



Community Services Bulletin

January 2024

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

Visual arts initiatives

Exhibition programme

Our major Gallery exhibitions for November to January were **Bev Moon – Fortune** and **Edward Bullmore – the London Years**. Both presentations drew significant public interest, given the strong local connections of both artists. The Gallery also hosted a team of printmakers from around the country during October, when Frans Baetens and Magda van Gils from Muka Studio conducted a special lithography workshop. Artist **Bev Moon** presented a very well attended floor-talk on 10 November to celebrate the opening of **Fortune**.

Performance and event programme

- **Whirimako Black – In concert** (14 November)
- **Jon Saunders – In concert** (21 November)

The Gallery's permanent collection was the subject of two significant events during November. Dunedin Public Art Gallery's major retrospective exhibition of artist **Marilynn Webb** featured 31 works selected from our holdings. Staff were also invited to deliver a public floor talk at the opening event. Celebrated curator **Gregory O'Brien** spent several days working on a new thematic re-hang of the **Ralph Hotere Gallery**.

November and December also saw staff install two temporary exhibitions at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre – Mandeville:

- **Suzanne Emslie – Sculptures** (November)
- **Allan Thompson – Landscape Paintings** (December)

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 **\$120,000** 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. The **'Hokonui'** theme attracted sufficient interest for its storylines and products to be a feature of the opening event for the National Digital Forum at Te Papa during November.

Stage Two – Māruawai Centre Development

Progress is pleasing with the redevelopment of premises at **7 Norfolk Street**. We now have a fully enclosed building, and we are obviously pleased with the completed interior lining and structural fit-out. All electrical, plumbing, and HVAC service installation is also complete. The main toilet block has been successfully lined, painted, and fitted out, and floor-covering is in place. 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 and former library

building to house back-up working space, auxiliary archive, and research facilities. Exterior work is progressing 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 a good number of tours, special interest groups, school parties and community organisations over the early summer months. 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 Runanga. 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 (November – January):

Gallery Floor-Talks (x 2), Gore High School, Great South, Southland Dahlia Club, Gore District Historical Society, Clan McRae, Moa Tours (x 7), Kirra Tours (x 2), Pounamu Tours (x 2), Silver Cruises (x 2), NZ Art Tours, PowerNet management and staff.

Meetings and representations

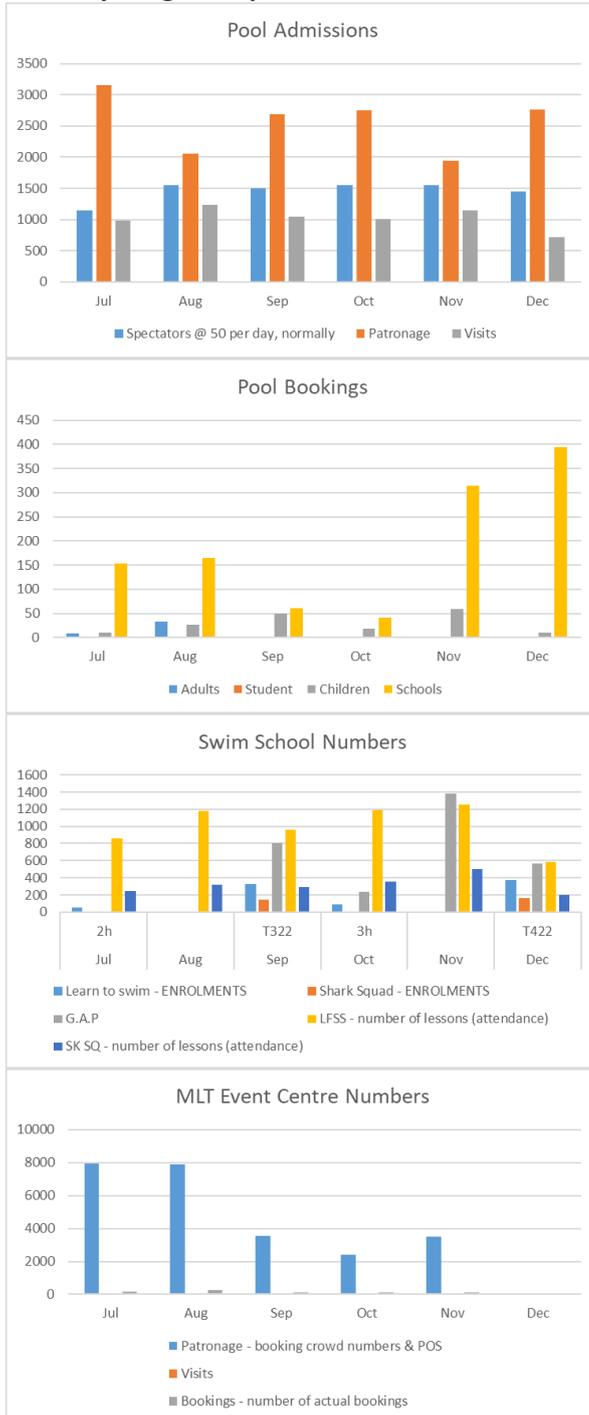
Hokonui Runanga, Southland Regional Heritage Committee, Great South, Creative NZ, Southland Museum & Art Gallery.

2. REPORT FROM AQUATIC SERVICES MANAGER (Martin Mackereth)

Admissions to the Gore Multisports complex

 Facility user numbers and information 2023/2024													
	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Pool days open	31	31	30	31	30	29							182
POOL	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Spectators @ 50 per day, normally	1150	1550	1500	1550	1550	1450							8750
Patronage	3156	2053	2693	2755	1940	2762							15359
Visits	986	1230	1049	1006	1149	722							6142
Sub-Total													0
Bookings	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Adults	9	33				1							43
Student		2											2
Children	10	27	50	19	59	10							175
Schools	154	165	61	41	314	394							1129
Sub-Total	173	227	111	60	373	405	0	0	0	0	0	0	1349
													0
Pool Total	173	227	111	60	373	405	0	0	0	0	0	0	1349
SWIM SCHOOL & SK SQ	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Term code counted	2h		T322	3h		T422	4x		T123	1h		T223	
Learn to swim - ENROLMENTS	50		328	91		372							841
Shark Squad - ENROLMENTS			149			160							309
G.A.P			804	241	1384	564							2993
LFSS - number of lessons (attendance)	856	1178	963	1187	1251	583							6018
SK SQ - number of lessons (attendance)	248	323	291	359	499	199							1919
Swim School Total	1104	1501	2058	1787	3134	1346	0	0	0	0	0	0	10930
Stadium days open	31	31	30	31	30	29							182
STADIUM	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
Patronage - booking crowd numbers & POS	7951	7906	3560	2384	3522								25323
Visits	19	13	27	36	30	14							139
Bookings - number of actual bookings	173	244	136	96	125								774
Stadium Total	7970	7919	3587	2420	3552	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	25462
Pool days open Total	182	Swim School needs to be term and holiday numbers only to avoid double ups											
Stadium days open Total	182	(light green area indicates term roughly so only one lot of numbers here)											

Monthly usage comparison



Current challenges

Staffing change over

It is the time of year that we farewell team members who are heading off to University and look to fill the vacancies. The switch over happens throughout the month of February however we need to start early to get training in as it takes a month to two to get a Lifeguard trained.

We still have the same challenge as last year in getting weekend workers to cover poolside and are working with other pools who have the same challenges to see what we can do and try to get a plan together to overcome this issue.

Operation issues

We had a contactor burn out for the operation of pump four which only affects the delivery of the glycole to the ice slab to cool it down. This meant that the ice slab lost the surface and could not be used for a day while an electrician repaired the contact and checked the rest of the system. It has highlighted, as we predicted, that the board needs to be replaced, and is part of the ongoing replacement of sub-boards that has been planned over the next three years. However, this one is a priority, and needs to be replaced as soon as we can given its age and the level of importance to maintain the ice slab.

Independent review of air handler and chiller system

This process has commenced with the successful firm making its first site visit towards the end of December. They are also currently working through the as built information and operations manuals and will contact Set Point for BMS information. Once this has been complied with, we will have our report and recommendations.

Effects of tight disposable income

With people still in the grips of the cost of living crisis we know this affects the pool in several ways. Often, we see a drop in learn to swim and an increase in general swimming admissions. At this stage, we are not seeing too much change, however it is something that we need to highlight and keep in mind as we track forward.

Future improvements

Disability hoist replacement

We are currently looking into improvements for our disability user and this is currently in two main areas. First, the wheels on the current wheelchairs are made in two pieces and have been coming apart so we are looking for a single molded wheel which we will trial to see if it provides more reliability to our wheelchairs.

Secondly, we are looking into replacement options for our hoist at the spa pool end of the complex. We currently have one that works off water pressure and one that works off battery, We have suppliers working on several options.

Facility interaction

Interaction with groups, clubs, and organisations

- The Stadium Operations Manager has been a huge driver in the implementation of Pickleball throughout the South Island. He currently sits on the NZ Pickleball board and has now organised several local competitions with the last one bringing in competitors from all around southland and Otago. This is an area we are looking to develop more in partnership with the Gore Pickleball Club.
- The Aquatic Services Manager is still working with Sport NZ in the disability space for community users both locally and through out the industry in NZ.
- The Stadium Operations Manager has started his booking process for the 2024 season and is currently working with all the club users to get the space they need for their trails/ training and season needs.

3. REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY MANAGER (Emma Sherie)

The festive season



December was a busy month as we celebrated the festive season here at the Gore District Libraries. This included a Christmas story time, Christmas card making for both children and teens. We also had two evenings of Christmas carols in the last week before Christmas which gave our local musical artists a chance to perform for the local community.



We were closed for the public holidays but opened between Christmas and New Year and the feedback from the community who used the services was very positive. Customers weren't just issuing books but using much needed computer access to complete documentation, contact loved ones and pay bills, proving what an essential resource libraries are. We also had many people who were visiting the area come in to view the wonderful new space.



Summer Reading Challenge

Our Summer Reading Challenge for children kicked off on 1 December. We have had over 143 children sign up and as 22 January, over 829 books had been read. Library staff are enjoying discussing what children are reading when they come to check in.

Story Walk



Gore Main School has written a wonderful StoryWalk® about its room 9 classroom mascot, Jimmy, going on an adventure in Māruawai with his friend Iwa. They had the opportunity to show off their hard work to the Mayor. This also made the Otago Daily Times: <https://www.odt.co.nz/southland/the-ensign/pupils-write-illustrate-second-story-walk-book>

November and December Library statistics

Door count

Total door count	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	7039	8231
Aug	7140	7680
Sept	6492	7141
Oct	6719	7287
Nov	6274	6970
Dec	5529	5212

*23/24 Dec stats are down as the library was closing in 22/23 and there was a rush to stock up on books.

Issues – (this does not include renewals)

Issues	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	7534	10801
Aug	7112	10012
Sept	6752	9404
Oct	6891	8589
Nov	6768	8250
Dec	9033	7265

*Dec 22/23 issues were high because library was closing for 3 months.

WiFi connections

Wi-Fi connections	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	1266	2138
Aug	1636	2325
Sept	1455	2251
Oct	1489	2380
Nov	1509	2314
Dec	1268	1912

Our computers

Computer usage	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	339	600
Aug	373	580
Sept	348	582
Oct	380	615
Nov	361	587
Dec	280	510

Signups

Signups	2022-2023	2023-2024
July	41	141
Aug	32	106
Sept	39	72
Oct	28	84
Nov	31	59
Dec	23	44

4. REPORT FROM THE SENIOR EVENTS COORDINATOR (Jessica Swan)

Christmas Carnival and Parade

The Christmas Carnival and Parade was a great success despite some sporadic rain showers throughout the day which may have discouraged a few people from attending.

Approximately 2,500 to 3,000 people attended the day and a post-event feedback survey returned 48 responses from suppliers, vendors and attendees. Significantly, **33.34%** of attendees were from outside the District.

Survey results identified:

- 66.67% of attendees were from the Gore District, 10.42% from Southland, 18.75% were from Invercargill and 4.17% were from Clutha
- 70.83% attended the event with their family
- 60.42% of attendees went to both the parade and carnival
- 22.92% only went to the carnival and 16.67% only went to the parade
- 62.50% of respondents found out about the event through social media
- 60.42% of people stayed for more than two hours
- 69.44% of respondents said their favourite part of the parade was the decorated floats
- 42.86% said their favourite part of the carnival was the free rides, followed by 28.57% food and 11.43% entertainment
- Overall, the event received 76 out of 100 for enjoyment

This feedback demonstrates the importance of events within our community, especially when we're able to provide an all of family experience for free.



On the Fly Mataura River Festival

This year, the On the Fly Mataura River Festival will be returning to its original location of River Terrace on Sunday 25 February.

In 2023, the event focused entirely on fly-fishing as the attraction, which didn't quite deliver the desired impact on the community. Therefore, we're returning to a community event-driven approach this year, focusing on key elements that will make for a great day out. Those elements are:



- Fly fishing
- Food trucks
- Free kids entertainment
- Live music
- Dog-friendly
- Alcohol

Pending a successful liquor licence application, the aim is to establish a small “beer garden” at the event. So far, two micro breweries have expressed interest in attending. If it’s a nice sunny day, this element will be the perfect addition to the event, appropriate for the location and completely fitting within the “festival” namesake.

Parks Week

Planning for Parks Week 2024 has now begun, with ideas centring around a one-day event on Saturday 2 March in Tulloch Park, Maitland.

While this is a different approach from previous years, a one-day event will be an excellent way to use the various facilities at the park and fully maximise its usage in line with the initiative's goals.

5. REPORT FROM GORE VISITOR CENTRE

Visitors and sales

It was noticeably busy in the Gore Visitor Centre in November and December with sales figures supporting this. Overall sales revenue (including GST) for November was up 67% on the same period in 2022. For December sales revenue was up 100% on the previous year.

Some of this can be attributed to Hokonui Moonshine Museum visits. However, a sales breakdown shows the visitor centre's core stock sales in December were up 114% compared to consignment/agency sales, which were up 79% on the same period last year.

This period has included additional tours from the cruise ships docking in Bluff. Passengers can choose a coach option with one company covering the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre then moonshine museum, and the other going to the moonshine museum and Eastern Southland Gallery.

Most independent tourists staff dealt with were coming/going for trips in Doubtful and Milford sounds. Intercity bus ticket sales were November in 24 and 13 for December.

In November, the visitor centre received a substantial order for corporate gift boxes as the clients were seeking something unique to Southland. The visitor centre is establishing a reputation for stocking Southland produce, which aligns with Great South's agribusiness focus. Visitors are grateful to find an offering that is different from other visitor and I-site centres.

In December a combination of unsolicited positive feedback about customer service, the range of products and promotion through the Council's social media resulted in an increase in local customers. Most were looking for Christmas gifts and were very complimentary about the offering and presentation.



Facebook feedback



Christmas merchandising

Gore Visitor Centre	November 2023	December 2023
Number of sales	326	329
Items sold	994	831
Revenue (incl GST)	\$21,036	\$19,136
Revenue change %	Up 67% on same period 2022	Up 100% on same period 2022

6. REPORT FROM PARKS AND RECREATION MANAGER (Keith McRobie)

December is always a busy month for the Parks Operations Team and more so this time with two unfilled staff vacancies for the whole period.

The area we have struggled the most with has been weed spraying and this role is still vacant. We have used existing staff and contractors to try to bridge the gap particularly with high profile sites in Gore and Mataura.

We are hoping to fill one of our vacancies with an experienced person who will focus on playgrounds, attending CRMs and working as a back-up cemetery worker.

Update on some of the ongoing and future projects:

Playgrounds and structures

The new half court at Oxford Street playground had its official opening with an Active Southland and Eastern Basketball run 3 on 3 mini basketball tournament in early December. The event was fully funded by a Temanawa Fund grant and had good local support.

We are still waiting for our contractor to install play units in Bannerman Park, Ingram Place and Dolamore Park and expect this to happen in January.

Tulloch Park Stage 2 development

We received confirmation of the final funding application from Lotteries in early December. This means we now have a project budget of \$1.086 million, The bulk of the funds are from external funding sources with \$70k coming from the Council carry-over funding from Stage 1.

An order was placed with Exceloo to supply a new toilet/change and utility room building. The lead time for this is approximately three months and delivery and installation by a local contractor is expected in late February.

The project team is now looking at the final part of the project the supply and install of the Splash Pad. It is hoped that priced design concepts will be available by mid February for the project group to consider and finalise.

Gore Gardens

The gardens teams main focus was getting the site ready for the Christmas Festival which, despite the cooler weather, was another successful day.

The focus since then has been to install dripper irrigation lines into two of the long borders. We are using the same dripper line that was installed around the new library. It is more efficient and less problematic than most other irrigation systems.

A&P Showgrounds irrigation

The new irrigation system was 98% completed as at the end of December with the remaining work around automation and PLC connections to be completed in January. The main grass oval has 42 full or half circle pop-up sprinklers and the SEPT sand/treadlite arena has six large gear driven sprinklers around the perimeter. Waterforce has been the main supply contractor and its irrigation design has been based on work it has undertaken at the National Equestrian Centre in Christchurch. The gear driven sprinklers are very impressive to watch and are virtually silent in operation.

The project has been funded by the Council from the current LTP and a \$20,000 contribution from both the SEPT and Joint Management user groups.

Community engagement

We have been actively engaging with various groups, clubs, and organisations, including attending consultations, workshops, and meetings. We have met with the East Gore NPS group, and Active Southland