

GUESS WHO IS COMING TO TOWN?

It's only 28 more sleeps until Christmas Day and staff at the Council have been flat out getting organised for Gore's annual Christmas Parade, to be held on Sunday 14 December.

Someone else who has been busy is Santa Claus but ChinWag was lucky enough to catch up with him as he made a quick pre-parade visit to Gore. Here's what he told us.

How do you find the time to be involved in Gore's Christmas Parade?

I have a very good team of elves preparing for Christmas Day, which gives me a chance to visit various towns to see who has been good and who hasn't.

What do you like about coming to Gore?

Everyone is so happy and friendly. The parade is quite compact so I can see a lot of children in a short timeframe.

What do you want for Christmas?

A sleep in but that's never going to happen, is it.

Make sure you keep 14 December free. The parade starts at noon.



Catching up with Santa recently were a couple of the Council's hard working 'elves' Frances Shepherd (left) and Kylie Weir.

Monday 1 December and 15 December

Gore District Youth Council meeting, starting at 5.00pm

Tuesday 16 December

Ordinary meeting of the Council, starting at 3.00pm

MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

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

Meeting agendas will be available beforehand on the Council's website www.goredc.govt.nz on the Agenda & Minutes page.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cricket World Cup

Would you like to get your hands on the Cricket World Cup? It will be at the MLT Event Centre today from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. The official ICC Cricket World Cup is touring the country in the build up to next year's World Cup tournament in New Zealand. You can get your free photo with the trophy and have a bit of a cricket game.

Twisting by the pool

The Gore Aquatic Centre is getting into the festive season with a pool party on Friday 12 December. Dress up as your favourite super hero for the fancy dress competition at 6.30pm, with the party kicking off at 7.00pm. All the inflatables will be out, there will be music, spot prizes and lots more. Tickets are \$6. For more information talk to the team at the Aquatic Centre, phone 03 203 9128.

Rates due

The second rates instalment for this year is due tomorrow. By paying the instalment in time, you avoid a 10 percent penalty on any outstanding amount. If remembering when your rates are due is a bit of a challenge, you should check out our direct debit option. For more information go to <http://goredc.govt.nz/your-council/rates/payment-options/>

Final call for special licence applications

There may still be time to get your special licences processed if you are planning an event this festive season where alcohol will be on sale. Our regulatory team will still try its best to process applications in time, even though the deadline has passed. If you have any questions please call our licensing inspector Frances Shepherd on 03 209 0330.

BUILDING TEAM ENHANCES SERVICE

The Council's building control team is enhancing its service by streamlining daily business activities.

The team takes pride in answering public enquiries and meeting the expectations of construction customers. To make sure best advice is available for specific enquiries, it is asking people to please phone and make an appointment with one of the team.

Building Control Manager Russell Paterson said this not only ensures there will be someone available to talk to.

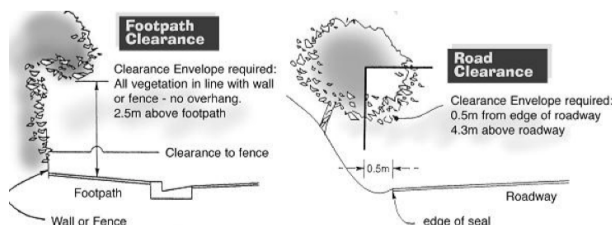
"It means we can research the issue and have the appropriate technical and professional advice ready, which saves time for everyone."

The team can provide advice on a wide variety of issues including the NZ Building Code, forward planning for specific construction projects, restricted or exempt building work, swimming pool fencing and solid fuel heater requirements.

KEEP SECTIONS TIDY

It is that time of year again when residents need to make sure sections do not become overgrown, and trees and shrubs do not encroach too much on to the footpath or roads.

Long grass is not only unsightly, it can be a hazard. It is an ideal habitat for rats and mice, and a potential fire risk during dry weather. The Council's long grass and overhanging foliage bylaw sets the maximum height for grass in urban areas at half a metre. Property owners also need to make sure trees, shrubs and plants on the boundary are clear of the road or footpath. Growth from



trees, low shrubs, vines and hedges should be kept at least 2m away from any road or footpath. If no action is taken, the Council can undertake the required work and recover the cost from the landowner. For more information please call the Council on 03 209 0330.

LEAP FORWARD FOR SWIM SCHOOL

The Leaping Frogs Swim School is expanding and offering a high level of coaching for all age groups with the launch this week of the Gore Aquatic Centre's Shark Squad.

Building on the successful swim school, which caters for everyone from babies upwards, the new squads are aimed at people wanting to get into the more competitive side of swimming or wanting to attain a high level of fitness.

Gore Aquatic Centre manager Kim Peterson said the recent move by Hokonui Aquatics away from coaching had created a void for swimmers who had graduated from Leaping Frogs or people who were interested in swimming competitively.

She said the squads were not just about competitive swimming though. The programmes have been designed to provide an ideal platform to build fitness and help with anaerobic and hypoxic drive for a variety of sporting groups.

Swim school coordinator Martin MacKereth said the squads were an exciting move for the Aquatic Centre and means it can offer a wider range of services across a range of age groups.

There will be five squads offering training sessions tailored for those aiming to compete and be ranked nationally, through to adult fitness programmes.

For more information phone 03 203 9128, or email goremultisports@goredc.govt.nz



Leaping Frogs Swim School coordinator Martin McKereth (left) and swim coach Rhys Pryde-Wall, who will be leading the new training squads at the Gore Aquatic Centre.

Meet the coach

When the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro come around there will be one person in Gore with a keener interest than most in the swimming events.

Gore Aquatic Centre swim coach Rhys Pryde-Wall dreamed of competing at the 2016 Olympics until five years ago when a heart condition cut short his promising career as a swimmer.

Rhys, who will lead the new swim squad coaching team, competed throughout New Zealand and in Australia with success, the highlights being winning two silver medals and a bronze at Nationals in the 1500m freestyle and 200m butterfly.

He has been coaching at the Aquatic Centre for the last two years, helping people fulfil their goals, whether it's as a swimmer or an athlete wanting to enhance their fitness levels.