

# THE WIRE

## Gore District Memorial RSA (Inc.)

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April 2026

Newsletter

Issue 77

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### **GORE RSA PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Hello everyone, I hope everyone has had a safe and happy Xmas / New Year and hit the ground running with 2026.

The year has started with some ups and downs both locally and nationally with RNZRSA winning a legal challenge at the high court over the adoption of the new constitution. Needless to say, these types of actions do nothing for the reputation of the organisation and chew up valuable resources and money that could be better put to helping veterans.

As an Association we have also had a number of challenges from inside and outside of the organisation. These have been investigated fully and found to be unwarranted, untrue and vexatious in nature. I think it timely to remind our members the core role of the RSA is support, remembrance and advocacy of veterans and their families as good community members. Rumour and speculation have far reaching and negative effects in the RSA and also the community. We have a great organisation with amazing staff and members that we should be proud of. If anyone hears of such rumours or slander please inform me, Steve or one of the executive committee immediately.

We have a busy period coming up with the RSA national bowls tournament to be held in March followed by ANZAC day then the Tussock Country week in May. These events and others like it bring a large variety of people not only to Gore but through our doors. We are lucky to be major sponsors for such events and look forward to supporting community events like it in the future. This support keeps us in the community eye and can be seen in the support we receive.

In the military space the area is expected to host two major military exercises this year from both regular force and territorial force soldiers. We hope to see them within the RSA and hope to get some school and community involvement with them. These events are few and far between down here so show them our support where possible.

We have welcomed some new staff members to the team and continue to receive outstanding service from our staff. The quality of meals from the kitchen has been superb with a number of great comments received by both members and visitors. On behalf of the membership, I would like to thank all staff for their efforts. It is greatly appreciated.

Again, thank you for your support as members you make the RSA the place it is. If you know of anyone who needs our help please get in touch with an executive or staff member. The RSA is open 7 days a week if you need help or know of anyone who needs help it is only a call away. I wish everyone the best of luck for the rest of the year. Keep warm, stay safe and I'll see you around the club soon.

Bradley Bridgman  
President  
Gore & District Memorial RSA



## OTAGO/SOUTHLAND DISTRICT SUPPORT MANAGER

### NIALL SHEPHERD

#### Attention Service, ex-service, police & families.

- Struggling to adjust back to civilian life?
- Having health or stress issues possibly resulting from your service?
- Is your family life suffering?
- Finding it hard to make financial ends meet?

Our Support Advisor, based in Dunedin is available to help make those BIG problems smaller. Grant funding, referrals to appropriate agencies and services, advocacy and advice are just some of the support services available.

Contact 0800 664 888 or email [DSM.Otago@rsa.org.nz](mailto:DSM.Otago@rsa.org.nz) for help



*"A man is walking through the woods, and he spots a suitcase along the side of the trail. Inside the suitcase, he finds a mother fox and her three cubs. He immediately calls animal control to report what he found. 'Oh my gosh, that's terrible,' the animal control worker said, 'Are they moving?' 'I'm not exactly sure,' the man replied, 'but I guess that would explain the suitcase.'"*

*"An old man is lying on his deathbed, reflecting on his wonderful life and surrounded by family. He then smells his favourite cake being baked in the kitchen. He tells his son, 'Please go get a slice of the cake from your mom. It would be a perfect final memory.' The son leaves for a moment and then returns empty-handed and says, 'She said the cake is for the wake.'"*

*A blonde and a redhead have a ranch. They have just lost their bull. The women need to buy another but only have \$500. The redhead tells the blonde, "I will go to the market and see if I can find one for under that amount. If I can, I will send you a telegram." She goes to the market and finds one for \$499. Having only one dollar left, she goes to the telegraph office and finds out that it costs one dollar per word. She is stumped on how to tell the blonde to bring the truck and trailer. Finally, she tells the telegraph operator to send the word "comfortable." Sceptical, the operator asks, "How will she know to come with the trailer from just that word?" The redhead replies, "She's a blonde so she reads slow: 'Come for ta bull.'"*



# Air Training Corps 28 SQN Gore

**IF YOU'RE PASSIONATE ABOUT  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, LEADERSHIP,  
OR AVIATION, WE'D LOVE TO HEAR  
FROM YOU.**

We're looking for enthusiastic people who are interested in supporting the next generation of youth through the Gore Air Cadets. No prior military or aviation experience is required — just a willingness to learn and support our young people.

**MAKE A REAL DIFFERENCE  
IN THE COMMUNITY**

**CONTACT SHANE MULQUEEN**  
[shane.mulqueen@cadetforces.org.nz](mailto:shane.mulqueen@cadetforces.org.nz)





## GORE RSA OUTDOOR BOWLS

The Bowling season is nearing an end, one more Saturday interclub game to play and some local tournaments to go.



All our tournaments have been completed. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November was the Gore and Districts Memorial RSA Triples elimination. This was won by Darren Broome, Gwyn Davis and Micheal Voss.



The Silver Fern Farms Christmas Optional fours were held on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and was one by the team of Craig Bradbury, Thomas Cockerill, Lisa Clarkin and Cameron Boyes.



January 11<sup>th</sup>, we held our promotion tournament, and the winning team was Bruce Hellier, John King, Scott Hellier and Stewart Hamlin

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February we held the Gloria Fiske Memorial Triples, and the winning team was Mark Kubala, David Taylor and Ken Lloyd.



Our 2day Fives tournament was held on the weekend of 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February and although we only had 14 teams it was still a very successfully tournament. The winning team was Tony Cockerill, Terry Lynch, Jamie Lynch, Darren Broome and Aaron Tribe.

On March 16th,17th and 18th March we hosted the RNZRSA national triples tournament with 32 teams entered from Kaitaia to Matura. A very successful event and the northerners all went home with great memories of the Gore RSA and the town in general. A special thanks to Steve for organising this event. The winning team was the local players from Gore RSA Bowling Club of Noel Ryan, Phillipa Holland and Tony Holland. Winners of the Consolation Event were the team from The Far North skipped by Denis Doak.



A special congratulations goes out to the winners of the Eastern women’s triples championship June Ryan, Lynda Gardyne and Rose Graves. Emma Hanley was runner up in the Southland Champion of Champions singles as well as getting a bronze medal representing Southland at the national inter club championships. The men also had a great result reaching the semi-finals of the Southland interclub seven’s tournament. I would like to congratulate all those members of the club who have won club titles for 2025/26 bowling season. Anyone interested in playing bowls for our club at 10a Ardwick Street, just give John King 0272072337 or Ken White 02102567311. Social membership is also available.

John King  
President



**GORE RSA INDOOR BOWLS**

The Opening night for the Indoor Bowls was held on Tuesday 24th March 2026.

New Members would be most welcome so come along on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm.

Bruce Hellier - President  
0274335205

Margaret Hughes - Secretary  
0272087253



*Q: Is Google male or female?  
A: Female, because it doesn't let you finish a sentence before making a suggestion.*



**FISHING SECTION**

We had a very successful trip to Lake Hawea in November staying at the Hawea camping grounds. 10 Salmon, 2 rainbow and 2 brown trout were caught over the weekend.

We just had our club trip to the Poolburn Dam staying in the Teviot Angling Club hut.



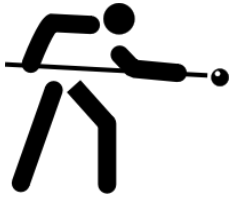
Not a lot of fish were caught but the fish that were caught are massive compared to the fish in the Mataura. The biggest fish caught was a 6lb brown. The Poolburn area is world famous for its scenery, where some of the scenes from The Lord of The Rings were filmed.

We also had our yearly trip out of Bluff on the charter boat Lorado on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March, we were targeting blue cod and trumpeter.



**Wayne Neiman**  
Secretary/Treasurer





## SNOOKER SECTION

Greetings to all,

You will be pleased to know that the snooker section is alive and well! In fact, thriving!

This year will see us host quite a number of events. The first major one on the calendar is April 18 and 19, which is the South Island RSA snooker singles with a field of nearly 50 from as far away as Rangiora. With such a large field we will be utilizing not only our own fantastic facilities but also the T&C along with the Gore Club.

Other major events coming up are The Wattie Gee Memorial tournament and The NZ Heroes tournament.

We also have a new event on our calendar this year, It is the Gore RSA Memorial tournament. This is to honour all of our section members who have passed on. An honours board has been placed on the wall in our snooker room with the names of these men.

A beautiful trophy has been donated by Kevin and Vicky Wright for this event, which was their brainchild.

A huge thanks to them both for their foresight and generosity.

Inter club snooker will be underway in a month or so and our rooms will be humming every Thursday night when it kicks off .

Wednesday afternoon snooker just doesn't stop, going all year round and supported by up to 20 players each time. If you are at all interested, just rock up at 1.00pm any Wednesday and you will be made very welcome.

Finally, a big shout out and a huge thankyou to one of our most contributing snooker section members; Ernie MacManus. Ernie at a ripe young age of 96 has finally decided to step down from our local tournament convening . He has handed those reigns over to Kevin Wright who we are sure will carry on the great work that Ernie has done. Don't worry though you will still see Ernie participating in these events!

Wishing you all well,

Evan Fricker  
Chairman



*"It takes me 10 minutes to walk from my house to the local bar, and it takes me 30 minutes to walk back home...the difference is staggering."*

*My friend told me he had the body of a Greek god.  
I had to explain to him that Buddha is not Greek.*



### SPUD IN A BUCKET COMPETITION

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February the annual weigh-in for the spud in a bucket growing competition was held with 62 buckets making it to the finale. James Barclay made it 3 years in a row as the winner of the biggest crop trophy with his 3.73kg haul. That was a whole kilo heavier than the second placegetter. James also took out the biggest spud trophy as well with his largest spud weighing 505g.

Other prizes were awarded for smallest spud and crop - Dot McDonald (0.19g), Yvonne Couper, Alan and Sheena Ferguson were awarded prizes for having no spuds in their buckets and Leanne and James Hallam won the cheat award for having buckets full of red spuds when the seed was actually white.

Thanks to Alan and Sheena from Gore Mitre 10 for being our sponsors and the \$840 raised was donated to the Invictus Games team. Thanks to Kev for judging the weights, Donna for organising the event and to Richard for cooking the BBQ. And a big thankyou to all who entered and we now look forward to the next event which will get underway in October just after Labour weekend this year.



2025 - 2026 SPUD IN A BUCKET CROP RESULTS			
	Bucket No.	Name	Crop Wgt
1	22	JAMES BARCLAY	3.730
2	2	STEVE BRINSDON	2.730
3	70	DONNA BRINSDON	2.610
4	30	WENDY THWAITES	2.260
5	33	PAM FIVEASH	1.880
6	60	JUDE CAMERON	1.820
7	27	BARRY STEVENSON	1.720
8	15	KEVIN FIVEASH	1.640
9	23	IGGY	1.470
10	44	SARAH BRIDGMAN	1.460



2025 - 2026 SPUD IN A BUCKET SPUD RESULTS			
	Bucket No.	Name	Spud Wgt
1	22	JAMES BARCLAY	0.505
2	70	DONNA BRINSDON	0.476
3	15	KEVIN FIVEASH	0.466
4	2	STEVE BRINSDON	0.413
5	16	RICHIE CHRISTIE	0.338
6	27	BARRY STEVENSON	0.313
7	33	PAM FIVEASH	0.304
8	41	DOLLY	0.291
9	30	WENDY THWAITES	0.290
10	25	ERIC	0.289





### FROM THE OFFICE

We face continual pressure on our prices from breweries, suppliers, delivery costs, and the war in Iran is not making life any easier with the high cost of fuel now starting to bite into our prices. We will be adjusting our meal prices accordingly very soon and the bar will follow as we start to see those increased prices flow through. We've kept them down for as long as we can, so an increase is well overdue.

Rest assured you will still receive the wonderful service our staff are known for as they always strive to go over-and-above to cater to our members needs. It is not always easy to find staff willing to work in hospitality and I think we are extremely lucky with the staff we have at the Gore RSA.



On Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, the Gore RSA hosted 3 other clubs in a 16-team event (4 per sport) battling it out for the inaugural "South of the Waitaki Shield" run by Clubs NZ. Teams arrived from Club Southland, Cromwell T&C and South Otago T&C with the competition run over Pool, Darts, Euchre and the host clubs chosen sport which was Cornhole. At the end a quiz was run, and the total points of all events was tallied to find an overall winner who gets hosting rights for next year.

It was a terrific day, everyone had a lot of fun, and this proves that these sorts of challenges bring out the best in everyone. Had to be pretty stoked with the Gore RSA as they took out 2 of the 4 events as well as the Quiz to be crowned overall champion. Club Southland were second, South Otago T&C third and Cromwell T&C fourth. Thanks to everyone for giving up your time and coming along to represent your club. This is what the club scene is all about so what a great initiative to connect with district clubs. Roll on next year where Gore RSA will host again to try and defend their title.

Club members continue to benefit through their membership and during the last financial year the club gave away nearly \$45,000 to members on our busy Thursday & Friday raffle nights so it really does pay to come to the club on these two nights. We also paid out over \$55,000 in Jingo prizes and this musical bingo style game continues to be very popular on Wednesday nights with well over 100 in attendance at this fortnightly event.

The Tussock festival starts on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May and we have events on every day. Check out the list below. Some are free and some are ticketed events. We have a special licence for the festival allowing visitors to come into the club and enjoy our facilities without the required membership rules applying. It will also be wise to book in on the free event nights to secure a seat if you plan to dine.

There promises to be some great acts during this festival with a lot of talented people playing their part during the 10-day period. The highlight will be our ticketed event of Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May where we have Cooper's Run performing alongside Phil Doublet, Bevan Gardiner and James Davy.

I will finish by thanking all my staff. Be grateful we have wonderful staff here in the club as it has proven difficult to find anyone wanting to work hospitality hours.

Steve Brinsdon – Secretary/Manager



## UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May (Mother's Day)**      **Dene Allen**      **12pm – 2pm & 6pm – 9pm**      **Free event**

\$35 Buffet lunch at 12pm & 5:30pm – Bookings Essential

**Ticket Shows:**      **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June**      **Neil Diamond Tribute Show**      **7pm – 10pm**

Normal Bistro from 5pm. Tickets \$20. On Sale at Gore RSA Only.

<b>Tussock Festival Entertainment: 25<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2026</b>			
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Golden Oldies</b> (Function Room) (Run by GCMC - \$10)	1:30pm	<b>Ticketed event</b>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Walk-up Concert</b> (Main Stage Room)	7:30pm	<b>Free event</b>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Walk-up Concert</b> (Main Stage Room)	1:30pm	<b>Free event</b>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Trad Session</b> (Main Stage Room)	7pm - 9:30pm	<b>Free event</b>
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Jammin at the Razza</b> (Main Club)	2pm - 5pm	<b>Free event</b>
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Jingo – Country Music Theme</b> (Function Room)	7pm	<b>\$20 Entry</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Jammin at the Razza</b> (Main Club)	2pm - 5pm	<b>Free event</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Gold Guitar Auditions</b> (Function Room)	8am start	<b>Ticketed event</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Craig Adams &amp; the Rustlers Band</b> (Main Club)	7:30pm – 10pm	<b>Free event</b>
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Gold Guitar Auditions</b> (Function Room)	8am start	<b>Ticketed event</b>
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Cooper's Run</b> Tickets sold on <a href="http://www.iticket.co.nz">www.iticket.co.nz</a> - \$70 Dinner & Show from 6pm or \$30 Show Only	7:30pm – 10pm	
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May</b>	<b>Gold Guitar Auditions</b> (Function Room)	8am start	<b>Ticketed event</b>