



New stadium progressing nicely

Construction of the Westland Recreation Centre is progressing nicely and we remain on track for the new facility to open mid to late 2016.

Staff are now working closely with the current users of the local gym, future users, suppliers, service providers, architects, contractors and facilities experts. Their input helps to ensure that the equipment, layout and programmes meet the needs of the community.

Included in the large amount of work being done towards making the Centre operational, we are currently focusing on staffing requirements, programming, marketing and promoting the Centre as a whole, as well as pre-selling memberships.



Fitness survey

Once completed, the new Westland Recreation Centre will include a Fitness Centre. To make sure the new complex is a success, we're asking people what they want in the new Fitness Centre. Please take five minutes to complete an anonymous survey to let us know what would best suit you and your needs.

Your responses will help us with the strategic planning for the complex. So far over 400 responses have been received - thanks!

Complete the survey online now:

www.greycouncil.govt.nz/fitness-centre-survey



Mayor's Comment

It was good to see that this year's satisfaction survey of Grey District residents returned 81% being happy with the performance of the Grey District Council and 84% of residents approval of the performance of the Mayor and Councillors. Both were top of all councils surveyed.

Council staff work hard and councillors are working as a team during the tough economic times we are experiencing at present. With the coal industry virtually closing down here in the Grey District, we have to diversify the local economy for a sustainable future.

The West Coast was founded with a gold rush but it was timber and coal that sustained the next 150 years. Tourism, industry value adding, fish and meat processing, Ultra Fast Broadband, dairy farming, minerals,

service industries, health and education will provide the much needed jobs into the future. The environment and lifestyle choices will play a larger employment role, attracting city dwellers who can be connected and do business via broadband and the new technology available today.

The economic growth will happen if Coast councils and businesses collaborate, sharing services and identifying points of difference for the region that give us a natural advantage in a competitive economic environment.

We are meeting with the committee set up by the Government for our region's economic growth strategy. Many ideas will be put forward. Some of the issues will be the proposed electricity price increases, transport to and from the region, tourist accommodation, environmental attractions, access to conservation land and minerals, cycleways and walking tracks, how to market the West Coast effectively and who pays, new

roading, value adding and more jobs for West Coasters. The focus group will be reporting back in the last quarter of this year.

Meanwhile the stadium and town square are starting to take shape. Over the last couple of weeks a good number of councillors have helped by building fences, painting, laying temporary lawn and tidying up after the demolition of the old building. We were fed by the local restaurants, helped by local residents and a local artist painted some great pop up art.

With 25% of the town now up to earthquake standards and the 52 year free lease for the town square site in place, the long awaited town renewal has begun. We still have a lot to do but we are making good progress.

Tony Kokshoorn



Local body elections - make your vote count

The next local body elections will take place in October.

Local elections voter turnout in New Zealand has been declining since the 1980s. Research shows there is a significant number of citizens who are interested in the local government process but don't vote, or, who want to vote but say it's too hard to find the information they need to make an informed decision.

Here at Grey District Council we want to educate our community about their opportunity to stand for Council and encourage them to use their right to vote.

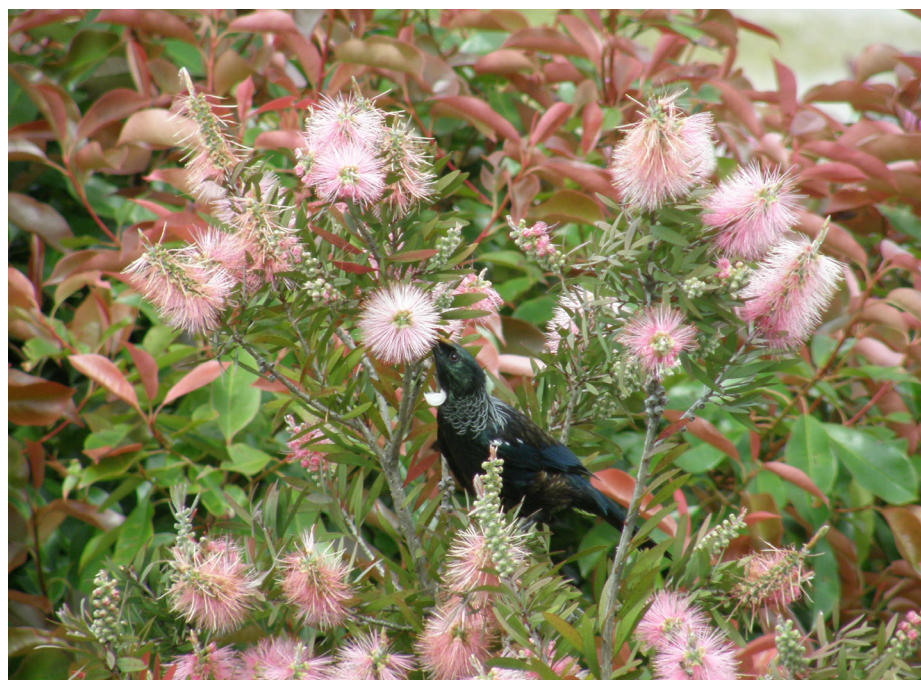
- We will be holding a **candidate information evening** in July for people wanting to find out about standing for Council - watch our website, www.greycdc.govt.nz, for details closer to the time.
- Voting packs sent out in September include candidate profiles to enable you to make your decision on the best person for the job.

If you're considering standing in the local body elections, you should also visit the Vote2016 website, www.lgnz.co.nz/vote2016, for a wide range of useful information to help get you started.

And lastly, make sure you are registered on the Electoral Roll so you can have your vote and make a difference. Contact the Electoral Commission on 0800 36 76 56 or www.elections.org.nz/voters/enrol-check-or-update-now.

Here are some key dates for the 2016 elections:

15 July	Candidate nominations open and roll opens for public inspection
15 July - 12 August	Receipt of candidate nominations
12 August at 12pm	Candidate nominations close and roll closes
17 August	Public notice of candidate's names
16 - 21 September	Voting documents delivered
8 October at 12pm	Election day – voting closes midday



Aquatic Centre news

The Aquatic Centre will be closed for its annual maintenance from Monday 2 May to Sunday 8 May (inclusive). The pool is expected to reopen on Monday 9 May 2016.

Civic awards

We like to acknowledge the outstanding voluntary service of our community and one way of doing this is to present deserving individuals with a Civic Award.

Nominations for Civic Awards will open at the start of May and up to five (5) awards will be granted each year. The qualifying categories include recreation, youth activities, social welfare, education services, cultural affairs, religious affairs and community affairs.

Watch our website for details, www.greycdc.govt.nz.

Trustpower awards

Locals on the West Coast should get their thinking caps on because Trustpower is asking them to consider what's been happening around town with help from their local volunteers. These awards are open to all volunteer groups, whether they've been operating for 20 years or 20 days.

You have until 5pm on Friday 10 June to get your entries in. Entry forms and more information are available at Council offices, or online at www.trustpower.co.nz/communityawards or the Trustpower Community Facebook page.

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

Dog registration

Dog registration notices for the 2016/2017 year will be sent out to known owners around the end of June with payment due by 31 July.

Rates rebates

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides for a rebate on rates of up to \$610 to low income home owners. Applications for the current rating year (1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016) must be made by 30 June 2016.

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.

Earthquake prone buildings

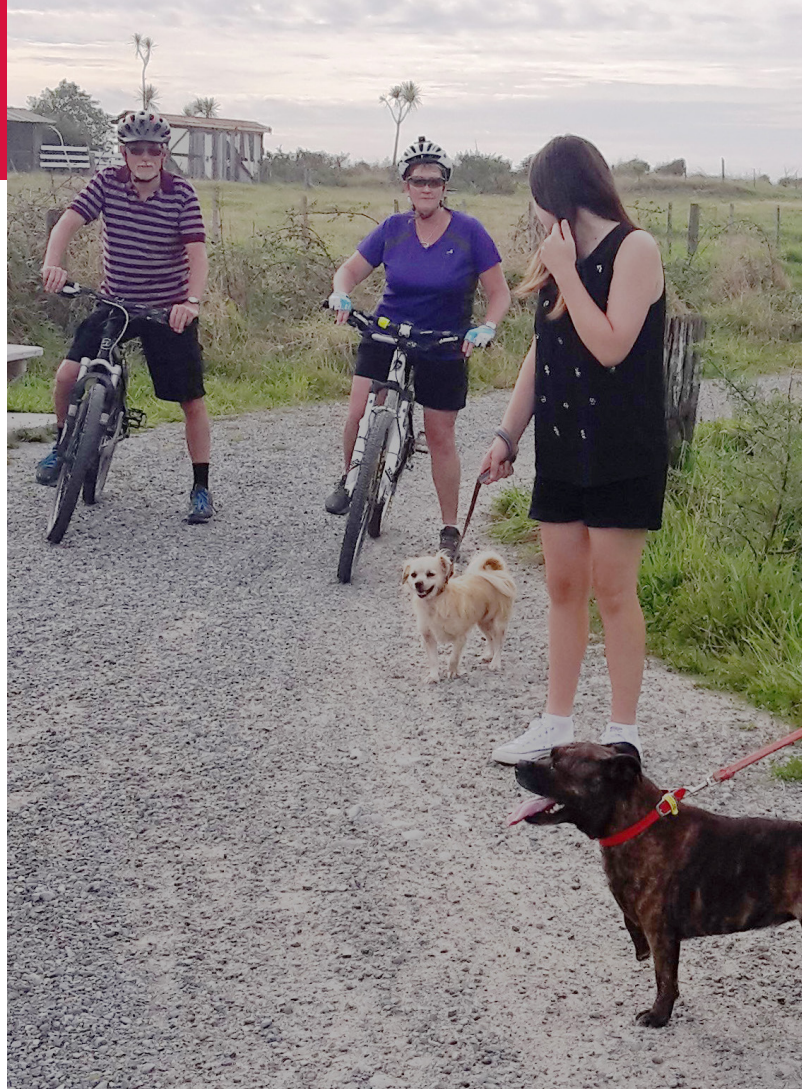
Council recently sent out letters to hundreds of property owners of potentially earthquake prone buildings to advise them that they must provide a Detailed Engineering Evaluation (DEE) to Council by 31 December 2016. *Note: This only applies to buildings that have not been demolished, strengthened or otherwise altered to be greater than 33% of New Building Standard (NBS).*

Owners are reminded that:

1. The deadline for submitting Initial Evaluation Procedures (IEPs) was 31 July 2013. Council can no longer accept IEPs.
2. For properties confirmed as being earthquake prone, additional information will be required by Council. This includes a 'declaration of intent' and 'risk assessment' to determine if the building can continue to be occupied until such time that it can be either strengthened or demolished.
3. If owners do not provide a DEE by the due date, under our Earthquake-Prone, Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy Council can commission the assessment at the owner's expense.

If owners intend to demolish or carry out the required strengthening works (ie greater than 33% NBS) by 31 December 2016, please advise us as soon as possible so our records can be updated.

For more information, please refer to the Earthquake-Prone, Dangerous and Insanitary Buildings Policy (available on our website www.greycdc.govt.nz) or contact the Building Control department at Council, phone 03 769 8600 or email info@greycdc.govt.nz.



Resident satisfaction survey

Council were presented the results from the independent 2015 Resident Satisfaction Survey in February and were very pleased to note that it confirmed a high general resident satisfaction with Council and its services. Overall satisfaction with Council and the performance of Mayor and Councillors were higher than the group of other Council's surveyed.

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the survey. Some highlights from the results are below.

81% of residents are satisfied with the overall performance of Grey District Council (2014: 81%)

84% of residents are satisfied with the performance of Mayor and Councillors (2014: 83%)

82% of residents surveyed reported they were satisfied with the overall service they received when contacting Council offices (2014: 84%)

91% of residents think the District to be a great place to live (2014: 94%) & 59% of residents feel a sense of pride in the way the District looks and feels (2014: 60%)

[This is expected to be enhanced by the CBD Renewal and Signage, Interpretation and Public Art Framework projects]

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

Sharing the cycleway

Following concerns raised by the community about issues on the cycle track/walkway, we'd like to remind everyone that this excellent facility is there to be enjoyed by everyone and some simple common courtesies and awareness of other users goes a long way. In particular:

- The Dog Control Act 1996 requires all dogs to be on a leash or under voice control when in public spaces. Note that Council's Access to Walkways/Cycle Track Bylaw requires ALL dogs on the cycleway/walkway to be on the leash when on the track. Breaching this bylaw can incur fines as well as potentially causing harm to other users, eg dogs getting in the way of cyclists.
- It is very important that everyone sticks to the left so as to leave a clear path for those travelling in the opposite direction.
- No horses or motorbikes are allowed on the track.
- It's a good idea for cyclists to ring their bell when coming up behind other users to warn them they're coming past. As a lot of people use headphones, keeping left is especially important to ensure everyone is safe.
- Please pick up any dog deposits.

If we look out for each other and treat all users with respect by following the rules, the cycle track/walkway can continue to be a great asset to be used by the entire community.

Many thanks to the cyclists, dogs and owners who posed for the photo above.



MICHAEL JACKSON HISTORY SHOW

The world's most loved MJ tribute is returning to New Zealand in 2016 with its revamped production and brand new star, Dantanio. The Michael Jackson History Show will be performed at the Regent Theatre in Greymouth on **Saturday 4 June 2016**. The production stays mostly true to its original concert format showcasing all MJ's greatest hits live on stage, but with new songs added, updated costumes and innovative new production elements.

Regent manager Patrick McBride was extremely happy to be offered such a massive show for Greymouth. "We are so lucky to be hosting these guys outside of the main centres. "The stage crew that travelled with the Queen show last year enjoyed themselves that much at our venue they made contact with the MJ producers and said Greymouth is a must," said McBride.

Theatre management have been working closely with Show Time Australia to bring more big productions to town before the end of the year. Tickets for the Michael Jackson Tribute Show can be purchased at the Regent Theatre or online www.regentgreymouth.co.nz.

Holiday programmes

The school holidays have just ended for another term. Did you know about the great activities that the Grey District Library and Aquatic Centre put on for kids over the holidays? Like their Facebook pages to stay up to date.

The **Grey District Library** develops a children's activity programme each school holidays. Specific activity are offered each week of the holidays, as well as more general activities available throughout. Activities in the past have included a colouring in station for younger children, 'Guess What' gallery for older children, DIY Craft Days, Talent Shows, Lego Days, the Great Paper Plan Caper and cooking competitions. All activities are free and everyone is welcome.



www.facebook.com/GreyDistrictLibrary



There are also plenty of fun water activities to take part in at the **Aquatic Centre** during school holiday times. Come along and enjoy events such as the Bluelight inflatable, kayaking, water polo, hydroslide challenge and more!

www.facebook.com/GreymouthAquaticCentre

Growth study

The **Tai Poutini West Coast Regional Growth Study** was announced on 26 November 2015 and is an independent report commissioned by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), together with the West Coast region.

It is one of a series of regional growth studies and will identify sector and commercial opportunities that have the potential to grow incomes, jobs and investment in the West Coast region. It will also identify constraints to growth and recommend how these can be addressed.

As each regional study is completed, government agencies will work in partnership with local government, businesses and iwi/Maori to develop and implement Action Plans to build on the opportunities identified in each region. The Action Plans provide a way for central government agencies to work more closely with each other and with each region to achieve the agreed on outcomes.

Martin Jenkins and Crowe Howarth will be carrying out West Coast Regional Growth Study and Action Plan. They will be consulting widely throughout the region using workshops and individual interviews.

For more information, please check out this link: www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/sectors-industries/regions-cities/regional-growth-programme or contact Quecha Horning, Manager Corporate Planning and Community at Council, phone 03 769 8602 or email quecha.horning@greydc.govt.nz.