



Westland Recreation Centre pools reopen!

Following a closure for several months for repairs to the pool roof beams, the Westland Recreation Centre pools reopened to the public on Saturday 7 April. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved in this complex project.

An event-packed relaunch took place on Saturday 7 April and Sunday 8 April 2018, with lots of free activities to keep the whole family entertained. Hundreds of people visited the pools during the weekend and staff kept patrons entertained with a crazy wipeout obstacle course, inflatables, an adventurous underwater treasure hunt, canoe polo, surf lifesaving, free hydrosides and loads of fun!

Swim lessons will resume from term two - please contact the Westland Recreation Centre for details.

The pools are open from 6am to 9pm Monday to Friday and from 7am to 7pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Follow them on Facebook to stay up to date, www.facebook.com/westlandrec.



Mayor's Comment

POINT OF VIEW:
GREATER
GREYMOUTH

28 March 2018

The recent criticism of the Greymouth Central Business District (CBD) on social media (Stuff) was a mean

spirited put-down, highlighting the rundown Revingtons Hotel and other old buildings in downtown Greymouth without looking at Greater Greymouth.

Yes, it was correct in that the town is old and definitely needs a face-lift but Greymouth has a lot more going for it outside of the CBD. There was no mention of the new \$80 million hospital, the \$22 million new stadium and aquatic centre or the new cycleway. What about the Aromahana Sanctuary in Cobden and tourist viewing platform at the Blaketown breakwater? No mention of Monteith's Brewery tourist attraction and the 'no vacancy' signs up everywhere throughout the tourist season. There are 15 new businesses in Kaiata Business Park, just out of town.

The District is in a huge transition to sustainable industries after 150 years of timber milling and coal mining. When I grew up, the District had thousands of jobs in extractive industries but that has changed rapidly over the last 20 years. We are nearly at the end of the painful transition so it is pleasing to say the Grey District has 42% of the West Coast population and a low unemployment rate of 3.5%. Tradesmen are flat out in the construction industry.

Greymouth has managed to retain the 9,500 residents who live here, which is one third of the region's inhabitants. Mining throughout the region still contributes \$650 million to the New Zealand economy. Tourists are not just driving through the District as the article said. In fact, we now employ over 600 people to cater for visitors who spend more than \$100 million in the Grey District every year. Our natural environment is second to none. Add to this the TranzAlpine popularity going through the roof and Greymouth has a rosy future as a tourist destination.

Council has spent more than \$130 million over the last 10 years or so on renewing essential infrastructure throughout the District, including \$47 million on new sewerage schemes, which is a great investment for the future. All that with only \$30 million debt and \$10 million cash in reserve funds. The AgFest rural showcase is coming up [note: this took place on 13 & 14 April] and up to 15,000 people are expected to attend.

Investment has been made in new fish processing facilities and Ultra-Fast Broadband is enabling people to live in Greymouth but get income from anywhere around the world. I have lived and will die in this place so don't tell me Greymouth is not advancing. Just drive from the new Taramakau Bridge being built into Greymouth past the new High Street Business Park. It is looking great. We have the eighth lowest average rates of the 68 district councils throughout New Zealand and our Coast Road to Punakaiki Pancake Rocks is to die for.

So what is the future for Greymouth? The

Stuff article should have said the CBD needs attention - not Greymouth, which is looking good. If the "decaying" Revingtons Hotel was demolished, the article would not have been written in the first place. The building is insanitary and is an eyesore. The sooner it comes down, the better. It was a grand old building so heritage groups should have been proactive years ago - sadly it is now beyond repair.

Earthquake strengthening of buildings and the Big Box stores outside of the traditional business district, coupled with online buying, is forcing small town New Zealand to adapt to commerce which will not require as many buildings in the future. Small towns like Greymouth will adjust but it will take time. Nothing happens overnight.

The new \$1.9 million town square has started the town renewal so we are on the right track in the transition to an attractive CBD where visitors and the residents will gather for shopping and social events. Growing our economy is crucial so expanding forestry, fishing, tourism, horticulture, minerals, education, agriculture and construction industries is essential. The Grey District has excellent growth prospects in all of these big employers in our District.

Development West Coast, Councils and Government must work together, turning the potential into a reality. We have made a huge transition - there is still lots to do but Greymouth is heading in the right direction so let's celebrate our successes and the journey to a sustainable economy.

Tony Kokshoorn



Building matters

Our Environmental Services team deal with lots of different matters, including building consents, resource consents, subdivisions, LIMs, swimming pool compliance, animal control and much more. Here's some information on recent topics of interest.

Potable water

The Ministry of Health has supplied us with a number of guidance documents to assist homeowners with ensuring they have the preventive measures in place to provide safe drinking water. Drinking water can contain harmful germs such as Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Campylobacter, Salmonella and E.coli that can cause serious illness unless the water is properly treated. As part of the consent process, Council asks homeowners to demonstrate how they are intending to comply with requirements regarding potable drinking supply. For example, UV treatment and filtration should now be included with all new house building consent applications.



Applying for a building consent - use of building

When completing a building consent application form, make sure you clarify what the use of the building is. If the intended use is different to the current legally established use, then a 'change of use' may be required. There are consequences of not doing so or stating incorrect information on your form.

Building work that REQUIRES a building consent

It is illegal to carry out building work that requires a building consent but a consent is not obtained. Never take the risk and build without first getting your building consent as this may lead to Council taking enforcement action. It may also affect your insurance and/or the resale of your property.

For example, ground preparation/site scrape/backfilling is building work and is work that requires a building consent.

You may apply for a Certificate of Acceptance (which costs considerably more than obtaining a consent in the first instance) for work done without a building consent or in specific circumstances when a Code Compliance Certificate (CCC) can't be issued. However, this may not necessarily be granted if the work has not been carried out in accordance with the Building Act 2004 or involves a change of use.

Building work that DOES NOT require a building consent

To find out which building work DOES NOT require a building consent, visit the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) website: www.building.govt.nz/projects-and-consents/planning-a-successful-build/scope-and-design/check-if-you-need-consents/building-consent-exemptions-for-low-risk-work/schedule-1-guidance/.

If your project is not listed here, then you must apply for a building consent. Talk to us if you have any questions.

Building inspections

Don't forget to phone us in advance and book well ahead for inspections. Booking inspections two or three days in advance will greatly assist us with organising your inspection requests.

Please come in and see us if you are considering any building work – we look forward to working with you, as well as potentially save you time and money. Call on in or phone us on 03 769 8608.

Civic awards

Civic Awards are presented in recognition of a person's service of a voluntary nature benefiting the Grey District and its people. Nominations are restricted to individuals with at least 10 years' community service.

The qualifying categories include recreation, youth activities, social welfare, education services, cultural affairs, religious affairs and community affairs. Individuals must be nominated by at least two other people.

Nominations open each year around May, with a limit of five awards being awarded each year by the Mayor at a ceremony held in the Council Chambers.

We will shortly be calling for nominations for 2018 Civic Awards. You can download a nomination form from our website, www.greydc.govt.nz, email sarah.conroy@greydc.govt.nz or call into Council offices. Nominations will close on 30 June 2018.

Trustpower awards

The Trustpower Community Awards are now open. This year the awards are combining the Grey, Westland and Buller Districts (previously they were separate) and the awards ceremony will be held in Greymouth in October.

The awards are open to all voluntary groups and organisations working to make the West Coast an even better place to live. Voluntary groups do a tremendous amount to improve the lives of people in our communities. Many activities, events, projects, programmes, sports and services are only made possible by the hard work of volunteers - and often this invaluable contribution goes unsung. Anyone can enter a group – even the group themselves. No group is too small or too big, too old or too new to be recognised.

The awards cover five categories: Heritage and Environment, Health and Wellbeing, Arts and Culture, Sport and Leisure, and Education and Child/Youth Development.

You have until Thursday 31 May 2018 to get your entries in. For more information, or to complete the online entry form, please visit www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards.

Dog registration

It's almost that time of year again. Dog registration notices for the 2018/2019 year will be sent out to known owners around the end of June with payment due by 31 July.

Resident satisfaction survey

Council received the results from the independent 2017 Resident Satisfaction Survey earlier this year and were very pleased to note that it confirmed a high general resident satisfaction with Council and its services. Many thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. Some highlights from the results are below.

- Satisfaction with overall service when contacting Council offices is 88% (2016: 82%). This increase is a great outcome from our focus on providing excellent customer service. This puts us above the group of Councils on average, which is 85%.
- The top three Council facilities/services residents are most satisfied with are collection of rubbish and recycling on time (94%), parks and reserves (92%) and water pressure (91%).
- More residents, 65%, feel a sense of pride in the way the District looks and feels (2016: 63%). A slight increase from last year and the report mentions "it appears working bees have had an impact by improving cleanliness".
- Some of the areas residents thought needed improvement or expressed dissatisfaction with include footpaths, rates too dear, things not moving forward/getting fixed and too much red tape and regulation.
- The survey also benchmarked Grey District Council against a number of other local authorities. Once again we scored higher than the average for the group of councils in overall satisfaction with Council performance, 76% (group average was 75%) and satisfaction with performance of Mayor and Councillors, 77% (group average was 68%).

You can read the full survey report on our website, www.greycdc.govt.nz/surveys.

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$620 to low income home owners. Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018) must be made by 30 June 2018.

If you have not already applied for your rebate for the current rating year or want to find out if you qualify for a rates rebate, pop along to see your friendly Rates staff at Council offices.

Fire permits

Need a fire permit? Here's who you should contact:

To INSTALL a fire into your property	Call our Building Team on 03 769 8608 and discuss.
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To LIGHT an outdoor fire, eg a bonfire etc	These permits are now processed by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) West Coast. You can contact them by phoning 0800 658 628 or visiting www.checkitsalright.nz .
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DOC Engineer Jono Calder inspects Watson Creek swing bridge

Paparoa Track & Pike 29 Track

Work on the Paparoa Track and the Pike 29 Memorial Track is progressing well. This will be New Zealand's 10th Great Walk, in line with other famous walks like the Heaphy Track, Milford Track and Routeburn Track. The track will be a three day, 55km tramping or biking experience, with the option of walking or biking the Pike 29 Memorial Track. The track starts in Blackball and ends in Punakaiki, though it can be travelled both ways.

Last year Council made an application to the Government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund (TIF) for funding for toilets, carpark, security lighting, information boards, bike stands, Wi-Fi router and BBQ facilities to be established in the skate park and surrounding locations of the Blackball shops. This is to provide facilities for the expected increase in tourist numbers following the completion of the Great Walk.

This application was made with the support and significant input from the Blackball community and Department of Conservation (DOC) and draws upon best practice for infrastructure as well as the Tai Poutini West Coast Growth Study and Action Plan for delivering economic stimulus to local economies. We're very pleased to announce that our application was successful and we have been granted funding of \$601,039.

DOC has reported that they are on track to open the track in April 2019, despite recent extreme weather events which meant they had to go back and repair some damage. Two new huts are being built, along with four major bridges and multiple other smaller structures.

Approximately 14km out of the 55km long track has been completed. Some finishing work (primarily surfacing) is still required to some of the track completed so far. With regards to the track build, four fronts are currently being worked on: Nelmac Ltd on the Pike 29 Memorial Track, Westreef Services Ltd in the Pororari River Valley and a team of DOC staff on the Moonlight Tops and Inland Pack Track. Assistance has also been provided by the Interagency Hotshots Crew (wild fire fighters from the United States), who provided 16 volunteers and have been helping with a range of tasks on the track. They were here for six weeks and have now returned to the US.

Digital literacy classes

The Grey District Library has teamed up with the 2020 Communications Trust to deliver these very popular FREE digital literacy classes to the community. Here is the class schedule for Term 2 of 2018.

DATE	TIME	TOPIC	TRAINER
Thursday 10 May	2pm to 4pm	Digital Photos	Liz
Thursday 17 May	2pm to 4pm	PressReader	Anthony
Thursday 24 May	2pm to 4pm	Computer Basics	Susan
Thursday 31 May	2pm to 4pm	Google and the Internet	Liz
Thursday 7 June	2pm to 4pm	Google Drive	Anthony
Thursday 14 June	2pm to 4pm	Facebook	Susan
Thursday 21 June	2pm to 4pm	RealMe	Anthony
Thursday 28 June	2pm to 4pm	Email	Susan



All classes are held in the West Coast Room at the Library.

Classes are open to all ages and registration 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/>.

How prepared are you and your family for a disaster?

The beginning of 2018 has been a hectic start to the year for the Grey District, with flooding in January and two ex-Tropical Cyclones in February. These events made for a busy time for Civil Defence, Grey District Council, emergency services and the public. We would like to thank all those involved in the response to the weather events. It is also a timely reminder that we need to get ourselves, family and workplace ready for when another disaster happens.

Due to our location and environment, the West Coast faces many potential disasters. In some cases, such as extreme weather events, there may be time for a warning. But an earthquake or a tsunami close to land could strike without warning. All disasters have the potential to cause disruption, damage property and take lives, so it's vital that you prepare now.

Many disasters will affect essential services and possibly disrupt your ability to travel or communicate with each other. You may be confined to your home or forced to evacuate your neighbourhood. In the immediate aftermath of a disaster, emergency services will not be able to get help to everyone as quickly as needed. This is when you are likely to be most vulnerable. Here's some things you can do now to help be better prepared:

- Plan to look after yourself and your loved ones for at least three days or more in the event of a disaster.
- Get your family or household together and agree on a plan. A good emergency plan helps alleviate fears about potential disasters and can help you respond safely and quickly when a disaster happens. You can get a copy of a household emergency plan and checklist from getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready/household-emergency-plan.
- You may need to evacuate in a hurry. Everyone should have a packed getaway kit in an easily accessible place at home and at work. Include important documents in your getaway kit such as identification (birth and marriage certificates, driver's licenses and passports), financial documents (eg insurance policies and mortgage information) and precious family photos.

If you have any questions, please free to talk to:

Matt Beavon
Emergency Management Officer – Grey District
Phone 021 646 614



Rimu tree down on Mitchells Road following ex-Tropical Cyclone Gita, February 2018



Stay up to date with Council news

You can stay up to date with all Council news on our website or Facebook page, which are updated regularly. If you've got a question or some feedback for us, please feel free to use the easy online contact form on our website - we're here to help.



www.greydc.govt.nz



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