

COMMUNITY AWARDS

Talent and Dedication Applauded

A record total of 62 nominations were received for this year's Gore District Community Awards at the Heartland Hotel.

On 31 October the area's high achievers and community stalwarts gathered to witness the presentation of eight awards.

Organiser and Gore District Council Administration and Human Resources Manager, Susan Jones, says, "The Eastern Southland Junior Sportsperson of the Year attracted the largest number of nominees. There is a huge depth of talent out there among our young people."

This is the Community Award's third year, with the last two years' events selling out.

"The concept seems to be really well supported by the community. The idea is not to be an elitist event, but to recognise people who have done a great job



His Worship the Mayor, Tracy Hicks, (third from left) with Civic Award winners, Jean Neilson, Don Neilson and Carol Dawson.

in their chosen field. Next year we may introduce a 'Services to Sport' award to the list of categories," adds Susan.

Results:

Eastern Southland Junior Sportsperson of the Year - Rebecca Gibson

Contribution to Arts and Culture - Barbara Hanna

Soroptimist International of Gore Woman Achiever of the Year - Bobbi Brown

Hovell Environmental Planning Contribution to the Environment - Otama Primary School

Toastmasters Communicator of the Year - Jill Ware

J D Souness Young Achiever of the Year - Angus Adams

Newslink-Southland Times-Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce Customer

Service Award - Donald Buckley Photographics

Gore District Civic Awards Recipients - Jean and Don Neilson, Carol Dawson.

MAYOR'S OUTLOOK



Ever seen Gore District Council vehicles out on the road and wondered what the Council is up to?

Well, this newsletter is our bid to give you an insight into, and keep you informed about activities the Council is engaged in. Three times a year you will receive a "Hokonui Herald" full of Council projects, plans, events and community activities.

In my memory I don't think there has been a time where both the challenges and opportunities on the horizon have been so plentiful and spanning so many sectors, social, environmental, cultural and of course, financial.

Security of water supply and the possibility of large scale industrial development are two of the more high profile challenges.

While the big picture, large scale issues are of vital importance for our future, the more mundane Council activities ensuring that the essentials of life continue in a seamless manner such as provision of water, roading and waste disposal go on day after day, and I hope this newsletter will give more of a insight into how such services function.

Of course, Christmas is almost upon us again and with that in mind I would encourage everyone to enjoy the Gore Christmas Parade followed by the Christmas in the Park concert on 13 December from 2pm. Both are becoming an integral part of our event calendar. There is also the Maitara Christmas gala day planned by the Maitara Taskforce.

On behalf of both the elected members of council and staff, I wish you all the very best for a great Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Mayor Tracy Hicks

AQUATIC ATTRACTION

Patronage of the Gore Aquatic Centre is up 17.29% on last year, says Aquatic Services Manager, Kim Peterson.

Kim attributes the rising numbers to the pool's investment in fun activities, quality training for swim school teachers and promotion over the last two years. "I also think the recession has made people realise the pool is a cheap form of entertainment for all the family, where a family pass costs only \$12," Kim says.

There has been an increase in those using the pool for rehabilitation; recognising the benefits of swimming as a low impact workout. "More people are travelling from surrounding centres to use the pool, too, telling staff that they prefer the Gore pool for its family-friendly atmosphere and cleanliness," she adds.



Aquatic Services Manager,
Kim Peterson

COUNCIL EVENTS

27 November

Last day for second Gore District Council rates instalment.

7 December

Enrolments begin for Summer Reading Programme. Programme starts 14 December. Gore and Maitara Libraries. [See article on page 8.]

24 December

**12 noon
Council's Christmas closedown. This applies to the main Gore District Council office and the Maitara Service Centre/Library.**

11 January 2010

**8.30am
The main Council office and the Maitara Service Centre/Library reopen.**



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EMPOWERMENT ADVOCATE

Colleen Te Au describes herself as “a boots and all kind of person” and, as the Gore District Council’s first Community Development Officer, she’s needed to be.

“I don’t have a typical day, and that’s what I love about this job,” says Colleen. “In one day I may be speaking at the Citizens Advice Bureau’s AGM and then off to a meeting about job opportunities for youth. I’m involved with the Youth Council, the Gore District Alcohol Strategy; I meet with the Mataura Taskforce, and assist with a variety of initiatives underway within the community.”

The Community Development Officer role is to plan, instigate and implement initiatives that positively address the district’s social well-being. Colleen assists the community and the Council in identifying community issues, establishing and prioritising needs, and ensuring full co-ordination with other Council activities.

“So, if you are thinking about a project and don’t know where to start, I can help,” Colleen says. “I know about funding options, processes and who holds the purse strings. I’m building the necessary relationships so I can be a go-between for those in need.”



Loves Atypical Day

Gore District Council's first Community Development Officer, Colleen Te Au.

Colleen’s role became necessary, partly due to central government legislation increasing local government responsibility for community issues, but also due to demand from the community itself. “On top of that, Mayor Tracy Hicks and Chief Executive, Stephen Parry, were taking on a whole lot of community development issues in addition to their already hectic schedules, so there was a need for the role,” adds Colleen.

Colleen’s previous work involved facilitating and contracting individualised care packages for people with disabilities in Otago/Southland. “I am passionate about empowerment, seeing people doing things for themselves,” she states. “I want to see people take their ideas, turn them into concrete projects and bring them to fruition for the benefit of the community.”

OH, my washing!

It’s dust season for those of you living beside Gore district’s 553 kilometres of unsealed road, but if it’s really getting up your nose, and you’re willing to wield a shovel, there’s a solution... albeit a greasy one.

“In the dry months we combat dust by issuing permits to residents with problems, allowing them to arrange for waste oil to be poured on the section of road affecting them,” says Roding Officer, Ivan Spackman.

“The permits limit the amount of oil poured, preventing slippery surfaces and run-off into water courses. We won’t grade that section of road once it’s oiled, so, until the dust season is over, around May, the permit holder has to fill in any potholes so other road users aren’t affected.” ■

PROBLEM **SEALED**

Kaiwera’s Waddle/Old Coach Road intersection is one of several problem sections of metal road getting attention this summer in an ongoing upgrade.

Corrugations, potholes and slippery areas occur in predictable spots, according to Roding Manager, Murray Hasler. “Steep and windy hills, bridge approaches, and intersections all develop problem surfaces quickly after grading,” he says. “We began a programme of sealing the worst areas about four years ago and it will continue along with our four year cycle of topping up gravel on our metal roads.”

This season you should see work on bridge approaches on Kaiwera’s Waikana and Knowsley Park Roads, and Waikaka’s Middle Road West and Howe Road. Intersection seals will be laid on the Waikaka junctions of Gardyne/Turnbull/Glenkenich Roads, and Turnbull/Sandy Knowes Roads. ■



EACH PRECIOUS Drop



General Manager District Assets, Paul Withers

The future supply and treatment of our water is under close examination by Gore District Council. General Manager District Assets, Paul Withers, says ensuring domestic and industry water needs are met is a matter of successfully juggling a number of key issues.

The plan is to have all decisions made in three years, with Gore District having enough water, and water that meets the drinking water standards for our population.

The following is a brief roundup of the main issues...

Safe-Guarding Supply

Increased demand on our local water supplies from new industries and

development is almost certain – which is why the Gore District Council (GDC) is examining this finite resource.

“The main water supply sources in this district are aquifer-fed wells for Gore and dams and rivers for Mataura,” says Paul.

“We have enough to accommodate potential new developments or industry with our current water-take resource consents. But, Paul says, the GDC is concerned that municipal water supplies are not prioritised over rural requirements when consents are being granted.

“There is a farm near Gore that has been granted quite a big irrigation consent. Our Coopers Well watertake consent requires us to ask users to conserve water in dry periods when the river gets below 17 cumecs per second of flow. The farmer only has to stop irrigating at 15 cumecs – so when the town is conserving, the farmer can keep irrigating the paddocks. The GDC opposed the consent in hearings with Environment Southland and appealed the decision. Environment Southland is aware of our concerns and we are in discussion with it.”

Water restrictions in drought



are also a key aspect of supply.

Paul, who began as General Manager District Assets in June 2008 after there had been a total hosing ban, says, “I don’t believe that a form of water restriction is a bad thing. Water is a precious resource. People have to think carefully before they turn their taps on and use just what they need and no more.”

Pleura Dam

Issues with Pleura Dam, the source of the Mataura urban water supply, came to a head when it was being cleaned and the silt barrier broke. GDC is being prosecuted by Environment Southland.

If dam use continues, a much better way to clean it will have to be found before a new consent can



Pleura Dam

be granted (the current one expires on 10 February 2010).

“It will undoubtedly be a more expensive cleaning process, with additional use of trucks, heavy machinery, etc,” Paul says.

“Intensification of land use in the catchment of Pleura Dam requires it to be cleaned more often than previously, too.”

There’s also the chance the GDC will be required to increase the minimum flow coming out of the dam into the river, which in turn reduces the amount being piped to the water treatment plant. When drought hits and it’s necessary to supplement the dam supply with water from emergency takes at Waikana and the Mataura River, the Council gets complaints about the taste and colour.

“On top of that,” Paul adds, “it is six kilometres from the dam to the water treatment plant over some steep terrain. The pipeline has a limited life, and, in the long term it will need replacement. The question we need to ask ourselves is, can we do without the dam’s supply?”

Treatment Stations

There are three treatment stations in the Gore district; a lot for a population of just over 12,000.

“The idea of not taking water from the Pleura Dam and closing one treatment station has become attractive,” says Paul.

Wells

There are wells at Coopers, east of the Mataura River, and Jacobstown, on the west side. The wells’ aquifer is recharged by rain over time and gets some natural top up from the Mataura River. Less water is taken from the wells than GDC resource consents allow.

“Wells degrade over time,” says Paul, “which affects the ability to pump water from them. Jacobstown wells are older, but the GDC recently drilled a new well there with a capacity exceeding the current water consent. We will

apply for an increase in our consent from Environment Southland so we can take more water out of that well.”

Decision Breather

“We’ve had a bit of a reprieve in terms of making these decisions. We were just about to install ultraviolet treatment in all three treatment stations this year in accordance with central Government drinking-water standards legislation, when the Government let out the compliance time-frame by three more years for smaller communities like ours.

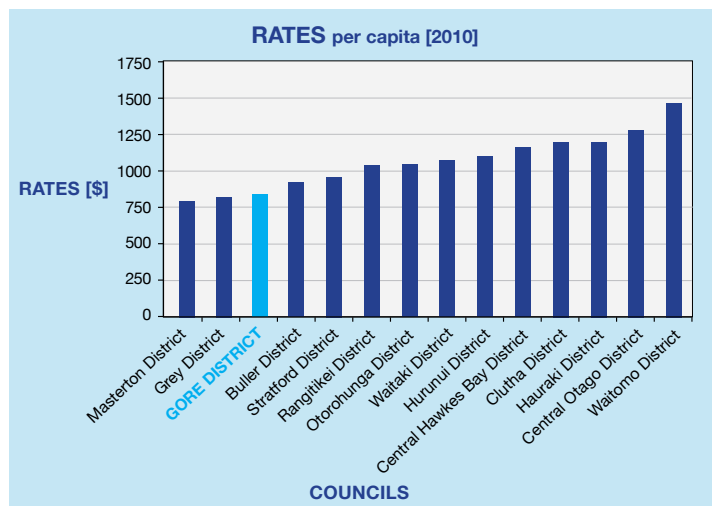
“We are taking advantage of that extra time to have a good look at what is really needed and how best to deliver it.”



How do we **RATE?**

Are you getting a decent bang for your rates buck?

How can you tell? Gore District Council's done a little checking. By comparing GDC with 13 other similar New Zealand local authorities, a picture of how Gore sits for value for money begins to appear.



General Manager Corporate Services, Russell Duthie, says, "We've done a couple of benchmarking exercises, comparing our revenue, debt and spending in key areas. The most recent worked off the 2007-2016 Community Plans of each authority, but I updated some of our statistics to present to Local Government Minister, Rodney Hide, when he visited last June.

"We compared how much we spend per capita and per hectare on our parks and reserves; per capita and per kilometre on roads; per capita on libraries, aquatic services, arts and heritage, etc. We look at projected rates increases over the years, too.

"As we have a broad range of criteria the figures show that, overall, we compare favourably. We usually sat in the upper quartile or middle of the road. It was nice to see us sitting at the bottom of some of the graphs, like the projected rates per capita in 2016 – we were at \$870, whereas Central Hawkes Bay was at \$1708.

"We were the highest for per capita spending on parks and reserves, but you have to think in terms of what our region is seen as being great at. We have a high reputation for our parks; it's a level of service we have to honour.

It's all to see if we are looking in good shape compared with other local authorities with similar environments. We have got to a level where we feel reasonably comfortable with where we are at."



**General Manager
Corporate Services,
Russell Duthie**

YOUTH COUNCIL Seeks Keen Youth

The Gore District Youth Council (GDYC) wants more. Schools, iwi and church groups are all represented on the Council, but members want greater diversity.

"We are looking for people under 20 who have left school, but are interested in the youth of the area," Chairperson, Nathan Dickson (18), says.

The GDYC offers ways for young locals to voice their opinion, inspire change and improve life for youth in the area. Established last year, the Council has already been invited to attend national government-run, youth-focussed events; it has made comment on Gore District Council projects; submitted to the 10-year Community Plan and it is assisting with Civil Defence

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BRIEFS

FANCY A PRIZE TRIP?

Over January, February and March, locals who go into the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre and book a ticket of any kind, or who bring in a tourist wanting to book a ticket, will go into a monthly draw to win a trip. It could be an activity, bus trip or a Interislander Ferry Crossing, who knows? Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre, is on the corner of Norfolk Street and Hokonui Drive.

NEW LOOK LAID AT LIBRARY

New carpet, new matting, plus new furniture and great big floor cushions in the children's area add up to a new look at Gore Library. The makeover took place in late October, so go check out the inviting, fresh new image!



WALK A NEW WAY

A central government subsidy for new walkways is assisting with the local construction of paths on routes already popular with walkers. These will lie between Aotea Crescent and Waimea Street, and McKellar Street from Windsor Park Rest Home to Broughton Street.

REEL 'EM IN WITH FREE I-SITE EVENTS PROMOTION



Staging a public event? Get your event promoted, for free, to all local accommodation houses, tourist operators, and all comers to the Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre.

i-SITE Manager, Sue Soper, says, "We're interested in Gore District's events; charity fundraisers, school fairs, exhibitions, sports events, festivals, big or small, one-off or regular. We want to spread the word about what's going on here.

"We will also add information to the website www.gorenz.com, which has an events calendar ready and waiting for more dates to be filled," adds Sue. "In fact, event organisers can access the site to place their own events on the calendar. To make the most of this free promotion it is important i-SITE knows all the details at least six weeks prior to the event."

Let i-SITE staff know the event name, what's happening, when, where, entry cost and a contact if people want to know more. Contact i-SITE staff on Phone 203 9288 or email goreinfo@goredc.govt.nz. ■

Mind the Gap

Trips and injuries on cracked footpaths have led the Gore District Council to nearly double its footpath renewal and repair budget to \$300,000 per annum.

Roading Officer, Gina Castro, is overseeing the repair of two kilometres per year of faulty footpaths in Gore and Mataura.

"A lot of our footpaths were constructed during a similar time period, with poor bases, so they are all failing at the same time," says Roothing Manager, Murray Hasler. "We're getting tilted slabs and cracks that are creating trip hazards, especially for the elderly and sight impaired. There have been people falling and breaking bones."

The Roothing team is tying the footpath repairs in with its 11 year cycle of urban road resealing.

"Before we reseal a road, we repair the holes and cracks to make sure we get a good base," says Murray. "It makes sense to do the footpaths at the same time, especially as the paths, kerbs and channels were originally moulded in one 'pour' and repairing those often affects the adjacent road seal."



Roothing Officer, Gina Castro, indicates a path due for repair

PUBLIC EVENTS

1st & 3rd Saturday monthly
GORE FARMERS MARKET
9.30am - 12.30pm
Old Horse Bazaar, Mersey
Street
Info: 03 206 6339

4th Monday each month
COMMUNITY WALKS
(approx 1.5 hours)
1.30pm, meet at Trout, bring
water bottle
Info: June 03 208 5483, or
Leona 03 207 5796

22 November
**MATAURA CHRISTMAS
GALA DAY**
10.30am - 3pm
Mataura Primary School

28 November
**SWIMMING SOUTHLAND
GORE AGE GROUP OPEN**
Multi Sport Complex, Gore
Info: David Prattley
03 2088414 or 027 2088414

12 December
**MOKERETA PAWAKATAKA
TRAIL - MOUNTAIN BIKE OR
RUN/WALK**
1.00pm
Starts at Mokoreta Hall
Info: www.sportsouthland.co.nz

13 December
**GORE CHRISTMAS PARADE
& CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK**
Main Street Gore & Gore
Gardens
Info: Gore District Council
03 209 0330

13 December 2009
**HOKONUI TRIATHLON/
DUATHLON**
1.00pm Gore lake.
Info: www.southlandtriclub.co.nz

20 December
**GORE CHRISTMAS AT THE
RACES**
10am, Tapanui Racing Club,
\$10.00
Info: C. Lindsay
027 489 6250
<http://www.gallopsouth.co.nz>

20 December 2009
**WAIKAIA TRIATHLON/
DUATHLON**
10.30am.
Registrations from 9.30am at
Waikaia Rugby Club
Info: www.sportsouthland.co.nz

10-12 February
SOUTHERN FIELD DAYS
Waimumu
Info: Mark Dillon
03 202 5321
www.southernfielddays.co.nz

20 February
MLT MOONSHINE TRAIL
Dolamore Park
Info: 03 211 2150
events@sportsouthland.co.nz

27 February
**HOKONUI MOONSHINERS'
FESTIVAL**
Hokonui Heritage Precinct,
Hokonui Drive, Noon-7pm
\$15
Info: 03 203 9288
www.hokonui moonshinefest.co.nz

Disclaimer: This listing contains event details supplied to Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre. Details correct as at 15 October 2009. i-SITE bears no responsibility for inconvenience due to changes of event particulars.

YOUTH COUNCIL *continued*

projects. The group has organised events and will soon have its own website linked off Gore District Council's.

The Gore District Youth Council is well-supported by Gore District Council staff. "At first we were just going to be giving feedback to the Councillors," recalls Nathan. "But now we're being used a lot more in the community, but not to our full potential. Any local youth-focused project can come to us for input." ■

KIDS

Dive Into Books This Summer

A party and a prize add incentive to children taking part in the summer holiday reading programme this year, says Children's and Young Adult Librarian, Jenny Smith.

"This year it's themed 'Dive Into Books'. The programme is aimed at 3-11 year olds; any child old enough to talk about a book they have read or had read to them can join in," says Jenny.

'Dive Into Books' runs for six weeks, starting in early December at both Gore and Mataura Library. Children visit the library to register and receive a folder to record all the library books they read during the holiday. Each child needs to come into the library at least four times over the six weeks and talk to staff about what they've read.

"At the end of the programme, if they have completed all the steps, each child and their family are invited to a Finale Party and prize-giving ceremony," says Jenny. All local primary schools and pre-schools are informed about the programme. "Teachers and reading recovery tutors often recommend the programme to parents to help maintain their children's reading levels over the long summer break," Jenny adds.



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