

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE, WILL BE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 29 CIVIC AVENUE, GORE, ON TUESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2009, AT 4 pm

**Stephen Parry
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

2 September 2009

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2. Report of the Library Manager
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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

SEPTEMBER 2009

1. REPORT FROM GORE i-SITE VISITOR CENTRE

NATIONAL SCENE

Australia Hits New Record High

Visitors from Australia reached a record national high in July, delivering nearly 16,000 more travellers from across the Tasman than the same month last year.

The Australian market has grown by an additional 55,000 visitors in the last 12 months.

Recognising the importance of Australia, Tourism New Zealand has committed \$9 million of its budget to running a year-round campaign in Australia this year.

Influenza A (H1N1) (Swine Flu)

The statistics also showed some easing of the effect of Influenza A (H1N1) (Swine Flu) on Asian markets. Though arrivals are still down, the impact of swine flu on arrivals from Japan, China and Korea appears to be less severe than was evident in the June figures.

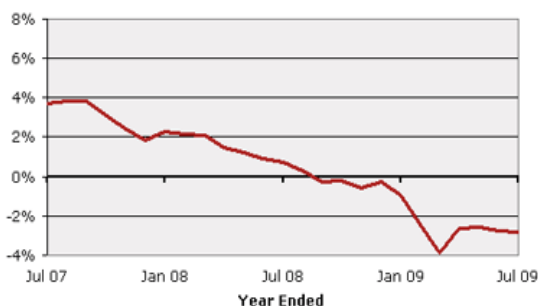
International Visitor Arrivals - July 2009

- Australia 93,173 up 20.4%
- UK 11,914 down 9.6%
- US 13,478 down 5.0%
- Canada 2,599 down 11.2%
- China 4,140 down 39.3 %
- South Korea 5,152 down 37.0%
- Japan 3,726 down 57.5%

Source: Tourism New Zealand Media Release

International Tourism Arrivals - Rolling annual % Change

- Down 2.8%, 2,411,856 arrivals



Gore i-SITE Visitor Centre

The i-SITE staff are currently busy preparing for the national database upload, we have now completed the first stage of this project.

There will be two staff members attending the i-SITE New Zealand conference in Wanaka from 11-15 September.

The Gore map will hopefully be distributed throughout the region by the end of September early October as planned.

The Gore i-SITE Customer Survey results have been very positive - with all comments in the very satisfied-satisfied range. Customers are indicating that signage is how they found about the i-SITE Centre.

Positive impressions of Gore

Lovely wide streets, friendly people, excellent Art Gallery, massive trout, great for family, nice and relaxing, rich variety of history, warm welcome, interesting Museum,

Negative impressions of Gore

The cold, shops close at 5pm.

Hokonui Moonshine Museum - visitations for July included 116 paying adults.

Gore Visitors Centre Statistics Report – July 2009

	1-5 July	6-12 July	13-19 July	20-26 July	27-31 July	Total
Domestic	62	123	178	128	76	567
International	34	67	90	45	41	277
Tour Groups Bookings Only)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bus Tours	0	7	46	0	0	53
Accompanied Children	3	13	44	8	6	74
Telephone Calls	36	68	65	88	49	306
School Tours	0	0	0	0	0	0
Website & Emails	0	4	3	6	0	13
Transport Enquiries Central Otago/Queenstown		6	6	5	0	17
TOTAL	135	288	432	280	172	1307

Sales for July 2009

July sales have increased slightly compared to July 2008 and indicates a 5.6% increase.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

2. REPORT OF THE LIBRARY MANAGER

Winter Warmers Reading Challenge

The Winter Warmers finale party was a wonderful conclusion to another successful reading programme. Over 40 Gore and Mataura children and their parents/carers attended a pyjama party on 4 August. Mayor Hicks and wife Robyn gave out certificates and book prizes and library staff Valmai Redhead and Jenny Smith read books to the children by torchlight. The evening concluded with a mug of milo for each child.



Toddler Time

Toddler Time got off to a good start and has been well attended thus far. Up to 15 children have attended each session.

Library Week

Library Week ran from 10-16 August in public libraries throughout New Zealand. Gore District Libraries participated with a promotional display in the window at Gore and a “two for the price of one” DVD offer.

Arabella Experience

For Valmai the “Arabella Storyteller” experience has taken up most of the month of August. Sixteen schools participated in the programme, and once again all were very positive about the experience.

New Zealand’s Biggest Storytime

New Zealand's biggest storytime was held on 12 August at 10.30 am. Itiiti's Gift by Melanie Drewery was read at libraries all over New Zealand at the same time. Arabella also read the New Zealand’s biggest storytime book at each school she visited as part of the Arabella experience. This has fostered particular interest because Fifi Colson, the illustrator of the book, is to visit Eastern Southland early in September. She will be hosting a workshop, organised by the Eastern Southland Reading Association, with whom Gore District Libraries work in partnership to bring Arabella to local schools.

St Peter's/Gore High School careers evening

Two staff attended the annual careers fair. This is a good promotional opportunity for the library and we received several enquiries from pupils, and also from a parent who were interested in finding out more information about working in the library and information sector.

Roadshow

Three staff attended the annual evening roadshow in Invercargill, hosted by publishers Hachette. The evening is an opportunity to hear the publishers talk first hand about the titles they feel will be the top titles in the run up to Christmas. This year we all received four free books which have been added to library stock.

ECRead'N seminar

Jenny Smith attended a seminar in Hastings on 7 August run by the ECRead'N committee (from whom we purchase the very successful reading programmes). A couple of the highlights for Jenny were listening to children's author and illustrator Fifi Colston and watching her demonstrate a craft activity plus hearing John and Ruth McIntyre from the Children's Bookshop in Wellington speak. They talked on the topic "Twilight and Beyond" about extending teen reading past the 'book of the moment'.

Waikaka School

Valmai was invited, as Arabella, to visit Waikaka School to tell stories and lead an oral reading workshop with the older pupils. The latter was as an introduction to the school's oral reading competition to be held later in the term.

Building matters

The installation of the much anticipated heating and air conditioning system began in late August. We look forward to reaping the benefits in the heat of the summer!



Talks/Visits/Displays

- Knapdale School (2 visits)
- Harper Collins
- East Gore School (2 visits)
- Kiwi Red Books

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

3. REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Gore District Youth Council

The Chairman, Nathan Dickson and Councillor Laura Keenan attended the New Zealand Diversity Forum hosted by the Human Rights Commission in Wellington.

The Youth Council were invited by the Southland District Youth Council to become involved with the submission process regarding the Road Safety report released by the Ministry of Transport. Of particular interest is the possible recommendation of raising the driving age and extending the learner license period. The implications for youth and families in rural areas will be the major focus of a combined submission.

They also received a request for support from Hon Paula Bennett regarding the new Youth Opportunities package. Please refer to the attached information.

Gore District Alcohol Strategy

The Council received four comprehensive submissions to the Strategy. Thank you to the Hearing Panel, Crs Heller, Bolger and Highsted who heard verbal submissions from Public Health South and the Alcohol Advisory Boards (ALAC). It was great to get such positive feedback on the strategy and understand the context of the submissions more clearly.

The Strategy Steering Group made up of key stakeholders also met to consider written submissions and offer the Hearing Panel expert advice for its further deliberations.

During the consultation period the Law Commission also released an issues paper on the reform of New Zealand's Liquor Law. This can be viewed at www.talklaw.co.nz and summarised versions are also available.

The Law Commission's liquor teams are travelling the country to collect as much feedback as possible and encourage communities to make submissions. In conjunction with ALAC the Council will be hosting Law Commissioner Val Sim at 11am-1pm on Tuesday 15 September. Councillors should by now have received invitations.

Mataura Taskforce

The Early Childhood subgroup and Barnardos Kidstart held an information afternoon regarding possible recruitments in Mataura to provide employment and childcare. Two people are now considering this option. The Playcentre Association is also working with the community to start up a playgroup at their

facilities this could eventually lead to the re establishment of the Playcentre.

The Taskforce and its supporters are continuing to focus on the issues they identify with.

The Community Trust of Southland has funded the costs of two Taskforce members to attend a Small Town Conference being held over three days in Kaiapoi. This is a wonderful way of acknowledging the valuable contribution they are making to their town and gives them an opportunity to share, learn and reinvigorate their enthusiasm.

Other

- Te Puni Kokiri and Maitaia Marae re: funding and feasibility
- Hokonui Horizons Forum
- Maitaia Taskforce monthly meeting
- Community Trust of Southland and Maitaia Taskforce funding options
- Gore Mental Health Forum hosted by 'Future Directions – Southland Mental Health Network'
- Settlement Support Steering Group
- Department of Internal Affairs re: funding
- Meeting Hokonui Runaka
- 'Workin It Out' – Community Stakeholder Group
- Ministry of Social Development with His Worship re: New Ministry initiatives for young people 'Job Ops', 'Community Max' also Seasonal Work Opportunities
- Speaker at Gore and Districts Citizens Advice Bureau Annual General Meeting
- Co speaker re: Maitaia Taskforce – Lions Club Maitaia
- Presentation by Ombudsman for Citizens Advice Bureau
- Southland Housing Forum
- Youth Access To Alcohol (YATA) stakeholder meeting

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

4. REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT ARTS AND HERITAGE CURATOR

Eastern Southland Gallery

The Gallery's major exhibition for 2009 – Edward Bullmore *A Surrealist Odyssey* – a selection of paintings by the prominent Balfour born artist, opened on 7 August. The show was kindly put together by the Tauranga Art Gallery and supported locally by ABN AMRO Craigs and the Maitaia Licensing Trust. The Hon Bill English formally opened the exhibition and local art enthusiasts enjoyed an informative floor-talk by curator Penelope Jackson the following morning.

The Gallery was pleased to receive this month a selection of Antarctic photographs by Grahame Sydney. This is a gift from the artist to the permanent collection and it not only celebrates the closing of his exhibition '*White Silence*', but also augments earlier gifts from Grahame that have coincided with past exhibitions.

Exhibitions and Activities

'White Silence' – Antarctic Photographs by Grahame Sydney (until 2 August)

'Edward Bullmore – A Surrealist Odyssey' (from 7 August)

'Floor Talk' by curator Penelope Jackson (8 August)

Hokonui Heritage Centre

Our research centre remains steady with localised, national and international heritage enquiries. Staff members have also been working with participants for the 2009 Win Hamilton Award local history project, and work continues on collection management projects and local built heritage research.

General

Staff members continue to work with groups on a variety of funding proposals and submission – including a major Lottery Grants Board application on behalf of the Croydon Aviation Heritage Trust.

Talks and Tours

- Tapanui School (x 2)
- NZ Historic Places Trust AGM
- NZ Poet Laureate Function

Meetings and Representations

- 2010 Hokonui Moonshiners' Festival
- Supervision of Southland Roving Museum Officer
- Supervision of Victoria University Practicum Placement
- Mataura Licensing Trust
- TVNZ
- Artescape 09

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

6. REPORT FROM THE AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER

Once again this has been a busy school month, with Longford and West Gore completing their scheduled sessions. Also Gore Main School started a series of lessons which is continuing through term three. We have had a total of 15 bookings this month, some of them multiple bookings.

Complex updates

The installation of the new reception units is well under way. We are looking at sprucing up the family changing rooms as well as the foyer with a paint job. We are also pricing flooring for the reception area, as it is quite worn in places. Currently I am waiting on quotes.

Recruitment of lifeguards, swim teachers and Maitua seasonal supervisors is well underway. The Maitua pool is scheduled to open for the season on Saturday 26 September; preparation towards this is in the process.

I have attended a Jaws Conference in Queenstown, where Aquatic Service professionals from around the country met over three days. I have come back refreshed with new ideas.

We have signed an agreement with Tip Top Ice Cream. Tip Top will supply beach balls, ice blocks and towels to give away as a promotional tool. This will enable us to further promote, incentives of our many existing programmes.

Staff have been busy in preparation for the up coming school holidays, with staff attending school assemblies, promoting the holiday programmes we will have on offer.

Leaping Frogs Swim School

Holiday lessons are set up and starting to fill up already without advertising.

We have had the Regional Learn to Swim Development Manager from Swimming New Zealand down to sign off several instructors for their Assistant Swim Teachers Award (ASTA) course as well signing the Swim School Co-ordinator off as an "evidence gather" for Swimming New Zealand to therefore complete assessments. This will in the future preclude the need for us to bring down the assessor to Gore.

We are currently undertaking scheduling for the Maitua season and these will be advertised thereafter. Staff are working on the schedules for the Gore pool over term four, so

that advertising can occur as we are currently fielding enrolment enquiries.

We have a colouring competition running this month for Fathers Day, swimmers to draw a picture of their Dad and themselves, they will go into the draw to win lessons during term four.

The Swim School Co-ordinator is starting to put together a training programme for next year, and also a new instructor assessment process, to simplify and be more efficient with time.

Visitor Numbers Gore		
Month	July 08 - June 09	July 09 - June 2010
July	5927	6825
August	5111	7165
September	6606	
October	6850	
November	8145	
December	6528	
Janauary	7955	
February	6727	
March	8041	
April	6861	
May	6224	
June	6200	
Total	81175	13990

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

7. REPORT OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER

With the weather getting into spring mode, days lengthening and temperatures rising the Parks and Reserves staff are in the last stages of preparing for the coming onslaught of growth and our busiest time of the year. Of note are some early cherry blossoms around the towns, some bud swell in deciduous trees and roses with crocus, snowdrops and other small woodland bulbs now flowering and creating wonderful splashes of colour on an otherwise winter landscape.

Spraying duties are continuing for staff with a focus on control of fungal rust on annuals and protectant sprays on other deciduous shrubs and roses. The winter bedding varieties are now providing good colour as blooms start to proliferate and the bulbs are starting to appear through the annuals ready for their display in a few weeks time.

Along with this rise in soil temperature we are noticing some movement in grass growth. As the turf surface is drying out nicely it will allow our mowers to start into their rounds about mid August. This is however tempered by the ground conditions, as some sites are still quite wet and will need to be drier before we can get the mowers onto these areas without leaving unsightly wheel ruts. We are also preparing for an increase in winds over the coming weeks as we move into the spring equinox period.



Prunus subhirtella 'Autumnalis' in full flower in front of the Mataura Community Centre

The reserves department gardeners were taken on a field trip to the Invercargill City Councils Queens Park and McIvor Road Nursery in August where we were hosted by the ICC Parks Manager, Mr Robin Pagan. We had an afternoon of interaction with key ICC Parks staff that has proved to be beneficial for both Councils. We will undertake a reciprocal event some time in the future as ICC management and staff are keen to view our operation.

From property and civic buildings we have a number of projects under way. The upgrade of counters in the multisports complex has been completed. The Gore Library is having the air-conditioning unit replaced along with a new smaller unit to deliver targeted heating and cooling for staff in the workroom. Delivery of hot and cool air to the main library will be greatly improved with some amendment to the delivery ducting as well as an air curtain at the main entrance which will mitigate to a degree corruption between indoor and outdoor air. Other works are currently in the planning and tendering phase along with civic and administration building cleaning contracts.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

8. ALCOHOL IN OUR LIVES – AN ISSUES PAPER ON THE REFORM OF NEW ZEALAND’S LIQUOR LAWS JULY 2009

(Memo from Community Development Officer – 27.08.09)

The Law Commission has released an issues paper, which seeks to provide an overview of how liquor is currently used in New Zealand. From the extensive research undertaken recommendations will be made to Parliament. The Law Commission is asking individuals and groups to participate in the consultation process and to make submissions on the report. Submissions close on 30 October 2009.

The key issues raised in the document relate to:

- The Harm
- Object of the Law
- Supply Controls – licensing, hours, age, individual and parental responsibility, types of products
- Demand Reduction – Tax/price, advertising
- Problem Limitation – treatment, penalties, liquor in public places

There are a range of issues and options identified to address different policy options. A copy of the executive summary is attached.

In relation to the imminent release of the ratified Gore District Alcohol Strategy this is an ideal opportunity for the council to begin pursuit of the strategy objectives. Particularly; to increase the profile and priority of this issue and provide leadership, to market the district as a safe place and a place where many positive things are happening and to support existing and new programmes that demonstrate ‘good practice’.

It is of no surprise that the issues faced locally of harm caused by alcohol consumption, are the same issues faced by other rural communities throughout the country. However, we have a fairly unique environment and a robust Strategy to work from which clearly identifies local attitudes.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council make a submission on the Issues Paper to the Law Commission,

AND THAT the Gore District Alcohol Strategy Hearing Panel made up of Crs Heller, Highsted and Bolger supported by

the Chief Executive and Community Development Officer be appointed to compile the submission.

9. SPORT SOUTHLAND – ANNUAL REPORT

(Memo from Parks and Recreation Manager – 28.08.09)

Sport Southland provides recreational programming services under a contract to the Gore District Council. Attached for Councillors perusal is a copy of the Eastern Southland annual report compiled by the local Sport Southland Co-ordinator, Mr Richard Pasco.

I would like to commend Richard for his dedication to this role and as this report indicates, there is a vast array of different activities that Richard and his team at Sport Southland have involvement in. All of which promote the physical fitness, Health and wellbeing of our community.

Over the past year Richard has been proactive and played an integral part in assisting Council officers in securing external funding from SPARC, which will ultimately benefit the local population.

Richard will be in attendance to answer any questions.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report be received.

10. STAGE 3 FRONT OF HOUSE AGREEMENT

(Report from Parks and Recreation Manager – 28.08.09)

Purpose of Report

With the pending opening of the Gore Multisport Complex Charitable Trusts indoor events centre, it is time for the Council and the trust to enter into an agreement for the operation of front of house services to be delivered by the Councils existing Aquatic Services Division's reception staff.

Background

This document was mentioned in the lease that the Council currently has with the Trust where having an operable front of house operation agreement is a condition of operation in the lease document (clause 26.1 - attached)

Appended to this report you will find the final draft of the agreement. Following consultation between the Parks and Recreation Manager and the Trust Chair along with advice and guidance from the Councils lawyer Mr John Bannerman who has finalised this document, we collectively believe we have a document that will address the front of house service to stadium users whilst being fair to all parties concerned. There has been verbal agreement between the Chairman of the Trust, Mr Grant Barron and the Parks and Recreation Manager as to the content of the draft and signing is envisaged after endorsement from the Council and the Trust.

This agreement has many similarities to the agreement the Council has with Ice Sports Southland for whom a similar service, but to a lesser degree than this agreement, is provided.

Social Wellbeing Impact

This could have a significant positive impact on local communities, as in the recent District Survey there were many comments from the public to "get the stadium finished."

Economic Wellbeing Impact

This agreement is designed to be cost neutral, so no additional cost implication for ratepayers for this service.

Environmental Wellbeing Impact

There will be minimal impact to the environment from the recommendation contained within this report

Cultural Wellbeing Impact

There will be potential to host cultural groups in this facility, whether it be multicultural, monocultural, or any blend thereof.

This, in effect, will therefore be able to deliver a positive impact on the cultural wellbeing of the community.

Impact on Promotion of Community Outcomes

1. Outcome	<i>We are healthy people</i>
Intermediate Outcome	<i>We live in a compassionate, caring community</i>
2. Outcome	<i>A well educated and skilled community continually seeking further opportunities to learn</i>
Intermediate outcome	<i>We have accessible learning opportunities</i>

Impact on LTCCP

With this agreement being cost neutral, there will be no additional cost implication for ratepayers in providing this service to the Trust. However with forecast revenue being an estimate or best guess at this point, it is unclear whether future revenue will be sufficient to cover these outgoings in the long run. With regard to the long run, ongoing monitoring of users will occur but the future is an unknown. Comment on the pending opening of the Stadium is noted in the 2009-19 LTCCP.

Community Views

It is frequently and regularly articulated to Councillors and Council Officers, that the will of the people is “to have the stadium up and operating as soon as possible”.

A copy of the draft Front of House agreement is also attached.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the Council agree to enter into the Front of House agreement with the Gore Multisports Charitable Trust.