



Town Square and Tainui Shared Street due to open soon

The Town Square and Tainui Shared Street projects, as part of the Greymouth CBD Renewal, are nearing completion. Construction was slowed down for several weeks after contractors discovered Coal Tar (a toxic contaminant) present within the project site. Consents were needed to remove and transport the Coal Tar to an approved site. Now that this has been sorted, the remainder of the contract is proceeding full steam ahead.

Stage one: The installation of reticulated services beneath the ground, lowering existing road surfaces, installing paving stones for both the Tainui Shared Street and Town Square areas, creating a raised platform area and putting in the pillars for the rain shelter. The current fenced off areas will be progressively removed as work proceeds.

Stage two: The supply and installation of bespoke street furniture.

Stage three: Completion of the architecturally designed rain shelter in the Town Square and additional landscaping.

Mayor Tony Kokshoorn said: "As I've said before, this project holds the key to further investment in the CBD. The delays were unfortunate but the project is back on track and I have no doubt that the finished product will be of a quality and appearance that will do our District and its community very proud. The Town Square and Tainui Shared Street spaces will be the central focus of the 2017 Christmas parade."

We're looking forward to sharing the new spaces with our community and visitors once they're finished. We give our sincere thanks to the affected businesses and the public for their patience while these projects are carried out.

The new spaces will be officially opened on **Saturday 9 December** as part of the Christmas parade - refer to the back page for more information on the Christmas Carnival and the many exciting activities planned.



Progress on Tainui Shared Street as at 12 October 2017



Mayor's Comment

Greymouth is the commercial hub of the West Coast with many service industries and government departments employing 45% of the 17,000 full time jobs in the region. The Central

Business District (CBD) contributes many jobs and services so it is important that it stays a destination for visitors and residents.

Over 20 years ago The Warehouse arrived in town, putting competitive pressure on the existing downtown store owners. Then came the expansion of two supermarkets and the establishment of the Mitre 10 Mega Store. These stores have consolidated Greymouth as the commercial hub but with the timber and coal industries decline, the Greymouth CBD shops have struggled to make headway in the perfect storm of the last seven years.

Online buying does not stand out like a big box store but, believe me, it is making a huge impact on the way shoppers everywhere in rural New Zealand do business. Internet buying is here to stay so retailers need to sell online and compete.

The Greymouth CBD will always remain the retail hub for the region but in future CBD's will cater more for gatherings and social events where tourists and residents meet over a coffee, do banking and use personal services and because there is foot traffic, retail will still exist. This is why Council is building the Town Square. After many years of public consultation, fundraising and several delays, the square will have a grand opening on Saturday 9 December 2017.

The original cost of the Town Square and Tainui Shared Street projects was estimated at \$1.7 million, but because of the roading coal tar gas contamination the final price will end up around \$1.9 million. The square

is being built with quality materials so it will be an attractive place to welcome the many tourists that our economy depends on nowadays. To build the Town Square, Development West Coast gave \$700,000 and Council will use \$1.2 million from our healthy reserve funds which still remain at approximately \$10 million today.

Greymouth is a 150 year old coal mining town which is making a painful transition from extractive to sustainable industry. Many buildings are old and surplus to requirements so will be demolished. Lots of older buildings are being earthquake strengthened and the new Town Square will help consolidate the town as the commercial centre of the West Coast region.

Council is well advanced with the town renewal plan; there is lots to do but we are heading in the right direction.

Tony Kokshoorn

PLASTICS ARE LIKE DIAMONDS.... THEY REALLY ARE FOREVER!



Here are some interesting facts about using plastic bottles:

On average we use 168 plastic water bottles each per year.

It takes 700 years before plastic bottles start to decompose and can take up to 1,000 years to fully decompose.

Approximately 78% of plastic bottles aren't recycled in NZ.

80% of all rubbish in the ocean comes from activities from the land, 20% from the activities at sea.

Each year millions of birds, mammals and fish die from plastic because they either eat it or get caught in it.

Sourced from www.safebottles.co.nz/plastics-and-the-environment/



SO IF YOU HAVE EMPTY PLASTIC BOTTLES...

- ✓ **LIDS OFF** *clean lids number 1-6 can go in your recycle bin*
- ✓ **WASH 'EM**
- ✓ **SQUASH 'EM**
- ✓ **BIN 'EM in your recycle bin**

Westland Anniversary Day

Westland Anniversary Day happens on the Monday closest to 1st December each year. For 2017, the public holiday will be observed on **Monday 4 December 2017**.

Spring Creek pool

The Spring Creek Swimming Pool in Runanga is due to open for the summer season on **Saturday 2 December 2017**. If we're lucky enough that the water gets warm enough prior to this, the pool will open earlier. Stay up to date on Facebook, www.facebook.com/westlandrec.

Create a career at Council

Council had two stalls at the Tai Poutini Polytech Open Day on Saturday 16 September. We had information and staff on hand to answer questions about the types of job opportunities at Council offices and our community facilities.

On the day our staff fielded enquiries about careers in accounting and other job prospects within Council, such as engineering.

Westland Recreation Centre staff had several enquiries about career pathways leading into lifeguarding, swim school tutors, gym floor and group fitness instructors, as well as personal trainers.

Job vacancies for Council are listed on our website, www.greycouncil.govt.nz/vacancies.



Westland Recreation Centre pool roof repairs

We're pleased to report that the roof beam replacement works for the Westland Recreation Centre pool are continuing to progress.

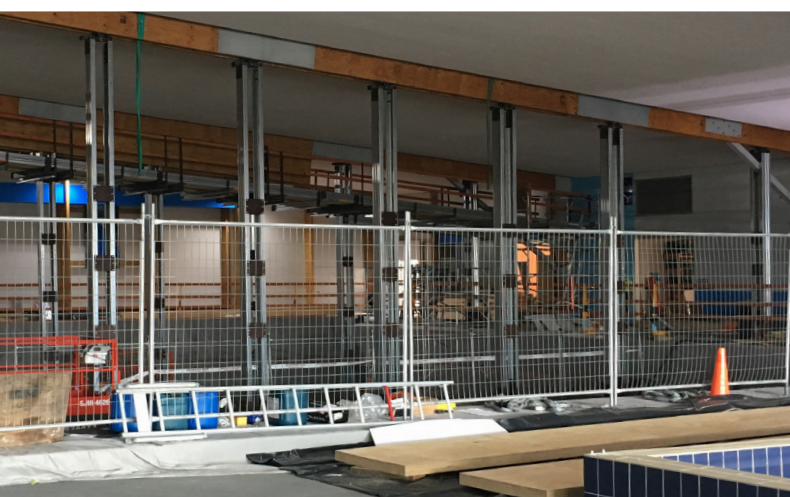
It's important to remember that this is the first time in New Zealand these works have been carried out while leaving the roof intact, therefore it has always been hard to put a realistic timeframe on how long they are going to take. Removing the roof to replace the beams would have added hundreds of thousands of dollars to the overall cost.

As with any complex construction job, challenges have been identified along the way and solutions have had to be found. However we can assure everyone that Council and the hard working contractors are doing everything they can to get the job completed and the pool reopen as soon as possible. We're really sorry for inconvenience this may be causing some people.

Remember that the stadium and gym are still open while the pool repairs are being undertaken.

Updates as the project progresses will be available on the Westland Recreation Centre Facebook page.

www.facebook.com/westlandrec



The Waitangi Day Community Picnic needs your help...

The annual community picnic has now been running for 17 years with just two cancellations due to rain. The organising committee works hard to provide a fun family day out for everyone with entertainment acts and lunch, including a BBQ and traditional Hangi for just a gold coin donation.

Now we need your help! The committee are on the lookout for:

- **Donations towards our event.** Tell us what you want to pay for? The sausages? The kumara? The ice creams?
- **More members for our committee.** We want fresh new ideas to keep our event as popular as previous years!
- **Entertainment acts.** Can you sing or dance? We are always looking for new performances to take the stage.

Please contact Sarah Conroy for further information, email sarah.conroy@greydc.govt.nz or phone 03 769 8623.

Save the date for next year: **Tuesday 6 February 2018**

Summer reading challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is a very cool programme developed for school children and participating in it is easy. Kids just have to read every day or almost every day - they can read anything as long as it is text. Young children may be read to by someone else.

Research has shown that school children's reading levels drop during the summer and the Grey District Library and local schools want to do everything possible to prevent that. The Summer Reading Challenge helps to maintain school children's reading levels over the summer by encouraging daily reading.

This year the prizes are going to be epic! All participants will go into the draw to win an Apple iPad! Everyone who enters will receive a book and there will be a book voucher from Paper Plus drawn for each school.

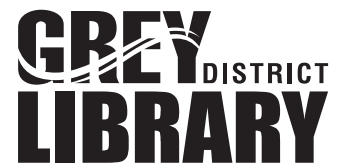
Please encourage your school children to take part in the programme and have fun with reading. Look for entry forms at your child's school or the Grey District Library later this month.



Digital literacy class timetable

Our Stepping Up digital literacy classes are extremely popular and best of all, they are free and open to people of all ages! Here is the schedule for Term 4.

DATE	TOPIC
Thursday 12 October	Google and the internet
Thursday 19 October	Google Drive
Thursday 26 October	Email - Gmail
Thursday 2 November	Computer basics
Thursday 9 November	Trade Me
Thursday 16 November	Employment - creating CV's and cover letters
Thursday 23 November	Microsoft Word - class 1
Thursday 30 December	Microsoft Word - class 2
Thursday 7 December	Facebook
Thursday 14 December	Internet safety and security



All classes are held on a **Thursday from 2pm to 4pm** in the West Coast Room at the Library.

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 will need to register for each class you wish to take.

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

This Christmas The Hits, Grey District Council, Greymouth Business Promotions Association and Grey District Youth Trust are coming together for a month full of festive fun with The Hits Christmas Carnival!

The Hits Christmas Carnival will run for the month of December and will include a number of exciting activities and events for the whole family, including ice skating rink, The Hits Main Stage, Christmas parade, markets and much more.



Event schedule

Throughout December

Light Up West Coast - businesses and residential

Wednesday 6 December

Combined Churches Carole Singing at the Regent Theatre

Wednesday 6 December to Thursday 7 December

Ice skating rink

Mike Greer Playhouse Promotion

Friday 8 December

Ice skating rink

Mike Greer Playhouse Promotion

Curlers on ice

Late night shopping

Unveiling of the Christmas Tree



Saturday 9 December

Opening of the Town Square

Greymouth Christmas Parade - 1pm

The Hits Christmas Concert - 2.30pm

Ice skating rink

Mike Greer Playhouse Promotion

Authentic food markets

The Hits Main Stage - Saturday 9 December

The Hits Main Stage will be where the town can come together and watch local performers perform all kinds of Christmas acts. The Hits own MC will be there on the day along with the rest of The Hits team to make it a day you won't forget. You'll also have the chance to win cash throughout the day.

Sunday 10 December

Markets

Activities - exercise classes

Dancing

Gymnastics & more

Monday 18 December

The Community Christmas Tree Festival at the Regent Theatre