

Ensign newspaper April 2008

As we head into another busy year I thought it would be a good time to pause and look at some of the many positive things that have happened or are going to happen in the near future in our district. We have all enjoyed a fantastic summer and while it has been hard on livestock in certain areas, the farmers I have spoken to still enjoy the pleasant living conditions. We can go into the winter feeling revitalised and ready for the challenges ahead.

We are fortunate to live in a progressive district where we enjoy support from the Council, Maitua Licensing Trust, the Community Trust of Southland and many more organisations that have ensured we have a town that not only looks beautiful but also has first class venues and facilities.

Jim Geddes recently won a top national award for individual museum excellence at the Museums Aotearoa awards against competition from entrants representing museums & galleries from throughout New Zealand. We held our AGM at the St James Theatre and were treated to a tour of the new Fly Tower project which when completed will be another fantastic facility for us to enjoy bringing both cultural and business benefits to Gore.

At a time when other areas of the country are experiencing a down turn we are experiencing growth. Just this week the papers have reported that building consents continue to be strong, that property prices are holding up and I've had contact with two new businesses coming to town. The industries and activities happening on our doorstep are investing for the long term and if managed correctly can only be good for the District.

It was great to see the senior council staff come out and publicly support the council, their working environment and the CEO. We have achieved so much and we need to stay focused on the positive happenings. People are sick and tired of hearing about the perceived negative internal politics. Let's promote Gore in the most positive light that we can. The hard work put in by everyone over recent years has laid an excellent foundation for us to build on. Gore is a great district to live in and to do business in.

I am looking forward to working with the new chamber executive committee who will bring fresh ideas and continue the good work of the previous committees as we promote positive business in Gore.

Remember it is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.

John Wilson

Chairman Eastern Southland Committee- Chamber of Commerce

