

## Town Square Trial Closure - How to have your say



At their meeting on Monday 14 December 2020, the Grey District Council made the decision to trial weekend and public holiday closures of the Tainui Shared Street/Town Square area to improve the vibrancy and atmosphere within the Greymouth CBD.

The trial period was approved for every weekend and public holiday from Friday 18 December 2020 until Monday 5 April 2021. This means the road will be closed off to vehicles on Fridays from 4pm and reopened on Monday mornings at 7am. The closure will be extended by a day to include public holidays when necessary.

To try and create a welcoming environment, planter boxes will be used to close the road for the duration of the trial, while allowing access for emergency and service vehicles.

Over the period of December 2020 to April 2021, Council will be measuring the success of the trial through surveys and feedback from the community and businesses. Council is putting together a schedule of events and these will be advertised on our website and Facebook page. Members of the public, groups and organisations are invited to use the space for busking, markets and events and can phone our Community Facilitator to book a day and time on 027 263 2650.

We also hope the public will take the opportunity to use this area more as a community and hang out space. For more information on the trial closure, you can read the full agenda report on our website. To take part in the survey please scan the QR code (to your left) or visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GreymouthTownSquare>.

How to use the QR Code - Open your camera on your phone and hold it up to the QR code, once the link drops down, click on it and answer the questions.



## Mayor's comment



I hope that you all had a good Christmas and had a chance to take a break. It seems like the West Coast was one of the best places to be over the holidays. It has been great seeing the district humming with domestic visitors enjoying their own country; I think we have been discovered for the beautiful region that we have. I have heard many positive comments and seen many complimentary social media posts on national platforms from people visiting our region. We still have the best of summer to come so if you can, get out and support and enjoy our local areas and the treasures we have.

This year is going to be a busy one.

From a Council perspective, we have many shovel ready projects that we need to manage and deliver well. These give us the opportunity to build to the highest quality to future proof our infrastructure. A number of these will be starting in the next few months and will offer significant employment opportunities in the region. We also have a 10-year plan that we are working on, as well as continuing provision of the 45 services that we manage in the community.

Last year Council entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Government to receive funding (\$3.84m) and provide information on our water and wastewater assets. Water reforms are on the way but at this stage, we do not have any clear direction from Government. It is a situation we are watching closely as our communities own their water assets and deserve a say in how they are managed.

A significant challenge our community faces is a growing housing shortage. The Mayors of

our region have been meeting and advocating strongly with the agencies involved to get some action to help speed up solutions to this ever-growing problem. Many other regions in the country are facing this issue, some on a much larger scale than us. We must continue to advocate strongly so this issue remains at the forefront of the agencies concerned. Everyone deserves a warm roof over their head and our district needs the skilled workers that are currently struggling or deciding not to bring their talents to the Coast because they can't find long term accommodation.

I am looking forward to 2021 and to watching the progress of the projects we have underway that, once completed, will benefit our district.

*Tania Gibson  
Mayor*

# Customer Services Survey

How are we doing?



If you have received help from our Customer Services team, we would appreciate your feedback on how we did.

As a valued customer, your feedback is really important to us. We are always looking at ways to improve our level of service to the community.

Please complete our short survey to help us continue to improve our customer service. You can also go in the draw to win a \$100 Prezzy Card.

You can take part in the survey by scanning the QR code below or by visiting the below link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GDCCustomerservicesurvey>.



How to use the QR Code:

- Open your camera app on your smart phone.
- Hold it over the QR code.
- Click on the link that drops down on your screen.

# Responsible Freedom Camping in the Grey District



It is great to see the new responsible freedom camping signage in place at the Cobden Breakwater site. The Responsible Freedom Camping Bylaw was adopted by Council in November 2020.

The changes to the bylaw mean there are now a restricted number of sites available for responsible freedom camping in the carpark area. The rest of the area is available for day time/sightseeing parking only. Council feels that this will allow better access for locals and sightseers to enjoy the location as well as accommodating certified campers in the area.

The Cobden Bridge site has also been tidied up with a new area for campers to park on; previously this area was very boggy and caused issues when people drove on it.

New signage will be installed around the other responsible freedom camping sites over the next few months.

If you would like to read more about the new responsible freedom camping bylaw, please visit our website [www.greydc.govt.nz](http://www.greydc.govt.nz).

## Waitangi Day Community Picnic Saturday 6 February 2021



Head on down to Dixon Park from 11am on Saturday 6 February 2021 for the Waitangi Day community picnic.

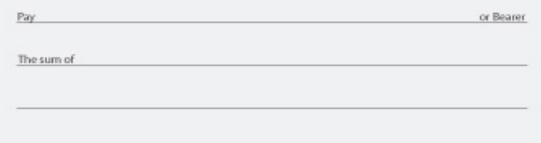
Come along to this fabulous family day made possible by the generosity of many sponsors and organisers. A BBQ lunch, including a hangi, will be available for a gold coin donation. Everyone is welcome!

Starting at 11am, there will be:

- Music and lots of other entertainment throughout the day. Bring your picnic blanket and chairs and come and enjoy it.
- Lots of fun activities for the kids including face painting, rock painting, a colouring in station, the Sports Canterbury West Coast Play Pod and more.
- Along with the BBQ and traditional hangi lunch there will be tea, coffee, juices and ice creams provided.

 **Follow the Facebook page:**  
[Grey District Waitangi Day Picnic Community Celebrations](#)

## Cheque user? Payment options are changing



In line with changes being made by Council's bank (Westpac) we wish to advise that from 20 June 2021 we will no longer be able to accept payment by cheque.

Our preferred payment for Rates and other debtor accounts is now by Direct Debit. Paying by Direct Debit allows you to make payments to suit your budget without incurring a penalty. We offer a variety of time periods, including weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annually for Rates accounts.

Forms are available on our website or at Council offices.

We also accept payment in person with Eftpos, Credit Card and Cash at our Greymouth and Runanga offices and by automatic payment, Internet banking or Credit Card payment via our website.

*Heart of the West Coast*

# Digital literacy classes

The Grey District Library's Stepping UP digital literacy classes are extremely popular and best of all, they are FREE and open to people of all ages. This year we plan to offer some classes on Saturday mornings as well as the usual Thursday afternoon sessions.

Below is the schedule for Term 1:

DATE	TIME	TOPIC
Thursday 11 February	2 - 4pm	Smartphones
Thursday 18 February	2 - 4pm	Excel
Saturday 20 February	10am - 12noon	Google Drive
Thursday 25 February	2 - 4pm	Computer Basics
Thursday 4 March	2 - 4pm	Digital Photos
Saturday 6 March	10am - 12noon	Facebook
Thursday 11 March	2 - 4pm	Email 1 - Setting up a Gmail account
Thursday 18 March	2 - 4pm	Internet safety and security
Saturday 20 March	10am - 12noon	Smartphones
Thursday 25 March	2 - 4pm	Google & the internet
Thursday 1 April	2 - 4pm	Pinterest



All classes are held in the West Coast Room at the Grey District 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 will need to register for each class you wish to take. For further information about the Stepping UP programme, please visit <http://steppingup.nz>.

## Three additional Librarians at the Grey District Library



A major funding package from the Government of \$58.8 million, managed by the National Library, is helping public libraries throughout New Zealand support their communities in the post-COVID recovery. As a result, Grey District Library has appointed three new Community Engagement Librarians: pictured from left to right are Jodie Wainwright, Johanna Lescure and Rachael Flannagan

Jodie, Johanna and Rachael will help deliver the Library's free digital literacy classes and the weekly Device Advice @ the Library sessions. They will also offer a Monday afternoon drop-in session at 1.30pm for those seeking assistance with the creation of CVs, cover letters and online job applications.

Internal Affairs Minister Tracey Martin says "Libraries play a vital role as a community hub and they can be the places where people can get real practical help during tough economic times. This new money and range of initiatives recognises the role that libraries play. It's a much-needed boost to keep these services going and support the New Zealand public through the recovery."

## Community funding

The Grey District Council administers the following funding rounds that are available to groups in our community. See below for details of each fund.

### Contestable Grants Fund - NEW FUND

The Contestable Grants Fund is a new fund introduced by the Council to assist in the vision of becoming a thriving, connected and resilient Grey District. Applications are called for each year in July/August.

There has been \$20,000 allocated from Council for this fund. The grant applications will need to align with Council's vision and outcomes, which have been updated following community engagement undertaken between February and June 2020.

### Creative Communities Scheme

This fund offers financial support for emerging and established artists, art practitioners, groups and organisations. All projects eligible for funding must be arts and cultural projects that increases participation in the arts at a local level or increases the range and diversity of the arts available to local communities.

Funding rounds for the Creative New Zealand Fund are usually open in April and September each year.

### Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund

This fund is designed to help subsidise rural travel for junior teams aged between 5-19 years. It helps school and club sports teams participate in local sporting competitions. Funding rounds for the Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Fund are in April and September each year.

### West Coast Amateur Sports Trust

The West Coast Amateur Sports Trust assists amateur sports people on the West Coast who have been recognised by their sports body as having the potential to reach a representative level to participate in training and competition.

Funding rounds are in March and September each year. Applications forms will be available on our website or from our offices when funding rounds are open.

*Full details can be found on our website or at Council offices when funding rounds are open.*

VALENTINES DAY



GREYMOUTH



ROTARY



STREET 'FARE'

Sunday 14 February 2021 - Town Square 4 - 7pm

Food and craft stalls - Live music - Valentines giveaway



ART

Sat 6 & Sun  
7 March  
2021

*in the*

PARK

ART · MUSIC · OBJECTS · FOOD

Greymouth High School - Shakespeare Street entry  
Entry is \$2 with under 12 years free



artintheparkgreymouth