



Mayor's message

Happy New Year!

We farewelled a very unpredictable and challenging 2020, therefore we welcome 2021 with open arms.

As always, we have an exciting and busy year ahead. During March/April the LTP and Spatial Plan consultations will be in progress, a critical course of action for seeking feedback to shape the future of our district.

Water projects are gaining momentum, with the objective of improving drinking supply networks and wastewater systems to ensure they are sustainable and effective for the long term. Martinborough's manganese reduction plant will be operational in January 2021 to reinstate full water supply to the town. By March, we hope to have a preferred solution for Featherston's wastewater upgrade to submit in a resource consent application. Engaging with the community and giving everyone an opportunity to share their thoughts is critical to the success of the project - more on this below.

Within the next few weeks, water race ratepayers will be receiving a survey to help determine the future of water races. This is the start of a review being led by the Water Race Subcommittee to better understand the value and relevance of water races, both now and in the future.

This newsletter issue we put the spotlight on Council committees. Many important matters are discussed at committee meetings, which are open to the public, so we'd like to remind people that you can go along, and also have your say in public participation if you want to.

We also bring you an update on the Innovating Streets initiative, funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. The project is working to create safe, vibrant, and welcoming spaces in Martinborough. These will be temporary spaces allowing our community the opportunity to test them in a live environment to ensure they are fit for purpose. Community feedback will inform future development of the practicality and feel of these spaces. Keep an eye out for the consultation and be sure to let us know what you think!

As summer continues, please respect and value our garden watering restrictions. It's important we all conserve water over these drier months. Also, to cool off, please make good use of our community pools, one in each town.

Please remember, if you're struggling financially, give us a ring to talk about how we can work with you on payment options.

Finally, please have your say on how we can make South Wairarapa an even better place to live by making submissions to the consultations we'll be running over the year.

Kia ora rawa atu.

Alex Beijen
Mayor



Featherston wastewater upgrade

Wellington Water, on behalf of the South Wairarapa District Council, is looking at the options for the future of the Featherston wastewater treatment plant.

We are working with the community, iwi and stakeholders to consider all ideas and identify the most efficient, affordable and sustainable solution to meet Featherston's needs.

After public consultation in November, a long list of options is being whittled down to a short list. This will be considered by the Council's Assets and Services committee before further consultation with the community early this year.

We expect the preferred option to be confirmed mid-year and then resource consent application to follow.

Find out more about the project at www.wellingtonwater.co.nz/fwp

Council committees in the spotlight

Did you know many important matters relating to Council activities are discussed publicly at committee meetings where, same as for council meetings, you are welcome to speak? If you want to be heard, you should register your interest with our Committee advisors at least 24 hours before the meeting.

The Council committees are:

- Māori Standing Committee
- Assets and Services Committee
- Planning and Regulatory Committee
- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

Council has delegated authority to committees to consider matters within the committees' terms of reference. The purpose is to enable committees to develop technical and governance expertise in their respective areas in order to provide robust advice to Council. Committees explore the detail of key issues and make recommendations to Council, but do not make decisions themselves.

The terms of reference of these committees, as well as joint committees and subcommittees are available on our website at www.swdc.govt.nz/meetings. Meeting agendas, minutes and instructions for public participation are also available on the Council website.

Committee meetings are held every eight weeks, with dates advertised on the website, in the newspaper, and, starting next year, will be promoted on Facebook and Neighbourly.

To see local democracy in action, check out past meeting videos on our SWDC Youtube channel.



Ratings Valuations available mid-January 2021

South Wairarapa District Council's valuation service provider, Quotable Value (QV), has advised of rating value delays due to a change in the auditing process by the Office of the Valuer General.

QV expects the rating valuations for the district to be available in mid-January 2021. It is important to note these are rating valuations and not market valuations so will not take effect until 1 July 2021 for the 2021/22 rating year.

For more information, please contact Quotable Value at contact@qv.co.nz or 0800 787 284.

Swimming pool opening hours

	Featherston and Greytown		Martinborough	
	Until 29 January	30 January- 14 March	Until 29 January	30 January- 14 March
Monday, Wednesday, Friday	1.00-7.30pm	2.00-7.30pm	1.00-7.30pm	2.00-7.30pm
Tuesday and Thursday	1.00-5.30pm	2.00-5.30pm	1.00-7.30pm	2.00-7.30pm
Saturday and Sunday	11.00am-7.30pm	11.00am-7.30pm	11.00am-7.30pm	11.00am-7.30pm

Community and Youth Grants

As there are funds remaining (Community approx. \$22,000, Youth approx. \$7,000), we will be holding a further funding round for the 2020/2021 year with provision available to receive urgent applications in the interim. Please review our Grants Policy before making an urgent application.

Next funding round:

- Applications open: 1 February 2021
- Applications close: 1 March 2021

Please go to www.swdc.govt.nz/grants to access an application form. If you have any questions please contact Katrina Neems at katrina.neems@swdc.govt.nz or 06 306 9611 ext. 851.

Creative Communities Grants

Applications are open for the Creative Communities Scheme. This initiative supports and encourages local communities to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in arts activities within the South Wairarapa. The scheme is a partnership between Councils and Creative NZ and is calling for applications for projects within 12 months of 19 March 2021.

Applications close Friday 26 February 2021 and there is approximately \$25,000 available for distribution.



A final round for 2020/21 may be held in May 2021 if funds are available.

We are also seeking nominations for community representatives to sit on the assessment group that allocates funding.

For further details, nominate someone to sit on the assessment group and to access an application form please go to our website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants. Application forms are also available from South Wairarapa libraries and the Council office in Martinborough.

Conserve water this summer

Remember, South Wairarapa has garden watering restrictions in place all year round.

For those on town supply, watering of gardens is allowed on alternate days only throughout the year – even-numbered properties on even-numbered dates, odd on odd.

Water restrictions are changeable at this time of year depending on river flows. Stay up to date by checking the Council website.

If you love your garden, it's a good idea to collect and use rainwater from your roof so it doesn't suffer under stricter watering restrictions. Two-hundred litre tanks, with installation kit, can be purchased at cost from any Council office in Wairarapa – subject to availability.

Need support paying your rates?

Remember that we offer payment plans for those experiencing hardship. If you would like to discuss payment plan options, please contact rates@swdc.govt.nz.

Would you like your invoices and communications by email?

Did you know you can receive your rates invoice and this newsletter by email to reduce printing and postage costs? By requesting email invoices and helping save money, that means there's more for good things our community needs, and it reduces our carbon footprint.

When providing your email address for rates invoicing, please let us know if you would also like to receive other Council communications by email. We find email to be a good way of sharing important news and sending out reminders.

Sign-up by emailing rates@swdc.govt.nz.

Pack the Bus!

SWDC was delighted to again be involved in the 'Pack the Bus' initiative, collecting gifts from various locations throughout the Wairarapa to then be distributed via local food banks and charities to whanau in need this Christmas.

'Pack the Bus' Wairarapa is an initiative between Transit Coachlines, Masterton District Council, Carterton District Council, South Wairarapa District Council, Mitre 10 MEGA, Property Brokers Wairarapa and proudly supported by Wairarapa's MoreFM.



Thank you to everyone who helped 'Pack the Bus', including Craggy Range who once again donated 800 Santa sacks to our region's children in need.



Mayor Alex Beijen with one of the new hybrid vehicles

Hybrid cars join the fleet!

SWDC is proud to replace some of its old, petrol fleet with environmentally friendly hybrid vehicles to help reduce carbon emissions.

Council is committed to taking actions as part of The Ruamāhanga Climate Change Strategy, released in July 2020, developed jointly by South Wairarapa District Council and Carterton District Council setting out councils' actions to reduce greenhouse gases.

SWDC's Greenhouse Gas inventory last year showed transport to be Council's second highest carbon-emitting activity, behind only wastewater treatment. Video-conferencing has helped to reduce non-essential car journeys and is encouraged to cut down on travel where possible, but the need for vehicles remains high.

Rebates 2020/21

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$655.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2020.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$26,150-\$42,000.
2. You must provide details of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest and dividends. If requested by Department of Internal Affairs you must provide proof of this income. Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2019/2020 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown libraries, the Council office and online www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property and can be obtained by calling 06 306 9611 ext. 858.

Get your rates invoice by email

If you wish to receive your rates notice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz

We encourage you to take up this option to allow Council to use the postage savings on projects to benefit the district.

Rates 2020/21 Instalment three

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the second rates invoice covering the period 1 January - 31 March 2021.

The last day for payment is 20 February 2021. Please pay by this date to avoid the 10% penalty.

Please help us to process payments by ensuring you include the property valuation number for all properties you are paying. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

Having trouble paying your rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan. Council's policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to assist us in recovering arrears at the end of the rating year.

For any queries regarding your rates, please contact our rates team at the following email address: rates@swdc.govt.nz

Payment by direct debit

Council encourages ratepayers to pay rates via direct debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid paying penalties for late payment.

Based on feedback from ratepayers, we now offer **weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly direct debit options** to pay rates.

Direct debit is the easiest way to pay your rates as we withdraw the funds directly from your bank account at the very last minute. That way you will get the benefit of your funds for the longest time,

and avoid penalties. If you would like your payments to be made by using this method the forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown libraries, as well as the Council office and on our website www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property. All you need to do is complete the form and send it to SWDC, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741, scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston or Greytown libraries.

**GET IT
SORTED**

Something needs fixing?
Let us know...

To South Wairarapa District Council,
P.O. Box 6, Martinborough 5741

From:

First name

Surname

What's the problem?

Where exactly?

Street, Road, Number

Your phone number (Should we need to contact you to clarify the details)