

Welcome to Project Tūrangawaewae - Where We Live

This resource has been created for schools with the aim of developing student awareness, ownership and investment within our community. The Eastern Southland community has an extensive and exciting history. It was our intention when creating this resource to encourage students to become more connected to their community, by empowering them with knowledge that will strengthen their local ties and develop pride in their surroundings - to create junior ambassadors for the district. This is a flexible and interactive resource that is open to interpretation. It is a foundation document that can be amended and extended for your own educational purposes in order to maximise student engagement. We hope you and your students find this resource beneficial and it fosters a renewed interest in our community's past and present.

Faith Harvey

Gore Young Ambassador 2014/5

Stephanie Herring

Curator, Gore Historical Museum

Mayoral Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome students and teachers on a journey to discover key elements that have helped build our district.

As we look back on the people and events that shaped our community, it is easy to see much has changed since the popular river crossing known as the Long Ford became Gore. But sometimes, not much has changed. Reaching back further and leaning forward from that moment in time, we can see how the community of the district was built by men and women with vision, drive and an enterprising spirit. Learning these tales of how that enterprise played out is not only inspiring but essential to understanding our future.

Agriculture continues to be the life blood of our community and it is likely to remain that way well into the future. Extensive pastoral farming has made way for a much more intensive brand of agriculture, bringing with it both challenges and opportunities.

As Southland's second largest community Gore has a very important role to play as a business and service hub for a large part of the province and Otago. We are the envy of many with recreation facilities of a very high standard and a lifestyle second to none.

To understand and plan for the future we must first understand and learn from the past. This resource provides a window for our students to discover the richness and diversity that makes our district such a great place to live.

I hope you enjoy exploring this as much as I have. It has just reinforced to me why I am proud to call this place home.

Tracy Hicks

Gore District Mayor

Maruawai / Longford / Gore











Kāti Mamoe chief, Paroparo Te Whenua, looked from his home in the Hokonui Hills to see the valley below flooded. He named the area Maruawai – Valley of Water.

When Europeans arrived the Mataura River also played a part in their naming of the area. A 'ford' is a safe place to cross a river. The crossing here, was 2km in length and the settlement that grew around it became known as the 'Long Ford'.

Many locals discovered the town's official name, Gore, when the railway first arrived. It was painted on the new railway station. The name was in honour of Governor Gore –Browne who served as Governor General in New Zealand from 1855-1861. However, the township on the eastern side of the river gained its own name, Gordon, after Sir Arthur Hamilton Gordon (NZ's Governor General 1880-1882). It was 1890 when Gore and Gordon joined to create the complete town we know today.

Available Topics

Download from: learnateasternsouthland.co.nz

-  District Timeline
-  Our Industries
-  People & Migration
-  ANZAC Heritage
-  Mataura River
-  Country Music
-  Community
-  Gore's Icons
-  Rural Life
-  Gore Buildings

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