



Westland Recreation Centre

The official opening of the new Westland Recreation Centre is going to take place on

Saturday 20 August 2016

We're planning a great day for our community but don't want to give away all our secrets yet. Keep watching the Council website and Facebook page for updates, www.greydc.govt.nz or www.facebook.com/GreyDC.

Once completed, the entire complex will be known as the Westland Recreation Centre and will incorporate the swimming pool, fitness centre and gym and the stadium. This is an exciting new asset for our community and we can't wait to share it with you!



CBD RENEWAL UPDATE: Town Square & Tainui Shared Street

Council has funding in place to proceed with the Town Square and Tainui Shared Street projects as prioritised by the community and detailed designs are now being drawn up.

The project will progress in stages, with the Town Square being constructed first. Project works will include:

- design;
- infrastructure works (ie sewer, water and stormwater);
- public art;
- weather protection;
- ground coverings, ie paving;
- plantings;
- fittings, ie furniture pods, bike stands, benches;
- and much, much more!

An expensive and unseen component of these two projects will be the underground infrastructure works which must be done - we need to make sure our services remain accessible in the future as well as ensuring our stormwater system can cope with the changes.

In the meantime, the proposed Town Square site has had some grass and bollards installed temporarily to make the space usable in the interim. This is not the final product - we're looking forward to sharing some updated designs with you later this year.



Artist impression - night market in Tainui Shared Street



Make your vote count this year

Local Elections 2016

**YOUR VOTE
YOUR COMMUNITY**

**VOTING DAY:
8 October 2016**

The next local body elections will take place in October this year.

Local elections voter turnout in New Zealand has been declining since the 1980s. Research shows that a lot of citizens are interested in the local government process but don't vote, or, who want to vote but say it's too hard to find the information they need to make an informed decision.

Here at Grey District Council we want our community to be aware of their opportunity to stand for Council and encourage everyone to have their say by voting.

- We held a **candidate information evening** at the beginning of July for people wanting to find out about standing for Council.
- Voting packs will be sent out in September and they will include candidate profiles to enable you to make your decision on the best person for the job.

If you're considering standing in the local body elections, you should also visit the Vote2016 website, www.lgnz.co.nz/vote2016, for a wide range of useful information to help get you started.

And don't forget to make sure you are registered on the Electoral Roll so you can have your vote and make a difference. Contact the Electoral Commission on 0800 36 76 56 or www.elections.org.nz/voters/enrol-check-or-update-now.

Here are some key dates for the 2016 elections:

15 July - 12 August	Candidate nomination period and Electoral roll is open for public inspection
12 August at 12 noon	Candidate nominations close and roll closes
17 August	Public notice of candidate's names
16 - 21 September	Voting documents delivered
8 October at 12 noon	Election day – voting closes midday

We will be including the candidate profiles on our website after nominations close. Stay up on date on www.greycdc.govt.nz/elections.



Your rates

By now you should have received your first rates bill for the 2016/2017 rating year.

This year the new 2015 valuations will be used for the first time. Residential property land values in the Grey District have decreased on average 17.5% and residential capital values have dropped on average by 5.8% (note: these are average figures and some properties will have changes higher or lower than these averages).

Your rateable land value is used to determine how much of the General Rate you pay in comparison to other properties in the District.

Which area of the District you live in and what the property is used for also determines how much you contribute towards Council services and activities (ie residential, rural, commercial use etc).

General Rates are currently used to fund activities such as roading, refuse disposal sites, stormwater, parks, community services, district planning, rural fire, flood protection and much more.

Targeted Rates are used to pay for services which are provided to or available to your property, ie refuse/recycling collection, water and sewer, or to fund specific activities, ie district promotion.

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

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 \$610 to low income home owners. Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017) can be made now.

Head on into Council offices to collect an application form.

Community funding

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

Creative Communities Scheme

Funding for arts and cultural projects that increase participation in arts and benefit local communities.

Recent recipients include:

Isabella Miller Bell, Pou Mahi A Iwi, WestREAP, Connected Media Charitable Trust, Left Bank Art Gallery

Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund

Grey District school and sport club teams can apply for Sport NZ Rural Travel funding.

Recent recipients include:

Grey Valley Netball Club, Suburbs Rugby League Club, Awahono School Basketball, Cobden Kohinoor Rugby League, Paroa Junior Soccer



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.

Follow them on Facebook:

[Development West Coast Amateur Sports Trust](#)



Staff comings and goings

We've had lots of staff changes over the past few months with staff leaving, starting or moving around within Council. We wish those who have departed all the very best and extend a warm welcome to the new staff who have joined the Council family.

Farewell to...

Erin McGoldrick Community Economic Development Advisor
Joycelyn Pulley Finance Clerk (*55 years service at Council!*)
Leanne Coburn PA/Administration Support Officer
Chris Wieblitz Building Control Officer

And welcome to...

Michelle Twist Accounts Payable Officer
Craig Stanton Rating/Property Officer
Adrian Perrin-Smith-Kahl Building Control Officer
Jiveen MacGillivray Innovation Officer
Stuart Mackett Library Officer
Jarred Klempel Information Systems Supervisor
Nelia Heersink Westland Recreation Centre Manager



Citizenship

A big welcome to all of our new residents who recently made New Zealand, and Greymouth, their home.

Council holds citizenship ceremonies on a regular basis where new citizens are welcomed to the country and get to enjoy a cup of tea with Mayor Tony Kokshoorn.

Digital literacy classes

The Grey District Library has partnered with the 2020 Communications Trust to deliver free digital literacy classes to the community as part of the Stepping Up programme. Previous classes have proved very popular and here is the schedule for Term 3. All classes are held on a Thursday from 2pm to 4pm in the West Coast Room at the Library.

DATE	TOPIC
Thursday 28 July	Computer Basics
Thursday 4 August	Email
Thursday 11 August	Introduction to Chromebooks
Thursday 18 August	Trade Me
Thursday 25 August	Word
Thursday 1 September	Facebook
Thursday 8 September	Computer Basics
Thursday 15 September	Introduction to Social Media
Thursday 22 September	Home Finances



Classes are open to all ages and enrolling is easy. To register, either phone the Library on 03 768 5597 or go to <https://2020.arlo.co/upcoming-courses> and select 'West Coast Region'. If you want to know more about the Stepping Up programme, please visit <http://steppingup.nz/>.

Apply for a Building Consent online

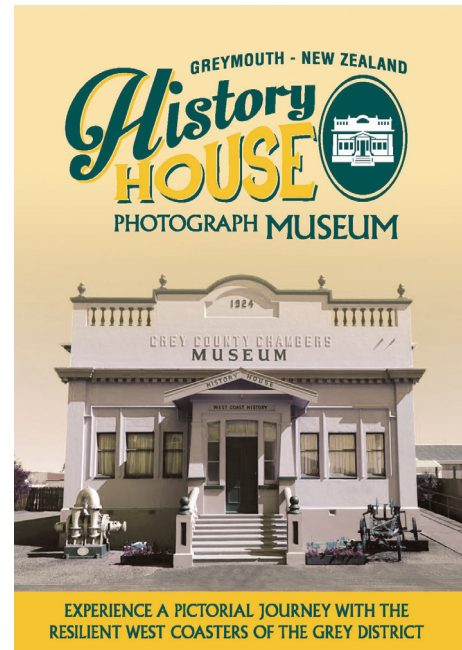
Did you know that you can now apply for a Building Consent online, seven days a week, 24 hours a day?

Earlier this year Council went live with AlphaOne, a 2015 "Transforming Service" award winning system. This online service enables builders, building agents and home builders to lodge a building consent from the comfort of their homes or offices.

Applying online allows applicants to attach plans and specifications electronically, saving them both time and resources. Payment of the consent deposit can be made directly into Council's bank account. Once the application is in the AlphaOne system, applicants can then track its progress and if further information is required, they will be contacted by Council via email. Approved consent documents will be distributed by email, although a printed copy will still be available for on-site.

The new system allows a Code Compliance Certificate to be issued by email once a final inspection has been completed and approved, provided all required documentation, including any additional fees, have been received.

Check out our website for full details, www.greycouncil.govt.nz/building.



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.



- ensure your vehicle is safe for winter driving
- drive to the road and weather conditions - watch for ice
- allow extra time
- slow down and be prepared for unexpected hazards, ie black ice
- 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 emergency or a breakdown