

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Recommendations

The chairperson recommends that the Community Board:

1. *Receive the Chairperson Report.*
2. *Request that Council Officers provide an update on action taken concerning the Martinborough Community Board recommendation to Council to hold a Martinborough public meeting to discuss rates.*

Topic 1 – Rates

The day following our last Martinborough Community Board meeting, I respectfully advised the Mayor and Martinborough Ward Councillors of our recommendation made at the meeting, to request Council hold a public meeting in Martinborough on rates.

In September I attended the full Council meeting and requested that Council in their upcoming discussions on rates, please take into consideration the MCB recommendation to ask that Council Hold a Public Meeting on Rates in Martinborough.

I advised the effects on our community's most vulnerable, which had been highlighted in newspaper articles, given in advice received through the MCB Drop in sessions and via community engagement directly with the MCB members.

I also advised our community wants the meeting to be on rates only and not a meeting on other issues coming up at Council, such as 3 waters.

I advised Council our community wants an opportunity for Council to hear from them directly so their elected members can make a decision on what is best to do for their communities and ratepayers when considering resetting rates, based on the information Councillors will then have in hand.

Council referred the matter to Council officers for reporting on how the issue will be addressed.

At this time, a date for a Public Meeting on Rates to Be Held in Martinborough by Council has not been created. I have personally heard from a number of anxious ratepayers who are concerned with their rates increases and what they will do with the next quarterly rates due.

Request that Council Officers provide an update on action taken concerning the Martinborough Community Board recommendation to Council to hold a Martinborough public meeting to discuss rates.

Topic 2 – Martinborough District Road Safety

At Councils September Assets and Services meeting I advised of the Martinborough Community Boards recommendation asking that the Assets and Services Committee request Council officers investigate creating the built out shoulders on the pedestrian crossings at Cambridge Road and Oxford Street, to mirror the crossings on Jellicoe and Kitchener Streets. This is to be investigated by Council Officers.

Hinekura Road was discussed at the Assets and Services Committee as well. The Slump Geotech report was given to the committee and it was made clear by the presenter that while GWRC will assist to meet their requirements for the road, the repair and management of the road itself would rest with South Wairarapa District Council. GWRC advised they would “support” Council with advice and information, but they expect SWDC to be “leading” this. The public meeting for residents which MCB had discussed at our August meeting was raised, however no time or date given as the Committee would like to have further direction and a timeline for works when Council meet with Hinekura residents. I confirmed MCB would also like to attend any meeting held at Hinekura.

All other recommendations have been passed onto the roading team for investigation and action.

Topic 3 – Te Awaiti Campground

At the Council meeting in September, Harry Wilson gave a heads up to the councillors that he had received some urgent information on the Te Awaiti Campgrounds that required him as CEO to seek legal advice on closing the Te Awaiti Campground for overnight camping due to flood risk.

Since this announcement I have received numerous phone calls and emails from residents regarding the existing Campground.

Could Mr Wilson please advise us where people will be directed to go in Tora as an alternative to this campground?

Topic 4 – Three Waters Government Reform

Can we please have an update regarding the 3 waters Government reform status?

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Correspondence

Report compiled by Mel Maynard
Chair
Martinborough Community Board

Appendix 1 - Correspondence

From: Edward Twist
Sent: Friday, 1 October 2021 5:13 pm
To: MCB- mel Maynard <mel.maynard@swdc.govt.nz>
Subject: Te Awaiti Reserve

Edward and Patricia (Paddy) Twist

2 October 2021

Tena koe Mel Maynard

Diana and Fraser Chetwin of Te Awaiti Rd have given my wife and I a copy of your email dated 22 September 2021 regarding the Council's proposal to close the Te Awaiti reserve, apparently because it is supposed to flood.

You mention in your email that you are open to listening to concerns hence this submission to you in support of Diana and Fraser's email.

Paddy and I are former ratepayers who came to Te Awaiti as campers 35 years ago and had the most wonderful times! We have also lived permanently there too - for some 12 years - and we still visit regularly. Our house at 645D Te Awaiti Rd was situated right opposite the reserve so we consider we are well placed to form any judgement about flooding and any other hazards associated with coastal living.

Our family as original campers at this reserve learnt not only about outdoor living, camping, and fishing but also about social aspects such as learning how to live close to other people in tents, caravans and cars, with the dynamics this presented, such as, for example ensuring the reserve and its amenities were appreciated and respected.

We can remember in that time only one instance of quite a few years ago, of a slow rise in the water level to the extent that a family of campers evacuated because of water coming up below the toilet.

At the time there was persistent but not heavy rainfall and the river had risen. The evacuation was unfortunate because it brought an end to the campers' stay (it was doubly unfortunate because poor granddad who had a disability had saved for the family occasion as a special treat).

Following this event a notice was placed at the reserve entrance warning visitors that the river could rise unexpectedly.

We have not heard of any events since this notice was put up.

The infrequent event of a slow rise in the water level usually occurs after the mouth closes due to mainly southerly winds building up the sand bank. However, weather forecasts are handy things, and campers are generally very much up with the play when it comes to what the weather is going to be and to do. Eyes and ears are also very useful.

It seems a pity that a decision to close reserve might rest on an infrequent event that can so easily be foreseen when there are so many obvious benefits that come with it staying open. Warning signs and weather forecasts are the obvious solution for those not familiar with the outdoors, especially with this particular lovely and useful “outdoors”!

We look forward to hearing from you shortly about this submission.

Your sincerely

Edward and Paddy Twist

From: Chetwin <chetwin4@farmside.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 28 September 2021 10:17 am
To: Mel Maynard <mnmcconsulting@xtra.co.nz>
Cc: Councillor Pip Maynard <Pip.Maynard@swdc.govt.nz>; MCB- Aidan Ellims <aidan.ellims@swdc.govt.nz>; MCB- Nathan Fenwick <nathan.fenwick@swdc.govt.nz>; Councillor Pam Colenso <Pam.Colenso@swdc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Te Awaiti camping site

Thankyou Mel

We would just like to make another couple of comments in addition to those written in our email below.

- A solution to the perceived flash flood problem:

There is a spring that flows from the bank just below the road, onto the camping area on the left hand side (when facing the sea).

In the years that we were camping at Te Awaiti there was a drain for the spring water, running along the left high bank and out to sea. This was maintained annually by digging it out. In recent years this maintenance has ceased and as a result a large puddle of water has formed, reducing the amount of higher area suitable for camping on.

We suggest re-digging the ditch to drain the spring water and increase the suitable camping area on the higher ground, well away from the lagoon edge and potential flooding. Maintenance of this ditch would be minimal work; less than 1 hour for a digger once a year and provide the needed higher ground for camping.

- Our further comment is to raise the awareness of those concerned, of the agenda of one or two people who chose to purchase a property overlooking the camping area a number of years ago. Their agenda since then has been to actively try and shut the camping area down through exaggerated misinformation. A classic case of "not in my back yard" syndrome.

Regards
Fraser and Diana Chetwin

From: Mel Maynard <mnmcconsulting@xtra.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021 12:22 PM
To: Chetwin <chetwin4@farmside.co.nz>; Mel.maynard@swdc.govt.nz; pip.maynard@swdc.govt.nz; aidan.ellims@swdc.govt.nz
Subject: Re: Te Awaiti camping site

Tēnā koe Fraser and Diana,

Thank you for raising your concerns to the Martinborough Community Board.

We are open to hearing from anyone with concerns regarding Martinborough and its community at large.

The more views we receive, the better we can make decisions at our table.

I will include your correspondence with my Chair report for Council as an Appendix item on this issue.

You are also able to present your views to our Community Board at our next meeting on Thursday 7th October, starting at 6.30pm if you wish.

If you would like to do this please contact our Committee Advisor Steph on:

stephfrischknecht@swdc.govt.nz

and she will be able to arrange a time with you for your participation.

Thank you again.

Nga mihi

Mel

Mel Maynard

Chair

Martinborough Community Board

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Chetwin <chetwin4@farmside.co.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 22 September 2021, 9:29 am

To: Mel.maynard@swdc.govt.nz; pip.maynard@swdc.govt.nz; aidan.ellims@swdc.govt.nz

Subject: Te Awaiti camping site

Hello to all whom it may concern,

It has come to our attention that the SWDC has proposed to close the Te Awaiti freedom camping site. This proposal has come without due notification, consultation or discussion.

We understand the main reasoning for closure of the camp site is the concern over flash flooding and safety.

We were long time campers at the Te Awaiti camping site for over 20 years, and now property owners and residents at Te Awaiti road.

1. A definition of a flash flood from the internet states "A flood caused by heavy or excessive rainfall in a short period of time, generally less than 6 hours. Flash floods are usually characterized by raging torrents after heavy rains that rip through river beds, urban streets, or mountain canyons sweeping everything before them."
2. In all our years of camping at Te Awaiti, every Christmas holidays and long weekends during the year, we never saw anything like that. What we did see was a slow rising of the lagoon after prolonged raining in the hills. Eventually when the lagoon was full, usually after a number of days, it would break through the sand bar and drain out to sea.
3. Occasionally campers who misguidedly set up camp at water level later found they got wet feet and had to move camp to higher ground. No one was ever swept out to sea or lives were lost!

4. The vast majority of campers come to Te Awaiti camp site over the short period between Christmas and January – February. This is the traditional Wairarapa coastal dry/drought period. No rain and no risk of flash floods!
5. The Te Awaiti freedom camping site should not be closed. It is a resource greatly valued by many families, not just local, but from other parts throughout NZ. Children, including our own, grow up learning to appreciate the outdoors and this beautiful stretch of the Wairarapa coastline. It should not be just for the privileged few property owners.
6. In addition, the closing of the Te Awaiti camp site will put undue pressure on the remaining Awhea camp site at Tora.
7. Also the Te Awaiti camp site is the only sheltered site in a southerly for the Te Awaiti/Tora coastal region. It is highly valued by families for this additional reason.
8. We suggest a solution to the perceived danger of flash flooding at the Te Awaiti freedom camping site is to erect further signage (similar to that erected for Tsunami warnings) to alert campers of the possibility of the rising water level of the lagoon after rain.

To conclude:

As long standing campers from the past, and now property owner, residents and rate payers at Te Awaiti road, we strongly oppose the closure of Te Awaiti freedom camping area.

Any issues both now and in the future should be discussed and worked through to a **resolution**, to keep the camping area open.

Regards

Fraser and Diana Chetwin
578 Te Awaiti road

From: James Imlach <James@nzmca.org.nz>

Sent: Saturday, 2 October 2021 3:41 pm

To: Harry Wilson- CEO <Harry.Wilson@swdc.govt.nz>

Cc: Alex Beijen- His Worship the Mayor <themayor@swdc.govt.nz>; MCB- mel Maynard <mel.maynard@swdc.govt.nz>

Subject: Freedom camping Te Awaiti Reserve - South Wairarapa District Council

Tēnā koe Harry,

Kei te pēhea koe? I hope this email finds you well.

Local residents and NZMCA members have contacted us about the Council's [decision](#) [@1:49:47] to ban all freedom camping at Te Awaiti Recreation Reserve due to the risk of flash floods. I understand there is some strong local opposition towards this decision, however the Council will formalise the ban in time for Labour Weekend (commencing 23 October 2021). From what we are told, those familiar with the site are not aware of any significant flood risk and are concerned about the loss of another family-friendly coastal campsite.

We'd like to understand the Council's position, in particular their concern with flooding and why a complete ban is the best option for the reserve. There's only so much you can glean from media articles, websites and social media. But here's what we know so far:

- Camping at Te Awaiti Reserve is provided for under the **South Wairarapa District Council Bylaw for Camping in Coastal Areas 2009** (Amended in 2013). There is no obvious provision within this bylaw that enables the Council to unilaterally ban freedom camping without initiating a bylaw review first. Some bylaws, particularly those made under s 11 of the Freedom Camping Act 2011, include provisions that enable Council's to implement temporary restrictions or prohibitions.
- The **Coastal and Reserves Management Plan (2013)** explicitly recognises Te Awaiti Recreation Reserve is a popular camping, fishing, beach walking, and picnicking area. The plan also advises flooding is a threat to overnight camping, however despite this the plans objectives and policies still provide for the activity to take place, provided visitors exercise caution in light of the flood risk.
- In 2013, Align Limited prepared a draft campsite development plan, which includes planting to minimise erosion and a swale for water runoff in low lying areas. The Council's website confirms work will be undertaken as reserve funds allow. Did the Council upgrade the site? If not, what is the status of this plan? If funding is an issue has the Council considered applying for additional assistance under the Tourism Infrastructure Fund and/or Responsible Camping Fund?
- The GWRC planning maps do not show the campsite located within a flood hazard area. However, I understand the Council may have new data and maps from GWRC (the attached article from Wairarapa Times Age seems to include a new map that we could not locate). May we have a copy of these?
- The SWDC planning maps show the campsite is located within the **Foreshore Protection Area** and the **Coastal Environmental Management Area** (screenshot attached).

- SWDC is seeking guidance from LGNZ on how it can lawfully ban freedom camping on site, without formally amending the bylaw or RMP, in order to address a health and safety concern.

Coastal camping is a quintessential kiwi experience. Many seaside campsites that operate around NZ are susceptible to flooding and coastal inundation, however any risk is usually managed through site design, monitoring and temporary closure to protect public safety. We have similar controls in place at coastal NZMCA parks where wave inundation is low-mid probability / mid-high risk.

Any information, including officer reports and planning maps etc., that will help us understand the flood risk and Council's decision to ban camping on site will be much appreciated. It will also help us explain the decision to our members, some of whom will be visiting the Wairarapa Coast over labour weekend and may visit Te Awaiti at some point during their stay.

How did you get on with LGNZ? Are there plans to open an alternative campsite nearby once Te Awaiti is closed to campers?

Kia pai te rā.

Ngā mihi | Kind regards

James Imlach BSc. MRP (Hons)

National Manager – Property and Policy

New Zealand Motor Caravan Association Inc.

P 09 298 5466 extn. 705 | **M** 027 298 5648

4 Graham Road, Takanini, Auckland 2112

www.nzmca.org.nz



[Contribute to Wairarapa](#)[Become a supporter](#)[Journalism](#)Powered by
PressPatron

Wairarapa Times-Age

 Search

Popular south coast campsite closure opposed

9:30 AM Tuesday Sep 21, 2021



PHOTO/STOCK.ADOBE.COM

SUE TEODORO

sue.teodoro@age.co.nz

More than a thousand people have signed a petition opposing a move by South Wairarapa District Council to close a popular campsite on Wairarapa south coast.

Council chief executive Harry Wilson said at a council meeting last week that the Te Awaiti reserve campsite at Tora should be closed because it was at high risk of sudden and severe flooding, putting lives in danger.

"It has a large catchment behind it, it has a bridge which acts as a choke point, and it has a sand/silt area very much like Lake Ferry, which means if you had a flash flood, the water would be channelled back up and completely flood an area.

It's a huge risk for people who would be camping at night. They would have no warning," he said.

Wilson referenced a similar situation in Coromandel, where a caravan at a campground had been washed out to sea.

Due to the high risk and with summer and Labour weekend approaching, he said it was an operating decision.

"It is an operating decision that I have to make. I have approached Local Government New Zealand to get some advice on the appropriate mechanisms to act quickly. There is a strong public risk. The reason I'm informing you is I do want this on the public record that I'm likely to be making this decision once I have the information from LGNZ," he said.

He said it would be important to speak to people who had used the site in the past and there were alternative campsites available. The grounds would still be open during the day.

"I have talked to a number of residents in and around, they have seen flooding. Fortunately when people weren't there. There have been a few occasions where they have had to rescue people. It's an intolerable situation, and we need to act," he said.

Councillor Jephson endorsed the move, and Councillor Emms said public consultation would be important.

Late on Sunday, the petition 'Stop the council closure of Te Awaiti Reserve to Overnight camping' on change.org had more than 1000 signatures.

"The closure of this freedom coastal camping ground would be a huge loss to families who have camped here for many years [3 generations in my family]. The South Wairarapa District Council has not followed the correct process with no notification, transparency or consultation regarding the "Public Safety" issue that they believe exists at this campsite [flashflooding].

Over the 40 years I have personally camped here, I have never seen one flashflood," the petition said.

Many comments on the petition were from campers who had used the site for years with no flooding. Others criticised SWDC for lack of consultation.

"We have stayed there over the past 12 years and have never been caught in a flood," Diane Barnes said.



Map of the campsite at Tora, showing potential flood zone. PHOTO/SUPPLIED

“Why has there been no public consultation? What is happening with the SWDC that they think they can do whatever they like without consulting members of the public,” Rachel McKenzie said.

Tora residents Jenny and Alistair Boyne said they were happy to have freedom camping on all the campsites.

The Martinborough Community Board issued a statement asking for more information and community consultation.

“The Martinborough Community Board are keen to see and hear council’s evidence and reports, as well as hearing from residents in the area, campers and interested parties who will be affected by this decision. We’re wanting to have this matter added to the agenda for our next meeting on 7 October so that we can learn and discuss the issues with our community.”

Wilson said he aimed to get signage up at the site about the closure before Labour weekend.



Facebook
k
0



Twitter
2



LinkedIn
0

Now more than ever local news is important.

Locally owned, locally printed ... the Wairarapa Times-Age is independent and fiercely local.

As the voice of our region we start work each day with the knowledge that our front section will be entirely local, while opinion and sports pages will also be biased towards local issues. It’s a big effort for our small team of editor, chief reporter, five news journalists and sports reporter and it is not something we could do without the support of our readers and our region. Help us continue to bring you local news you can trust by becoming a supporter.

Become a supporter

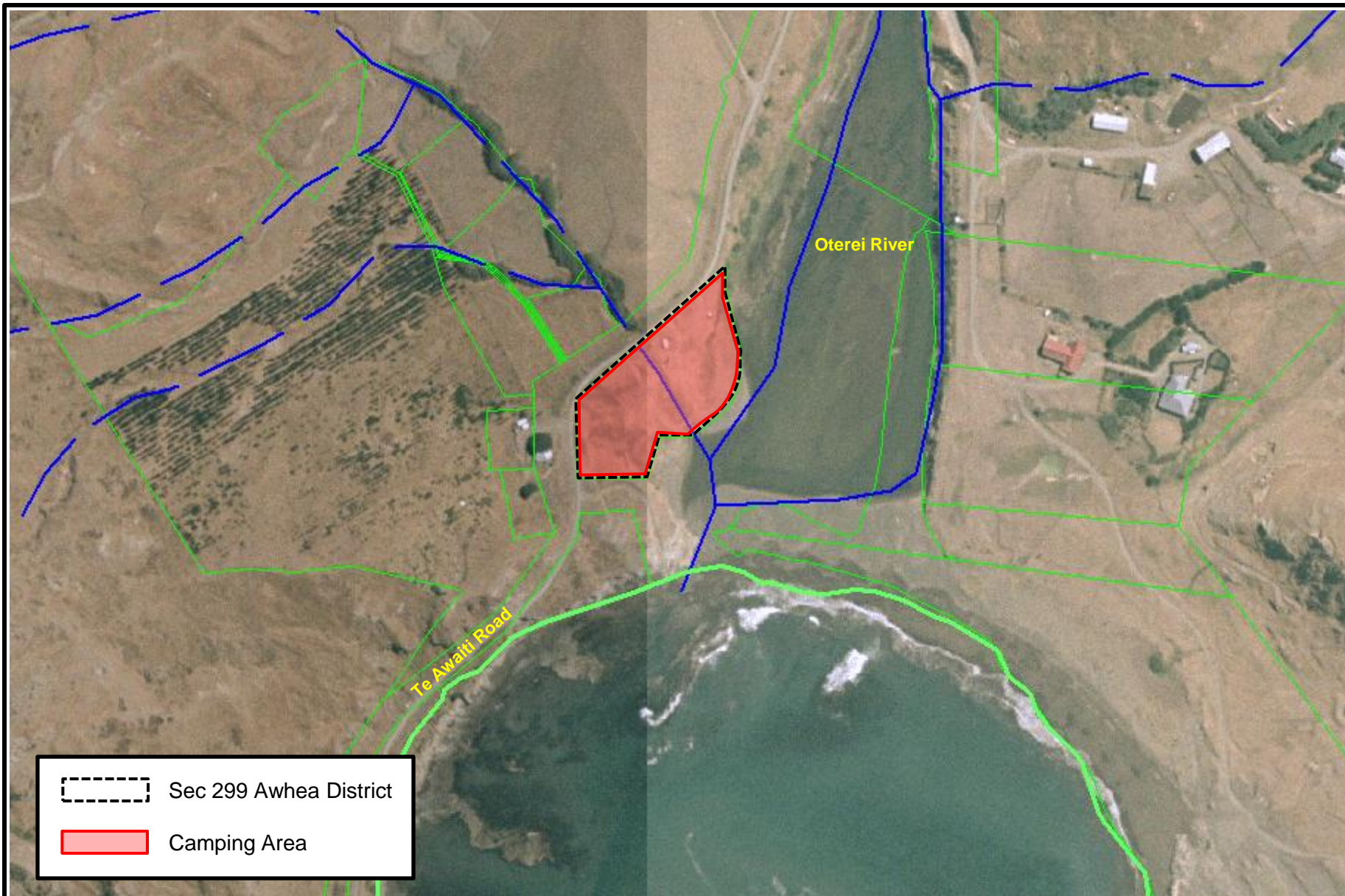
By and large our readers’ comments are respectful and courteous. We’re sure you’ll fit in well.
[View commenting guidelines.](#)

Midweek most read



Wairarapa Midweek Wed 29th Sept

News from Rotary Exchange student in Japan



Sec 299 Awhea District



Camping Area

Te Awaiti Camping Area

From: thehunters

Sent: Monday, 27 September 2021 9:05 pm

To: MCB- mel Maynard <mel.maynard@swdc.govt.nz>

Subject: Community Board to advocate on our behalf

Dear Mel,

At your next Community Board meeting, Thursday 7th Oct, 6.30pm, we want the following (which is a response to a decision announced by the Councils CEO at the Councils meeting held on 15 September by zoom) to be discussed. We feel that this decision makes a mockery of the past submission process that we took part in to keep the camp grounds open.

Ian's been a resident here for over 60 years and I have lived permanently here for over 38 years.

We are looking to the board to advocate on our behalf.

Yours sincerely

Marcia & Ian Hunter

The arbitrary decision by the District Council Chief Executive to close the camp ground without proper consultation should be reconsidered and proper and due processes followed.

Advocate Signage "Warning Maybe Prone to Flash flooding Camp at your own risk"

Support this by:

This campsite is a very important place to those families who over decades have camped there.

It also important to us as community members who enjoy seeing families enjoy this location.

They are no more at risk than all the homes along the coast are from Tsunami .

When the risk of Flooding is highest the camp ground is barely used as it is most popular during the summer months.

Some of the adjacent house owners began coming to Te Awaiti as campers and when the opportunity arose to purchase land and/or property they did so. A minority now want the camp ground closed and have done for some time.

The camp ground at Te Awaiti is no more prone to flash flooding than any other coastal camping area in the South Wairarapa District.

We would like you to advocate for the continuation of this designated camping area.