



COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE!

A lot of the things we throw away can sometimes be avoided, used again or composted. Practice the three R's and cut down the amount of unnecessary rubbish going into our landfill.

REDUCE

- Think before you buy! Make a conscious effort to buy products in packaging that can be recycled.
- Keep a foodwaste bin on your bench to stop food scraps and tissues going into the rubbish bin. Start up a worm farm or create a compost bin in your backyard.

REUSE

- If a product can't be recycled think of another way you might be able to use it. Think Upcycle!
- Donate items that still have life in them to others rather than just dumping them.

RECYCLE

- You can recycle glass bottles and jars, plastics no. 1-6 (excluding polystyrene and plasticized cardboard cartons), paper, cardboard, empty aerosol cans, tins and cans.
- Make sure all containers and bottles are rinsed and lids are removed.



- Refer to our website for a full list of items that can be recycled, www.greycdc.govt.nz/refuse-and-recycling.
- If you live in an area of town that doesn't get kerbside recycling collection, you can take your clean recyclables to any disposal centre FREE OF CHARGE.
- To ensure your bins and bags get emptied or picked up, please have your bins out by 7am and bags out by 8am on your collection day.



Mayor's Comment

It was good to see that in the recent Resident Satisfaction Survey, 86% of residents were satisfied with the performance of the Mayor and Councillors. This high score put Grey District Council on

top of the group of Councils on average.

There is still lots to do but the District is starting to move ahead with plenty of housing and construction underway at present. I was asked recently about how the West Coast is going economically. My reply was that it is not much different to 50 or 100 years ago where the Coast made progress but because we rely on cyclical industries and need population growth for progress, the region has the inevitable setbacks that we have experienced over the last few years.

The world is changing so Coasters must change and adapt to the vastly different world that we once knew. The internet revolution, mechanisation and climate change are just a few areas that we all must adapt to. The Central Business District (CBD) of Greymouth is the commercial Hub of the West Coast but,

like everything, it must change to meet the demands of 2017.

The CBD has had its challenges but protecting Greymouth from floodwaters was successful in 1990 and has worked well ever since, with recent addition of a 750mm concrete barrier. The floodwall enhances and future-proofs the town. The CBD had to adapt to the Warehouse and Big Box stores with huge retail floor space establishing outside of the traditional downtown business district. Internet online purchasing of retail goods is the latest competition confronting our local retailers. Every small town in New Zealand is under pressure.

Huge increases in tourist numbers are coming to the West Coast. They are coming to Greymouth as the gateway and central hub but passing through and not staying overnight. We must give tourists a reason to stop here.

Greymouth is once again at the crossroads where the CBD must change to meet the expectations of visitors that are vital to our economy. Visitors spend over \$100 million in the Grey District every year; it should be much more. The town renewal, starting with the Town Square, is central to our economic

wellbeing. New accommodation for visitors, linking with the town renewal, will entice people to stay overnight.

Retailers must band together, developing smart ways to revitalise and make the town come alive. Good service and extended opening hours are needed to service the many tourists roaming the streets. Many of our shop owners are rising to the challenge but some are not. The town renewal needs everyone on board, not just some. We need a strong and active Business and Promotions group. Council is working closely with Mawhera Incorporation as we forge ahead with plans to revitalise the area.

Over the last 10 years, Council has addressed expensive environmental issues like sewerage, drinking water, swimming pools, stadium/events centres, ultra-fast broadband, cycle trails and health facilities but now is the time to revitalise the CBD. The longer we leave these projects, the more costly they will become. We must start now, so let's get going.

Tony Kokshoorn



Greymouth CBD works progressing

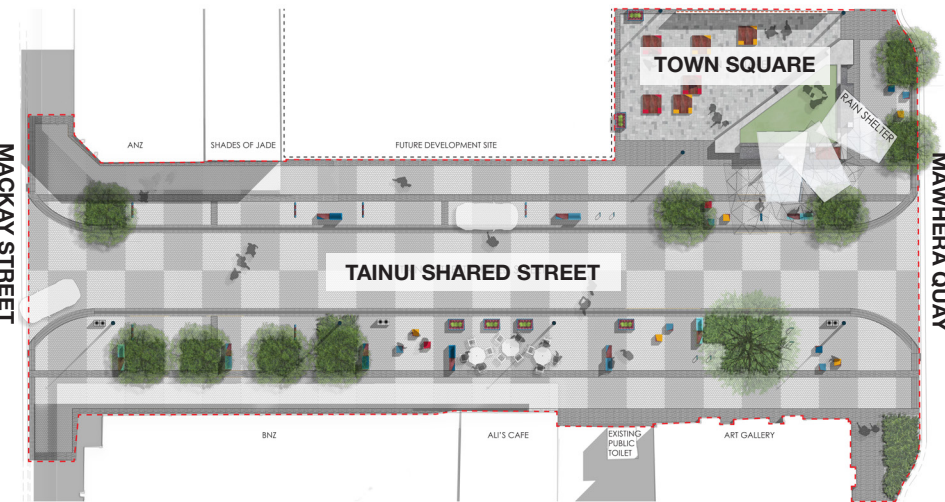
Our contractor, Paul Smith Earthmoving Ltd, has been busy carrying out the first stages of works on the new Town Square and Tainui Shared Street spaces.

Screens were installed around the proposed Tainui Shared Street area in downtown Greymouth to contain a common by-product used in the sealing of roads – Coal Tar. When the town was still fairly young, the roads were sealed with a by-product, Coal Tar, from the old Greymouth Borough Gas works. This product has been classified as toxic and needed to be contained. Contractors in Christchurch also had to face working with this product when they excavated and reconstructed the roads following the region's earthquakes. Comprehensive procedures have been developed for working with this contaminated product and the contractor has been following these procedures, as well as industry best practice.

The latest phase of works, the installation of reticulated works, are due to be completed at the start of May. You can stay up to date with this exciting project on our website, www.greymouth.govt.nz/renewal.



Construction site, Tainui Shared Street - April 2017



Concept design - Town Square and Tainui Shared Street spaces

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$610 to low income home owners. Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017) must be made by 30 June 2017.

If you have not already applied for your rebate for the current rating year or want to find out if you qualify for a rates rebate, pop along to see your friendly Rates staff at Council offices.

Pool shutdown for annual maintenance

The Westland Recreation Centre pool will be closed for its annual maintenance from Monday 1 May to Sunday 7 May 2017 (*inclusive*).

During this time the remainder of the Westland Recreation Centre will be open, ie the gym and stadium, however with the boiler not working, there will be no hot water for showers etc.

The pool is expected to reopen on Monday 8 May 2017.

Civic awards

We like to acknowledge the outstanding voluntary service of our community and one way of doing this is to present deserving individuals with a Civic Award.

Nominations for Civic Awards will open at the start of May and up to five (5) awards will be granted each year. The qualifying categories include recreation, youth activities, social welfare, education services, cultural affairs, religious affairs and community affairs.

Watch our website for details, www.greymouth.govt.nz.

Trustpower awards

Locals on the West Coast should get their thinking caps on because Trustpower is asking them to consider what's been happening around town with help from their local volunteers. These awards are open to all volunteer groups, whether they've been operating for 20 years or 20 days.

You have until Friday 12 May 2017 to get your entries in. Entry forms and more information are available at Council offices, online at www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards or the Trustpower Community Facebook page.

The awards cover five categories: Heritage and Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure, and Education and Child/Youth Development.

Dog registration

It's almost that time of year again. Dog registration notices for the 2017/2018 year will be sent out to known owners around the end of June with payment due by 31 July.

Resident satisfaction survey

Council were presented the results from the independent 2016 Resident Satisfaction Survey back in March and were very pleased to note that it confirmed a high general resident satisfaction with Council and its services. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. Some highlights from the results are below.

- Satisfaction with overall performance of Council over the last 12 months - 83% satisfied (2015: 81%).
- The top three Council facilities residents are most satisfied with are our parks and reserves (91%), swimming pools (83%) and then libraries (82%).
- A large majority of residents, 82%, are satisfied with the information they receive from Council (2015: 81%).
- Feedback suggests the younger residents are turning more towards digital communications to receive information from Council, ie social media and the website. The newsletter does, however, remain an important way for us to get information out with a 52% preference for the quarterly newsletter.
- More residents feel the District is a great place to live, 94% agreeing in 2016 versus 91% in 2015. The top reasons remained the same as last year, namely sense of community, lifestyle and access to the outdoors.
- Some of the areas residents thought needed improvement or expressed dissatisfaction with include maintenance, cost of rates and red tape/bureaucracy.
- The survey also benchmarked Grey District Council against a number of other local authorities and Paul Pretorius, CEO, is pleased that yet again our Council showed impressive results in overall satisfaction with Council performance (83%) and satisfaction with performance of Mayor and Councillors (86%).

You can read the full survey report on our website, www.greydc.govt.nz/surveys.



Desexing campaign

Grey District Council has received funding from the Government for the subsidised neutering of menacing dogs. This means that the dog owner will only have to pay \$35 towards the cost of neutering and chipping.

The Department of Internal Affairs grant is part of an \$850,000 nationwide neutering scheme announced as part of the new national action plan in late 2016 which is aimed at reducing the risk and harm of dog attacks.

It is expected that proposed Government legislation making it compulsory for all dangerous and menacing dogs to be neutered will come into force in the near future.

Our Animal Control officers say they are delighted that the Council's funding application was successful and the team have already begun contacting people who they know would appreciate the offer for subsidised dog neutering.

"This is a great opportunity for our community, many of whom want to neuter their dogs but find the cost too high. Because of the neutering, we expect to notice less menacing breeds and cross-breeds over time. It is also positive for owners, who will no longer deal with unwanted puppies."

What is a menacing dog?

To be eligible for this funding, your dog must be classified as menacing by breed/type or behaviour.

Dogs can be classed as menacing if they are seen as, or are reported to be, posing a threat to people, stock, poultry, domestic animals or wildlife.

There are also five breeds of dogs automatically classed as menacing under the Dog Control Act 1996: the Brazilian Fila, Dogo Argentino, Japanese Tosa, Perro De Presa Canario and the Pit Bull Type.

Please contact Council's Animal Control officers on 027 437 5452 to register your dog for the de-sexing programme or if you have any questions.

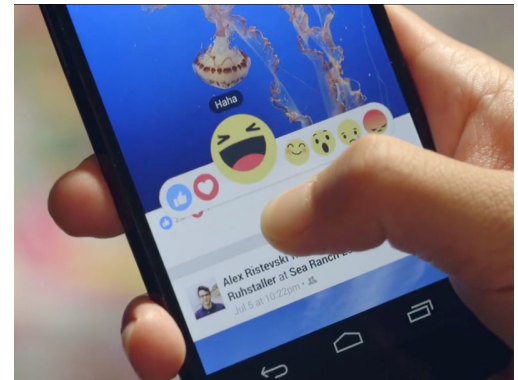


The shade sails down Mackay Street were reinstalled late last year, using vibrant colours from our branding palette.

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 2 of 2017**.

DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Thursday 4 May	2pm to 4pm	Digital Design
Thursday 11 May	2pm to 4pm	Introduction to Tablets (<i>for those who don't own one yet</i>)
Thursday 18 May	2pm to 4pm	Email 1 - Setting up email
Thursday 25 May	2pm to 4pm	Email 2 - Using email
Thursday 1 June	2pm to 4pm	Introduction to Spreadsheets
Thursday 8 June	2pm to 4pm	Introduction to Social Media
Thursday 15 June	2pm to 4pm	Tablets Troubleshooting (<i>one-on-one half hour sessions</i>)
Thursday 22 June	2pm to 4pm	Facebook
Thursday 29 June	2pm to 4pm	Google Drive
Thursday 6 July	2pm to 4pm	Slideshows - PowerPoint



All classes are held in the West Coast Room at the Library.

Classes are open to all ages and registration 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/>.

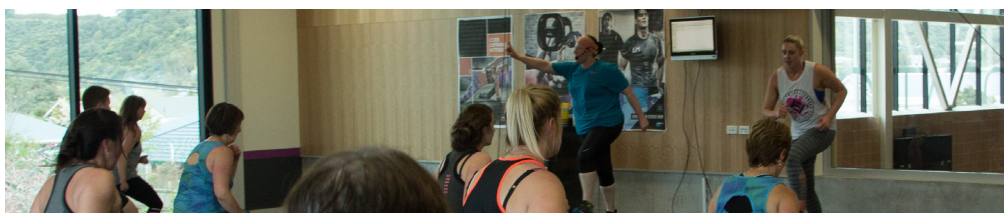
Move it indoors in May

The Westland Recreation Centre gym ran a successful *Bring a Friend for Free* promotion in March. Members got to bring a friend to the gym for free to give them a taste of the services and classes on offer. As an incentive, one lucky member got to win a month's free membership while their friend won a three month membership. Congratulations to Kimberley Browning and Kurt Browning.

Now that things are starting to cool down as winter makes its way to town, it's a good time to make the move indoors for warm and dry workouts. The Westland Recreation Centre has a variety of popular Les Mills classes for all ages and abilities, as well as yoga, Essentrics and Over 50 classes. With personal trainers on hand in the gym, your tailored workout is just an appointment away. Come on in and talk to our friendly Gym Floor Instructors today.

If the gym is not your thing, why not hit the pool for an aquacise classes or keep water fit in the large lap pool.

Visit www.greydc.govt.nz/westlandrec to view our timetable.



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. 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.greydc.govt.nz



www.facebook.com/GreyDC

Drive safe this winter

With winter just around the corner, now is the time to start thinking about how you can stay safe when travelling. Check out these handy hints.

- Vehicle checklist guide: check tyre treads, brakes, lights, windscreens and windscreen wipers are all in good working order.
- Always carry vehicle chains when travelling the alpine passes. Make sure you know how to put them on!
- Driving during winter can be very treacherous on parts of our highway roads that are exposed to extreme weather conditions. In extreme weather and road conditions, ask yourself if you really need to travel.
- Look out for shaded areas caused by tall trees where the roads freeze sooner and ice may not thaw during the day. Bridges could also stay slippery longer than other road surfaces.
- Allow greater following distances.
- Plan your travel ahead to minimise delays and reduce risks on our roads. Check weather and road conditions before you start on your trip. To help you plan your road trip, go to www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic. You can also follow NZTA on Facebook or Twitter or phone 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 44 44 49).