



February 2009 Newsletter

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Council Meeting dates 2009

February	Monday 9 th
March	Monday 9 th
April	Monday 6 th
May	Monday 11 th
June	Monday 8 th
July	Monday 13 th
August	Monday 10 th
September	Monday 14 th
October	Monday 12 th
November	Monday 9 th
December	Monday 7 th

Want to have your say?

There are a number of ways that you can speak to council: Public Forum before each council meeting—this allows you 10 minutes to raise any issues; or if you wish to speak to an Agenda item, again 10 minutes is allocated.

To be able to do this, you must first write to the CEO at **least** 10 days prior to the meeting date.

Your Councillors and their Portfolios

Mayor Tony Kokshoorn

Finance, Economic Development, Port, Youth, Public Relations & Advocacy

Deputy Mayor Doug Truman

Legal, Stormwater, Sewerage & Maori Affairs

Councillor Paul Berry

Resource Management, Regulatory functions, Staff, Dog & Stock Control

Councillor Kevin Brown

Health & Disability, Library, Safety & Security

Councillor Ian Cummings

Finance, Property, Liquor Licensing

Councillor Peter Haddock

Land, Transport, Parks & Reserves and Forestry

Councillor Karen Hamilton

Arts, Culture, Heritage & Tourism

Councillor Milton Osborne

Airport, Civil Defence, Waste Management

Councillor Cliff Sandrey

Sport & Recreation, Cemeteries, Pensioner Housing & Welfare

Get to know your Council



photo courtesy of the Grey Star



Message from the Mayor's Desk

Much has been said lately about the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression but the West Coast is in a good position to weather the storm, with current low unemployment and a sound economy.

Commodity prices, including demand for coal and farm produce, have retreated but a drop in the dollar exchange rate will cushion the blow for our mining, farming and tourism industries, which are currently feeling the pressure.

Over the last four years, the average Grey District rate rises have been 3.5% while the average rate rise New Zealand-

wide was 7%. Councillors have kept a tight lid on spending, and with budgets being set over the next few months, we will continue expenditure increases at or below inflation levels. The average 3.5% rate rise also takes into account the \$11 million Aquatic Centre and new Greymouth sewerage scheme, which is well advanced.

The Aquatic Centre cost is on target with the fundraising very close to our final goal. Funding is also in place for the new Spring Creek Pool at Runanga with work to commence over the next few months.

Many visitors comment on how good the district is looking, so let's keep it that way. Every ratepayer can contribute by keeping their property clean and tidy. Council has signalled that over the next year a recycling centre will be constructed on Preston Road or at the goods sheds in Gresson Street and increased storage for recyclables at McLeans Landfill.

There are many challenges ahead but we are on the right track.

To the many volunteers throughout the district, thank you. Keep up the good work.

You are our unsung heroes.

TONY KOKSHOORN
 Mayor – Grey District





Greenstone Park
Speedway

Events Calendar

For a full list of contact details, check www.greydistrict.co.nz. If you have an upcoming event you would like added, please contact Debbie Collings 768 0437 or the Greymouth i-SITE 768 5101.

February

1st Annual King Kawawai Fishing Competition

6th Blaketown School Centennial

Waitangi Day Picnic—Dixon Park

13th Speights Coast to Coast

14th Buller Gorge Marathon/ Half Marathon

Westland Classic Golf Tournament

Greenstone Park Speedway Twilight Meeting with Fireworks

Contemporary Stone Exhibition – Left Bank Art Gallery

22nd Solid Energy Kids

Triathlon—Anzac Park

28th Greymouth Summer Fair
Greenstone Park Mainland Mini Stocks

March

1st Te Tai Poutini Family Top Town

7th Art in the Park
Kaiata Flower Show

13th Greymouth Trotting

14th Hokitika Wild Foods Festival

Greenstone Park Speedway—Club Champs

15th Greymouth Trotting

21st Teddy Bears Picnic— Celebrating Children's and Race Relations Day—Dixon Park

Moonlight Biathlon & Triathlon
28th Greenstone Park Speedway, Jim Bradford TQ's & Midgets

April

4th Grey Main School Gala

10th Greymouth Marist Rugby Club 75th Jubilee

18th Around Brunner Cycle Ride

Greenstone Park Speedway - King of the Coast

Work on the new Aquatic Centre in High Street commenced in May 2008 and the development is currently on schedule for commissioning in May/June 2009. Monthly on site meetings between the Principals representatives and the Contractor are held to discuss progress and to make decisions that will ensure the project remains within the development timeframe.

A major problem that has resulted in the filtration and plant sub contract being re-let has now been resolved and the issue of a discharge to air consent for the coal fired boiler is being addressed with concerned parties who have raised objections to the method of heating the pools.

A War Memorial wall incorporating the remembrance plaques from the old baths

Aquatic Centre Update

will be built as part of a shaded barbeque area and fence facing High Street.

Plans for a new covered pool for Runanga are progressing well with the final design presently being finalised between the development group and the Designer. Solid Energy has committed sponsorship of \$350,000 in return for naming rights and the Runanga Community Swimming Pool Trust has a fund raising target of \$240,000 that will be supplemented by a \$210,000 pledge from Council. The development is scheduled for public tender in the first quarter of 2009.



Artists impression of the new Aquatic Centre.
High St, due to open May/June 09

Public Notices

Anniversary Day 2009

The criteria for Westland Anniversary day is:

The first Monday closest to the 1st of December each year.

Some calendars have been printed with 7th December 2009, this however is incorrect.

Monday 30th November 2009 is Anniversary Day

IMPORTANT NOTICE— ALL HOUSEHOLDS CONNECTED TO A WATER SUPPLY

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mug full of water from your drinking-water tap each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

The Ministry of Health recommend this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

It is important to note that heavy metals are not a problem with the water itself but rather, when plumbo-solvent water dissolves, heavy metals found in household plumbing fittings.

If any residents would like further information, they can contact either the Community & Public Health office on 768 1160 or the Assets & Engineering Department of the Grey District Council on 769 8611.

Paul Pretorius, Chief Executive Officer

Around Brunner Cycle Race

Saturday 18 April 2009 sees the Around Brunner Cycle Ride participants take to the roads. Now in its third year, the Around Brunner Cycle Ride is a 130 km sealed circuit cycle ride taking riders through some of the most stunning scenery the West Coast and the Grey District has to offer.

The race starts in Greymouth on Mawhera Quay next to the Grey River, and takes riders out through Kumara, to Jacksons and then on to Inchbonnie (where those riders only doing half the circuit change over), then on to Moana, through the Arnold Valley, Stillwater and back to Greymouth.

Participants will start arriving in Greymouth on Friday 17th April to register at the Regent Theatre in preparation for the next days ride.

As 90 percent of riders come from outside the West Coast, and many from Canterbury, they will not be arriving in town until after work, so we are expecting an influx of people from 8pm onwards. The number of participants has increased each year and should top 1500 this year. Along with each participant, on average 2.5 other people travel to the event to support their rider.

This is a great opportunity for the town to be open for business, and show visitors our traditional West Coast hospitality at its best. There will be people with money to spend and many hungry mouths to feed on Friday night, all day Saturday and Sunday morning. They are looking for places to eat, buy souvenirs and last minute supplies.

Entries are open. You can check out the details on: www.aroundbrunner.co.nz, or phone Trev Pedals on 03 348 3282.



Riders taking part in the event

Library News

New magazine

We've just subscribed to a new magazine called *New Zealand Healthy Food Guide*. Packed full of articles about food and delicious recipes made with ingredients that are easy to get, it's a real winner.

Wireless internet in the library

You can now bring your laptops into the library and connect to the internet for free. This is an absolute bonus for students - download what you want

onto your own computer, maybe straight into the document you are preparing. The connection is via Aotearoa People's Network and operates during library opening hours. We have a few power points available but it is worth having your batteries charged just in case.

High use of computers in the library

The Aotearoa People's Network computers are getting a lot of use at the moment. To ensure that you

can get on it really is worth giving us a call and booking. We won't be upset if you book and then don't turn up. After five minutes we will simply give the computer to the next person.

New books

We have heaps of new books. We list them on our Online Library each month.

Go to www.greydc.govt.nz and follow the links or choose from the display of new books in the library.

Summer Reading Challenge

The schools in our area have joined with the Library to promote reading during the summer. Daily reading is very important for children to maintain their reading level during the holidays. As the Challenge comes to an end, we are looking forward to getting lots of entries. The Challenge has been supported magnificently by local businesses. We are very grateful to them.



Regent Theatre Greymouth
Corner Herbert & Mackay Sts
Ph 768 0920 for Movie programme
www.regentgreymouth.co.nz

What's on at the Regent Theatre

February

13th An evening with Kelvin Cruikshank

22nd Queen—It's a kind a magic!

25th Fiona Pears—Fire & Light Tour

March

5th Operatunity—Great Composing Partnerships - Lunch time concert

7th New Zealand Ballet

14th McPhail & Gadsby Letter to Blanchy

28th Jan Preston

31st Operatunity—Wonderful Songs of the War Years - Lunchtime concert

April

2nd Heart Children NZ Inc Big Day Out

4th Boxing Tournament

17/18th Around Brunner Cycle Ride

May

7th Operatunity—The Romance of Europe - Lunchtime concert

Ticket sales for most concerts at the Greymouth i-SITE, 768 5101



art in the park inc.

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communities *NZ*
Grey District

 Development
West Coast


West Coast Community Trust

 SOLID
ENERGY
Coals of New Zealand

 Grey District Council

 COGS
Community Organisation
Grants Scheme

**Shantytown
Greymouth**
Saturday
7 March 2009
9:00am - 5:00pm

Gold Coin Entry
www.artinthepark.co.nz