

TREE REMOVAL TO HELP FLOOD PROTECTION

The need to increase water flow when the Mataura River is in flood will see the removal of trees upstream of the Gore traffic bridge within the next month.

The work is part of an ongoing review of floodbank standards and flood protection, being carried out by Environment Southland and the Gore District Council.

Gore District Council district assets general manager Paul Withers said NIWA modelling predicts the next major flood will see the Mataura River flow through Gore and Mataura at 2700 cubic metres per second (cumecs).

This is 300 cumecs more than in the 1978 flood when the river breached the floodbanks at Mataura.

"That's a significant increase. It's equivalent to 10 milk tanker truck and trailer units of water flowing under the Gore Bridge per second.

"The message is simply that we will need to get more water through the town faster if there's a major flood," Mr Withers said.

Environment Southland works inspector Kevin Marshall said the large willows

and poplars were obstructing the river and floodway.

"Removing these obstructions will increase flood flow capacity and reduce the water level in the floodway."

The trees were also a potential hazard to the structural integrity of the traffic and railway bridges, if they were to become lodged against them during a flood.

Mr Marshall acknowledged people may see the trees as integral to the beautification of the river banks. However, some trees were already showing signs decay and aging.

Mr Marshall said work would begin in about three weeks on removing selected trees within approximately 600m upstream of the Gore traffic bridge. Some work is also scheduled for downstream of the bridge.

The river banks would be rehabilitated when the tree removal work finished.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN STUFF AT THE LIBRARY

Story Time - theme Rugby World Cup:

- Gore Library, Tuesday and Thursday at 10.30am
- Mataura Library, Wednesday and Friday at 10.30am

There will be an open activity station at each library.

GORE DISTRICT LIBRARIES

GORE RECREATIONAL HUB MASTER PLAN MEETINGS

If you want to find out more about the Council's draft master plan for the Gore Multisports Complex and surrounding area, there will be a couple of information evenings next month.

The plan has already generated a lot of interest with hundreds of people putting dots on our maps at the Gore Aquatic Centre. People have also taken the time to fill out our quick online questionnaire.

We want to make sure we get feedback from as many people as possible. To achieve this we will be holding two information evenings at the aquatic centre. These will be on Wednesday 7 October and Wednesday 21 October, from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Please pop down and see the team, and have your say on the future of this very popular area.

OCTOBER MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 13 October, 4.00pm:

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

Agendas will be available before the meeting on the Council's website <http://www.goredc.govt.nz/your-council/council-business/agendas-and-minutes> or the Council's main office and district libraries.

CHRISTMAS CHEER – IT PAYS TO PLAN AHEAD

The festive season may seem a long way off but if you are organising an event and want to sell alcohol you need to plan ahead.

Applications for special licences to sell alcohol must be made at least 20 working days before the event is held. The definition of a 'working day' does not include weekends, so if you are planning an event for Christmas or New Year, your application should be lodged with the Council by Friday 20 November.

Special licence applications for events being held in January through to late February need to be in by the start of December to ensure they are processed before we close for the Christmas-New Year break.

You can find out more about special licences and download an application form from our website <http://www.goredc.govt.nz/our-services/alcohol/> Or contact our Licensing Inspector Frances Shepherd, phone 03 209 0330.

GORE YOUTH AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN

This year is the third for the Gore Youth Awards, a unique event celebrating the achievements of young people in the community that aren't typically recognised.

Event organiser Kayla Mitchell said there were so many young people with skills that often fly under the radar.

"This is a great way to acknowledge them and for young people to celebrate the end of the year with their friends without it being a school event," Mrs Mitchell said.

There are nine award categories, and Mrs Mitchell hopes the introduction of a new junior category will encourage more entries this year.

The junior category is for 12 – 16-year-olds and the senior category is for 17 – 24-year-olds.

A simple one-page nomination form can be downloaded from the Council's website or picked up at its main office, Mataura service centre, Gore library and Gore Multisports Complex.

Nominations close Friday 30 October. The event will be held at the SBS St James Theatre on Saturday 28 November.



MAIN STREET TREE ISSUE HEADING TO A HEARING

The fate of two trees in Gore's Main Street has attracted a lot of public interest and will be the subject of a public hearing.

The Gore District Council received 33 submissions on a request from Gore businessmen Paul McPhail and Bryan Burgess to remove two trees near their respective shops. Of those submissions received 20 supported removal of the trees, 12 were against it and one was neutral.

Council planning officer Rosie Given said seven submitters have asked for the opportunity to speak at a hearing.

"There has also been a lot of interest and comments on social media and in the newspaper, which we have collated."

A hearing date hasn't been set yet but she expected it would be held within the next couple of months.

The Council has appointed Crs Bret Highsted, Nicky Davis and Cliff Bolger to sit on the hearing panel.

She will be writing to all submitters in the near future, acknowledging receipt of their submission and outlining the process to follow, Miss Given said.

October Holiday Programme

The Great GMC Carnival
11.00am Tuesday
29 September

WET 'n' WILD
1.00pm Thursday
1 October

Rugby World Cup
1.00pm Tuesday
6 October

BBQ, Bubbles & Activities
1.00pm Thursday
8 October

For full details on these events go to www.goredc.govt.nz and click on the link under Hot Topics. *Registration required.

