

## ALL FOR A GOOD CAUSE

There are not many who would volunteer to abseil down an 18m high tower but that's exactly what Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks is going to do next month.

He will take that leap of faith and conquer his fears as part of this year's Drop Your Boss, on Saturday 3 December.

This unique fundraising event supports the work of the Graeme Dingle Foundation, which delivers its values and life-skills programmes, Kiwi Can and Career Navigator, to over 1,800 Southland students every week.

In the Gore District Kiwi Can is delivered in five primary schools, helping over 900 local children on a weekly basis.

As part of the event, Mr Hicks is competing with the other bosses being "dropped" to

see who can raise the most money, which is where he needs help.

"We are a caring community, so I am sure with a little help we can win this competition. Who knows, I may have to break out the dinner jacket and gumboots to wear if I'm successful."

To find out more and make a donation go to <https://givealittle.co.nz/fundraiser/droptracyhicks2016>

## NEW FEATURES FOR CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

You've heard of the saying 'dance like no-one's watching'. At this year's Christmas in the Park you will be able to dance like no-one's listening!

Silent Disco is one of the new features at this year's event, on Sunday 11 December after the Gore District Santa Parade.

Gore District Council events and promotion coordinator Emma Carle said Silent Disco should appeal to teenagers, but really everyone should have a go.

"It's great fun."

Dancers are given Bluetooth headphones and can tune in to any one of three different music tracks, which will be chosen by local youth.

"It becomes a kind of competition between the DJs as they each try to get the most people dancing to their music."

Among other new features of Christmas in the Park will be a Christmas decoration making workshop, zorb balls and laser tag.

There's also a new look entertainment line-up, led by Roadblock and with guest appearances by NZ Gold Guitar winner Alice Fraser and the Gore Baptist Church band.

## BE RESPONSIBLE WHEN EXERCISING YOUR DOG

As a responsible dog owner it's important you make sure your dog gets regular exercise. It's also important to make sure your dog isn't a nuisance to others when you are doing this.

The Council has set aside four areas in Gore and two in Mataura where you can exercise your dog off the leash but you still must have it under control. This does not mean your dog can run beside the car as you drive around one of the designated exercise areas.

Our animal control team has had a couple of incidents, particularly around the River Street flood bank, where owners haven't had control over the dogs. So please remember to think of others, as well as your dog's safety when out and about.

Exercise areas are:

### Gore

- River Street flood bank
- Woolwich Street walnut plantation
- River Terrace
- Hamilton Park - perimeter only NOT on the sports field

### Mataura

- East river bank below the main bridge
- South bridge area by Waimumu Stream



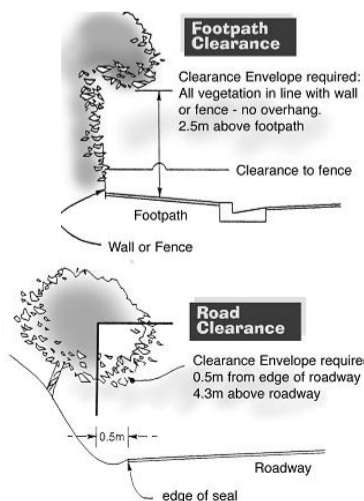
## SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Has your garden got away on you over the spring? It's that time of year when it is a good idea to have a quick walk around to make sure your vegetation hasn't become a nuisance to others.

Long grass is not only unsightly, it can be a hazard. If you have a hedge, trees or shrubs that grow next to a footpath it is your responsibility to make sure they don't grow out too far.

If you have a tree growing near the footpath, you need to make sure it is trimmed back to your boundary.

We are carrying out annual inspections around town at present. Remember, it is your responsibility to keep vegetation in check. If not, the Council can get the work done and recover the cost from the landowner. For more information please call us on 2090330.



## MATAURA LIBRARY NOT JUST ABOUT READING

Walk into the Mataura Library on a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon and you're more likely to see children playing chess rather than reading a book thanks to a new after school programme the Council is trialling.

The programme started last term and has been such a success District Librarian Lorraine Weston-Webb hopes to get approval to continue it next year.

"We get between four and 12 children taking part each session. The children just love having different things to do

and one of our staff to help them."

Mataura Chess Club members have been teaching the children how to play chess and by all accounts there are some young chess champions in the making, Ms Weston-Webb said.

The trial supervised programme was in recognition of the number of children who visit the library after school while their parents or caregivers are working.

"Providing supervision and activities even for part of the week is beneficial for the children, their families and other library users."

The programme also includes a variety of other activities, such as physical games in the adjacent community centre, Ms Weston-Webb said.

## VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGY ENHANCING RALLY STOPOVER EXPERIENCE

Getting behind the wheel of a rally car is every petrol heads dream.

Turning that dream into a reality, albeit a virtual one, will be one of the attractions when the NZ Silver Fern Rally roars into Gore and parks up at the trout statue triangle next Thursday (1 December).

Catlins-based rally driver Rhys Gardner will be joining competitors with his converted Mitsubishi Evo 9 rally car. Using virtual reality technology he has transformed it into a racing simulator, putting people in the driving seat of a rally car, testing their driving skills and nerve.

With Gore the only Southland stopover for the Silver Fern Rally a lot of motor sports

enthusiasts are expected to converge on Gore on Thursday.

About 50 competitors are due to park up at the trout statue, including 18 international drivers, Highlands Motorsport Park owner Tony Quinn, local racing legend Derek Ayson, and Andrew Graves, who is a co-driver in one of the teams.

For more details about rally stages and what's on when visit [www.gorenz.com](http://www.gorenz.com).



## CHRISTMAS GOODIES

Looking for a special gift for overseas friends and family this Xmas? Then jump on the Gore Visitor Centre's website [www.gorevisitorcentre.co.nz](http://www.gorevisitorcentre.co.nz) to check out its new Gore merchandise. There's a range of goodies celebrating unique aspects of the Gore District. Or pop in to talk with visitor centre staff about Xmas present options. The Gore Visitor Centre is open seven days a week.

## DECEMBER MEETING

The Council will hold its last meeting for the year on Tuesday 13 December, starting at 3.00pm, in the Council chambers, 29 Bowler Avenue.

The agenda will be available on our website [www.goredc.govt.nz](http://www.goredc.govt.nz) the week before the meeting.