



Community Services Bulletin

April 2024

1. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER (Emma Sherie)

Heritage Month



Heritage Month kicked off in March and we had a variety of activities happening in the library. One of our events was to collect volunteer names for the Southland Oral History Project. Southland's stories define who we are as a people and a province. The Southland Oral History Project aims to capture these stories as a collective memory of what it is to be part of this community.

The project covers a broad range of subjects, not only the defining events in our local history but also our traditions, our everyday way of life, and what it means to be a Southlander. The Project is actively supported by Heritage South and the Invercargill City Libraries and Archives. Training will begin in June/July for volunteers to learn how to interview a participant and use the equipment.

Heritage Month also saw an opportunity for some of our local migrants to share their stories about moving here and their heritage.



Easy as Te Reo Classes

As part of Heritage Month, we ran weekly Te Reo classes which was in conjunction with Southern Reap. We identified a need in the community to have classes that were during the day and to focus on the basics. Each session was made up of 6-8 people and there was lots of laughter and learning.

EASY AS TE REO

Aotearoa
Māori
Māori
Kin Ora

GORE
MATAURA
WAIKAKA

If you would like to gain confidence pronouncing our Māori place names and learning basic greetings, come join us:

MONDAYS 4, 11, 18, 25 MARCH

1:30PM - 2:30PM

GORE DISTRICT LIBRARIES

GORE LIBRARY



The Great Bunny Treasure Hunt

This Easter we were lucky enough to have Buller Libraries on the West Coast share their Great Bunny Treasure Hunt resources with us so that the children of Gore and Māori could take part in a fun Peter the Rabbit hunt around the library. This has been a very popular activity. This is a great example of libraries collaborating. We will be sharing our knowledge about how to create a StoryWalk in return.

February library statistics

Door count

Gore door count	2023	2024
July	5457	6706
August	5392	5983
September	5052	5699
October	5134	5642
November	4826	5174
December	4224	4061
January	0	5171
February	0	4703

Issues – (This does not include renewals)

Gore Issues	2022	2023
July	6821	10157
August	6361	9379
September	6055	8880
October	6168	7950
November	6119	7707
December	8331	6714
January	112	8133
February	247	6786

WiFi connections

Gore WiFi usage	2022	2023
July	370	882
August	460	1027
September	369	959
October	397	923
November	374	878
December	305	624
January	85	831
February	135	884

Our computers

Gore computer usage	2022	2023
July	248	471
August	259	477
September	242	483
October	262	503
November	266	470
December	210	410
January	0	501
February	0	411

Signups

New members	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	38	135
August	31	101
September	30	70
October	23	79
November	22	56
December	21	39
January	1	71
February	4	54

Mataura Library

Total door count

Mataura door count	2022	2023
July	791	763
August	874	849
September	720	721
October	792	823
November	724	898
December	653	576
January	818	902
February	848	702

Issues

Mataura issues	2022	2023
July	713	644
August	751	633
September	697	524
October	723	639
November	649	543
December	702	551
January	966	547
February	1507	498

Wi-Fi

Mataura WiFi usage	2022	2023
July	896	1256
August	1176	1298
September	1086	1292
October	1092	1457
November	1135	1436
December	963	1288
January	1062	1321
February	1001	1389

Computer usage

Mataura computer usage	2022	2023
July	91	129
August	114	103
September	106	99
October	118	112
November	95	117
December	70	100
January	116	106
February	140	120

Sign-ups

New members	2022-23	2023-24
July	3	6
August	1	5
September	9	2
October	5	5
November	9	3
December	2	5
January	3	5
February	4	8

Both Library branches - E-items

E-resources issues	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	669	820
August	524	839
September	675	913
October	631	971
November	589	962
December	633	1085
January	731	1017
February	724	1024

Catalogue searches

Catalogue searches	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	486	1926
August	497	1950
September	662	2290
October	612	2247
November	579	1901
December	1239	1439
January	423	2265
February	253	1903

2. REPORT OF THE DISTRICT ARTS & HERITAGE CURATOR (*Jim Geddes*)

Visual arts initiatives

Exhibition Programme

Our major Gallery exhibition for March was **Rod Eales – *Art of the Flower***. This presentation drew significant public interest, given the accessible theme and the artist's extraordinary approach to this popular subject matter. The artist also gave a very well attended public floor-talk on March 2nd. ***Potion*** – a Baroque influence series of large paintings by **Anita DeSoto** opened to the public on March 30th and will run until May 12th.

Performance & Event Programme

Open Day - at East Gore Art Centre (10 March)

The Gallery's permanent collection has been the subject of Dunedin Public Art Gallery's major retrospective exhibition of artist **Marilynn Webb**. 31 works were selected from our holdings and will move to Christchurch Art Gallery at the conclusion of their current showing on 7 April.

The current temporary exhibition at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre – Mandeville:

Julie Duncan & Helen Keith – *It's What We Do* (21 February to 2 April)

Māruawai project

Stage One – Hokonui Moonshine Museum redevelopment

Final display fit-out continues within the museum as key components come to hand. Running concurrent to our display development is a fundraising momentum which has successfully garnered more than \$140,000 from community agencies and individuals. This has helped replenish our original display budget that was exhausted by Covid related increases in building and material costs. Exterior development of the building is progressing, and external graphics and signage will soon be applied thanks to generous financial support from a local family trust.

Stage Two – Māruawai Centre development

Planning for the fit-out of internal spaces within the eastern wing of the building is continuing and this process has been assisted greatly by the availability of the neighbouring Win Hamilton Wing as archive, and research space. Fit-out of the facility's workshop area is complete and the space adjacent to the Hokonui Moonshine Museum carpark is being made ready for paving, planting, and outdoor furnishing. Structural provision is now in place for the installation of sculptural gates (ex-Observation Point) by Ralph Hotere.

Precinct programmes

Community engagement and education programmes

We have enjoyed especially good numbers of tour parties, special interest groups, schools, and community organisations during March. Given the requirement for local schools to factor mana whenua history and other local content into the new curriculum, there has been considerable engagement with local educators. To this end there has also been a significant call on the outcomes of our 16-year joint venture local research project with Hokonui Rūnanga. Key information from this source and the ongoing research of Gore District Historical Society have combined to give significant strength to precinct holdings, and will help resource our Stage Two display scenarios, and our many forthcoming education programmes, studio projects and community interactions.

Sample of community talks, tours and engagements (March)

Heritage Month Community Events (x 3), Gallery Floor-Talks (x 1), Gore District Historical Society, Akorn Tours, Menzies College, Insight Tours, Clan McKenzie, Alpine Classic Tour, APT Tours, PPG Cruises, Mōa Tours (x 5), Kirra Tours (x 2), Pounamu Tours.

Meetings and representations

Hokonui Rūnanga, Southland Regional Heritage Committee, Great South, Southland Museum & Art Gallery.

3. REPORT FROM GORE VISITOR CENTRE – MARCH 2024

Summary for March

The Gore Visitor Centre (GVC) typically captures those travelling between Dunedin and Te Anau as the mid-point between the two locations. They are seeking eateries and things to do while here which supports the wider community. Feedback is always positive with most finding the town was not what they expected and numerous comments about how it is a very attractive and well cared for town.

March has been steady with a number of tours through this month by both regular companies plus some additional ones. This also supports recent media articles reporting an increased popularity in travelling during 'shoulder season'. Typically, December to February are favoured months for travelling in New Zealand.

Long term regulars 'Moa Tours' brought an additional three groups through as part of its Warbirds Over Wanaka package trip. The District Arts and Heritage Curator hosted a large group of classic car enthusiasts with approximately 40 cars and almost 100 people. Both of these resulted in excellent sales.

APT Tours has previously visited spontaneously with time to fill in its schedule. The driver was so impressed he had told other drivers to do the same thing. APT has now made a formal approach to visit regularly.

Pounamu tours have enquired about the possibility of opening on Sundays next year for 1.5 – 2.0 hours. This will require a discussion with the District Arts and Heritage Curator and the Moonshine Museum Trust to see how this might work.

Intercity bus sale count was 12 for March compared to 16 for February. Quoting for travel at times is intensive for the staff. This mostly occurs with those needing quotes for WINZ to attend funerals in the North Island. This takes significant coordination with buses only going as far as Christchurch in a single day and limited ferry sailing times. Those driving and wanting to take cars on the ferry at short notice are frequently limited to the least popular sailing times.

March 2024 revenue (incl tax) was up 42% on March 2023.

Gore Visitor Centre	February 2024	March 2024
Number of sales	368	409
Items sold	707	841
Revenue (incl gst)	\$17,956.00	\$20,069.68
Revenue change %	Up 81% on same period 2023	Up 42% on same period 2023

