

Saying it with roses

Working outside in winter can be trying at the best of times, so it's little wonder the Council's parks and reserves women (from left) Christine Wilson, Vicki McKinnel, Sarah Frame, Annette Black, Karen Hume, Lesley McLeod and Kath Milne were delighted when they got a surprise 'thank you' from a resident. The box of Roses chocolates and coffee sachets were accompanied by a note saying they were for all the hard work the women put in keeping the town's gardens looking good.



August Meetings

The Gore District Council will meet at the Council chambers, 29 Civic Ave, Gore, on:

Tuesday 12 August, Ordinary meeting, starting at 7.30pm

Mataura Community Board

The Mataura Community Board will meet at the Mataura Community Centre, McQueen Avenue, on:

Monday 18 August, starting at 5.30pm

Agendas will be available on the Council's website www.goredc.govt.nz Your Council/Council Business, at the main office in Civic Ave, and at the Gore and Mataura libraries.

Stephen Parry
Chief Executive

ChinWag – reviving the art of conversation

A good chinwag has always been at the heart of community. The Gore District Council recognises this and is seeking to revive the art of conversation with the introduction of a new community digital newsletter, ChinWag.

The world of communications has changed in recent years. Social media is driving a new wave of 3D communications where it's as important to listen, as it is to speak; where everyone can have their point of view heard and where open communication and transparency in decision making is creating more engaged and empowered communities.

The Council recognises this change in the way people communicate and is leading the District further into the digital age with the launch of its brand new online newsletter ChinWag - the art of conversation

From next month, the Council's news and community information will be available in ChinWag. The digital newsletter will replace the monthly Noticeboard page as well as the Hokonui Herald. It will be published every second month and supported by hard copies, available for pick up from various outlets around the community.

ChinWag will have the ability to carry video clips, sound clips and photo albums. There will be plenty of opportunity for readers

to engage with the Council through polls and surveys, asking questions and making comments.

One of the real benefits of the newsletter is that readers can subscribe directly to ChinWag and receive an email alert every time a new issue is published. In this way residents and ratepayers can engage directly with the Council, and the Council can engage directly with them.

ChinWag will be supported on alternate months by a newspaper edition in Newslink as well as by information in various traditional formats such as radio and media coverage, so that it is easy for everyone to keep up with the Council.

Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks encourages people to sign up today for ChinWag.

"ChinWag is a real step forward in the way we communicate news and updates to our communities.

"It will be fast paced, exciting to look at and enable readers to interact directly with Council on the issues that affect them.

"We are also focused on ensuring ChinWag is clearly written and steers away from confusing local government terms and jargon. The overall aim is for us to engage more with the individuals who make up our great region and for them to feel their voice can be heard within the Council.

"All in all, it will be a GOod REad!"

Report on the financial health of NZ councils has Gore in good shape

The Gore District Council is one of the better performing local authorities in New Zealand when it comes to keeping a rein on debt, according to a recently released independent report on the financial health of councils.

The report was compiled by Fairfax Media in tandem with lobby group the New Zealand Taxpayers' Union and profiles the performance of the country's 67 local authorities, based on a range of indices.

Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks welcomes the report, saying he was pleased with its robustness.

"It will answer a lot of questions for some councillors and ratepayers about where we sit in terms of liabilities and performance."

The Council is ranked 16th lowest in terms of liabilities per ratepayer, which was "pleasantly surprising". In dollar terms this equates to \$2013 of debt per ratepayer.

Debt has been flat-lining for some time, Mr Hicks said. This was contrary to a trend in the sector of explosive growth and debt. Finance and policy committee chairman Cr Cliff Bolger said the Council's performance showed that bigger was not always better.

Chief executive Stephen Parry said given the frequent calls for more aggressive debt retirement by some parties, the Council's low level of debt per ratepayer was of considerable interest.

Another key metric was the Council's operating expenditure per ratepayer, which sits at \$2545, Mr Parry said.

This places Gore eighth lowest in New Zealand and comfortably below all neighbouring councils in Otago and Southland, apart from Central Otago District Council.

Dog registrations due



If you own a dog and haven't registered it for the next 12 months, then you still have time to do so and avoid paying a 40 percent penalty. Registrations are due by Friday 15 August. If you have any questions just call the Council on 2090330 or pop into our main office.

Toddler Time

Join in the fun at the Gore and Mataura libraries each Tuesday and Friday, respectively, at 10.30am. Toddler Time features stories, rhymes and an activity, suitable for three and four-year-olds although younger children are welcome.

This month's themes are:

GORE

- 29 July – Zoos
- 5 August – Sheep
- 12 August – Books
- 19 August – Frogs
- 26 August – Circus

MATAURA

- 25 July – Winter
- 1 August – Spiders
- 8 August – Transport
- 15 August – Rainbow
- 22 August – Teeth
- 29 August – Penguins

Leaping Frogs Swim School

With the children back at school and summer just around the corner, it's time to think about making sure they have the necessary swim skills to stay safe in the water. Bookings for term 3 lessons at the Gore Aquatic Centre are now open. There are daily sessions and a level to suit everyone, from babies through to adults. You can book at the pool or phone 203 9128.

GET READY FOR A CHINWAG

SIGN UP NOW AND RECEIVE YOUR NEW GORE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER – GO TO...

WWW.GORED.C.GOV.T.NZ

GOOD
DISTRICT COUNCIL
READ

ChinWag will carry all the Council news and information as well as community news, events and profiles. We plan to feature video clips, sound clips and photo albums. There will be plenty of opportunities to engage with the Council either through polls and surveys, or by asking questions and making comments. Printed copies will also be available.



CONTACT NUMBERS:

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

www.goredc.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/GoreDC

