

**COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**150TH CELEBRATIONS**

Greymouth held a series of events to celebrate its 150 years' anniversary, starting on Friday 26 September 2014 with a plaque unveiling then a blessing and commemoration ceremony at the Southern Breakwater later that day.

The Big Dig gold rush took place on Saturday 27 September 2014 and three lucky prospectors struck gold, winning a real gold nugget worth approximately \$1,600. The day was a massive success, with hundreds of people turning out in rather atrocious weather conditions which failed to dampen the gold fever.

Our skies were lit up with a spectacular fireworks show on Sunday 28 September 2014. Crowds of people, young and old, found the perfect vantage point to watch the dazzling display.

Artists from the Real Stories campaign collaborated to inject vibrancy into the CBD during the month long celebrations with colourful artworks. We hope you enjoyed them.

Numerous other events took place over the month, including historic talks, guided walks, History House museum open day, cemetery tours, markets, running races, Pioneer Day, motor cycle street races and much, much more! It was great to see our community get into the birthday spirit and celebrate alongside one another.

A massive thank you to everyone who has been involved in making these celebrations such a success.



*A gun shot start to the Big Dig*

**Mayor's Comment**



**Making progress**

Councillors and members of the public have been meeting over the last 18 months, developing a plan to revamp the Central Business District (CBD) of Greymouth.

If you drive from Paroa to the CBD, the area is looking well-kept and modern but downtown Greymouth needs a facelift.

Every rural town is having the same problems of aging buildings in need of earthquake proofing and closed shops because of the current recession. Greymouth has an added problem of the huge impact from coal mine closures. Council is leading the way to create a fresh look downtown over the next three or four years and is working with building owners and Mawhera Incorporation in making Greymouth an attractive place to be. It will take three to four years because the work will be funded by rates and fundraising, similar to the Aquatic Centre and proposed stadium projects.

Over the years businesses have moved out of the CBD, which is adding more pressure to the desirability of downtown Greymouth. The Warehouse, Countdown, New World and Mitre 10 store occupy huge floorspace that in the past would have been in the traditional town area.

We are now working on a plan to make the CBD more inviting to all. Councillors will present the new CBD development plan to the public for their views around March of next year. We need everyone's input because it is important to get it right with no costly errors on the way.

In spite of hard times, lots of development has happened since the world recession of 2008 and many new builds will soon be underway. These include: the Grey High School gym, Aquatic Centre, High Street commercial park, Talleys expansion, SPCA animal shelter, Cable Price, Monteith's, Gordon Handy Machinery, BNT Automotive, Corys, Awatuna Freighters expansion, Power Farming, ITM, Balance Fertilizer store, Westfleet Fish processing factory, Corrections Department redevelopment, Farmland Co-Op on Herbert Street, proposed new John Paul II High School,

Tai Poutini Polytech expansion, proposed new stadium, proposed new hospital, Trans West Freighters, Prestige Services, new restaurant at Kaiata Park, Design Windows, PBT Freight Solutions, Ritchies, Bright Print, Trans Diesel and Hynds Pipes.

Add to these \$47 million of new sewerage schemes in the District and \$33 million of infrastructure, while still achieving the lowest average rates on the West Coast and below the average New Zealand rates.

Yes, a lot of development has occurred since the world recession of 2008, which proved that the District is more sustainable than ever. This is why the Greymouth CBD needs to reposition itself for the future upturn in our economy and job growth from tourism, farming, mining, fishing and service industries, helped by the ultrafast broadband which is only coming to Greymouth on the West Coast.

There is still lots to do but with the collective vision, collaboration and can-do attitude between all stakeholders, the Grey District will get through the current downturn.

So let's get going.

**Tony Kokshoorn**



## COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Remember the Grey District Community Economic Development Strategy 2013-2023 which Council adopted in August 2013? Since then Council staff and stakeholders have been busy working on actions prioritised in the strategy and significant, positive progress has been made on many of them.

Projects completed or underway include the investigation of a Discovery Centre, developing a strategy for integrated signage and interpretation throughout our District, celebrating our talent and heros, rebranding, investigating additional cycleway branches and much, much more.

You can find out more about the strategy and the prioritised actions on our website:

[www.greymouth.govt.nz/economicdev](http://www.greymouth.govt.nz/economicdev)

### Greymouth CBD Renewal Project

Much of the feedback from the community into the Community Economic Development Strategy highlighted the need to revitalise the central business district (CBD) of Greymouth.

As a result, Council included the Greymouth CBD Renewal project in its Annual Plan 2014/2015. It is funded from money set aside specifically for township development, not rates.

And on 13 August 2014, Grey District Mayor Tony Kokshoorn announced the commencement of the project.

The Greymouth CBD Renewal project will run over 30 weeks and will result in a vision for Greymouth that will enhance the streetscapes and connectivity in the CBD and revitalise Greymouth as the economic Heart of the West Coast.



The process of developing the plan will include multiple opportunities for consultation with businesses in the CBD and the wider community. We would very much appreciate your input at any of the public consultation stages. Your feedback will help to shape the look, feel and function for the future of our Greymouth CBD.

We are asking people to share images of what you would like to change or see happen on Instagram and Twitter by using the hashtag #greymouthcbd.

[www.greymouth.govt.nz/renewal](http://www.greymouth.govt.nz/renewal)

Instagram: @greymouthcbd

Twitter: @greymouthcbd



## BE PREPARED



As we have seen in previous years, disasters can happen anywhere, any time.

How prepared are you?

- In most emergencies you should be able to stay in your home and you should plan to be able to look after yourself and those in your household for at least three days or more.
- Assemble and maintain your emergency survival items for your home as well as a portable getaway kit in case you have to leave in a hurry.
- You should also have essential emergency items in your workplace and in your car.
- Everyone should have a household plan in the event of an emergency. You should consider things such as:
  - Have you earthquake proofed your house?
  - Who will pick the kids up?
  - If you can't get home, where will you meet or leave a message?
  - Who is responsible for checking the emergency supplies?

Please visit the Council website or the Get Ready Get Thru website for more information.

[www.greymouth.govt.nz/civildefence](http://www.greymouth.govt.nz/civildefence)

[www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)



### Pop up art work around town

Artists who responded to a "call for artists" during the Real Stories campaign collaborated to inject vibrancy into our CBD in the form of banners, street pole wraps and colourful art work in empty shop windows.

Didn't they look fabulous!



## 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Here are just a couple of shots from the month long events. More can be found on our Facebook page.

 [www.facebook.com/GreyDC](http://www.facebook.com/GreyDC)



Prospectors looking for gold



Commemoration at the Port



## Changes are coming to food licensing

The **Food Act 2014** is due to come into force on 1 March 2016 and will replace the Food Act 1981. The new act aims to make it easier and less costly for many food businesses, whilst making sure that food produced is safe and suitable for sale.

This may affect you so stay up to date on our website and have your say when the consultation period opens later this year.

[www.greycdc.govt.nz](http://www.greycdc.govt.nz)



## SWIMMING NEWS

The spa pool is back in operation after highly technical investigative and repair works. We say a big thank you to the public for their patience whilst the spa was out of action and we were seeking a long term solution.



The Spring Creek swimming pool in Runanga is due to open for the summer season in December.

Keep up to date on our website and Facebook page.

[www.greycdc.govt.nz/pools](http://www.greycdc.govt.nz/pools)

 [www.facebook.com/GreymouthAquaticCentre](http://www.facebook.com/GreymouthAquaticCentre)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND GREYMOUTH

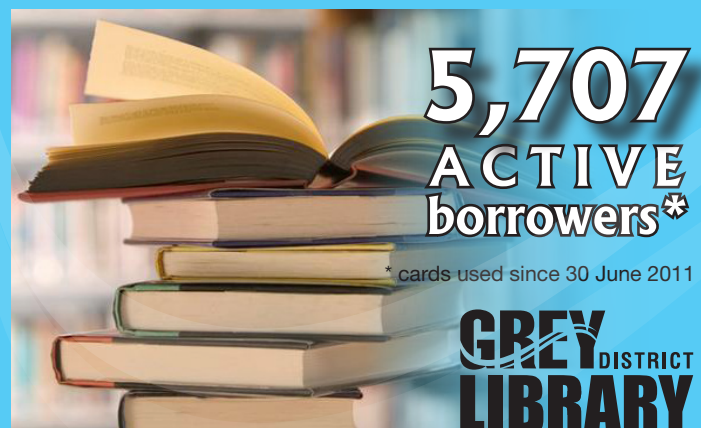
Got an event coming up around the District? Share it with the community on the dedicated events Facebook page: What's On Greymouth.

The page has a growing audience, currently sitting at 682 likes.

It's easy to upload your event and is a free and accessible way to spread the word.

 [www.facebook.com/WhatsOnGreymouth](http://www.facebook.com/WhatsOnGreymouth)

## QUICK STAT



**5,707**  
**ACTIVE**  
**borrowers\***

\* cards used since 30 June 2011

**GREY** DISTRICT  
**LIBRARY**

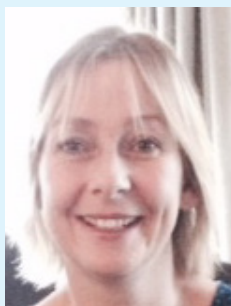


## NEW STAFF

We've had a few new staff join us at Council that we'd like to introduce.



**Liz Burke** visited Greymouth during a holiday in 2006 and fell in love with the West Coast. She recently moved here from Melbourne to become the new **District Librarian** for the Grey District Library. She has always been passionate about public libraries and loves the fact they are places where people from all walks of life can share ideas, browse, read, research, teach, learn and engage.



**Leanne Coburn** previously worked at Hannan and Seddon lawyers and joined Corporate Services as the **PA/Administration Support Officer**. When not at work, she enjoys cycling, both mountain and road, and absolutely loves the Wilderness Trail.



**Michael McEnaney** is a **Consents Planner** in the Environmental Services department. A born and bred Coaster, he has been working in the various planning fields for seven years. Before joining Council he was working at Opus Consultants and prior to that, the West Coast Regional Council.



**Maria Boot** has come back to the Coast after being away for the past 12 years and is the **Rates Officer**. She is enjoying the simple things like glorious West Coast sunsets and views of Mt Cook, as well as being closer to family. She has an active involvement in Scouts, both locally here on the Coast and regionally.



**Kevin Curtis** joined Council as an **Engineering Assistant** in the Assets Management & Engineering Department. Previously he worked at Opus Consultants and is a born and bred Coaster. His hobbies are all sports - when asked to pick favourites, he said rugby, cricket and league.



The Centennial Festival of Dance in September was a huge success. It was great to see all the talented young entertainers dancing throughout the four day event. Well done to everyone involved in running this highly successful competition.

**There are some great shows coming up at the Regent:**

**4 November 2014:** We welcome John Rowles and the Original Elvis TCB band.

**13 November 2014:** The Underarm - a riotous and hugely entertaining Trans-Tasman cricket show that has shown tremendous appeal to those who don't ordinarily attend theatre.

**21 November 2014:** The Pretty Things Peepshow is a world-touring circus sideshow who specialise in acts of the beautiful and bizarre.

**29 November 2014:** Rock the Regent - seven local West Coast bands will take the stage for a night of live music to raise money for the Regent Theatre Greymouth Trust.

Tickets for all events are on sale now from the Regent.

[www.regentgreymouth.co.nz](http://www.regentgreymouth.co.nz)



[www.facebook.com/RegentGreymouth](https://www.facebook.com/RegentGreymouth)

