



Community
Services Bulletin
July 2022

1. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATIONS MANAGER (Keith McRobie)

General operations

The warm Autumn and early Winter has meant that the annual leaf fall and clean up has occurred over an extended period. Staff have been able to carry on and catch up with other activities including stump grinding, turf renovations and garden upgrades.

In terms of staffing we are still being impacted by the Covid 19 outbreak with one staff member away last week for a second time. Staff training has continued with 6 staff completing refresher first aid courses, 3 staff completing crane truck training and 1 staff member completing ROPSC playground safety refresher training.

Projects

Pukerau Cemetery: Council staff have assisted the Pukerau Cemetery Support Trust with further works at the cemetery. The new information and memorial panels have now been installed in the kiosk and look stunning. Rhododendrons have been planted on either side of the entrance area through to the Trust's gardens. The gardens have all have a good depth of chipper mulch so should be relatively maintenance free going forward. There are now no outstanding items left on the Trust's project list.

Minor tree contracts: Asplundh from Invercargill has been engaged to do some clean-up work along Hokonui Drive, cutting back any growth that is encroaching into overhead lines and removing any overhanging branches within the 5m clearance envelope over the state highway. An oak tree will be removed from the driveway next to No 72 Hokonui Drive. This tree has been slowly deteriorating probably due to soil compaction caused by vehicular traffic on the root zone on both sides of the tree.

Playground upgrades: New softfall chip has been added to a number of playgrounds with a focus on refilling under high wear playground equipment such as the bucket swings. Two of the bucket swings have also had the softfall areas extended to comply with the safe fall zone standards.

A new basketball half-court has recently been installed at Sword street. A netball hoop has been added at the other end to allow for netball shooting practice. Work will begin soon on a near identical half court at the Oxford Street Playground. Half-court basketball has become very popular around the world particularly for the teenage age group.

A new flying fox cable, cable brakes and associated equipment has been ordered for Dolamore, Tulloch and Oxford Street Parks. We had been in contact with a North Island based contractor to complete this replacement work and have become increasingly frustrated by his failure to commit to our work. We will now complete the installation work ourselves with some assistance from a local contractor.

Dolamore Park and Croydon Bush

New wayfaring MTB signage has been installed at the track entrances at Pope Road, Domain Road and Dolamore Park. The signs were a collaborative effort between DOC,

the Hokonui MTB group and the Council. The production and installation costs were paid for by DOC.

The protected Kauri tree was successfully shifted from the corner of Elizabeth Street to a site near the Dolamore Park stream. The contractors involved with the work were very skilled which meant we were able to retain a significant portion of the root ball.

Gore Main Street trees: The work to replace the three trees that were removed was finally completed this week, with the main delay being sourcing the tree grates and frames which were both ordered in December 2021. The finished product looks very tidy with a better tree choice and with the protected strata cell root-zone shouldn't experience any of the issues that occurred with the dawn redwood trees.

Bulk planting projects

A total of 300 native plants and tri-guard plant protectors were planted in April with the help of senior pupils from Mataura Primary School. Southland Forest and Bird has a small planting bequest that it has used to extend this year's planting in Hamilton Park.

Bannerman Park planting: New park benches ex the "Streets Alive" project and a rubbish bin have been installed at the top of the park on the Crewe Street frontage.

Staff have planted approximately 30 trees (Maples, Himalayan Birch and Ginkgo) along the Mitre Street property boundaries and Hosta collection area. There is still more planting and turf remediation work to be done in this area but we are a bit limited as it gets very wet in the Winter.

Community interaction

Interaction with groups, clubs, and organisations over the past months

- Active Southland, consultation, and meeting attended
- Sport NZ, East Gore neighbourhood play systems working group, consultation and meetings attended
- A & P Joint Management Committee meeting attended, and former caretaker farewell function attended
- Southland Equestrian Park Trust, consultations and meeting attended
- Gore Garden Club, meeting attended
- Pukerau Cemetery Support Group – consultation
- Hokonui Rūnanga consultation
- Various sports club interaction
- Discussions and liaison with various sub-contractors and suppliers.

Collegial interaction

- RA - Otago Southland Branch, consultation and attended MS Teams meeting
- Green Pavlova Parks Conference in Dunedin attended

2. REPORT FROM DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR – MAY-JULY

Eastern Southland Gallery

Exhibitions (Annual Plan KPI = 10 per annum)

Arts and Heritage Department staff worked on three exhibitions for the May to July period:

- **Manapouri Art Group Exhibition** (Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre)
- **Rita Angus: He Ringatoi Hou o Aotearoa – New Zealand Modernist** - 21 May to 17 July (Eastern Southland Gallery)



Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand very kindly offered to launch the national tour of **Rita Angus He Ringatoi Hou o Aotearoa** in Gore – given the significant Eastern Southland holdings of this iconic artist’s work. The timing was good - in the respect that we have only recently been able to resume working with schools, tour, and community groups in a way that wouldn’t have been possible during tighter Covid restrictions. To this end a series of tours, workshops, floor talks and after-hours functions have been undertaken, and they have been well received.

We expect to meet or exceed our KPI target for 2021/22

Precinct Events

Events (Annual Plan KPI = 10 per annum)

- **Jackie Bristow** – concert (6 May)
- **Official opening of Rita Angus exhibition** (20 May)
- **Albi & The Wolves** - concert (22 May)
- **Primary schools art workshops** (26 & 27 May)
- **Primary schools art workshops** (30 June & 1 July)
- **Rita Angus floor talk with Lizzie Bisley** (2 July)

Attendances for such events have continued to be at maximum capacity.



Rita Angus floor talk with Te Papa's Curator of Modern Art - Lizzie Bisley.



A selection of Rita Angus inspired artworks by pupils from St Mary's, West Gore, East Gore and Gore Main Schools. These were produced as part of a concurrent workshop programme led by Janet de Wagt and Jacqui Byars and funded by Creative New Zealand.

We expect to exceed our KPI target for 2021/22.

Talks, tours and education programmes (Annual Plan KPI = 50 per annum)

With the lifting of some Covid related restrictions and protocols, a good number of tour and special interest groups have been visiting our facilities between May and July. However, our regular programme of talks to community groups and schools continues to be carefully managed. Although over twenty tour parties had to cancel or postpone their planned visits for the first half of this year, there has been a re-surge in interest

and already over 30 bookings are in place for spring and summer tours of our facilities. Groups that we have engaged with between 1 May and 1 July have included:

- *Gore District Historical Society*
- *Ab Fab Art Group Tour*
- *National Party MP Tour*
- *Timaru U3A*
- *West Gore School*
- *Mataura Valley Milk tour*
- *Otago Museum workshop*
- *Sport NZ tour*
- *Liz Craig MP office tour*
- *Friends of Dunedin Public Art Gallery tour*
- *Gore Women's Club*
- *Gore District Councillors*

Meetings and representations

- *Hokonui Runanga*
- *Southland Regional Heritage Committee*
- *Otago Museum*
- *Dunedin Public Art Gallery.*

Owing to Covid related restrictions we may only just meet our KPI target for 2021/22.

Maruawai project

Stage one – Hokonui Moonshine Museum redevelopment (LTP target)

With the functioning components of the Hokonui project now in place (Visitor Centre and distillery wing) and the front doors open to the visiting public, staff members are concentrating on completing the museum's social history displays and associated fit-out. With significant post-Covid cost escalations across almost the entire floorplan, fundraising (plus the securing of grants and donations) will be a major team focus for the remainder of the year. Product availability has been another challenge with delays of up to six months for some key items of plant and equipment.

Stage two – Maruawai Centre development (LTP target)

The project design team under the direction of Signal Management have been working with staff members to refine many aspects of detailed design for the new Maruawai Centre. It was hoped that all the necessary documentation and Quantity Surveyor costings would be in hand by May, but the unavailability of certain product lines and a re-scoping of the mechanical services component has pushed this timeline out to July. However, project designers have been careful to utilise all suitable aspects of the building's existing structure and maximise the opportunities offered by the current open plan format. Given the existing premises at 7 Norfolk Street comprise 'two

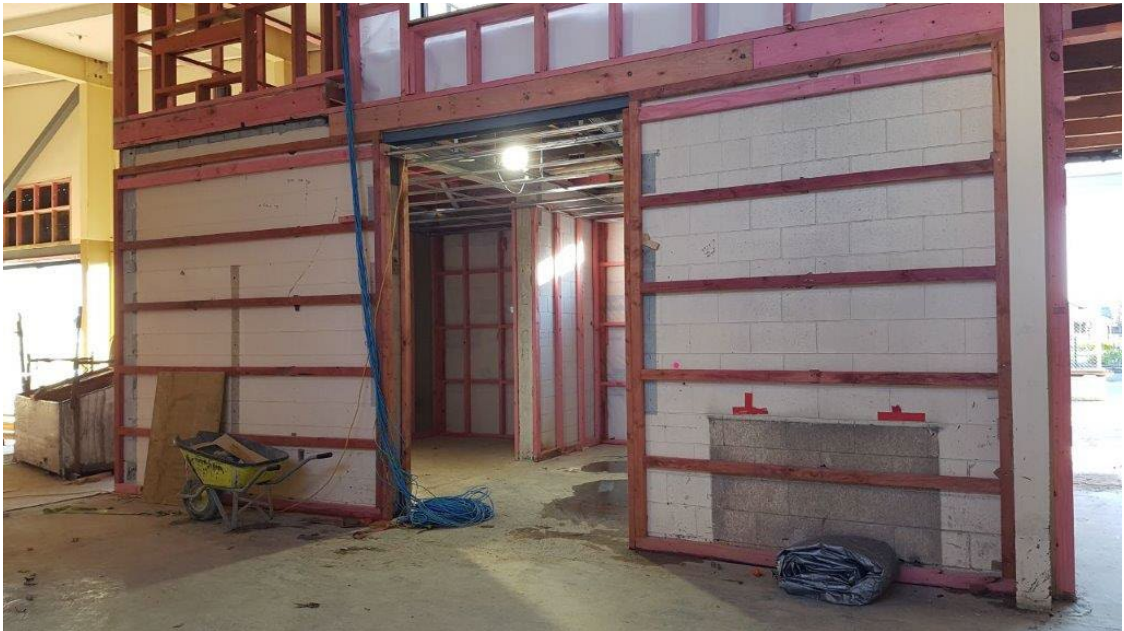
buildings joined together' we have formulated environmental and display options to suit major spaces with varying internal cladding and ceiling heights.

We are very grateful for the generous \$919,000 contribution from Provincial Growth Fund and the equally generous grant of \$250,000 from Community Trust South that have jointly provided a stable foundation for further project funding initiatives. Concurrent fund-raising and display development is continuing to be the primary focus of the arts and heritage team going forward.

3. REPORT FROM LIBRARIES MANAGER

New building

The new building is coming along well despite materials delays upsetting the planned work schedule. Window glazing has now been installed closing off the exterior, which is timely because of the extreme winter conditions we have been experiencing.



Watch this space – it will be transformed into the teen area



Upper-level floor prior to concreting on 6 July

The design team is working with Hokonui Runanga representative to incorporate Māori art/design on selected exterior and interior walls.

The library team has begun tagging the books with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags for use with the RFID issue kiosks and returns SmartShelf which will be installed in the new library.

New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme

The New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme led by the National Library of New Zealand to support librarians and library services across New Zealand closed their programme of work on 30 June 2022 <https://natlib.govt.nz/about-us/collaborative-projects/new-zealand-libraries-partnership-programme#nzlpp-closure-updated>.

In June, Gore Library was able to apply for one final funding round for Transition and Hardship funding, and we are pleased to report that this was successful. Hardship funding will pay for a further 12 month subscription to Press Reader and Niche Academy. Transition funding will be used for a fixed term Library Assistant with responsibility for setting up and starting to develop local history library resources, which will add value to the Gore community and visitors to the District.

Library COVID-19 cases, community outreach and children's activities

After three months of reduced opening hours, and with staff working in separate teams, the libraries resumed normal opening hours and staffing at the beginning of May. Staff were very pleased to return to working fully on-site in a single team, and customers were clearly pleased with the return to normal opening hours.

However since then, COVID and other seasonal illnesses have impacted the library team, with 40% of staff off sick or self-isolating during the majority of May-June. The Matariki Library and Service Centre was closed for four days due to a staff shortage in early June.

The library has carefully restarted community outreach, namely accepting invitations to talk to service groups and schools. In-library children's activities are on hold during winter and will be reviewed in spring. *Take & Make* packs will again be provided to children in the July school holidays.

StoryWalk®

The latest Storywalk was prepared and installed in collaboration with Gore Main School. A class of children wrote and illustrated the story and helped to install it on the storyboards. An outdoor opening event was held with the pupils, teachers and parents on the occasion of the Council Matariki event Kāhui Whetū on Thursday 23 June.



Staff

Our New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme secondee's term has been extended for the year 1 July 2022-30 June 2023, funded by the Council. This library assistant has responsibilities in the specific areas of community engagement, digital inclusion and reading for wellbeing. The extension means the services and projects that have been set up during the 18 months on the secondee project can be continued and extended, notably the StoryWalk®, Device Advice and community engagement.

The vacancy for a part time Maitua Library and Service Centre Assistant has now been filled.

4. REPORT FROM EVENTS COORDINATOR

Purpose

This report provides an overview of events for May and June.

Kāhui Whetū

This year we held our first Matariki event, called Kāhui Whetū. The event was one night only, the day before the Matariki public holiday, and was a light show in the Gore Gardens from 5:30pm – 8:30pm.

The evening was a resounding success, with an estimated 500 to 600 people attending.

We chose a light show as we wanted to bring something to the community which was festive, different from our usual offering and appropriate for the season. Before planning, we consulted with the Hokonui Runanga on an event name and ensured the runanga was comfortable with our plans for the evening. After receiving approval, we moved forward with the event.

Southern Lights provided all lighting and technical support for the event, lighting up the main walkways and prominent trees with LEDs, inflatable stars and disco balls. Food trucks served hot food and a dining area with a couple of gas heat lamps to keep people warm. There was neon face painting for the children that glowed under black light, UV bubbles and a kids painting area where they could be creative.

We used a few different avenues for advertising: radio, Facebook/social media, newspaper and posters. The online response to our Facebook event page has been outstanding, with over 740 people indicating an interest in attending.

Future plans are to move the event to an alternative park within the District so that it can grow and become a staple of our event calendar.



Hokonui Culture Feast

We have been working on securing performers for the Hokonui Culture Feast. The Taiko drummers and West African performers are coming as our main acts. We did a brief boost of our Facebook event page, which successfully gained more interest, so we will do this again closer to the event date.

Gore District Community Awards

After meeting with Food Affair, we now have a draft menu for the awards evening. Following positive feedback from the last event, we have decided to do a buffet again this year. Sponsors are almost all locked in for our award categories, however, we have had some difficulties securing a sponsor for the Business Excellence Award. We will continue to approach new sponsors for this category.

Tussock Country will bring a performance to the awards again this year to showcase our local talent and celebrate an event which offers so much to our community.

NZ Event Association Awards

The New Zealand Event Association Awards and the annual conference are finally set to be held on 26 / 27 July in Napier.

The Council's Enchanted Parks Quest for Parks week is a finalist in the Best Local Government Event 2021. To give an indication of the quality of events we are up against, other finalists are:

- Digital Nights: Van Gogh Alive, WellingtonNZ
- Festival of Cultures, Palmerston North City Council
- Matariki 2020, Porirua City Council
- TSB Festival of Lights, New Plymouth District Council

5. REPORT FROM COMMUNICATIONS/DIGITAL TEAM

Purpose

This report aims to provide an overview of our communications and community engagement activities for the last couple of months.

Projects

The team has been busy supporting the Council's various business units in multiple ways, ranging from branding to reviewing content to leading community engagement. Project involvement includes:

[District Plan Review](#) – the team created a project page and for the first time activated the hub feature on Let's Talk. This allows the creation of sub-pages and is a valuable asset given the multi-faceted nature of the review. The pages feature details about the District Plan, what it is, why people should get involved in the review, and the main topics. These pages will be the one source of information as the Council enters the draft District Plan release phase, followed by the Proposed District Plan. The latter is subject to a more formal consultation process than for the draft.

[Power Farming Holdings Ltd](#) – this is notified resource consent application. The Council is one of the few offering people the opportunity to make an online submission for resource consents, instead of having to download a form, fill it in, scan it then email it.

Cat Working Party – the Council will launch a project page for this working party when it enters the community engagement phase. We are expecting a strong level of interest.

Gore Multisport Complex maintenance shutdown – this project is due to start in September. We will be reviewing signage at the venue as part of the shutdown.

Digital statistics

Website

Statistics for the Council's website over May/June were:

- Users: 12,713. Of that, 44.58% used their mobile phone to access the site, 55.84% used their desktop, and 2.58% used a tablet.
- Page views: 52,744
- Top three pages: Property search, Gore Aquatic Centre and Cemetery records search
- MyGore accounts: 381

Antenno

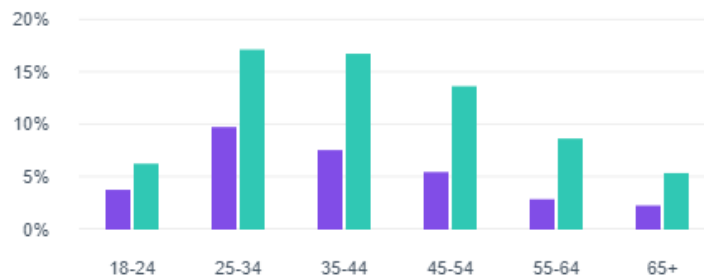
Subscribers: 2340, an increase of 100 since the last period. This represents 38.3% of our rating database, meaning GoreDC retains its place as the leading Council in New Zealand for downloads of Antenno.

Facebook

GoreDC currently has 8,020 followers. A breakdown of the demographics of these followers is:

Age and gender

Men 31.80%
Women 68.20%



GoreDC continues to have a good reach across social media. Below is the figure for the period May/June.

Facebook Page reach ⓘ

37,834 ↑ 149.3%



Instagram reach ⓘ









468 ↑ 372.7%



Instagram

Over May/June we have been publishing organic content for the GoreDC Instagram account @goredistrictcouncil, utilising the ability to post cross-social under Meta's Business Suite.

We currently have 124 followers, which is an increase of 53 from the previous period. While still a low follower count, the engagement, including Instagram Reach above, seems notable:

	Big shout out to the Mataura Primary School children who came out today to help our Parks...	Boost post	...	11 May 12:48	61 People reached
	We may be a small council, but we sure can foot it with our larger colleagues when it comes ...	Boost post	...	25 June 10:00	59 People reached
	A kauri tree, reputedly rescued from the Gore dump nearly four decades ago, was carefully r...	Boost post	...	30 June 15:30	51 People reached
	Weather update 🌦️ Our roading team has provided us with a condition report following...	Boost post	...	11 June 14:31	50 People reached
	From this Friday (1 July), ownership of the Otama Rural Water Scheme will transfer from the ...	Boost post	...	29 June 16:15	44 People reached
	How cold was it when you jumped in the car this morning? 🌨️ There was another cracker fr...	Boost post	...	23 June 09:15	44 People reached
	How cool is this! 🌿 In a joint initiative between the Department of Conservation, Hokonui ...	Boost post	...	31 May 17:22	42 People reached
	Bannerman Park is set to become home to some of the rarest rhododendrons in the world. ...	Boost post	...	6 May 12:07	42 People reached

Professional interactions

The easing of COVID restrictions has seen conferences and events cancelled in 2021 back on.

Association of Local Government Information Management

In July two staff attended the ALGIM 2021 annual conference. Titled Igniting the Future, it was a reminder of the great work local government professionals are doing throughout New Zealand. Software developments in the areas of customer service and digital connectivity are exciting.

Talk It Up – Unleashing the future for local government

This one-day unconference attracted 80 communications and community strategy professionals from Invercargill to the Far North. The Council's GM Communications/Customer Support was one of four people on the organising group. The unconference was a first for NZ local government and judging by the feedback was a resounding success.

6. REPORT FROM COMMUNITY STRATEGY MANAGER

Welcoming Communities

The main focus of the work in this space is the establishment of a welcome pack for newcomers to the district and the development of a buddie programme. The intention is to launch these in September during Welcome Week.

Closing the Gaps

Confirmation of funding for the Mayoral Task Force for Jobs is still pending from Local Government New Zealand. In the past 12 months, 51 young people have been placed in employment with financial support through the programme for the business and young person to assist the transition into work. A further ten have been supported without financial contribution.

Currently, a Workforce Plan for the Gore District is being developed to inform the work for coming years and a further scoping report with businesses is underway. This involves interviewing 100 businesses within the Gore District.

Recently, the Council partnered with Workbridge and MPI to meet with members of the farming community and agencies to discuss the challenges with employment for the farming community. This was positive with good connections and outcomes received from many of those who attended.

Housing

Ready for Living continue to connect with and support local Resthomes. The future development of these Resthomes to meet the needs of the growing older population, has been an important part of these conversations.

Ready for Living and the Council continue to work with Kāinga Ora on establishing social housing within the district. Land has recently been purchased allowing for 20 new builds covering couples, singles and families. This will assist the shortage of social housing within the Gore District.

Currently work is underway to assess the current emergency housing needs within Gore District.

Ready for Living

The Coordinator continues to make connections with older people groups in the community and complete actions from the Action Plan ending 30 June 2023.

The profile of Ready for Living is growing in the community which has meant we are receiving more requests for advice and help.

Ready for Living attend Age Friendly Aotearoa NZ Network meetings with others leading age friendly work. This group helps Ready for Living grow knowledge through learning from others from throughout New Zealand.

Welfare

- Ready for Living continues to be involved in the Caring for Communities group, which meets daily during high need times (COVID, floods) and two weekly in 'normal times' to support the community. Ready for Living continues to connect older people with the correct services and volunteers.
- The Coordinator has organised a roster for Council staff to volunteer to deliver meals on wheels one day a week for Parata Resthome.

Ready for Living is working to make sure services for older people; are Southland based and deliver equitably to the Gore District.

Wellbeing

- Over 500 'A Guide to Local Services and Connections for Older People' have been distributed through the older community. Ready for Living has had great feedback on this including "This is the best thing the Council has ever done," "This booklet is so helpful," and "I didn't realise Gore had so much available for older people."

Over 80 free swimming

Ready for Living proposed to the Council to allow people 80 years or older to use Gore Aquatic Centre with no charge to swim and attend aquafit classes. This was accepted, with 100 seniors having used this opportunity.

Over 80 free parking

Over 80s free parking continues to be a success with lots of positive feedback from the older community. Over 180 seniors have received the over 80 parking permit.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management Southland and Ready for Living are working together to develop a booklet 'A guide for Emergency Preparedness' specifically for older people in Gore district. The booklet will include local hazards, contacts and preparation focusing on issues often faced by older people in a disaster. Once completed, we plan to host first aid courses for older people and potentially an event that will teach about staying safe in different situations.

The Coordinator attended disaster management recovery training. This is in preparation if a disaster does occur locally the Coordinator can advocate strongly for older people during recovery.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD)

- Ready for Living had media coverage for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with articles in The Ensign and The Southland Times newspapers, a radio interview, the Council website and Facebook. The campaign was about raising awareness of elder abuse and what to do if you suspect it.
- Ready for Living applied to the Office for Seniors Elder Abuse Prevention Fund. A application for a communication campaign to raise awareness of elder abuse was developed. The application was declined but the Coordinator will look into other ways to continue this work.

International Older Person's Day - 1 October

- A plan is being developed to hold an event with a speaker for International Older Persons Day 2022.
- With the timing around local authority elections, a Mayor's Tea party (where older people could chat with the Mayor and Councillors) won't be held, but we will plan to do this at a later date.
- A media campaign through several channels will be used to promote the value of older people in our community.

World Health Organisation accreditation

- Ready for Living has submitted its annual Age Friendly practice to maintain the WHO Age Friendly Cities and Community's accreditation. This was related to development and running of the Ready for Strengthening exercise class.

Exercise

Ready for Living continues to run strength and balance exercise classes for the aged.

- The Ready for Strengthening class at Windsor Village has been very successful and is at maximum capacity. Exercise testing has shown improvement in leg strength and balance for all participants that attend regularly.
- The Coordinator is approaching other organisations to see if they can run another exercise class for the community.
- Over 65 strength and balance classes have been held in Gore, with over 65 different people attending under the ACC 'Live Stronger for Longer' Accreditation.
- A Riversdale group has also asked for assistance with starting an exercise class. Contact details of people who may be able to assist have been given.

Social participation

In the past six months there has been limited (in person) connections with groups due to increased risk related to Omicron.

- The Coordinator spoke about their role, at Windsor Village to 60 older people. The residents were asked for their thoughts on what would make Gore better for older people. This has led to ideas for further work streams for Ready for Living to develop in the future.
- The Seniors Citizens weekly lunch has continued throughout the Omicron outbreak, however had lower numbers attending. The Coordinator continues to connect with the group.
- Hokonui Rununga Kaumatua day and Taurite tu exercise class have restarted.
- The Coordinator is supporting Grey Power and the new leadership team to form a new identity.

Strong Communities Murihiku*

The Coordinator has been involved in Strong Communities Murihiku as an advocate for older people, making sure they are considered in future possibilities for Southland. The conference allowed great networking as well as awareness of what is happening

in wider Southland. The Community Strategy Manager is one of the representatives on this work stream with Just Transitions.

*Strong Communities Murihiku is part of Just Transitions that was established following the announcement of the New Zealand Aluminium Smelter closure announcement in 2020. Supported by the Government, it aims to start conversations about future possibilities for Southland.

Age Friendly Business

It was decided to hold off on the relaunch of the Age Friendly Business due to the Omicron outbreak. We are currently working towards restarting the promotion and connecting with businesses.

Website and media

- The Coordinator continues to develop and maintain the Ready for Living website including information on Ready for Living.
- During the past six months Ready for Living has received a range of media exposure through The Ensign, The Southland Times, Stuff, local Radio stations and social media.