



HOKONUI

HERALD

NOVEMBER 2010

COMMUNITY AWARDS 2010

Awards Honour Gore Achievers



His Worship the Mayor Tracy Hicks (right) presenting Civic Awards to Edna and Ian McKelvie. In an emotional presentation, a Civic Award was also accepted by Dave Irvine on behalf of his late wife, Fay.

Plentiful nominations for Eastern Southland Junior Sportsperson of the Year and the Customer Service Award were once again a feature of the Gore District Community Awards, held on 30 October.

Gore District Council Administration and Human Resources Manager, Susan Jones, says, "We received 15 nominations for the Junior Sportsperson of the Year and 11 for the Customer Service Award."

Susan thinks the strength of the sports nominations reflects the accessibility of top level coaches in the Southern region, who volunteer and get results. To honour these and other steadfast sports supporters a 'Services to Sport' award featured for the first time, with Robyn Morris receiving the trophy.

The Awards' strong community backing, was reflected in this year's ceremony being held at the Gore Town and Country Club to accommodate the audience of 420 people.

Results:

Eastern Southland Junior Sportsperson of the Year – **Aaron Barclay**

Services to Sport – **Robyn Morris**

Contribution to Arts and Culture – **Annette Ainge**

Soroptimist International of Gore Woman Achiever of the Year – **Winsome Humphries**

Hovell Environmental Planning Contribution to the Environment – **Arne Cleland**

Toastmasters Communicator of the Year – **Alison Cormack**

J D Souness Young Achiever of the Year – **Francesca Maslin**

Newslink-Southland Times-Eastern Southland Chamber of Commerce Customer Service Award – **The Sanctuary**

Gore District Civic Awards Recipients – **Edna and Ian McKelvie and Fay Irvine** (posthumously).

TWO-BIN DECISION

The GDC has decided upon a two-bin household waste kerbside collection option for urban areas – one bin for general waste and one for recyclables – as from 1 July 2012.

Over the coming months, the Council will explore further options to address issues of concern raised during public consultations, i.e. green waste disposal, the continuation of Pakeke Lions recycling, the cost to low volume users and incorporating a role for Paddy's Bins Ltd. Details of how the Council intends to resolve these concerns will be provided in the next edition of the Hokonui Herald.

MAYOR'S OUTLOOK



Welcome to the first edition of the Hokonui Herald for a new term of council.

The election has delivered what I believe will prove to be an energetic, well-balanced council, and one I am very much looking forward to working with.

Although some names and faces around the table have changed, the priorities for council remain constant; to provide services for residents to a high level of quality at an affordable cost. We also aim to provide an environment in which residents and business alike will prosper.

I am convinced that the quality of life on offer in the Gore District is second to none. The challenge for this council over the next few years is to ensure that quality is enhanced, not diminished by the large scale industrial developments on the horizon. On this front the Gore District Council has been, and will continue to be, proactive to get the best deal possible for this community. The goal that is foremost in our mind is to leave a legacy of a socially, environmentally and economically healthy and vibrant community, which is sustainable for future generations.

Long-term, big-picture thinking, rather than being distracted by short term issues will continue be my message to the new council and to the senior management of council.

This focus must, in my opinion, filter its way into all parts of council life, be it road management, water supply, waste management, district plans, community development and all facets of council operation if we are to achieve the goal.

My congratulations must go to the newly elected members of the Mataura community board. I look forward to being part of a council that builds a fruitful relationship with the board as it will be pivotal to Mataura's future at a crucial time.

Finally, I offer my thanks for the support shown to Robyn and I over the last six years as we have occupied the Mayoral role. It is an absolute privilege to represent this community locally, regionally and nationally. I am excited by the prospects of what the next three years may bring.

Mayor Tracy Hicks

See pages four and five for Councillor messages.

KEY DIARY DATES

26 November

Last day for second Gore District Council rates instalment.

23 December

1pm

Council's Christmas closedown. This applies to the main Gore District Council office and the Mataura Service Centre/Library.

10 January

8.30am

The main Council office and the Mataura Service Centre/Library reopen.



GORE PHOTO GALLERY



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Hopes are high that Mataura could become the perfect demonstration model for small-town revitalisation.

MATAURA'S MODEL POTENTIAL

Local farmer and Project Mataura Board Chairman, Alan Taylor, says the Board is throwing its weight behind Main Street revitalisation and business development.

“We’re working with the roading authorities, examining the options for diverting heavy traffic around the town centre to create a welcoming atmosphere in Bridge Street.”

The Board sees Mataura’s position on a cross-road as an opportunity, with thousands of people driving through the town centre each week.

Project Mataura Director, David Wilson, has been engaged with funding assistance from The Community Trust of Southland to help with Mataura’s revitalisation. David’s background in small-town rejuvenation extends to the beginnings of Oamaru’s Heritage Precinct development 25 years ago.

“It’s early days,” says David, “but the heritage tourism potential of Mataura is second to none, particularly with regard to the paper industry that used to flourish here. There is a



Project Mataura Board Chairman, Alan Taylor with Project Mataura Director, David Wilson.

great story to be told of how European settlers met the Maori here and saw paper could be made from tussock grasses. It was enterprise against extreme odds, proving there has always been a real spirit of innovation here.

GDC Community Development Officer,

Colleen Te Au, one of several advisors to the Project Mataura Board, says, “Mataura is in a unique position right now, attracting the interest of prospective industry, funders, central government services, existing business and infrastructure, and enhanced local council and community support. It is

important to capitalise on this in a coordinated and strategic fashion.”

Alan adds, “We are hugely optimistic for our little town’s future. When the public see one or two things actually happen, the community will realise that together we can bring about the changes we all desire.”



Mataura Bridge

Clean Drains Pay Off

Next time you wash your car make sure it’s not parked on the roadside, because what pours down the storm water drains is everybody’s concern.

Environment Southland has granted the GDC its storm water discharge consent on the proviso that a strict regime of regular sampling shows minimal contamination from 25 discharge sites into the Mataura River at Pukerau, Waikaka, Mataura and Gore.

Asset Manager – Utilities, Ross Haslemore, says, “If we find high levels of any contaminating element in the samples we have to find the source and control it.

“We don’t treat our storm water before it enters the river. If we are consistently able to show minimal levels of contaminants the community can avoid the cost of having to install a storm water treatment plant.

“The community can help by picking up after their dog; washing cars on the grass, not on the road; and never pouring chemicals down the gutters.”

GORE

DISTRICT COUNCIL - Elected Members 2010-2013

Ralph Beale

We need to work through the issues involved with Solid Energy's proposed projects, ensuring they benefit the community. We need a bigger population of ratepayers to share the cost of services and amenities enjoyed in the district. I want to progress the recycling rubbish issue using local contractors and protect Pakeke Lions' recycling efforts. I want to investigate a Monday morning cleanup of rubbish in the streets, ensuring visitors arrive to a tidy town. My grateful thanks to all who voted for me.

Cliff Bolger

I'm looking forward to working with fellow councillors, the Mayor and staff to produce a positive and constructive outcome for this district on a raft of issues. These include financial forecasting and management, strategic industrial and residential planning and refinements to the rating mechanism. I'm very positive about our present financial position and think we can continue to strengthen, develop and present the Gore district as the pre-eminent area to live, work and own a home in Southland.

Nicky Davis

Council will need to focus, especially on the developments proposed by Solid Energy. This may mean looking at things from a different perspective. We may have to re-think things such as where our town boundaries will be, how our District Plan is shaped, and just how any developments will be supported by new infrastructure. In short, looks like a busy time ahead for our District.

Steven Dixon

I hope to do my best for the Gore district and community with special emphasis on Mataura development. I aim to work with a commonsense approach, spending the ratepayers' money wisely.

Anne Gover

I am really looking forward to serving on the Gore District Council. I'm sure that we will be able to work as a team - listening, reading, discussing, looking at the best options for the Gore District, and making sensible decisions about the issues that are currently before us (Solid Energy, Gore Sports Complex facilities, Mataura Pool, recycling options for rubbish collection, water usage, roading) and doing exactly the same when new issues arise during the next three years.



Gore District Council's elected members for the 2010-2013 term. At rear, Marty Redhead, Graham Sharp; next row, Peter Grant, S... front row, Anne Gover, Nicky Davis, Mayor Tracy Hicks, and Cliff...

John Heller

It is my desire that the new Council continues upgrading infrastructure to support new industries proposed for our district, and that we review our debt repayment policy. Currently, \$3.763 million is financed by interest only loans. Principal repayments should be commenced. Should the Council receive any financial recompense from Solid Energy, then these monies should be allocated to projects for the benefit of the Gore District as a whole, not specifically targeted to the desires of one community.



Members gathered for the first time in late October. From left to right: Steve Dixon; next row, Ralph Beale, John Heller, Bret Highsted; Geoff Bolger. Inset: Bevin Watt.

Bret Highsted

It is a privilege to be re-elected to serve as a Councillor for a further term. Thank you for your support. I am looking forward to contributing in a positive and practical way to the issues and the opportunities facing our district. We have focused on working as a team to provide the effective and professional leadership the community deserves. While this should come naturally, I believe that this foundation is a key attribute for the new Council to strive to maintain.

Marty Redhead

It is a great privilege and honour to serve this district as a councillor and I look forward to the next three years. It is my hope that as a Council we will be unified in all matters and confident that we will make the right decisions for the future of this community. We are in changing times within the area and I believe with strong and unified leadership we will embrace those changes to work best for the district.

Graham Sharp

It's been an interesting three years and I do look forward to this next term. Exciting things are happening in our great little district. The big one is coal and what will the government-owned Solid Energy finally do? The choices appear to be coal to briquettes, coal to diesel and/or coal to urea. How will those major developments affect the Gore and Mataura infrastructure, e.g. water, sewerage, roads, etc? I believe we face an exciting and prosperous future.

Bevin Watt

It's a pleasure and a challenge to represent the Waikaka ward. I aim to: emulate some of the tenacity, energy and duty of care of my predecessor Hugh Gardyne; embrace the steep learning curve that Council will provide; see the rate-payers as customers of a business and help ensure that the Council is an efficient business providing the best value for money; work co-operatively with fellow Councillors and management so that all the community is proud of our progress.

Peter Grant

I would like to see a harmonious Council continue through the next three years with an open-minded approach to the consenting process for developments planned by Solid Energy. I would also like to see recycling progressed so the whole community is happy. Council must be ever mindful of costs and while nil rate increases are probably not possible, they must be kept to a minimum. Roading is a major cost and care must be taken to make the best use of available resources.

STADIUM

Opportunities Abound

MLT Stadium Supervisor, Dan Winkel, had always promised his Kiwi wife they'd move from Michigan, USA, to New Zealand if the opportunity presented itself.

Just to prove the old cliché that every cloud has a silver lining, the opportunity came due to the recession which severely affected the event marketing industry Dan was working in, ending his job as an events coordinator.

Soon afterward, his father-in-law in Gore sent information about the Stadium vacancy, which Dan filled in May. His key roles are to attract and maintain stadium users such as sporting groups and industry or entertainment functions.

"We've been really busy," Dan says. "The community is really getting a lot out of the facility. Netballers have been the highest users with tennis next on the list. I'd like more use from kids' clubs. I'm also working closely with organisations like Sport Southland to bring in a range of activities for all age groups. I'll be getting out to more community groups encouraging them to use the facility, too."

The Stadium's first large event, the 2010 Young Farmer of the Year competition, was highly successful and gave insight into areas that could be developed for the benefit of other such events.

"The final was televised from here, giving us a night of free national publicity. You can't beat that."



MLT Stadium Supervisor, Dan Winkel.

Mystery Shoppers Sought

To help keep the customer service at Gore and Mataura Libraries in tip-top shape District Library Manager, Jane Robinson, is seeking volunteers to covertly assess existing standards.

"The volunteers would be 'mystery shoppers'; visiting the library, presenting themselves as a customer, asking for service and later rating their experience against a simple set of criteria. Nothing too onerous," Jane explains. "I would like a range of people – both library users and non-users."

Jane says library staff have all received training in good customer service, but it was always a good idea to see how well the training had bedded-in.

"We want to make sure the public gets the best out of our libraries, every time they visit. We want to retain our customers and for the news to spread about the wide range of services we have to offer."

If you are interested in becoming a 'mystery shopper' contact Jane in person at Gore Library, phone 203 9115 or email: jrobinson@goredc.govt.nz

BRIEFS

Sprinkler Ban

A year-round ban on using garden sprinklers between the hours of 9am and 5pm has been put in place by the GDC. In September the Council passed a bylaw that only hand-held hosing is permissible between those times. General Manager District Assets, Paul Withers, says Gore is not New Zealand's only district with this kind of bylaw.

"We strongly encourage people to use water effectively, when it's of most benefit to gardens, rather than just evaporating. By having a year-round ban we hope people will become more aware of water's value as a resource. It costs to treat water and get it to your house, it's common sense to use it efficiently," Paul says.

Walkways are go

Positive feedback has flowed in for three walkways completed earlier this year says Roading Manager Murray Hasler. A new section of gravel pathway runs from Aotea Crescent to Waimea Streets, and a Norton Street to Pioneer Park path completes a North Gore walking circuit. The latter involved an agreement with the Vintage Car Club for the GDC to maintain the Pioneer Park walkways.

A new pathway on Birch Lane from Eccles Street to Gore Hospital has improved safety of access for those parking on the east side of Eccles Street and walking to the hospital.

Take OFF to Mandeville

Old Mandeville Airfield's Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre opened to the public on 1 October, a milestone in what Department of Arts and Heritage District Curator, Jim Geddes, says is a work in progress.

"The 14 aircraft on display in the Centre include operational vintage de Havillands," says Jim, whose department has been project managing the Heritage Centre's fit-out, ensuring conditions are

perfect for the displays.

"We'll be working on the Centre into the New Year and fundraising to further improve facilities."

Mandevilles' The Moth restaurant has also been renovated. Add that to the Heritage Centre, plus the ability to visit the world-renowned Croydon restoration workshop and take a joy-ride or two, and you get a visitor destination of considerable appeal.



Newcomers' NETWORK COORDINATOR

The Eastern Southland Newcomers' Network has an official Coordinator for six months thanks to an injection of central government funding provided by the Ministry of Social Developments Settling-In project.

Maura Dakin took up the part-time role last month, aiming to assist migrants to Eastern Southland develop the ties and local knowledge they need to find their feet and make the area their home.

"Migrants can sometimes find it difficult getting to know the ways of the town and its people, especially if English is not their first language," Maura says.

"You can become socially isolated, just moving between work, home and the supermarket."

Maura, who migrated to New Zealand from England 12 years ago, will be based in the GDC offices. She plans to identify as many newcomers as possible and set up self-sufficient groups, such as mothers' coffee mornings, where members help each other and learn about services like Citizens Advice, local customs and so on.

The Newcomers' Network is supported by the Ministry of Social Development's Family and Community Services as part of a nationwide 'Settling In' initiative to help refugees and migrants who have moved into a new community settle successfully, whether they are from overseas or from within New Zealand. The Network helps people feel welcome while getting to know the community,

its services, clubs and organisations.

For more information visit www.newcomers.co.nz and follow the 'Eastern Southland' link. To contact Maura Dakin phone: 03 209 0330 or

email: easternsouthland@newcomers.co.nz



Maura Dakin

Tussock sucks it up

Two years after planting and the Matura Wetlands tussocks have proven their worth as a waste water treatment solution for small towns.

Six wetland ponds planted in 2008 with 1000 plants apiece are successfully treating waste water from the township of 1700 people says Asset Manager – Utilities, Ross Haslemore. Another, smaller wetland has been servicing the 45 households at Waikaka since 2004.

"The tussocks suck up the nutrients, so the water discharged into the Matura River is clean. The Matura plants were less than 30cm high when put in, now they are over a metre. Initially they didn't take up enough of the contaminants, as we knew they wouldn't, but now they're doing the job well."

On-going maintenance involves thinning and trimming the plants. Ross is investigating low-cost methods for the work.

PUBLIC EVENTS

1st & 3rd Saturday each month
GORE FARMERS MARKET
8.30am-12.30pm, Old Horse Bazaar, Mersey St
Info: Lee Kearon, 03 208 3147

Every Thursday (term time)
WRIGGLE & RHYME
10.30 am, Gore Library. Active movement for up to two-year-olds

Every Tuesday (term time)
TODDLER TIME
10.30 am, Gore Library

Every Friday (term time)
TODDLER TIME
10.30 am, Mataura Library

5 December
A FEMININE AFFAIR
10am-5pm, Heartland Hotel Croydon
Indulgent and interesting women's events
Info: Heartland Hotel Croydon, 03 208 9029

12-13 December
LITTLE BLUE RIDING HOOD & THE HAIRY GOD MOTHER
6.30pm, Dinner and show \$59
Tickets and Info: SBS St James Theatre, Irk Street Gore, www.redrosedinnertheatre.co.nz

12 December
GORE CHRISTMAS PARADE & CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK
Main St Gore & Gore Gardens
Info: Gore District Council, 03 209 0330

13 December - 21 January
THE BIG BUSH READ
Summer Reading Programme, Gore and Mataura Libraries. Rewards and book prizes to be earned. Info: Jenny Smith (Gore) 03 203 9129, Julie de Villiers (Mataura) 03 203 8115

19 December
CHRISTMAS AT THE RACES
Gore Racecourse
Race day packages: www.theraces.co.nz or 0800 102 106

27 December
INTERISLANDER SUMMER FESTIVAL TROTS
9am-12pm, Gore Racecourse
Info: Brian Pitcher, 03 203 9208, www.theraces.co.nz

10-14, 18-21 & 24-28 January
LEAPING FROG SWIM SCHOOL HOLIDAY
Half hour morning block course children's lessons
Info: Gore Multisports Aquatic Centre, 03 203 9128

11, 13, 18, 20, 25 & 27 January
GORE POOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES
1-3pm, School holiday games for children four years and up
Info: Gore Multisports Aquatic Centre, 03 203 9128

12, 16, 19, 23, 26 & 30 January
MATAURA POOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES
1.30-3.30pm, School holiday games for children four years and up
Info: Mataura Centennial Pool, 03 203 3483

28 January
TWILIGHT MOVIE POOL PARTY
6-8.30pm, Gore Pool. Pool party with Twilight Movies theme
Info: Gore Multisports Aquatic Centre, 03 203 9128

31 January to 16 April
TERM LEAPING FROGS SWIM SCHOOL
Swimming lessons for children four months and up
Gore Pool - Mon to Sat, Term 1
Mataura Pool - Wed & Fri, Term 1
Info: Gore Multisports Aquatic Centre, 03 203 9128

5 February
GORE A & P ASSOCIATION GORE SHOW
Gore A & P Showgrounds, Bury Street
Info: Jane Allen, 03 208 4057

New NAME & HOURS for VISITOR CENTRE



The next time you head to the Visitor Centre for information about travel and local attractions don't get confused by the change of signage.

A name change to 'Destination Gore Visitor Centre', a new logo and a new schedule of opening hours are all part of a bid to provide a better service for customers, says Centre manager, Sue Soper.

Summer (1 November - 31 March) opening hours are now: Monday 8.30am-5pm, Tuesday-Friday 8.30am-6pm, Saturday 9am-3.30pm, closed Sundays.

Winter (1 April - 31 October) opening hours will be Monday-Friday 8.30pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-3.30pm, closed Sundays.

The Gore Historical Museum and the Hokonui Moonshine Museum, which share the Visitor Centre premises, are still open seven days a week (weekend hours are Saturday 9am-4pm, Sunday 1pm-4pm). Sunday visitors to the museums can access the Visitor Centre's pamphlet information, but the bookings service will be closed.

19 February
MLT MOONSHINE TRAIL 2011
Dolamore Park
Info: Sport Southland, 03 208 3846, www.sportsouthland.co.nz

19 February
MANDEVILLE FLY-IN 2011
Vintage planes, restoration hangars and museum
Info: www.croydonaircraft.com, 03 208 9755

26 February
HOKONU MOONSHINERS FESTIVAL 2011
12pm-7pm, Arts & Heritage Precinct, Hokonui Drive Gore.
\$20.00
Info: Destination Gore Visitor Centre, 03 203 9288, goreinfo@goredc.govt.nz, www.hokonui-moonshinefest.co.nz

26 February
ELEVATE YOUTH FESTIVAL 2011
2pm, Calvin Community Church, Robertson Street Gore

\$15 / person. Info and tickets: Marty Redhead 03 208 9973, marty@calvin.org.nz or www.elevatefestival.co.nz

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 18 October 2010. GDC bears no responsibility for inconvenience due to changes of event particulars.

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