

# **SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**21 FEBRUARY 2018**

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## **AGENDA ITEM E1**

### **REPORT FROM HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR**

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#### **Purpose of Report**

To update Council on activities and issues which have arisen since my last report to Council.

#### **Recommendations**

Her Worship the Mayor recommends that Council:

1. *Receives the information.*
2. *Work alongside Martinborough Dark Sky Group to become a Dark Sky Friendly organisation.*

## **HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### **1. Martinborough Waste Water**

It was very exciting to be able to push the button to start the irrigator for the Martinborough Waste Water Plant. This sees treated waste water being irrigated to land 100% of the time in suitable conditions.

Baleage has been harvested and will be sold.

This is a huge step forward for SWDC, although it is the first step of the project, it is very gratifying to see we are making a difference for our waterways and environment.

I would like to thank all the staff who have been involved in this project over a number of years and the past councils who had the foresight to implement this project.

### **2. Long Term Plan**

Now amalgamation is off the cards the Long Term Plan Working Party (LTP) Working Party has had the weight of the amalgamation debate lifted.

The LTP have been meeting weekly since 24 January. Members of the Working Party have included the Community Boards and Maori Standing Committee. I would like to thank all participants for your input into the Long Term Plan, you have looked at a variety of strategic issues which have been prioritized and will become part of the consultation document. The key

initiative that has been identified by most of the Sector Group meetings and the discussions through the Working Party is managing growth through a Strategic Plan.

Policies have been revised and are on the agenda today for adoption. The LTP will be adopted for consultation on the 14<sup>th</sup> March.

Meetings will continue to be weekly until this date, some will be for Council only.

### **3. Meeting with the Ministers of Transport, and Economic Development**

On 22 January, a meeting was held at Brackenridge with the three Wairarapa Mayors and CEO's, the Chair of GWRC and the CEO and Rt Hon Phil Twyford and Rt Hon David Parker to discuss the Wairarapa Rail Service.

The Ministers were given an outline of the various problems that have been hampering the smooth running of the Wairarapa service. These included the lack of maintenance of the track, overheating carriages, longer travel times and limited ability to increase the service.

GWRC have presented Treasury with two business cases for improved rail service for the Wairarapa.

The Minister of Transport understood the issues and asked questions regarding the impact the poor service is having on the Wairarapa economically.

We eagerly await the budget to see if any of the business case requests will be funded. The Minister made it quite clear that the overall transport budget will not be increased so other projects may drop off to accommodate new projects.

The rail service improvements will need to be funded through the transport budget not the regional economic development fund.

### **4. Featherston Incident**

Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February marks the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Featherston Incident. A commemoration service will be held at Sakura Reserve at 3pm.

Representatives from Japan, Australia, the New Zealand Government, the New Zealand Defence Force and the RSA will lay wreaths at the Memorial.

Afternoon tea will be served after the commemoration in the ANZAC Hall.

There will be various events happening in Featherston to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary including a lecture in the Kiwi Hall on Sunday at 1pm and the showing of Robin Whites painting in the Gallery.

A series of meetings have been held to organise this year's event.

## **5. Dark Sky Reserve**

Martinborough is now certified New Zealand's 1<sup>st</sup> 3K city by the International Dark Sky Association. This is a wonderful achievement by the Dark Sky Group in a very short period of time. The group are now going through the application process for Martinborough and surrounds to become a Gold International Dark Sky Reserve. The darkness measurements that have been completed show the Gold status will be achieved. This is a huge opportunity for Martinborough and the South Wairarapa district.

The group have launched a Martinborough Dark Sky logo and have created stickers and signs that can be used by businesses, accommodation providers, cafes to show that they are Dark Sky Friendly. There are opportunities for local produce to be banded with the Dark Sky Friendly logo and already there have been approaches from overseas buyers to buy products.

The group are looking at various opportunities to promote the Dark Sky to increase our tourism numbers. These include "Night Time Cycling", bus tours and in the future a visitor centre, Maori astronomy centre and a research centre.

I would like to see SWDC becoming a Dark Sky Friendly business.

A recent article and photo is included in Appendix 1.

## **6. Donna Howard**

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work Area Commander Donna Howard did for the Wairarapa before her death in January. Donna has left her mark on Wairarapa Police and the Wairarapa community. Donna loved her job and initiated changes that have improved the Police cover for South Wairarapa which equates to double the number of officers. She also instigated a rural policing unit for the Wairarapa.

Donna was instrumental in the establishment of the Masterton Billy Graham Boxing Academy.

Donna will be sorely missed by the Police and the Wairarapa as a whole. It was a privilege to know her for a short time.

## **7. Logo Working Party**

The Working Party has met and the Chair Leigh Hay will update the Council on progress at this meeting.

## **8. Meetings**

Meeting with NZTA regarding the future funding of the SPR (Special Purpose Road) to Cape Palliser. Mr Allingham will cover this in his report and it was discussed at the Infrastructure and Planning Working Party.

A Waihinga Centre Construction Group meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> February. A verbal update will be provided.

## 9. Events

Kuranui Senior and Junior Prize giving's, Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown Christmas parades, JLT Condor Cycling Team dinner, Masterton Billy Graham Boxing Academy launch, lunch with Nelson Rangī to recognise his retirement as Chair of Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Wairarapa.

## 10. Correspondence

### 10.1 Inwards

DATE	INWARDS	SUBJECT
22 December 2017	Office of the Prime Minister	Thanks for calendar containing images of WW1.
4 January 2018	K Hindson	Noise concerns.
16 January 2018	Ruamahanga Whaitua Committee	Potential changes to water allocation policies and the process to manage this.
25 January 2018	Wairarapa Voice	Confirming their intention to continue to work with councils (Appendix 2).

### 10.2 Outwards

DATE	OUTWARDS	SUBJECT
8 January 2018	Joy Cowley Lyndsay Wright	Congratulations on New Year honour.
5 February 2018	Wairarapa Voice	Confirming Wairarapa councils and Greater Wellington plans of working together.
16 January 2018	Round The Vines	Letter of support.
16 January 2018	Commanding Officer 5th/7th Battalion, Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment	Advising of the plans for Armistice Day 2018 and seeking any support they can offer.
16 January 2018	Commanding Officer Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles	Advising of the plans for Armistice Day 2018 and seeking any support they can offer.

## 11. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Martinborough Dark Sky

Appendix 2 – Correspondence to Wairarapa Voice

Prepared By: Her Worship the Mayor, Viv Napier

# **Appendix 1 – Martinborough Dark Sky**

# New Zealand Night Sky Enthusiasts Protect the Dark

on February 9, 2018



Views of the night sky over the city of Martinborough, New Zealand. Photos by Lee Mauger.

Martinborough, New Zealand, is highly regarded internationally for producing fine wines, olive oil and food within a rural environment of outstanding natural beauty. For some time, the community has enjoyed breathtakingly clear views of the night sky on its doorstep and an abundance of wildlife and birds which thrive without light pollution. The stunning night skies above Martinborough have attracted local astronomers and astrophotographers, including international award-winning astrophotographer [Mark Gee](#).

“The Martinborough area was where I first honed my skills as an astrophotographer, and on a clear night the clarity in the night sky is incredible!” Gee said. “During my travels around the world, I haven’t found too many dark sky locations which come close to what Martinborough has to offer,” Gee said.

Martinborough’s dark night skies came under threat when, in 2017, the Town planned to replace all existing sodium street lights with white LED lights at a color temperature of 4,000 Kelvins. Members of the Martinborough Dark Sky Society were alarmed about the potential 4000K street lights, which would emit bright, white lights with considerable glare. The lights would also potentially create new light pollution, adversely affecting the clear views of the night sky and harming local wildlife.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) works to protect the natural nighttime environment through conservation, awareness and education, and the promotion of

environmentally responsible lighting products. IDA recommends LED streetlights with a color temperature of [3,000 Kelvins or less](#). These lower color temperature lights, when fully shielded to prevent upward light emission, minimize light pollution and are warm, inviting, and well able to safely and effectively serve the needs of municipal communities.

With IDA's recommendation, the district council and Martinborough Dark Sky Society were able to galvanize the community and convince central government agencies to adopt IDA's 3000K recommendation and alter their street and highway lighting plans.

"Martinborough has a close community who respect and appreciate the beautiful natural environment we are fortunate to live in," explained Vivien Napier, Mayor of South Wairarapa. "I had no hesitation in supporting the Martinborough Dark Sky Society's work to protect our stunning dark skies for future generations."

IDA's "[3000K or Less](#)" promotion provided a vital external and international knowledge base to help counter an imminent increase in light pollution which would have been difficult to reverse.

Thanks to the Martinborough Dark Sky Society and the International Dark-Sky Association, the town's natural beauty will be preserved long into the future. Lee Mauger, Chairman of the Martinborough Dark Sky Society, points to IDA's influence in helping influence the town's decision-making process: "The Martinborough Dark Sky Society would like to thank the IDA and recognize how powerful the IDA's '3K City' scheme was in helping us justify change in the street lighting plans for our region."

*The [Martinborough Dark Sky Society](#), in Martinborough, New Zealand, is a community initiative to protect and enhance the beautiful dark skies and natural wildlife habitats of the area. As a part of their night sky conservation efforts, the Society is working toward the certification of a 1500+ square kilometer area recognized as an [International Dark Sky Reserve](#) by the International Dark-Sky Association.*

<http://www.darksky.org/new-zealand-night-sky-enthusiasts-protect-the-dark/>

# **Appendix 2 – Correspondence to Wairarapa Voice**





Office of the Mayor  
Viv Napier



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5 February 2018

Ron Shaw  
Wairarapa Voice  
PO Box 224  
Carterton 5743

Dear Ron

Thank you for your letter of 25 January on behalf of the Wairarapa Voice.

We appreciate you sharing your views and look forward to working with you as we all work together on what is best for both the South Wairarapa and the Wairarapa as a whole.

The three Wairarapa Councils and Greater Wellington are looking at working together on an economic plan for the Wairarapa, which will identify and develop a number of growth projects across the Wairarapa region and will provide a platform to present these projects to Government and other stakeholders.

Kind regards

Viv Napier  
**MAYOR**

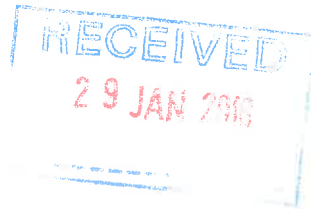


Wairarapa Voice Inc.

25 January 2018

Viv Napier

Mayor – South Wairarapa District



Dear Viv

The people have spoken.

They have decided that the status quo is the way forward for Wairarapa.

Some people will be happy that the status quo will be continuing – others will be disappointed.

There is no formal Transition Body to take care of all the questions about how the status quo will be picked up after the disruption of the last several years. The ongoing uncertainty around amalgamation has caused inaction on Wairarapa wide issues. This has held back Wairarapa and we need to move forward with actions, not words.

While the public have rejected amalgamation, the sense of the many informal conversations, letters to the editor, and public meetings about amalgamation during the last year is that the voters expect you, their local Mayor and local body politicians, to build on the strengths of each district to deliver the best of local representation while collaborating on Wairarapa wide outcomes.

Wairarapa Voice will continue to be active, working with the District Councils, businesses, and community organisations to ensure the leadership, managerial, financial, infrastructural and environmental expertise that has come to the fore over the amalgamation discussions is deployed for the benefit of Wairarapa residents.

Wairarapa Voice look forward to working with you to move forward each district in particular and Wairarapa as a whole.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Ron Shaw".

Ron Shaw

for Wairarapa Voice Inc.