

Community funding

The following funding schemes are available to groups in our community and funding rounds for all schemes open in September and March/April each year.

Creative Communities Scheme

Funding for arts and cultural projects that increase participation in arts and benefit local communities. Recent recipients include Grey District Youth Trust, Greymouth Competitions Society and Ochre Project Team.

Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund

Grey District school and sport club teams can apply for Sport NZ Rural Travel funding. Applications are open to rural sports clubs and rural schools teams with young people aged between 5 – 19 years who require subsidies to help with transport expenses to local sporting competitions. Recent recipients include Greymouth Hockey Club, Greymouth Marist Rugby Club, John Paul 2 High School, Marist Rugby League Juniors, Paroa Junior Soccer Club, Waro-Rakau Rugby League.

DWC West Coast Amateur Sports Trust

This fund assists sports people in the Buller, Grey and Westland Districts who have been recognised by their sports body to have potential to reach national representative level. The monies granted help our talented youth to participate in training and/or competition that will help them towards reaching a goal in line with the Trust's objectives.

The full criteria for each scheme can be found on our website and application forms will be available online or at Council offices when funding rounds are open, www.greycdc.govt.nz/funding.



Mayor's comment



Future Proofing the Grey District

Council has just completed the Annual Plan budget for income and expenditure over the next year. It is pleasing to report that the Grey District Council books are in a healthy state with a strong balance

sheet.

Currently the Grey District average residential rates are the ninth lowest in New Zealand and our borrowing cost per ratepayer is \$116, compared to a national average of \$170. In this year's budget we have increased funding to future-proof roading and water renewals. We will also start reducing debt from now on.

Over recent years we have invested \$135m in new infrastructure, with the main item being the new sewerage schemes throughout the District, costing \$46m. We have \$30m debt and the District population has increased to 13,550. This huge expenditure will help future proof us for the continued change that is shaping the West Coast. Climate change, zero

carbon targets and the on-line internet retailing revolution has huge momentum. Traditional ways of life that we were accustomed to are changing forever to the point that not far into the future driverless electric cars will be common place in New Zealand.

The West Coast must position itself to take advantage of a diversified sustainable future. A good example of diversity is coal mining. When I was growing up here, there were thousands of mining jobs in the Grey District but today in coal and gold there are only 119 employees and in tourism there is 838. The transition has been painful but the Grey District today still retains 46% of all West Coast jobs led by construction, health services, manufacturing, accommodation, food and retailing.

Unemployment is 3.3%, GDP in the District has increased to \$644m and the 7,359 full time jobs increased in the Grey District over the last year. Education and trades training is the key to the future with the use of ultra-fast broadband and value adding is vital. Keeping our head in the sand, refusing to change from the old ways, will only create misery so we must adapt for a sustainable future.

The Grey District has the highest average

household earnings on the West Coast, increasing by 4.4% to \$53,967 over the last year, so in spite of the huge loss of mining jobs we are making good progress. Whoever would have thought that in 2019 there would be no underground coalmines operating anywhere in New Zealand. We must lobby Government for continued access to DOC land, especially stewardship land, which has valuable rare earth minerals, moss, gravel, gold and tree growing potential.

Trades people are busy building new houses, retail outlets, new hospital and a soon-to-be announced major project for downtown Greymouth, which with the Town Square, continues the momentum of the town's CBD renewal. We are going through major industry change but still making excellent progress.

For those people who are prepared to diversify and add to their skill-set, the West Coast has many opportunities. Yes, we have some challenges ahead but by collaborating and planning together, the West Coast Councils have built the framework for many more jobs over the coming years.

*Tony Kokshoorn
Grey District Mayor*

Library news

Digital literacy classes

The Grey District Library has teamed up with the 2020 Communications Trust to deliver these very popular FREE digital literacy classes to the community. Here is the class schedule for **Term 3 of 2019**.

DATE	TOPIC
Thursday 1 August	Introduction to Chromebooks
Thursday 8 August	Google Drive
Thursday 15 August	TradeMe
Thursday 22 August	Digital Photos
Thursday 29 August	Introduction to Spreadsheets
Thursday 5 September	Computer Basics
Thursday 12 September	Photo Editing Basics
Thursday 19 September	Digital Banking

BorrowBox

Downloadable fiction and nonfiction eBooks and eAudiobooks for adults, young adults and children.

BorrowBox makes it easy to select and download eBooks and eAudiobooks to your computer or any compatible mobile device. BorrowBox has a wide selection of New Zealand and Australian titles as well as works from international authors.

Users can download up to five eBooks and five eAudiobooks at a time with a loan period of 21 days. Users can return items early and can renew them twice (if there are no holds). You can access BorrowBox from the Library website - just sign in using your library card and pin.

Go to www.greydc.govt.nz/libraries and visit the eBooks and eAudio section.



All classes are from 2pm to 4pm in the West Coast Room at the Grey District Library.

Classes are open to all ages and registering is easy - either phone the Library on 03 768 5597 or go to <https://2020.arlo.co/upcoming-courses> and select 'West Coast Region'. You need to register for each class you wish to take.

For further information about the Stepping Up programme, please visit <http://steppingup.nz/>.



2019 ELECTIONS

Do you know someone who should stand in the upcoming local body elections?

If so, shoulder tap them now and get them to head to our website where they can find information for candidates thinking about standing for Council.

The elections will take place by postal vote on Saturday 12 October 2019. Key dates are as follows:

19 July 2019	Nominations open for candidates
16 August 2019	Nominations close at 12 noon and electoral roll closes
21 August 2019	Candidates' names are published
20-25 September 2019 (approx)	Voting documents are delivered to households
12 October 2019	Voting closes at 12 noon
12 October 2019	Preliminary results available as soon as possible after all ordinary votes are counted
17-23 October 2019 (approx)	Official results declared after all ordinary and special votes are counted

Visit www.greydc.govt.nz/elections to find out more.



WESTLAND RECREATION CENTRE



Supervised Play Area

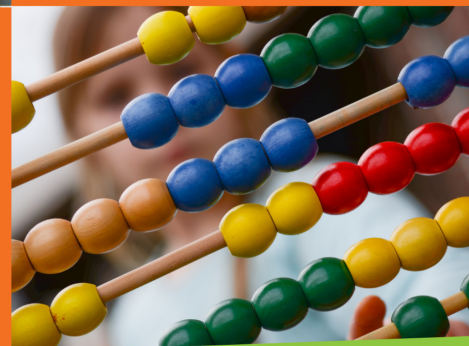
Did you know if you are a member, you can come and enjoy our facility while your children play in our Supervised Play Area FREE OF CHARGE??

The play area is run by our first aid trained and very experienced Support Officers, Chrystal and Elizabeth!

A small fee applies for non-members.

Things to know before you visit ...

- You can visit the gym or the pool while your child plays.
- Before you visit, you must supply information on your child and pre-book each time using our easy booking system.
- Bookings are for one hour at a time.
- Service is open between 9am—11am, Monday to Friday.



Please contact us for more information.

The Westland Recreation Centre is proud to provide a service to our community to promote healthy families and healthy habits.

2019/2020 ANNUAL PLAN

On 24 June 2019 Council adopted the final 2019/2020 Annual Plan. This plan came into effect on 1 July 2019 and outlines the services we will provide and the projects we will be carrying out during the 2019/2020 year.

Before adopting the final plan, we put a draft plan out for public submissions, highlighting the key issues affecting our District and community and our proposed plans. Thank you to everyone who took the time to make a submission on our Draft Plan. Council heard and considered these on 6 June 2019. A summary of the key outcomes and approved projects include:

- We will be continuing to put more money towards the Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater and Land Transport activities to address the renewals required in these areas.
- Rate funding into the Port activity will continue.
- \$30,000 has been allocated for working with the Greymouth Business & Promotions Association on projects to be agreed upon by Council.
- The Shakespeare Street toilet facility, which is old and in poor condition, will be demolished. There are other facilities nearby available for users, ie tennis club and Westland Recreation Centre.
- Additional cleaning at Iveagh Bay toilet and shelter block.
- Some money has been put aside for seed funding and implementation of projects under the CBD Redevelopment Plan. Applications will also be made to external funders where appropriate.
- Additional funding has been allocated for the project cost of replacing the aged Greymouth water reservoir currently located on seismically unstable land with three new smaller reservoirs – approval has been given for funding of one reservoir to date.

Council also approved the following funding:

- Purchase of 24-hour available defibrillators for the Grey District (Rotary Greymouth).
- Seed funding for a Festival of the Grey event (New Coasters).
- Works to pipe the open drain between the affected properties at Marsden Road/Marlborough Street and undertake a catchment review.
- Support and advocacy on behalf of the Grey District (Minerals West Coast).
- A contribution of \$25,000 per annum for three years towards the development of the One District Plan subject to the other three West Coast Councils also contributing.
- Additional funding for Civil Defence.
- Ongoing operation of the West Coast Wilderness Trail Trust.
- Crane restoration project (Greymouth Heritage Trust).
- Financial provision for the proposed discovery centre/pounamu pathway concept.

In the Draft Plan, Council forecast a 3.79% overall rates rise. Taking into account the decisions made after hearing submissions, the final rates rise was confirmed as 3.79% (the same). This rates rise takes into account the increase in inflation to allow Council to keep providing the same level of service and addresses issues such as deferred renewals in water supply, stormwater and roading infrastructure, funding for the Port and new water reservoir for Greymouth.

For more information, please read the final 2019/2020 Annual Plan, which can be found on our website, www.greymouth.govt.nz.



Your rates

By now you should have received your first rates bill for the 2019/2020 rating year. Your rates are made up of **General Rates** (to fund activities such as roading, refuse disposal sites, stormwater, parks, community services, district planning, flood protection and much more) and **Targeted Rates** (to pay for services such as refuse/recycling collection, water and sewer, or to fund specific activities, ie economic development).

Your rateable land value, the area of the District you live in and what the property is used for helps determine how much rates you pay towards Council services and activities. This is also the first time that the new 2018 rating valuations have been used for the purposes of calculating the rates each property pays.

Paying rates

There are many easy ways to pay your rates, including:

- **In person:** cash, cheque, EFTPOS and Visa or Mastercard.
- **Other methods:** cheque, direct debit, telebanking, internet banking, automatic payment or by credit card over the internet.

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$640 to low income home owners.

Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020) can be made from 1 August.

Head on into Council offices to collect an application form.

Email rates invoices

Congratulations to Willis Macbeth, the winner of our recent rates email and direct debit sign up competition. He has won a prize pack worth \$200.

You can still sign up to receive your rates or debtor invoices via email or to pay your rates by direct debit. Please visit our website for details.

If you have any questions about your rates, you can visit our website, www.greymouth.govt.nz/rates or call 03 769 8605 and talk to our friendly Rates staff.

Heart of the West Coast

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

We want our community to be safe on the roads during the winter period so here is some good information and advice from the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), whether you're driving around town or crossing the alpine passes.

- Do you need to travel today? If you do, think about the best route to take and build in extra time.
- Ensure your vehicle is safe for winter driving.
- Drive to the road and weather conditions.
- Slow down and be prepared for unexpected hazards.
- Allow greater following distance between you and the vehicle ahead.
- Make sure your cell phone is well charged - check your car charger also.
- Have blankets, snacks and bottles of water ready in case of an emergency or breakdown.

Stay up to date with road conditions:

www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic or www.facebook.com/nztasouthisland

Phone 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49)



Photo of Lewis Pass, July 2017
(from Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast Police Facebook page)

Stay up to date with Council news

You can stay up to date with all Council news on our website or Facebook page, which are updated regularly.

You can also find details of issues Council is currently consulting on and how you can have your say.

If you've got a question or some feedback for us, please feel free to use the easy online contact form on our website - we're here to help.



www.greycdc.govt.nz



www.facebook.com/GreyDC

Have Your Say!

CHANGES OF LAND USE

Property owners are reminded that under the Building Act 2004 and the Grey District Plan, they need to let Council know if there are any changes in the use of their land. For instance, if you own a residential property and you use it for any commercial purposes (i.e. where you generate an income), this represents a change of use.

This reminder has been prompted by the rapid establishment of Airbnb's, home offices, home-based industries etc in the Grey District. Some changes of use may mean the property is subject to higher compliance requirements or may be required to make a financial contribution to Council's income like other businesses/commercial operations currently do. As well as this, there is an issue of user safety, something that Council takes very seriously.

There are already legal requirements in place with regards to regulatory compliance and Council has an obligation to enforce them. The issue of financial contributions on such changed uses is likely to be considered as part of the next Long Term Plan (LTP), due to be developed in 2021.

If you have any questions or need to report changes in the use of your property, please contact the Environmental Services department by emailing building@greycdc.govt.nz or phoning 03 769 8608.



Nominations are now OPEN!

It's time to put forward your nomination for the

2019 Design Windows West Coast Sports Awards

which recognise sporting excellence in our region.

The 2019 awards evening will be held at Shantytown on Saturday 19 October 2019 and tables are currently available to purchase. Please note that this event is for people aged 18 and over.

Nominations can be made for the following categories:

- Sports Person of the Year
- Referee or Umpire of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Administrator of the Year
- Team of the Year
- Achievement in Sport (Male & Female)

Nominations close on 13 September 2019.

For more information or to purchase a table for the awards evening, please contact Sarah Conroy on 027 717 7714 or email sarah.conroy@greycdc.govt.nz

