

10 February 2025

[REDACTED]

Kia ora [REDACTED]

### **Official information Request: Grant Guru**

I am writing to you in response to your request received via email on 27 January for information relating to Grant Guru.

We have assessed your request under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 (LGOIMA). I have received information to provide the following response:

- 1. The total membership spent on using Grant Guru by council over the last three years broken down by year.***

2024:

\$7,300.00

- a. Please specify how long council has been using Grant Guru.***

South Wairarapa District Council signed up with Grant Guru on 24 May 2024. We proceeded to work with Grant Guru to build the South Wairarapa Fund Finder grants portal. The portal was launched to the South Wairarapa community on 15 August. There has been no payment for 2025 as yet.

- 2. The total paid on advertising each year over the last three years and where this has been advertised.***

2024:

Total paid - \$578+GST x 2; \$270+GST x1 = \$1426+GST

Advertised in: Wairarapa Midweek Newspaper (included in a one page spread of Council news updates in September and December 2024 and the Featherston Phoenix (local newsletter).

2025:

Total paid: \$578+GST

Advertised in: Wairarapa Midweek Newspaper January 2025 (included in a one page spread of Council news updates).

Furthermore, we have advertised Grant Guru/Fund Finder on the following sites /platforms at no extra cost:

- on our website, e.g. <https://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/>
- on our social media <https://www.facebook.com/SouthWairarapaDistrictCouncil>
- Featherston Phoenix September issue : [September 2024 - Featherston Phoenix](#)
- on posters in our local libraries and various local venues
- through e-mail to our community groups and grant applicants
- media release shared with a number of media outlets.

**3. Copies of any advertising in print or media available.**

Included below are jpgs of posters and flyers. Midweek advertisements are available in the link provided with this letter (too large to add to this letter). Please refer to publicly available links above for links to online media.

**JOIN US AT ONE OF OUR POP UP CHATS**

AND LEARN HOW TO USE THE  
**South Wairarapa Fund Finder**

The South Wairarapa Fund Finder is a tool that helps to connect individuals, community and businesses in our district to grants and funding opportunities more easily. Drop in to one of our pop up chats and we can show you how to use it OR visit our website to read more: [swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/](https://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/)

**FEATHERSTON LIBRARY POP UP**

Friday 23 August  
1.30pm to 4.30pm

**MARTINBOROUGH LIBRARY POP UP**

Monday 26 August  
1.30pm to 4.30pm

**GREYTOWN LIBRARY POP UP**

Tuesday 27 August  
1.30pm to 4.30pm

SCAN THIS CODE TO LEARN ABOUT THE SOUTH WAIRARAPA FUND FINDER

**SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
*Kia Reiretahi Tātau*

## South Wairarapa Fund Finder



Scan this code to learn about the fund finder and get searching for grants now.



Or visit [swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/](https://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/) to read more about it and how it might be able to help you find funding opportunities.



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Please note that it is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. If this request is selected it will be published at <https://swdc.govt.nz/lgoima-proactive-release/>, with your personal information removed.

You have a right to request a review by the Ombudsman on this response. Further information about this process can be found on <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies/how-make-complaint> or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Paul Gardner', with a small dot at the end.

Paul Gardner  
General Manager, Corporate Services

# Council news September



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Kia Reretahi Tātau

## Greytown drinking water consultation

In partnership with Wellington Water, South Wairarapa District Council is looking to progress with an upgrade or replacement of the water treatment facilities in Greytown. This will increase the resilience of the town's drinking water supply. As part of this consultation, the council is asking for feedback on three potential locations for the bore and how the project could be funded.



The current assets at Soldiers Memorial Park are in poor condition and require upgrading or replacement to ensure an ongoing reliable supply of safe and healthy

drinking water and to provide enough water for firefighting.

The treatment plant is located in Greytown but the funding may impact all of the district so it is important that council hears from the entire community.

- **Read the proposal, review the options and have your say by 9 October at: [swdc.govt.nz/greytown-water-upgrade/](http://swdc.govt.nz/greytown-water-upgrade/)**

## NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Meeting agendas are available for inspection at least two days before the meeting at district libraries, council offices and at [www.swdc.govt.nz/meetings/](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/meetings/). Public participation is welcome. If you wish to speak during the public participation session at any meeting, please phone 06 306 9611 at least one day before the meeting or email [enquiries@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:enquiries@swdc.govt.nz)

Meetings will be livestreamed on YouTube, where possible. Please note that all meeting cancellations, changes to scheduled start times and/or venues and open workshops will be notified on our website.

## October meetings

The following meetings will be held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough:

**Strategy Working Committee Representation Review - Deliberations**  
Wednesday, 2 October at 10am

**Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee**

**Community & Youth Grants Allocation**  
Wednesday, 9 October at 1pm

**CEO Employment Committee**  
Wednesday, 16 October at 9am

**Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee**  
Wednesday, 16 October at 2pm

**Martinborough Community Board**  
Thursday, 17 October at 7pm

**Strategy Working Committee Greytown Water Supply Hearings**  
Thursday, 24 October at 10:45am

**Māori Standing Committee**  
Tuesday, 29 October at 6pm

**Council Adoption of the Annual Report**  
Wednesday, 30 October at 9am

Janice Smith  
Chief Executive Officer

## Libraries open longer

Libraries in the South Wairarapa will open for more days and longer hours from Monday 30 September. Library Services Manager Louise Dowdell says the longer hours will allow all libraries run by Wairarapa Library Service (which also includes Carterton) to grow literacy services in print and digital publications. This builds on the 800+ new

members over the past year, along 119,274 items issued in print, 15,441 ebooks and 13,292 audio books issued. Libraries are free, inclusive, educational, empowering and provide a sense of belonging.

- **Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough libraries will open weekdays 9.30am to 5pm and Saturdays 9.30am to 12pm.**

## Libraries in hols

Visit your local library for holiday activities from Saturday 28 September to Sunday 13 October.



## Māori ward reaffirmed

South Wairarapa District councillors have reaffirmed their decision to create a Māori ward for the 2025 triennium. South Wairarapa will have a binding poll on Māori wards in the 2025 elections.

"We stand beside mana whenua and have a strong desire to give Māori a voice in our district's governance now and in future," says Mayor Martin Connelly.

"The council has a legal duty to improve Māori participation in our democracy. South Wairarapa District Council paved the way years ago with the establishment of the Māori Standing Committee," says Mayor Connelly.

"This takes nothing away from anyone but provides tremendous opportunity for Māori."

Council Pou Māori Advisor Narida Hooper says when the majority of the district's councillors voted yes to establishing a Māori ward in 2023 that "Those Councillors were thinking of the future they want for their tamariki and mokopuna to grow up in. They recognise the value Māori bring to our communities, that Māori representation at local government level is a step towards a dynamic future."

## Doggie dos and don'ts

Our canine friends love to walk, explore and smell all the roses (and other things) along the way. Please remember to clean up all the doggie dos when taking your special canine out. We appreciate all dog owners for keeping our public spaces clean for everyone to enjoy.



## Thousands of tulips

Tulips are the theme, Longbush is the place and lovers of flowers are invited to Longbush Cottage Tulip Festival on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 October. The festival is a rare chance to see thousands of tulips in full bloom. Longbush Cottage is 15 mins from Carterton and Martinborough. Cash tickets at the gate.

[www.longbushcottage.co.nz/tulips](http://www.longbushcottage.co.nz/tulips)



## Finding funds just got easier

It's free, it's new and it's online now to help everyone in the South Wairarapa find funds for projects, big and small.

It's called Fund Finder and it has tips on how to find funds for a specific project or goal you have as well as advice about how to apply to maximise your chance of receiving funds. "Fund Finder hand picks grants and funding opportunities

specific to local businesses and community groups, encompassing all government and private sector grants available," says Siv Fjaerestad, Community Development. "Fund Finder will enable people to tap into funds that are best suited to their projects."

**Start your journey to find funds online at [swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/](http://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/)**

# Council news December



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Kia Reretahi Tātau

## Happy holidays from South Wairarapa District Council Nga mihi a te Kirihimete me te Tau Hau

### Summer hours libraries & council offices

The district's three libraries and the council offices are closed from Friday 20 December until Monday 6 January.

The library's digital collection and Libby app both have a wide range of reading material and are available online 24/7 once you sign up.

Library staff can help to use these online reading tools.

If you need to contact the council during the summer closure, please phone 06 306 9611 and the after hours service can help.

### Swimming pools

The public swimming pools are open throughout the summer apart from Christmas Day.

### Transfer stations

All transfer stations' normal hours remain apart from being closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

## Affordable emergency water

Summer temperatures are soaring and so is the demand on our district's water supply, which is why the council is here to help with affordable water tanks for \$128. This is a permanent discount. The tanks have capacity for 200 litres of water, weigh 7.5kg when empty and are available in green or grey. Best of all, they fit into most cars. They are available from South Wairarapa District Council offices at 19 Kitchener Street, Martinborough, phone 06 306 9611.



## Funding for all

If funds are tight but ideas are free flowing, check out the council's online Fund Finder. This helpful software is free for the community and contains details of all government and private grants with tips on how to apply. Find out more at: [swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/](http://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/)



## Waste not

Eating food destined for landfill, turning cocoa husks into hand scrubs and reducing medical waste were hot topics at the Wellington Region Waste Forum at the Carterton Events Centre in November.

The forum takes place four times a year between the eight councils in the Wellington region. This one saw 73 people gather to discuss how the region can reduce waste and drive sustainable practices.

Speakers shared stories of waste reduction, including, among other ideas, reusing cocoa husks from a chocolate factory to make a hand scrub at Homewood Station in Masterton and a trial to reduce vape disposal.

A waste free lunch was made by chef Ant North with rescued food from Wai Waste. Attendees brought containers for leftovers so nothing was wasted. The meal was funded through the Waste Forum membership. The event underscored the role councils, businesses and communities play to shape a sustainable future.

## Putting the S into sustainable communities

Grants were given to 19 projects focussing on sustainability from schools and community centres to marae and nurseries in the final round of the Community Wellbeing Fund.

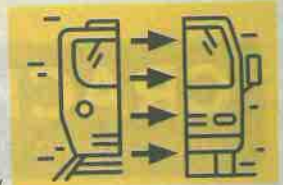
The largest was \$49,000 to Hau Arika Marae in Martinborough to support rain water collection to add strength to its role as an Emergency Assistance Centre for the community. Featherston Community and Greytown School were the second largest beneficiaries with \$33,000 each for solar power while Martinborough School was one of many to be granted \$10,000 for its Garden to Table project. The Pae tu Mokai nursery in Featherston was also granted \$10,000 to develop a potting shed, while another group was given funding for coastal restoration at Tora. This was the second and final round of grants from the Community Wellbeing Fund, which is 100% from Te Tari Taiwhenua, the Department of Internal Affairs. The total funding pool was \$500,000 and the first round were distributed in July this year.



## Buses replace trains 26 December to 10 February

Trains to and from the Wairarapa will be replaced by buses for 46 days from Thursday 26 December to Monday 10 February 2025 to

upgrade the rail line through the Remutaka tunnel in preparation for faster trains and more frequent services from 2029.



## Notice of meetings

Meeting agendas are available for inspection at least two days before the meeting at district libraries, council offices and at [www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz)

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## January meetings

**Māori Standing Committee**  
Tuesday 28 January 2025 at 6pm  
Supper Room, Waihinga Centre,  
Martinborough

**Janice Smith**  
Chief Executive Officer



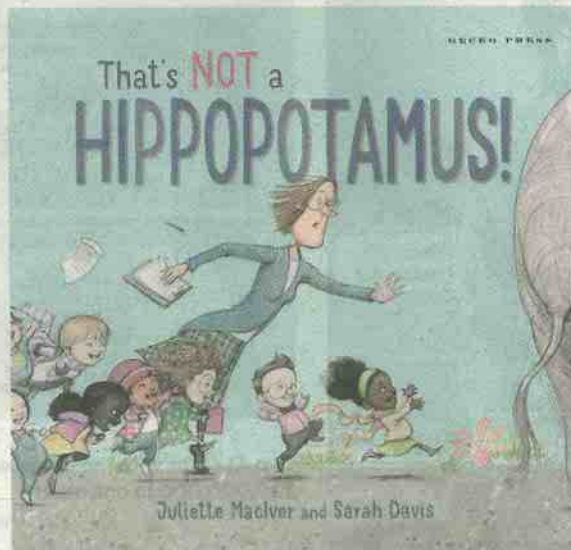
Wair Midweek 22/1/25

## Walk my way

Martinborough has a new tale to tell on its StoryWalk® trail at Centennial & Considine Park. The story is *That's Not a Hippopotamus* by Wellington author Juliette MacIver with illustrations by Sarah Davis and it's displayed along the walking trail in rainproof story boards.

The town's StoryWalk® trail was launched in 2022 by Wairarapa Library Service, which took its inspiration from North American Anne Ferguson, who invented StoryWalk® in 2007, in collaboration with the Keller-Hubbard Library in Vermont.

Her aim was to promote early literacy, movement and a connection with nature. StoryWalk® has now become an activity in many countries around the world.



*That's Not a Hippopotamus* by Juliette MacIver and Sarah Davis was published by Gecko Press and won the picture book category of the 2017 New Zealand Book Awards for Children and Young Adults.

## Funding for all

If you need money to turn a brainwave into reality, hop online to South Wairarapa District Council's great online fund finding tool. It's called Fund Finder and is free for everyone in the community to search for details of government and private grants that fit your needs. It also contains handy tips on how to put your best foot forward to apply. Find out more at:

[swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/](http://swdc.govt.nz/south-wairarapa-fund-finder/)

**Do you need funding?** The Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund and the Martinborough Community Board grant are open now. Please refer to calendar in the grants section on our website for details at:

[swdc.govt.nz/community/grants/](http://swdc.govt.nz/community/grants/)

**Contact us for more information by email:** [grants@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:grants@swdc.govt.nz)

## Summertime safety

Swimming, sunshine and slip, slop, slap are all synonymous with summertime and there's another safety reminder too, which is to fence pools that contain 400mm or more of water. We want to make sure children are safe this summer and year round. This means having a physical barrier or fence around all pools or ponds that contain 400mm or more water, including inflatable, portable, temporary, above ground, indoor, spa and outdoor pools. Stay safe this summer and find out more at: [swdc.govt.nz/services/residential-swimming-pools/](http://swdc.govt.nz/services/residential-swimming-pools/)

## Back on track

The countdown is on for commuters who will be pleased to know that Wairarapa trains will be back on track on Monday 10 February, as scheduled.

The region's trains are currently being replaced by buses to upgrade the rail line in preparation for faster trains and more frequent services, both scheduled by KiwiRail for 2029.

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## Diary dates.... Cruise control and flower power

**Saturday 25 & Sunday 26 January**  
**Cruise Martinborough**

This spectacular annual event offers a great opportunity to see some of the most decadent classic cars ever made from the 1950s, 1960s, 1970s and prior. Vehicles will be on display around Union Square in Martinborough.

**Saturday 1 February**

**Greytown Honey Dahlia Flower Farm**

Day-lee-a or daa-lee-a? Pronunciation may be tricky but flowers are easy to enjoy. The Greytown Honey Flower Farm's dahlia meadow opens for the first time for picking at 58 Moroa Road, Tauwhareniġkau. Book by email: [greytownflowerfarm@gmail.com](mailto:greytownflowerfarm@gmail.com).

**Saturday 1 February**

**Martinborough Fair**

The Martinborough Fair has grown beyond recognition from its early days to fill the town's streets. It will be held whatever the weather; rain, hail or shine.



**Sunday 9 February**

**Learn and celebrate Māori culture**

South Wairarapa hapori whānui (community) are invited to join Waitangi Day activities at Pae tū Mōkai o Taurira from 12pm to 6pm on Sunday 9 February at 23 Soldiers Settlement Road North in Featherston. Learn to prepare kai for a hangi, fry bread making, enjoy a hikoi (walk) of restoration plantings at Wairarapa Moana and more. "Deepen your understanding of plant restoration projects, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and how we manaaki the upcoming Māori Ward," says Narida Hooper, South Wairarapa District Council Pou Māori Advisor.

## Save our precious wai

How do we save water when it runs low? Top tips include shorter showers, taps off while brushing teeth and watering the garden at cooler times of day (early morning or evening). These measures can save hundreds of litres of water each week, as can doing full loads of laundry and using dishwashers only when full. Help to save our precious water. It's a finite resource.

## January and February meetings

**Greytown Community Board**

Wednesday, 5 February at 7pm  
Cobblestones Museum, Main St, Greytown

**Featherston Community Board**

Wednesday, 12 February at 7pm  
Featherston Community Centre,  
Wakefield Street, Featherston

The following meetings will be held in the Supper Room, Waihinga Centre, Texas Street, Martinborough.

**Māori Standing Committee**

Tuesday 28 January at 6pm

**Strategy Working Committee**

Wednesday 12 February at 10am

**Martinborough Community Board**

Thursday 13 February at 7pm

**Council**

Wednesday, 19 February at 9am

**Strategy Working Committee**

Adoption of the Long Term Plan consultation document. Wednesday 26 February 10am

**Assurance, Risk and Finance Committee**

Wednesday 26 February 12:30pm

**Janice Smith**

Chief Executive Officer