

# What did Council do for us last year?

E nga iwi e nga mana e nga karanganga maha huri noa te Rawhiti, tena koutou, a tena tatau katoa.

Last year Gisborne District Council collected \$42M in rates from you our ratepayers. We also spent a lot of time asking you what we should be working on over the next ten years and including this in our plans. Now we are reporting back to you on what your rates paid for in the last year and how we may have touched your life.

We are responsible for protecting our local environment and building infrastructure for future generations while providing for your more immediate needs. We have been balancing these needs while working on more long term projects including the wastewater treatment plant - Council's largest project of our time. It started out as an \$85M plant at the airport and now we have a consented plant at Banks Street with a budget of \$45M. That also means that the current milliscreeing site near the iconic Midway beach can soon be cleared.

If you want more details on the work Council did on behalf of this district, how our activities were funded and what our balance sheet looks like, you can pick up a copy of our full Annual Report or a summary of the Annual Report from our Customer Service Centres in Te Puia Springs or Fitzherbert Street. Both documents are also available on our website [www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz).

Meng Foon  
Mayor

1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



## How did Council protect our environment?



- Council helped to stop our hill country from slipping away by providing advice and tree planting plans to landowners as part of the Sustainable Hill Country Project.
- A whopping 52 tonnes of your computer waste was collected and appropriately disposed of during eDay.
- More than 200 of your homes were made warmer and healthier through the Healthy Homes Project.
- Restrictions were placed on the use of “at risk” land in Tokomaru Bay. We don’t want you to build a house in this area if there is a chance it may be lost to the sea.
- A “Working with Wetlands” booklet was produced to help landowners restore the ecology of their wetlands and waterways.
- Council continues to work in collaboration with DOC, landowners, QEII Trust and Tangata Whenua to restore the ecology of Wherowhero Lagoon.
- Rooks (crows) were prevented from becoming established in the district saving seed crops and top soil.

## What happened near our place?



- A new grandstand was built at Tokomaru Bay.
- A skate ramp in Patutahi Park was launched in the company of 90 kids who turned up to try out the new ramp.
- Te Araroa had a main street upgrade. New street lights, pavers and litter bins were installed. A new toilet block is next.
- Tikitiki has gone green. The old burn pits are gone and residents can recycle and deposit their rubbish at a safe, secure, environment friendly transfer station.
- Council has joined forces with government agencies and two Ruatoria based trusts to protect Ruatoria from a major flood and the effects of erosion.
- Stock and their effluent will no longer be seen in the streets of Ruatoria. A strip of land between the township and the river has been purchased as a stock route.
- Seven “Live on the Lawn” free family concerts were held over summer with music ranging from 1970s classic rock to 1930s jazz.

## What has Council done to ease our rates burden?



- Land developers are now required to contribute to the cost of upgrading parks, roads, water supply, wastewater and stormwater management around their developments.
- The amount of money needed for the new wastewater treatment plant has been reduced. All “nice-to-have” projects are delayed until the economy has picked up.
- Staff have committed to taking \$1M out of Council’s operating budget. Already \$216,000 has been saved on the cost of Council’s insurance.
- Rate rebates that cut up to \$550 from your rates bill were actively promoted. 1,820 ratepayers received rebates worth \$909,876.
- Ratepayers were encouraged to use “easy pay” - the easy way to pay rates. \$3.25M in rates were paid weekly, fortnightly or monthly by direct debit.
- A community funders’ forum was held to match projects you want with potential funders because we can’t fund them alone. Several projects and organisations look like being a good fit.
- To make it easy to interact with Council a new website - [www.gdc.govt.nz](http://www.gdc.govt.nz) - was launched in April. The site proved its worth in the recent floods when over two days 3500 people checked out the latest news, road conditions and river levels.

## What did Council do to keep us safe?



- 61 potentially dangerous dogs were impounded and no major personal injuries from dog attacks were reported.
- Council staff and rural fire volunteers attended more than 100 call outs during the hot, dry month of February.
- Council staff and contractors worked hard to keep our 1,826km of roads (not including state highways) open, safe and accessible. 74 kilometres of roads were resealed, 16 kilometres improved and approximately 500 slips cleared including 150 major slips.
- 6km of the notoriously unstable Waimata Valley Road was sealed. The remaining 7km will be sealed this year.
- Logging vehicles from the inner harbour were diverted so that this area can be developed. The \$6M Rakaiaatane Road project was funded by the New Zealand Transport Agency, Eastland Group and Council.
- A cycling advisory group was formed to look at ways to make Gisborne a more cycle friendly city by improving cycle safety and educating road users.

## What's been done to improve the places where we play?



- At Watties wharf, the popular fishing spot in Reads Quay, wooden decking and seating was installed.
- The city walkway along the Turanganui riverbank was extended so that cyclists and walkers can enjoy it. By the Waikanae Creek a large koru pattern was incorporated into the paving.
- Two senior sized soccer fields were created at Watson Park, bringing to three the number of all-weather fields of a standard that can accommodate senior level football matches.
- Drainage was installed at two soccer fields in Nelson Park. The toilets at Heath Johnston and Wainui Reserves were upgraded and showers installed.
- New swings were installed and the safety surfaces improved in the Abbott Street Reserve, the Adventure Playground, Ayton Park and Waikanae Beach Reserve.
- Exotic trees and noxious plants were removed and replaced with natives on Titirangi Reserve, (also known as Kaiti Hill).
- New outdoor furniture, playground equipment and car parking facilities were installed in Anzac Park and Wainui Lysnar Reserve.

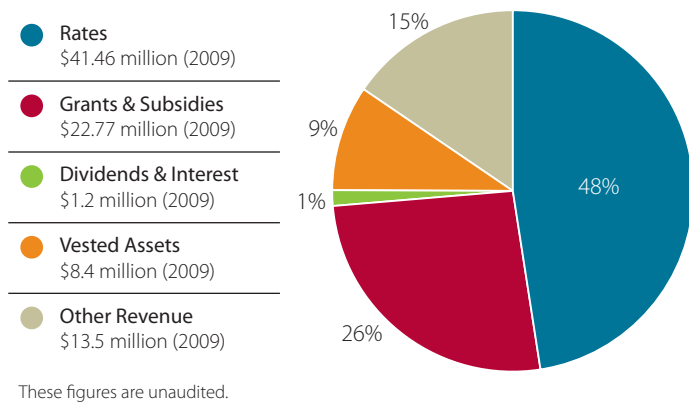
## Are Council facilities being used?



- The Council owned Rockforte Finance Olympic Pool Complex had more users than ever before; a record 158,034 visits last year.
- The Tairāwhiti Museum and Art Gallery is funded by Council and is one of the country's premier regional museums. Last year it held the regional history exhibition Watersheds: Ngā Wai Pupū. It also hosted the Museums Aotearoa National Conference that drew 120 participants from around New Zealand and overseas.
- By working with promoters more touring groups used the Lawson Field, War Memorial and Outdoor Theatres to entertain you.
- Everyone in our community can now access broadband internet for free at the HB Williams Memorial Library and at no cost to the ratepayer. Through the Aotearoa People's Network computers were installed in the Library and an increasing number of you are using this service.
- Good progress has been made towards establishing a Community House where small to medium-sized community organisations and social service providers can operate a one-stop-shop for information, advice and services.
- Our mobility car parks are being reserved for those who need them. Those who do not have a mobility sticker to display have avoided them since they were painted a bright distinctive blue.

# Financial overview

## Where did Council's money come from?



## What were some of the big ticket items?

	\$M
Regional Development Rooding	\$6.8
Road Resurfacing, Pavement Rehabilitation & Minor Improvements	\$6.5
Purchase Wastewater Treatment Plant Site at Banks Street	\$2.5
Footpaths & Carparks	\$1.1
Wastewater Treatment Plant Design	\$1.1
Turanganui Walkway	\$0.6
Other	\$6.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$24.7</b>

These figures are unaudited.

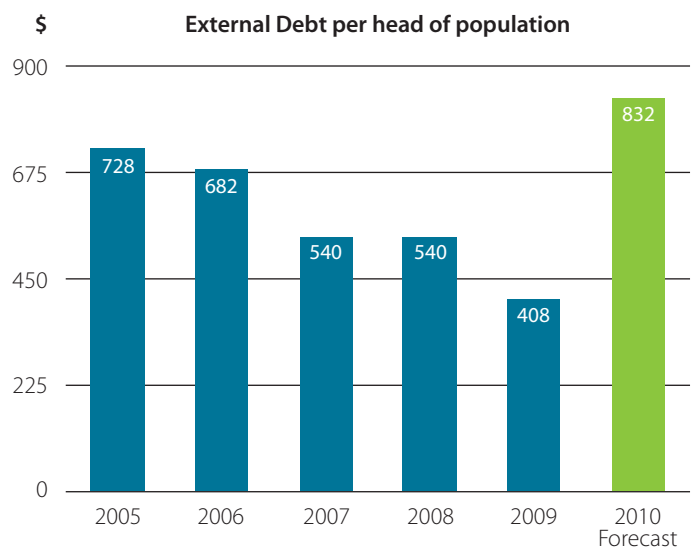
## Where did our money go?

Based on an average Gisborne City Residential Rateable Property Capital Value \$221,357 | Land Value \$108,004 | Area 0.800Ha

Activity	Amount Incl GST
Water, Wastewater and Stormwater	\$711
Recreation & Leisure Activities	\$297
Rooding	\$274
Rubbish Collection, Recycling & Transfer Stations	\$215
Wastewater Plant Capital Contribution	\$175
Democratic Process & Consultation	\$118
Treasury & Administration	\$110
Regulatory Services	\$86
Public Amenities	\$56
Planning	\$49
Conservation	\$36
Rivers & Flood Control	\$26
Community Development	\$16
Tourism & Economic Development	\$11
Emergency Services	\$11
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,191</b>

These figures are unaudited.

## Is Council being careful with our money?



External debt is the money owed by Council to banks and other financial institutions. Debt per head of population is forecast to increase significantly in 2010 due to the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The plant is scheduled to be completed in 2011. These figures are unaudited.

## How do we compare to other places?

	Gisborne District Council		Nelson	Tasman	Marlborough
	2009 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2008 \$'000	2008 \$'000
Total Operating Income	81,795	60,989	68,346	77,243	88,974
Income from Rates	41,457	38,894	40,819	41,236	41,933
Total Operating Expenditure	69,082	64,175	59,893	69,652	67,538
Total Liabilities	32,115	36,988	50,115	93,543	15,881
Total Assets	1,762,204	1,724,691	1,075,812	1,086,308	972,710
External Debt	18,150	24,000	36,435	77,263	0

Gisborne District Council is one of only four unitary councils in New Zealand. A unitary council combines the functions that regional councils and territorial councils do in other regions. Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough are the three other unitary councils whose residents, like ours, pay just one rate. They have been included for comparison, but socio-demographic differences exist. These figures are unaudited.