rosie Given, phone 2090330.

## Quick Notes

### Draft Annual Plan submissions

The Council's draft Annual Plan 2014/15 has attracted about 20 submissions to date. One of the more popular items is the proposed establishment of a dog park at Hamilton Park, in East Gore. There will be separate areas for big and small dogs, and the park will cost about \$23,500. You can have your say on this or other matters in the draft Plan by lodging a submission by 5pm next Tuesday, 27 May. Submission forms are available on the Council's website, go to Your Council/Consultation.

### Burning treated timber warning

People are reminded not to burn treated timbers, either in the open air or in a wood burner, as this releases toxic fumes into the air and poses a health risk to anyone who may breathe the contaminated air. The burning of treated timber is banned in New Zealand because of the toxicity of the chemical chromated copper arsenic (CCA), which is commonly used because of its pesticide and anti-fungal properties. This country is one of the biggest users of CCA treated timber products. For more information go to the Council's website [www.goredc.govt.nz](http://www.goredc.govt.nz)



## CONTACT NUMBERS:

Rates Enquiries.....	2038115	Eastern Southland Gallery.....	2089907
Council Administration.....	2090330	Gore Visitor Information Centre.....	2039288
Gore Library.....	2039129	Maitara Library/Service Centre.....	2038115
Gore Multisports Complex.....	2039128	James Cumming Wing.....	2090358

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