



HOKONUI

HERALD

APRIL 2010

Recycling GREEN WASTE HITCH

Extensive public consultation has revealed obvious division within the community about replacing the current use of rubbish bags for all household waste collection with a two-wheelie-bin system of waste and recycling collection.

Gore District Council (GDC) General Manager District Assets, Paul Withers says, "Two big issues emerged. One is the problem of green waste. It turns out that just about everyone says they put green waste (garden waste, lawn clippings, etc.) in their rubbish bags or their paddys bin.

"In the landfill contract negotiated with AB Lime Ltd, green waste is excluded so it's not supposed to go in the bags, nor would it go into a wheelie bin.

"People want to recycle, but many say that if they can't dispose of their green waste they are inclined to want to stay with the status quo. So, obviously it is an issue we still need to address.



General Manager District Asset, Paul Withers, considers the standard of consultation during the past month has been second to none.

"The other issue is the cost of wheelie bins for people living in small units who don't generate much waste. For them the proposal is quite expensive."

Over and above the decision whether or not to go with recycling, Paul believes the manner in which the Council has gone about the consultation process is hugely positive.

"We ran it in a very 'face-to-face' way to get the viewpoint of a large cross-section of the community.

"Council management and the Mayor got in amongst it - setting up information booths at supermarkets and market days, having meetings with local community groups and more - to inform the public about the options available

and to get feedback about people's key concerns.

"We have got a well-rounded view of what people want, so we'll be well informed if we have to renegotiate the agreement with the other Councils (Invercargill City Council and Southland Regional Council) or the contractor about the recycling and/or disposal process."

MAYOR'S OUTLOOK



The calendar's been so full that the first three months of 2010 have been an enjoyable blur for me. There is no doubt that summer and early autumn is event season in the Gore District and it just seems to build each year. Congratulations to the hundreds of volunteers who have donated time and energy to make this season memorable.

While events have been the vibrant face of the District there have been some long hours going in behind the scenes by staff and Councillors to ensure the budget for the next 12 months is prudent and affordable. The Council is largely on target to meet the predictions made in its long term plan, with the only real exception being the extra cost required to ensure the recently completed MLT indoor

event centre is operating to its potential. While this is an unbudgeted cost, the partnership which has developed between the Mataura Licensing Trust and the Community Trust of Southland alongside the Gore District Council will ensure that this great community facility is well utilised and maintained for the future.

The Annual Plan will be available for community consultation in the near future and I look forward to hearing your views.

Recycling plans have been a hot topic and the point is fast approaching for the Council to consider all individual views expressed. I look forward to a robust Council debate leading to a positive path for our future waste management.

Mayor Tracy Hicks

CENTRE UNLIMITED

Wanting to make use of the MLT Events Centre? Bookings can be made through the main Gore Multisports Complex reception, the one-stop-shop for all information about the pool, ice rink, events centre and, soon, the hockey turf.

"We expect netballers will get a lot out of the Events Centre," says GDC Administration and Human Resources Manager, Susan Jones. "We've also had interest from a model aircraft club, tennis, soccer and volley ball organisations. It will be great for trade shows. There is no limit to the possibilities."

Susan looks around at the Multisports Complex and the neighbouring hockey turf being built by the Gore Hockey Association. "There is \$12 million worth of sporting assets right in the backyard of the people living here. It's remarkable."

To book courts or events at the MLT centre contact Gore Multisports Complex reception at ph: 203 9128 or email: multisports@goredc.govt.nz

COUNCIL EVENTS

Enroll It's Election Year!

You can't moan about your local body politicians with any kind of moral standing if you don't actually vote! But, to vote you need to be enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll. This is important for those people who have recently or are about to turn 18 years of age.

Local elections will be held on Saturday, 9 October 2010.

Have your say - make sure you're on the Electoral Roll:

Sign up at your local NZ Post visit www.election.org.nz or, call 0800 ENROL NOW (0800 367656).



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MATAURA CENTRE

Worth All The Talk

The popular Matura Community Centre is now one-year-old and proving its worth among its many users. Matura Community Board Chairman, Bill Lee, says the modern facility is excellent, with far more local people making use of it than the old Matura Hall. "There are weddings, funerals and seminars, church groups use it and there is a market day once a fortnight."

GDC Parks and Recreation Manager, Ian Soper says, "About ten years of public consultation went into the replacement of the old Town Hall, the use the new facility is getting shows the community made the right decision – it's good to see."

"Being linked to the library, it gives staff the option to open the door in between the two buildings when there are larger school groups, expanding the library space. On the other side it links to the Elderly Citizens Centre, too. People often book meetings in the rooms off the foyer. There is also the option of larger groups meeting in the hall and

utilising the smaller rooms as break-out rooms for smaller sub-committee meetings."

To book a meeting room or the hall at the Matura Community Centre contact Matura Service Centre Coordinator, Pam Courtney, Ph: 203 8115: or email: pcourtney@goredc.govt.nz



THROWING THE

'Net wide

Since the Aotearoa People's Network Kaharoa (APNK) went live and brought free access to the internet and WiFi to the Gore and Matura Public Libraries, staff have seen the service put to a myriad of uses.

"We've had people using it for applying for jobs, homework, social networking on Facebook, checking TradeMe, contacting friends and family by Skype, downloading university distance learning texts, all sorts of things," says Community Services Librarian, Penelope Perry.

There is a time limit of 30 minutes for each session,



and one session a day per customer, monitored with a booking system.

District Library Manager, Jane Robinson, says the service has been particularly useful for people with poor internet reception at home. "We encourage people to make use of it, especially the WiFi, which is also available just outside the building, so you can sun yourself on the benches outside the library with a coffee and your laptop."

The library computers also offer programmes such as Excel and Word so people can do things like create their own CVs, and they are compatible with camera memory cards and USB memory sticks. However the librarians' pride and joy is the access to online data-bases that are full of free, authoritative content.

"There is a lot of misinformation out there on the World Wide Web, but these databases, like the Encyclopaedia Britannica, have content you can trust. People with a library card can also access these databases from their home computer through the library pages on the GDC website. Soon we will be launching a dedicated Gore District Libraries website which will make it a lot easier to access the information and resources we have to offer."

Do DOLAMORE

You must go to Dolamore Park at once and thoroughly enjoy yourself.

Wander aimlessly, plummet down the flying fox, check out the trees or stream- and bird-life, go mountain biking, sit for a while and do nothing if it takes your fancy. If you have an interest in any of these pursuits you have no excuse not to go.

GDC Parks and Recreation Manager, Ian Soper, has a passion for plants, gardens and parklands and he is very keen for locals to develop their knowledge of the natural assets they have around them. Dolamore Park is a classic example.

“This is a sanctuary, not just for people, but for plants and native animals. It’s only a ten-minute drive from Gore and, really, people should make more use of it. There’s a large-scale playground, room to kick a ball and the kids can have all kinds of adventures getting to know the network of tracks within the Park.”

Prepare the tent pegs

Ian points out that, “if you want to go camping, but don’t want hours sweating in the car with grumpy kids, you can just go to Dolamore; there are showers, barbeques and a kitchen block, all you need. You can go to sleep and wake up to the chorus of tui, bellbirds and fantails.

The land for Dolamore Park was bought after the Dolamore family made a generous bequest of £38,000 in 1947. The Park it is now entirely in the care of the GDC.

Croydon Bush Scenic Reserve and the Hokonui Hills behind the Park are owned by the Department of Conservation (DoC). Some DoC walking tracks start in the Park and take you right up to the Hokonui Hills ridgeline. The Hokonui Tramping Club maintains tracks that start at Grants Bush, at the eastern end of Croydon Bush, accessed from Grants Bush Road. The local mountain bike club has a track that starts at the end of Pope Road and it is working on one to link with Dolamore Park.

Volunteers, such as groups from St Peters College, help reduce the number of pest plants like Chilean Flame Creeper and sycamore. GDC also has assistance from Periodic Detention workers in creating tracks and maintaining the Fantail Ridge, Sequoia, Ian Gilchrist Arboretum and Whisky Creek tracks, all of which lie within the Park’s boundary.

“For an inland town in a farming district we are lucky to have this. Two metres off the track and you wouldn’t find the bush any thicker in Fiordland, I know that for a fact,” says Ian.



An arboretum for everyone

Tree lovers have no excuse for not making frequent trips to the park to see its developing assortment of arboreta (tree collections).

The Gilchrist Arboretum holds ornamental exotic conifers. Ian says conifers

are suffering from being out of fashion, unlike 20 or 30 years ago when they were very popular. “Having collections like this means the species survives locally through the vagaries of gardening trends,” Ian points out. “So when they come back ‘in’ nurserymen will be seeking collections

VIC HERRING - **Unsung Hero**

such as this one for genetic material to propagate from.”

An assortment of exotic trees are reaching early maturity in the twenty year old Bert Newman Arboretum, and a new rhododendron dell is being established to complement the Park’s over 500 established rhododendrons.

The dell is designed to offer a quiet stroll with garden seats placed to offer sweeping south-west views over the Park, hills and distant farmland. Many of these Rhododendrons were donated to the Park by Kathy Faulkner, an avid collector of Rhododendrons, when she left the district a couple of years ago.

Throwbacks and escapees

“Enthusiasts will be interested in the Cupressus lusitanica Dolamore,” says Ian. “This tree is unique to Dolamore Park as the form we have exudes a natural ‘variance’ which is until now unknown. It’s a hardy evergreen, tall with long streamers of dainty branches like the native rimu but much tougher.

“Our conifer collection has produced a genetic throwback, too, a Sequoiadendron giganteum ‘Pendulum’, also unique to the park.

You will find rimu, kahikatea, totara and matai, too, some over 500 years old, having escaped demand for local timber in the 1800s and early 1900s.

Ian emphasises, “Gore is likely to develop further in the future. It is a GDC responsibility to ensure recreation areas are set aside so people can take time out and enjoy the outdoors. I’m proud of the quality of reserves and levels of service we offer in this regard.

“We get a lot of feedback from tourists stating that ‘what you have here is rare and should be valued’.”

Vic Herring is one of Gore’s genuine unsung heroes. Working hard in Dolamore Park as part-time caretaker, he oversees the upkeep of its 95 hectares of parkland, bush, play and camp grounds.

Pictured here spraying gorse to make way for native plantings, he says, “It takes decades for native bush to naturally take over gorse – I can’t wait that long.”

Vic has direct contact with campers and park users, 99.9% of whom are extremely appreciative of the experience the Park offers, with many travellers making it a regular stop on their itinerary.

Vic is also the Council’s playgrounds’ inspector, checking the region’s play equipment in monthly audits. Vic undertakes repairs where necessary or oversees maintenance if outside assistance is required.



On **ROADS** and *Ice*

Driving Gore's roads would be a much less pleasant experience without people like Roothing Officer, Ivan Spackman, around.

Ivan started at GDC last September, assisting Roothing Manager, Murray Hasler, and fellow Roothing Officer, Gina Castro with roading issues in the Gore district including contract maintenance and inspections.



Roothing Officer, Ivan Spackman

Ivan says, "A Roothing Officer is mainly involved with the daily operation of the Council's roading network maintenance contract, whether it be responding to customer enquiries or working with the contractor to improve the service to the road users. The current focus is completing the Council's yearly requirement to re-seal the roads so that the road asset can be maintained to its life expectancy. This involves reviewing the pre-reseal repairs to liaising with the consultant at the completion of the contract.

"I get real satisfaction out of helping solve a problem that may have been irritating people," says Ivan. "I'm lucky that there is a real variety in the job with a mixture of office and site work."

Ivan has had seven years' experience working in Roothing with local authorities, including the Dunedin City Council and Clutha District Council, but prior to coming to the GDC Ivan had been working in the private sector with a national roading contractor.

Ivan's out of work pursuits include a little "something to maim and injure myself on" - taking to the back-blocks on his trail bike. He is also a Corporal in the New Zealand Army Reserves.

The Army interest lead to his spending 10 days in the Antarctic in February, helping offload a large container ship of its year's worth of supplies for New Zealand's Scott Base and America's McMurdoe Station. "It mostly involved working twelve hour shifts unloading and back-loading containers under the shadow of a large ship, but I did get to go and see Scott's Hut."

Reducing **Alcohol Harm**

Community initiatives identified in the Alcohol Strategy adopted by the GDC in October 2009 are being put in to action by the Gore District Alcohol Advisory Group.

Originally formed in 2006 the group's membership consists of representatives from 25 related organisations, including the Maitauro Licensing Trust, Gore Victim Support, the Police, Child Youth and Family, Women's Refuge and Grey Power.

Community Development Officer, Colleen Te Au, says the group is there to uphold the Alcohol Strategy's goal, "To encourage a community that works together to reduce the harm to people and property from alcohol misuse and

fosters responsible drinking through a mix of preventive and treatment measures for people of all ages".

"The group will meet every six months to outline the action plan for their area and the way they will be working toward the strategy's goal," says Colleen. "If any other issues come up in the district, the group will be there to offer advice, too."

She says the strategy is about promoting and encouraging the public to use alcohol in a safe and responsible way. "It includes ensuring retailers who supply alcoholic beverages remain up-skilled - trained to know when not to make a sale, deal with difficult situations and patrons."

Before and after: the pristine artists' flat adjacent to a section of the former church yet to receive its share of TLC.



Muka Flat Complete

The Muka Artist In Residence Centre development within the 129 year old former East Gore Presbyterian Church is reaching the end of stage one with the visiting artists' flat complete.

Stage Two involves fitting out two studio spaces for visiting artists, one for painting and the other will be a printing studio containing all the printing equipment gifted by Auckland's Baeten family, owners of the highly reputed Muka Studios.

Craftsman builder, Alister Wilson, says the wing housing the flat needed extensive repair, "One whole external wall was replaced, the weather-boards had given up on the outside and the tongue-in-groove panelling had given up on the inside."

The project is supported by agencies such as the Maitua Licensing Trust and the Community Trust of Southland.

CCTV set up worthwhile

Gore has had Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) security cameras surveying its main streets for several years, but how effective are they?

Gore District Council Parks and Recreation Manager Ian Soper says, "The cameras have proved their worth with several successful prosecutions after untoward activity was captured by the cameras. CCTV is regarded by Police as a valuable tool in community policing, for prevention - with Police able to see trouble brewing ahead of time - and in providing evidence for prosecution.

"The cameras are expensive items to set up, and they are all sited where they are for a specific reason. Prevention of an event is preferable to a cure, but, if there is an event, we would rather be in a position to recoup the costs involved than repeatedly spend

thousands of dollars of ratepayers funds repairing mindless acts of wilful damage and vandalism.

Gore's first three CCTV cameras were installed several years ago by the local Chamber of Commerce. GDC took over their on-going maintenance and last year installed another overlooking the new public toilets on Main Street. All link back to the local police station. There are also cameras in Gore's Main Gardens/Town Belt, and those in Maitua are monitored by freezing works security staff. Mayor Tracy Hicks says disruptive gatherings outside McDonalds Family Restaurant and Mobil Gore have given rise to plans to link cameras outside those establishments to the police station, too.

"The actions of a few have dictated the need to go to these lengths," Ian adds.

Tighten the leash

Concern about wandering dogs has led to a Dog Control Working Party being established to revise local policy says GDC General Manager Corporate Services, Russell Duthie.

The working party will be reviewing other Local Authorities practices; examining the extent of dog control problems in the district; investigating whether menacing dogs are dealt with appropriately; and exploring the possibility of setting up a designated dog park where dogs can run off the leash.

Russell says they may also look into 'good owner' fees discounts and the idea of offering registration discounts for desexed dogs. "Desexing dogs considerably reduces their urge to wander with amorous intent."

The working party consists of three Councillors, the Animal Control Contractor, a representative from the Gore and Districts Kennel Club, and Russell.



PUBLIC EVENTS

Monday-Thursday (term time)

'STUDY SUPPORT CENTRE'

3-5pm

After-school homework programme

Mataura Public Library

Every Tuesday (term time)

TODDLER TIME

10.30am

Gore Public Library

Every Friday (term time)

TODDLER TIME

10.30am

Mataura Public Library

1st & 3rd Saturday each month

GORE FARMERS MARKET

8.30am-12.30pm

Old Horse Bazaar, Mersey Street West

Info: 03 208 3147

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 03 208 5796

1st Tuesday each month

GORE COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB

Longford Function Centre, Hamilton Street, East Gore.

\$4.00 for non-members

Info: Margaret Scott

03 208 4904

8, 13 & 15 April

CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

10:30am

Gore & Mataura Public Libraries

10 April to 6 June

'60 YEARS AND 60 POTS' - MIREK SMISEK POTTERY EXHIBITION

10am-4.30pm weekdays,

1pm-4pm weekends & public holidays

Eastern Southland Art Gallery

Cnr Hokonui Drive & Norfolk St, Gore

Info: 03 208 9907

12 April

MALVINA - MY LIFE IN SONG

7:30 PM

SBS St James Theatre

Info: www.iticket.co.nz, or

03 208 7396

25 April

GORE HARNESS RACING MEETING

1.15pm, Gore Racecourse.

Free.

27 April

SOUTHERN REAP HEALTHY EATING ON A BUDGET

10am - noon Mataura

Community Centre. Free.

8-9 May

SOUTHLAND FESTIVAL OF DANCE

Gore Town & Country Club Stadium, Bury Street, Gore
Adults \$10, senior citizens \$7, children \$4, competitors free.

Info: Rachel Ferguson 03 208 7760.

10-19 May

NEW ZEALAND POST CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARDS

Gore & Mataura Public Libraries

For festival event details ring

03 209 0330

17 May

SBS GORE HALF MARATHON

Plus 6km & 12 km run/walk

10.30am, Resthaven, Main Street, Gore

Entry forms:

www.sportsouthland.co.nz

(via Events Calendar)

Info: Graham Hall 03 208 6441,

jandghall@extra.co.nz, or

Bevan Pearce ph: 03 208 0857

22-23 May, 5-6 June

UPHOLSTERY WORKSHOPS

James Cumming Wing, Ardwick Street, Gore

Info: Reg Bartlett 021 455 390

EXHIBITION *Spree*

2010 brings the 25th anniversary of the Eastern Southland Art Gallery. The generous sponsorship of Craigs Investment Partners' Gore office has allowed the Gallery to splash out in a celebration of art.

"From 10 April to 6 June we are hosting the pottery exhibition by pioneering New Zealand potter, Mirek Smisek, '60 Years and 60 Pots'," says District Curator Department of Arts and Heritage, Jim Geddes. "As the title indicates, this exhibition features works from throughout Mirek's career. Most come from private collections, so the pieces are rarely seen in public. It would have been an expensive exhibition to put together and we are lucky to get it."

Jim says some of the works come from the period when Mirek was producing pottery drinking vessels for the Lord of the Rings trilogy of movies.

"After that from 10 July to 8 August we have a touring tapestry exhibition, along with an exhibition we hold every two years of work by the Eastern Southland Embroiderers Guild. We also have a solo exhibition coming up by the exciting Christchurch artist Nigel Buxton, plus other solo shows by Otago and Southland artists."

2 June

HANDS OF FAME INDUCTION

7.30pm, Longford Function

Centre, Hamilton Street,

Gore. Adults \$10.00

3 June

MLT SONGWRITING

SEMINAR

9am-2.30pm, Heartland Hotel

Croydon, Gore.

\$30 (door sales).

MLT SONGWRITING AWARDS PRESENTATION

8pm Longford Function Centre, Hamilton Street, Gore.

\$50.00 (pre-sales only).

3-5 June

'FREEZE YA BITS OFF'

BUSKING COMPETITION.

Noon-2pm Main Street, Gore.

Register at Cairns Music

Works, 30 Irk Street.

Info: Helen van der Linden on

027 276 7616.

To publish your event on this list go to the www.gorenz.com events page and click 'Submit Your Event'.

Disclaimer: This listing contains event details correct as at 28 February 2010. GDC bears no responsibility for inconvenience due to changes of event particulars.

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