THE WIRE

Gore District Memorial RSA (Inc.)

November 2026 – Xmas Edition Newsletter Issue 78



GORE RSA PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello Members,

It is with great privilege to address you all for the 1st time as your President. It is a position I am really proud to be in.

Things in the club are going well with everyone contributing in one way or another. Now that the new constitution is in place and most of our subbranches have settled on their future direction, we may have sorted things on that front.

A classic example of the clubs' purpose is illustrated in the fact we have been able to donate $10,000 towards the medical welfare of Harvey McQueen, a 5-year boy at St Mary's school whose soldier father Tristan was tragically killed in a car accident in 2022. Harvey was in the car but survived the crash but has developed long term medical issues and has been in and out of Starship hospital. He recently received an expensive bone marrow and faces a long journey ahead. A district wide request for welfare assistance also netted $9,000 from RSAs around Southland and Otago which was a remarkable effort by those concerned and we wish Harvey a speedy recovery.

Our RSA continues to function extremely well with all our sections doing very well. The darts section has been resurrected which is great to see.

The Tin Hat section celebrated its 75th anniversary in September this year which is a grand effort as it is the only Tin Hat still going in the country. The celebration was attended by the NZRSA President Tony Hill and his Vice President Malcolm Wallace. It is fair to say they enjoyed their afternoon (and especially the social hour which followed). They were greatly impressed by our facilities and rated it with the best in NZ. Congratulations and thanks to Tania and her crew for organising such a great celebration which was very well attended.

On the recommendation of your executive at the AGM held in July, Mr William (Billy) Couper was installed as the club Patron. Congratulations Billy – a worthy honour for someone so attached to the club!!

Our RSA continues to support many community organisations and individuals in our area with all being extremely grateful for the financial assistance. Everyone understands that times are tough and costs for most organisations are skyrocketing making things very tough.

My special thanks go to all our wonderful staff in our organisation who excel in their roles. Sometimes trying, sometimes very busy, but ultimately you do a fantastic job.

We must never forget our core function which is the welfare of our returned and service personnel and their families. All these people have made a significant sacrifice for us all. We also do not forget our Associate members for without you we would not still be functioning. Your continuing support allows us to maintain a portion of support for our veterans when needed.

My sincere condolences go to all members who may have lost loved ones over the past year.

Finally, Pam and I would like to extend our best wishes to you all for a safe and happy Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Kevin Fiveash
President
Gore & District Memorial RSA

Introducing our new Support Manager



OTAGO/SOUTHLAND DISTRICT SUPPORT MANAGER

PETER (ROBBO) ROBERTSON

Contact 027 242 2506 or email *DSM.Otago@rsa.org.nz*

Robbo and the RSA, and how did I end up here?

Living just North of Bluff (to be fair, everything is North of Bluff), at Green Hills with my wife Anna and 4 dogs. We've been here about eleven years and really enjoy the people and community spirit. We joined the Bluff RSA the week we arrived and have been involved ever since.

I've been an LSA/DSA for about 8 years, learning the ropes and supporting veterans and their families across the South Island since then. I picked up the RNZRSA Southland District VP role 2-3 years ago (I think I missed a meeting and we all know what happens if you're not there) and I picked up the Bluff RSA Presidents role about 2 years ago (to be fair, I was at that meeting, so I deserved that one).

I've run most of our local memorial services here in Bluff over the last 7-8 years, but it's the veterans and the community that turn up every year, that makes me want to do it.

I stepped into the DSM (volunteer) role on the 2nd of October when Niall Shepherd retired, after supporting Veterans across Otago and Southland for nearly twelve years (an amazing effort from an amazing person).



OUTDOOR BOWLS SECTION

The bowling season for the Gore RSA outdoor bowling club has started for the 2026/2027 year. Frank Lynch our patron sent down the first delivery on Saturday 26th September. The wet spring conditions have been a greenkeepers nightmare.







Success started for the men's fours team of Steve Popham, Ken White, John King, and Mark Kubala winning the Eastern Men's Fours Championship title for only the third time in our club history. The event started in 1940.

Saturday interclub started on 17th October and the Wednesday competition on the 21st of October. We have two teams in each of these competitions.

The Gore RSA elimination tournament was held on Sunday 1st November with the winning Team of Steve Brinsdon, John King and Norman Broome going on to the New Zealand RSA Tournament to be held in March next year in Kaitaia.









Other tournaments that the club are hosting are the Silver Fern Farms optional fours on Sunday 13th December, then our Promotion's day on the 17th of January which includes 2 non-bowlers per team. The Gloria Fisken memorial optional Triples is to be held on Monday 8th February and finally our two-day five's tournament on the weekend of 20th and 21st February 2027.

Anyone interested in taking up our great game please call John King on 0272080437 or you will find us at 10a Ardwick Street.

John King - President.



POOL SECTION

It has been another great year for the Pool section. We have had good turnouts and a lot of fun.

RSA played T&C for the Barry Lemm Memorial trophy for the first time in October. Unfortunately, we did not fare too well but hearing the amount of laughter, a great time was had by all.

Winners for the season were:

Men's Singles:	Dave Stewart.
Ladies Singles:	Donna (Duck) Brinsdon
Drawn Pairs:	Leanne Hallam & Dave Stewart
Scotch Pairs:	Gary Dore & Robbie Heads
Fixed Pairs:	Cam Boyes & Darren (Boysie) Boyes











Thank you all for making our club champs successful. We restart in 2027 on Sunday 21st February. The President for next year is Boysie and Leanne is Vice. You can still come along in between times if you feel like a game. Wishing you all a happy safe Christmas and New Year.

Robbie Heads
President



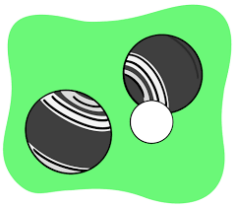
CARD SECTION – Gore RSA Flag 500

Flag 500 is held at the Gore RSA every Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 9:30pm.

Cards will finish for the year on 9th December and will restart on the 10th of February 2027. We welcome new members to come along and join us on Wednesday evenings.

Phyllis Caughey
Convener (208-7501)





INDOOR BOWLS

The 2025 closing night for Indoor Bowls was held on Tuesday 25th August and the following Club Championship Trophies were presented:

Singles: Sean Clement
Pairs: Maree Wallace & Chris Gerken
Triples: Maree Wallace, Sean Clement & Pam Boek
Fours: Bruce Hellier, Russell Johnstone, Brett Phillips & Janice Rhind
Most Improved Player: Sean Clement
Sue Dawe Memorial Trophy (Highest Finishing Ladies Singles) Robyn Hellier.

Robyn & Sean playing with Sheldon & Vinnie won the Eastern Championship Fours.
Robyn Hellier won the Eastern Novice Singles and Robyn & Sean also won the Southland Championship Novice pairs.

Bruce Hellier - President
0274335205

Margaret Hughes - Secretary
0272087253



After the man who created the hokeypokey died, it took a while to get the body in the casket. They put his right foot in. They took his right foot out …

A man went to see his doctor, and the doctor said, "I have some bad news and some worse news." The man asked for the bad news first, and the doctor replied, "You have only 24 hours to live." Gutted, the man said, "That's terrible! Wait a minute—what's the worse news?" The doctor responded, "I should have told you yesterday."

Cremation. My final hope for a smokin' hot body.



MELBOURNE CUP

What a great afternoon Melbourne Cup day brings to the club each year. Another good crowd was on hand to watch the race and join in the activities on the day. Thanks to Donna for organising the bag of goodies on the day as members were tasked with making jockey silks out of a certain number of items before having our own wee race on the day. Such an array of different styles but when the race got underway there was no stopping Jan Campion as she romped to a big victory.









Best dressed filly on the day went to Muriel Hannah & the Best dressed colt went to Miles Campion.









FISHING SECTION

The Fishing Section has had a good 2025/26 fishing season.

We had a fantastic time on the charter vessel Lorado fishing out of Bluff in May. We all managed to catch our limit of blue cod without too much problem and then we spent some time trying to get trumpeter.







Our mid-winter trip to Twizel Thursday 30th July to Sunday 2nd August. The weather was surprisingly good, lots of snow on the mountains making for beautiful scenery. The fishing was tough because the full moon did not help. David Giles caught a huge 22lb brown which was a highlight of the trip.

We all caught fish, but the salmon were small compared to other trips.

We have a club trip to Manapouri November 13th and 14th 2026 and a planned trip coming up as we have the Teviot Angling club hut at Poolburn Dam booked for Thursday 25th, 26th and 27th of February 2027.

Wayne Neiman
Secretary/Treasurer



BUILDING REPORT

Maintenance and Repairs are a continuing item for the club, where even small things if left can become more of an issue than when tackled at the onset.
If you notice anything that you think needs to be bought to our attention please contact the office or myself (0276866392)
We have had a working bee recently and this has taken care of some smaller items. Another will be planned for next year.
I would like to thank Mr Fiveash 😊 for all the small items that he has taken care in regard to painting etc.
We have made a start in fitting a gutter guard to the spouting to prevent the annual buildup of leaves that cause issues in our gutters and will have that complete before next Autumn.
We have some projects we are currently looking at and will share more details when we have completed our assessments.
Wishing you all the best for the coming festive season and hope you all have a safe and relaxing break wherever you may be or go.



GORE RSA TIN HAT REPORT

What a fantastic year it has been for the Gore RSA Tin Hat!

As we look back over the past year, there is certainly plenty to celebrate. It has been a year filled with great fellowship, laughter, friendship and, most importantly, the continued support of our members and the wider community.

One of the absolute highlights of the year was celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Gore RSA Tin Hat Club. What an incredible milestone and an occasion to be truly proud of! The celebrations were nothing short of amazing, with a fantastic turnout and an overwhelming amount of positivity and support. It was wonderful to see so many people come together to celebrate such a special part of our RSA history. The success of the anniversary was a real reflection of what the Tin Hat means to so many people. The enthusiasm, generosity and support shown by everyone involved made the occasion incredibly special. A huge thank you goes to everyone who attended, helped organise, contributed prizes, donated, volunteered, and supported the celebrations in any way. It certainly would not have been the same without you.










Throughout the year, we have continued to enjoy the friendship and camaraderie that makes our Tin Hat so special. It is encouraging to see the enthusiasm and support that continues to keep our section going, and we should all be proud of what we have achieved together.

As the last remaining Tin Hat Club in New Zealand, we have something particularly special to preserve and celebrate. Reaching 75 years is an achievement in itself, and it is now up to us to ensure that this wonderful tradition continues for future generations.

Looking ahead, we have plenty to be positive about. I am excited about what next year will bring and look forward to building on the success of this year. Hopefully, we can continue to encourage new faces to join us, bring along friends and family, and keep the Tin Hat spirit alive and thriving.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has played a part in making this such a successful year. Your support, commitment and enthusiasm are what makes our Tin Hat what it is.

We have had an amazing year, celebrated an incredible milestone, and had plenty of reasons to look forward to the year ahead. Here's to another great year for the Gore RSA Tin Hat!

Tania Lowe – Chairperson



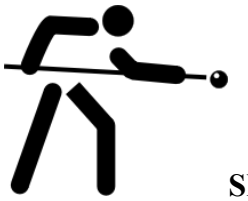
Doc, I can't stop singing the 'Green Green Grass of Home'. He said: "That sounds like Tom Jones syndrome." "Is it common?" I asked. "It's not unusual" he replied.

I'm on a whiskey diet. I've lost three days already.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly. But when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once and for all that you can't have your kayak and heat it.

I saw this bloke chatting up a cheetah; I thought, "He's trying to pull a fast one".

Where do I get my corny dad jokes? I store them in my dad-a-base.



SNOOKER SECTION

Greetings all,

Well, 2026 is quickly coming to an end and boy has it flown !!! Snooker is, as usual, thriving at our club with great usage during the week and quite a number of tournaments being held.

Wednesday arvo snooker continues to be heavily supported all year round which is awesome, and we are seeing a few new faces taking up the sport, also certainly very encouraging. Winter interclub competition is also still going strong with new teams being mooted for next year.

A couple of months ago we held a surprise ceremony for Ernie MacManus. With a guard of honour and some of Ernie's family present I had the privilege of bestowing upon Ernie the 2nd patronage of our snooker section, in appreciation of his service to us . Ernie was the instigator of Wednesday arvo snooker, golden oldies tournaments and many other events. His photo now holds a place on our wall, appropriately alongside his best mate and 1st patron of our section, the Late Watty Gee. At 96 years young , Ernie is still wielding a cue proficiently and is a true inspiration to us all !!

A big thanks to those who helped with our raffle month. We raised a good amount for our section which will enable us to help keep our equipment up to date. And also, a shout out to Kevin and Vicki Wright for maintaining our tables during the year, a very important task.

That's it from me. Wishing you all a merry Xmas and happy and prosperous 2027.

Evan Fricker
Chairman

AIR TRAINING CORPS

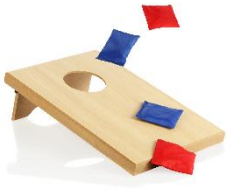
The Gore Air Cadet Squadron has enjoyed a productive and successful year and continues to be a strong, active, and thriving unit.

The Unit Support Committee would like to acknowledge the outstanding leadership and dedication provided by Flight Lieutenant Shane Mulqueen. His commitment to the development and wellbeing of our cadets has been invaluable, and we extend our sincere appreciation for his continued service.

We also wish to thank the Gore RSA for its ongoing support through annual fundraising and its contribution to the Flying Scholarship programme. The annual Anzac Day Parade remains a highlight of the cadet calendar, and it is a privilege for our squadron to participate in and support this important community event.

Throughout the year, 28 Squadron has maintained a high level of engagement and participation, providing cadets with valuable opportunities to develop leadership skills, aviation knowledge, and practical training experience.

No. 28 SQN ATC – Gore



CORNHOLE SECTION

As the year ends I would like to thank all those that come for a go at Cornhole this year.

We have varied in the amount of people we have had this year, but whether there are 4 or 20, we have some great banter and a lot of fun.

If you would like to have a go, we play on Sunday morning at 11am for about an hour and we would love to see more so come along and give it a try, it's not as hard as you think.

We restart in 2027 on Sunday 21st February. Have a great Christmas and New Year break and stay safe.

Robbie Heads



GORE RSA TRAVEL CLUB

As another year comes to an end we have had a mixed bag for the travel section, due to the rising cost of fuel and cost of living crisis, we had to make the tough decision to cancel a couple of the trips as we didn't have enough people to make it viable.

The trips that we have had this year have been very enjoyable and very positive feedback, we started the year by going down the coast and having lunch at Kaka Point and then returning home through the Catlins.

The second trip in March saw us going to Lawrence and coming home via the Manuka Gorge an opportunity to travel through Tuapeka and surrounds.

With winter approaching the May and July trips saw too low of numbers to run, but at a committee meeting we have decided going forward if this were the case we would still invite members to meet up in Gore on that Sunday for a drink and a laugh.

Our last trip in September we went to Wal's Garden Centre in Mosgiel and were lucky to have a nice afternoon to wonder around the gardens (some of us rode the train) and enjoy each other's company.

The final trip of the year is to the Invercargill Working Men's Club for our Christmas lunch, and we are hoping for a great attendance.

We are thankful to be able to do a months' worth of raffles which helps us subsidy the bus which helps our members immensely.

I would like to thank the committee for the phoning around to our members to see who is coming on our trip, our members that attend the trips that we organise and especially our great bus driver Dave that tells us good yarns when we are travelling to places.

We always welcome new members for the six trips a year that we have.

Ross Haslemore
President



FROM THE OFFICE

The year has flown by, and Xmas is just around the corner.

The Gore RSA continues to perform well despite the issues facing all hospitality businesses. The high fuel price has added a premium to everything coming into the building and we have had to add this down the line to pretty much everything we offer.

We raised our prices in the bar at the end of July and in the bistro during June. We regularly have to look at our food offerings every month and will adjust them accordingly if our suppliers increase their costs to us.

Our staff do a great job in difficult trading conditions. Thanks to Shaunee and her team in the bar for their great service. Also, to Anne-Marie who takes care of everything in the office and looks after all our membership matters and keeps on top of the accounts.

Tamara, the Kitchen Manager, along with her able team, have done a great job feeding our members and guests and the comments we regularly hear confirms they are on the top of their game.

Our functions have really taken off again this year as we see repeat business coming through along with recommendations to use our facilities. Thanks to Donna for controlling this area of the club and based on the comments we receive she is doing a great job. The food the kitchen provides for these functions has been top-notch and we are hearing this often.

Thanks to Greg our van driver who doubles as Donna's helper with the function room setups and to our two cleaners, Kelly & Michelle for your efficient tidiness making the place presentable every day.

Our Xmas Promotion has started with 3 great prizes on offer. These will be drawn on Friday 18th December around 6pm. Winners will be notified after this date, and you do not need to be here to win. Good luck to all our members. The prizes can be found on the next page. To enter this draw, purchase any DB products over the bar scanning your membership card in the process.

We are also giving away 4 half hams as part of a 4-week promotion thanks to DB. This will start on Friday 27th November at 6pm and conclude on 18th December. All you need to do to qualify for these draws is to purchase a DB product from 23 November onwards and a different winner will be drawn for each of the four hams.

For the kid's, our annual Members Kid's Christmas Party is being held on Sunday 29th Novermeber at 1:30pm. This year we have Wayne McEwan the Magic Guy performing and the usual Facepainter will be on hand to decorate your faces in preparation for Santa's arrival on the day. Max Age 10. Parents to bring gift for their children and give to Santa to hand out. Register your names on foyer sheet in the club or Message us.

As always, we have some great entertainment coming up to finish off the year. On Saturday 5th December we welcome back our popular Scottish night buffet and music event. This year music is being provided by the Possum Pickers from 7pm. Special appearance by the Hokonui Celtic Pipe Band and the Highland Dancers. Haggis ceremony at 9pm. The two course buffet dinner kicks off from 6pm where adults pay $40 and children pay their age up to 12 years of age. Courtesy Van is available and bookings are required to secure your seat close to the action. This is always a popular night out so do not miss this great annual event. Call (03) 208-6218 to make your booking. Buffet Meal only on this night. Free entry.
We also have another free show on 19th December where we have a terrific musical tribute to Creedence Clearwater Revival from 7pm. Free entry. Bistro bookings to (03) 2086218 Ext 1. The bistro will open at 5:30pm on this night and normal menu applies. The Courtesy van will be running on the night so get a group together and make a great night of it!!!

Rounding out the year we have Father & Son (Jim and Craig Waddell) playing NYE from 7:30pm. The two course buffet dinner kicks off from 6pm where adults pay $40 and children pay their age up to 12 years of age. Courtesy Van is available and bookings are required to reserve your seat.

On behalf of all the staff I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout the year and hope you all have a good Xmas, and we look forward to seeing you back in 2027.

Steve Brinsdon Secretary/Manager



A businessman walks into his office one sweltering summer morning and finds a young, inexperienced handyman painting the walls.

The handyman is wearing two heavy, thick winter jackets zipped up to his chin, sweating bullets, and huffing and puffing as he works.

Thinking this is the strangest thing he has ever seen, the businessman stops and asks, "Excuse me, son, why on earth are you wearing two heavy jackets in the middle of a heatwave?"

The handyman stops, wipes the sweat from his forehead with his sleeve, and points to a brand-new paint can sitting on the floor.

"I'm just following the directions," the handyman explains. "Look right there on the side of the can—it says: 'For best results, put on two coats.'"

Entertainment: (Free Events)

Sunday 29th November	**Members Kid's Party**	**1:30pm onwards**
Saturday 5th December	**Scottish Night**	**7pm – 10pm**

$40 Buffet from 5:30pm. Bookings Essential. Children Pay $1 per age up to 12.
Possum Pickers + Hokonui Celtic Pipe Band + Highland Dancers + Haggis

Saturday 19th December	**CCR Tribute**	**7pm – 10pm**

Normal Bistro from 5:30pm. Bookings Essential. "Fortunate Sons" – Trevor Daley

Thursday 31st December (NYE)	**Father & Son**	**7:30pm – 12:30am**

$40 Buffet from 6pm. Bookings Essential. Children Pay $1 per age up to 12.

Hours over the Christmas Period:

Club closed on Friday 25th December (Christmas Day)

Restaurant Closed 25th - 29th December 2026 and 1st - 5th January 2027.

The Executive and Staff of the Gore RSA would like to thank everyone for their patronage this year and to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.



XMAS DB PROMO

Starts Monday 5 October 2026

DB Purchases Only



1st Prize



Outdoor Fire

Includes 2 cube Pine Firewood

(Free Gore Delivery)

(Value - $1,500)

2nd Prize



$900 Value

Travel Bag Combo

3rd Prize



$300 Value

Christmas Hamper & ½ Ham

Scan your membership card when making purchases to go into the draws. **Gore RSA Members Only**

Each purchase gives you one entry

Drawn Friday 18th December at 6pm

SCOTTISH NIGHT

GORE RSA SAT 5TH DEC 7:00PM







$40 2 course buffet from 5:30pm

Bookings Essential

manager@gorersa.co.nz www.gorersa.co.nz 03 208-6218

A TRIBUTE TO

CREEDENCE CLEARWATER REVIVAL

The FORTUNATE SONS

★ PLAYING CCR'S FINEST & GREATEST HITS! ★

FREE ENTRY FREE ENTRY FREE ENTRY



FREE ENTRY FREE ENTRY FREE ENTRY

Bistro Open
5:30pm
Bookings
Essential

FEATURING

BLAKE HUMPHREY ★ JAMIE HOLST ★ TREVOR DALEY ★ KIAN ERIKSSON

LIVE AT THE GORE RSA

★ SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST ★

JADE MAXWELL

SATURDAY, 19TH OF DECEMBER 2026

SHOW STARTS 7:00PM

★ A NIGHT OF TIMELESS MUSIC, A TRIBUTE TO A LEGENDARY SOUND. ★



FREE ENTRY

$40 2 course buffet from 6pm

Bookings Essential

manager@gorersa.co.nz www.gorersa.co.nz 03 208-6218