Welcome to our new council

The results of the 2016 Local Body Elections are in and we welcome our council for the next three years. They were officially sworn in at an Inaugural Meeting on 27 October. You can find their contact details on our website, www.greydc.govt.nz.

Total vote returns for this election was 49.13%. This was an improvement on the last two elections (2013: 43.9% and 2010: 46.44%) and it was very pleasing to see a reversal of the national downward trend in voter participation for our community. Thank you to everyone who stood as a candidate and to those who voted.

Congratulations to Tania Gibson and Patrick McBride, our new councillors. With 11 candidates standing for four positions in the Central Ward, Tania and Paddy would be very pleased being the two highest polling and our youngest councillors.

Murray Hay, Tony Coll, Cliff Sandrey, Anton Becker, Allan Gibson and Peter Haddock retained their seats on a Council which has worked as a team in the past and I am sure everyone is ready to build on the economic development strategies we have put in place over the last few years.

Thanks to Doug Truman and Kevin Brown for the many years of loyal service to the Grey District. A job well done. Both were members of the old Borough Council before the amalgamation of Greymouth, Grey County and Runanga in 1989.

The District is moving in the right direction. Our economic slump has bottomed and is showing signs of growth; albeit slow but with house sales picking up and tourism starting to boom, the painful transition from coal to more sustainable industry is starting to take shape.

Even the price of coal has increased so although mining will not employ the many workers it has in the past, it will still contribute to employment. The Grey District has 42% of the West Coast population and 45% of the 17,000 full time jobs Coast-wide. The $50 million District wide sewerage schemes will be completed over the next year, the $80 million new hospital has commenced, the $22 million Westland Recreation Centre is up and running, Lake Brunner Health Clinic funding is in place and $1.7 million has already been budgeted for the start of the town renewal projects.

The newly installed ultra-fast broadband will provide excellent employment growth where people can work in New York or London but live in Greymouth. There are already many cases of this happening throughout the District.

Mayor’s Comment

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Lots of challenges lie ahead for councillors but as a team we will identify what needs doing. Collectively councillors will put a strategy in place to build our economy and make the District a great place to live and play for both visitors and our residents.

To all those who stood for Council but missed out, thanks for giving it a go. You are an important part of our community and it is people like you that make the Best Coast a great place to live.

Tony Kokshoorn
Give way on your driveway

Do you know the Road Code rules when it comes to driveways?

If you are driving out of a driveway:
- slow down to a complete stop at the end of the driveway;
- check the road and footpath for pedestrians, vehicles and other hazards; and
- give way to:
  - anyone using the footpath
  - cyclists using a cycle path or cycle lane
  - vehicles on the road

We've had a couple of near misses lately between cars coming out of driveways and cyclists using the cycleway. We want to make sure that all users are safe when travelling around in our community, whether they choose to travel by foot, bike or car.

So here’s our top three tips for driveway safety:
1. When exiting your property, ALWAYS give way to footpath, cycleway and road traffic.
2. Have a good look around for others and obstacles in the driveway when you walk to your vehicle.
3. You never walk backwards into a busy room, so why back onto a busy road? Try reversing into your driveway. Coming out forwards is significantly safer as you have far better visibility.

Westland Anniversary Day

Westland Anniversary Day always happens on the Monday closest to 1st December each year. For 2016, the public holiday will be observed on Monday 28 November 2016.

Waitangi Day Community Picnic

This great community occasion happens on 6 February each year. We are now raising funds for the 2017 picnic by selling this great West Coast calendar, with gorgeous photos and large squares to write on. You can purchase copies for just $15 and 100% of proceeds go towards the picnic. Buy yours today from Council offices or Mitre 10.

Spring Creek Pool

The Spring Creek Swimming Pool in Runanga is due to open for the summer season on Saturday 3 December. Watch our website for details, www.greydc.govt.nz/pools

Growing digital

The Tai Poutini West Coast Regional Growth Study recognises an opportunity to grow the creative and ICT sector of the region, which was also part of the Grey District’s Community Economic Development Strategy.

Building on the existing work of EPIC and Tech Space, Council will be facilitating the development of a digital economy action plan. This will include:
- The expansion of the delivery of EPIC services and presence in the region;
- The provision of additional training programmes to develop the ICT capability of youth and jobseekers;
- Expansion of programmes to grow the digital competence of businesses in key sectors (e.g. tourism, dairy, health) to enable them to make greater use of ICT;
- Support for new ICT/creative start-ups; and
- Support to attract digital businesses and entrepreneurs to the region.

If you are interested in learning more, or being a part of this project, please contact: Quecha Horning, Manager Corporate Planning and Community email quecha.horning@greydc.govt.nz
Alcohol licences: we’re changing to online public notifications

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 and its new regulations came into force at the end of December 2013. Currently businesses applying for a new or renewal alcohol license advertise in the local newspaper. Since the introduction of the new Act, many New Zealand Councils have changed to electronic notices via the internet and dispensed with the need for newspaper advertising.

Grey District Council, in conjunction with Buller District Council and the Westland District Council, have also chosen to adopt the electronic notice practice. This means that from 1 November 2016, public notices will no longer be required to be advertised in the local newspapers but instead they will be published on the relevant Council’s website for 15 working days.

When you submit your completed new or renewal licence application to Council, the public notice will automatically be uploaded to the Council website. Note: Notices must continue to be advertised in local newspapers until 1 November 2016.

If you’d like to be notified when new, renewal or variation applications are made, please provide your email address to Council.

Please visit our website, www.greydc.govt.nz/liquorlicensing, or phone Council on 03 769 8600 if you have any queries.

Trustpower Community Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2016 Grey District Trustpower Community Awards, in which community groups are recognised. This year’s Supreme Winner will represent the Grey District at the next Trustpower Community National Awards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>WINNER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Winner</td>
<td>Cobden Aromahana Sanctuary &amp; Recreation Area Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Heritage &amp; Environment</td>
<td>Cobden Aromahana Sanctuary &amp; Recreation Area Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Well-being</td>
<td>1st Victim Support</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2nd Cancer Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts &amp; Culture</td>
<td>1st West Coast Society of Arts</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2nd New Coasters Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport &amp; Leisure</td>
<td>1st Greymouth Motorcycle Street Races Inc</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Karoro School (new pool roof)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education &amp; Child/</td>
<td>1st Greymouth Scout Club</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Development</td>
<td>2nd St Johns Youth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Youth Spirit</td>
<td>1st Dana Lambert John Paul II High School</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2nd Kiwa Kahukura Denton Greymouth High School</td>
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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.

Everyone who enters goes in to win some pretty cool prizes. Prizes in past years have included super cool Samsung tablets, family passes to the pool, fishing rods, books and heaps more!

The Summer Reading Challenge helps to maintain school children’s reading levels over the summer by encouraging daily reading. 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.

Encourage your school children to take part in the programme and have fun with reading. Look for entry forms at your school or the Grey District Library later this month.
Digital literacy classes - term 4 schedule

The Grey District Library, in partnership with the 2020 Communications Trust, delivers free digital literacy classes to the community.

Here is the schedule for Term 4.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 13 October</td>
<td>Introduction to Spreadsheets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 20 October</td>
<td>Pinterest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 27 October</td>
<td>Facebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 November</td>
<td>Email Account Setup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 November</td>
<td>Google and the internet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17 November</td>
<td>Skype</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 November</td>
<td>Computer Basics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 1 December</td>
<td>YouTube</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 December</td>
<td>Using Email</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 December</td>
<td>Introduction to Tablets</td>
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All classes are held on a Thursday from 2pm to 4pm in the West Coast Room at the 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/.

11.30AM, SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER

The 2016 Greymouth Christmas Parade will take place on Saturday 3 December this year. The 2015 parade saw the biggest number of float entries the town had seen and organiser Patrick McBride expects much the same come December.

“I couldn’t believe how many floats we had last year! I believe we will pass that number this time around,” Patrick said.

Once again the Regent Theatre will come to the party with sponsorship prizes of movie tickets and he was hopeful other local businesses would touch base with some product. “The Warehouse was great last year, giving us plenty of candy to give out, and I would love to see the same support again this time around”.

Entry forms for the parade can be collected from the Regent Theatre Greymouth.

Greymouth Rotary will be arranging stalls and entertainment on the day.

Looking for something different for your work function?

Regent Theatre Greymouth are hosting a Blues and Jazz evening on Saturday 26 November starting at 7.30pm.

Join Madame Tragédie & Accomplices at Le Cabaret de la Vie for an evening of absolute world class acoustic Blues, Jazz and Celtic Soul, mingled with low Glaswegian banter, Vaudevillian satire and Music Hall Theatre.

Scottish born urban folk blues jazz singer songwriter, Isabella Miller Bell (aka Ma Bell), brings her travelling ‘pop up’ road show to the West Coast, accompanied by a superb line up of world class independent South Island musician/composers. Featuring Jon Maxim Hooker and James Wilkinson on guitars, vocals and electric bass with special guests Danny Wilson on vocals, sax flute and Johnny Bevin on piano.

There will be raised seating tickets and tables for VIP’s that will include nibbles and the Theatre bar will be set up on the night.

Tickets are on sale now from the Regent Box Office. General seating is $30 per person. VIP tables with nibbles - $40 per person. Phone 03 768 0920 for more information.