

COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2014



150TH CELEBRATIONS

On 22 July 1864 Reuben Waite, a storekeeper from Collingwood, crossed the Greymouth bar with 70 prospectors in a chartered paddle steamer.

He put his supplies ashore and opened the first store on the banks of the Grey River on what was to become the corner of Waite St and Mawhera Quay (this site is now occupied by DP1 Café).

This year we will mark 150 years since Reuben Waite landed in Greymouth.

WANT TO PROMOTE YOUR EVENT?

A month long 150 Years of Gold anniversary celebration is planned which will celebrate our heritage, resilience, community spirit and change over the

decades, including a "Gold Rush" proposed for the weekend of 27/28 September 2014.

The event schedule is currently being developed. We know there are many groups and organisations who have already planned to hold events or displays to commemorate 150 years of Greymouth - please get in touch with Ali Grooby, Event Manager, on 021 889 116 to ensure your event is included in the official 150th celebrations events calendar.

West Coasters may remember a 150th celebration happening in 2010 - this commemorated the purchase of the West Coast from the Maori by James Mackay on behalf of the Government. The Assistant Native Secretary, James Mackay, began negotiations for the purchase with the chief of the coastal Maori. All tribes gathered at Poherua Lagoon near Okarito and Mackay offered the Maori 300 gold sovereigns, on behalf of the Governor, in exchange for their territory (7,500,000 acres in all including the whole of Westland and the West Coast portion of Nelson Province) - with the condition that certain lands should be set aside as native reserves. The offer was accepted and on 21 May 1860 the agreement was signed in Greymouth.

Mayor's Comment



This winter will be economically hard for many but there are signs that the perfect storm of the last four years is beginning to pass with some rays of sunshine starting to filter through. The central business district (CBD) is still

struggling from the huge layoffs in the mining industry and internet buying means that local shops must focus on good customer service, lots of choice and competitive prices.

Council is embarking on a redevelopment plan of the CBD to kick start the earthquake strengthening of buildings and revitalisation of the town. We are investigating closing parts of Mawhera Quay and a new traffic plan for the town. A Discovery Centre and museum development will focus the town on the river to make a point of difference for residents and visitors. If adopted by

Council, the CBD development plan will take three to four years to finalise and will be funded by external fundraising and rates.

The very successful recent Real Stories community campaign has gathered stories and evidence which supports all of our projects, with the overall aim being to grow pride of place and vibrancy in our town.

The new hospital will give our economy a big boost and much needed confidence to the Grey District. At \$67 million, it is a great vote of confidence in our region thanks to David Meates and everyone who lobbied over the years.

During the next month the new stadium will go out to tender. \$8.2 million has been raised without ratepayer input for construction and a gymnasium will be added to the magnificent sports hub that we have on the old recreation ground.

Westfleet is well advanced with the

new \$12 million fish factory. This will give Greymouth a huge economic lift with many new jobs. The new industrial park at Kaiata is going from strength to strength with many new business ventures, including an aluminium factory which will feed the Christchurch rebuild, employing 20 people. Tourism has turned the corner with a lift of 10% over the last year and farming is going well.

The ultra-fast broadband being installed in Greymouth is part of the \$1.5 billion Government rollout, making Greymouth the only town on the West Coast of the South Island with the technology essential for any new business that starts up on the Coast. Only 26 cities and towns in New Zealand have been chosen and no other places get the roll out for another ten years.

Yes, Greymouth is at the crossroads but some great opportunities have arrived. Let's grab them.

Tony Kokshoorn



COMMUNITY FUNDING

The Grey District Council administers two funding schemes that are available to groups in our community. The funding rounds for both schemes are in September and April each year. Full details can be found on our website or at Council offices when funding rounds are open.

Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund

The following criteria shall be applied when considering applications for funding. School club teams and sport club teams are defined as:

 "A school club team participating in regular local sport competition in weekends, that excludes inter-school and intra-school competitions played during school time."

and/or

 "A sports club team participating in organised, regular sport competition through club membership outside of school time."



Some past recipients: Grey Valley Hockey, Grey Marist R.F.C., Paroa Junior Football Club, Cobden Hockey Club.

Creative Communities Scheme

Applicants must meet all the eligibility criteria. The Scheme's criteria for eligibility and ineligibility are contained in the application form and applicants are responsible for identifying their eligibility.

All projects eligible for funding must be arts and cultural projects that:

- Increase participation in the arts at a local level, or increase the range and diversity of the arts available to local communities.
- Take place within the city or district to which the application is made, and/or produce benefits that are largely experienced within that district or city.
- Benefit local communities.
- Not have started before an application for funding is assessed.

 Not have been already funded by Creative New Zealand for the same purpose.

If an applicant does not meet all of these criteria, the project is probably ineligible for funding. If there is any doubt about a project's eligibility, your local administrator can contact Creative New Zealand to discuss the application.

Some past recipients: Blackball District Community Centre Inc, Greymouth Competitions Society, Greymouth Municipal Band, Limelight School of Arts, West Coast Society of Arts, Greymouth Photography Club.



RATES REBATES

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$605 to low income home owners.

The income abatement threshold is \$24,250, however your income can be greater than \$24,250 and you may still be eligible for a pro-rata rebate.

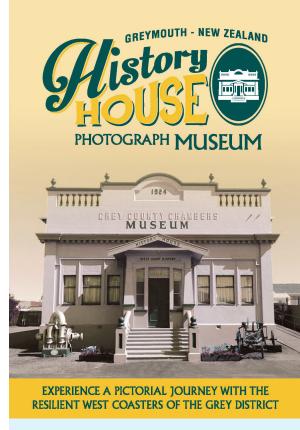
Applications are now open for the current rating year (1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015). Further information and application forms are available from the Rating Department.

RATES EASY PAY

There are several convenient ways to pay your rates. You can pay by:

- Internet banking
- Phone banking
- Cash, cheque or eftpos
- Visa or Mastercard
- Direct debit

Direct debit forms are available from the Rating Department.



AQUACISE TIMETABLE

Day	Time	Class
Monday	5.30pm	AquaJogging
Tuesday	10am	AquaJogging
Tuesday	5.30pm	AquaFit
Wednesday	12.15pm	AquaFit
Thursday	5.30pm	AquaFit
Friday	10am	AquaJogging
Sunday	8.30am	AquaJogging

Classes

AquaJogging (Zero Gravity)

An excellent 45 minute class held in deep water with aqua belts on for buoyancy. This is a structured session incorporating various exercise intensities and is a great cardio and muscle toning workout. Excellent for recovery from sport or injury rehabilitation with zero impact on joints. You can work as hard as you want!

AquaFit (Shallow Water)

This is a high intensity workout that enhances cardiovascular fitness, coordination, general fitness and muscle toning. Little to no impact on weight bearing joints, lots of fun in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Try our AquaFit class for a great work out that will cater for beginners through to advanced. Bring a friend!



NZTA Executive Trustee Errol Anderson and Tony Kokshoorn

NEW ZEALAND TRUSTEE OF THE YEAR

In April 2014, Grey District Mayor Tony Kokshoorn was awarded the supreme award of New Zealand Trustee of the Year 2013 for his outstanding ability as a Trustee within New Zealand. His business acumen and personal skill has seen considerable effort in raising funds for the West Coast Aquatic Centre and Stadium, the Air Ambulance Rescue Trust, Pike River Disaster Relief Fund, Life Education Trust and several more very worthy causes.



Did you know that regular exercise in water helps to improve your health and wellbeing? Strength, flexibility, balance and coordination can all be improved by regular workouts in the pool.

The Grey District Aquatic Centre has a great Aquacise program that runs throughout the week and we would like to give you the opportunity to come and experience one of our Aquacise classes FREE.

Check out the timetable on the left and clip the voucher below to get your free class.

This voucher entitles the bearer to ONE FREE Aquacise Class



Redeemable at:
Grey District Aquatic Centre
83 High Street, Greymouth

One voucher per person

Valid to 31 December 2014

Phone 03 768 9076 www.facebook.com/GreymouthAquaticCentre

RECYCLING

Want a reminder of what goes into your recycling bin? Check out the sticker under the lid of your yellow bin.





What NOT to put into your RECYCLING bin...

- Aerosol cans (unless empty)
- Batteries
- Glass or mirrors (other than bottles)
- Greenwaste
- Grass clippings
- Liquids

- Plastic bags
- Porcelain
- Refuse
- Wood
- Any other item NOT listed as acceptable

It is very important that only approved recyclables are placed in your recycling bin put out for kerbside collection.

This means NO plastic bags, refuse or garden clippings as these items contaminate the recyclables. ALL recyclables must be cleaned before being placed in the bin

Contractors will sticker recycling bins containing non-recyclables and re-offending may mean your recycling bin is no longer emptied.

Together we can "sort it" and look after our environment.

Please contact Council on 03 769 8611 if you have any queries.

COBDEN AROMAHANA SANCTUARY

Council has been working with the Department of Conservation and the community on an ecological restoration and amenity enhancement project in the area between Cobden, the Grey River and the Tasman Sea. The area has been named Cobden Aromahana Sanctuary.

There is great potential for restoring the estuarine and lagoon wetlands and coastal vegetation of Cobden Island to a more natural state, thereby encouraging an increase in wildlife. Being situated by the sea, the river and encompassing the lagoon makes this an attractive recreational site and the natural setting provides a wonderful backdrop for many activities such as walking, surfing and fishing.

The area is already popular with locals and a small number of visitors but has the potential to become a key conservation tourist attraction, recreational and amenity park for Greymouth.

This project is supported by DOC, who have committed to controlling weeds, replanting and increasing whitebait spawning areas. A footpath around the lagoon, a birdwatching facility and a community park are some of the other improvements that the Council are undertaking with input from the community.

Several working bees and planting days have taken place to date. Why not take a trip to Cobden to see the stunning on-site progress? You can keep up to date with this project on Council's website: www.greydc.govt.nz/cobdenisland



Volunteers busy at work at a recent planting day (photo supplied)

