

Looking South

January 2016



A Message from the Mayor

Featherston Town Square

In May 2014 the South Wairarapa District Council sent 1200 forms to urban and rural residents asking for their feedback regarding the use of the recently acquired land on Main Street in Featherston. Of the 159 respondents, 74 were in support of developing at least part of this area into a town square and provided ideas for the placement of the MENZ shed.



After reviewing all responses, Council created a Working Group made up of councillors and community board members to develop the design of the town square.

A landscape designer was retained to discuss design concepts with the Working Group and drawings were developed following these discussions, these concept drawings can be seen on

www.swdc.govt.nz

Featherston Town Square contractors Perkinson Civil Ltd broke ground early December. They will be installing the two storm-water soak pits required for the Town Square development. At the same time, Council went out to tender for the main contractor for the next stage of the project, tenders closed on 17 December. The work will start in the New Year, and is expected to take 12 weeks from start to finish.

South Wairarapa continues to be a hub for summer happenings and it's wonderful to see that our flagship events continue to be well supported.

The season kicked off with Toast Martinborough which, despite having to adapt to tough new alcohol controls, still sold out. This premium wine and food festival has no equal anywhere in New Zealand and is a credit to all involved.

The south is now home to a choice of weekend markets. Perennials TK and the Greytown monthly market continue to be well supported in the weekends whilst the Featherston Christmas fair proved popular with locals and visitors alike. On the horizon are our two Rotary Martinborough Fairs which show no sign of diminishing in popularity.

The latest entry to the South's event stable is the Tauherenikau Country Music Festival. South Wairarapa District Council was happy to support the inaugural concert at the racecourse with a view to it becoming a professionally produced, self-funding Wairarapa fixture.

All events, whether charitable or commercial, require organisers and people to run them. Big thanks must go to all those behind our festivals, fairs and fiestas. These all add to the diversity of South Wairarapa and help to make it simply the best place to live, work and play.



Adrienne Staples
The Mayor

The new town square will be a lovely space for Featherston residents and visitors to enjoy.

If you would like to receive updates from the Council about the many projects in our district contact enquiries@swdc.govt.nz and we will add you to our mailing list.

ANZAC Hall project - Featherston



The ANZAC Hall project upgrade is close to completion, thanks to a group of hard working people who have applied their expertise to this project.

The roof, guttering and downpipes have been completely replaced by AAA Roofing.

The building has been repainted internally and externally by Paul's Decorators Ltd. Inside, the main hall, Kiwi Hall and Supper Room have all been repainted, and the wooden floors in the Anzac Hall and Supper Room have been sanded and re-varnished. The floor coverings in the main toilets have also been replaced.

A number of windows were replaced, and repairs made to the exterior weatherboards and joinery. The exterior building repair work was carried out by Johnson Bros. of Featherston; they have been involved with the ANZAC Hall for three generations. We are confident that we have now found and fixed all of the leaks from the clerestory windows.

The ANZAC Society Club will be making digital copies of all of the photographs and pictures and these will be re-hung in the two halls.

The remaining work to be completed is on the storm-water system, basement ventilation and exterior paving and re-asphalting. This will be carried out in the New Year and will complete the bulk of the planned work.

At this stage costs for the ANZAC Hall upgrade are \$120,000 over the original budget – while several items came in under-budget, it was inevitable that additional building repair work would be found once we started peeling back the building's outer layers. However, the building is generally in remarkably good condition and is still sitting straight and level on its original pre-cast concrete piles. The only place where there has been any distortion of the building's shape has been the clerestory over the main hall – it looks as though Featherston's winds have had tried to lift it off the building on more than one occasion. This certainly explains why the window openers were removed long ago!

A further project is anticipated in 2016 for proposed exterior landscaping work; replacing the existing ramp to the main entrance and the stairs to the supper room entrance. A further funding application will be made for this.

Water conservation

Summer is upon us and the forecasts are indicating an El Nino weather pattern with extremely dry conditions for South Wairarapa.

You may not be aware that South Wairarapa has permanent restrictions for garden watering. Even numbers on the street can water on even days of the month and odd numbers on odd days. Avoid water evaporation by watering your garden early in the morning or early evening rather than in the heat of the day.

The Council applies restrictions on garden watering, irrigation and other water based activities when dry conditions reduce the water in the Ruamahanga and Waiohine Rivers. Low river levels trigger the need for Council, under its Resource Consent, to immediately reduce water use across the district.

The Council has started work to raise awareness of water conservation and is currently working on a number of different water conservation initiatives such as

- ◆ Education material for schools explaining the town water systems called 'Turning on the Tap'
- ◆ Development of a water conservation page on the SWDC website
- ◆ Restricting water volume at caravan sites
- ◆ Review of watering practices at Council sites including opportunities to use rainwater harvesting, grey water and onsite water bores
- ◆ Creation of a list of large water users and engage with them to help reduce their water usage.

Please help us conserve this very precious resource.

For urban water enquiries refer to our website at www.swdc.govt.nz or call (06) 3069611

For rural watering, and bore enquiries contact Greater Wellington Regional Council on 0800 496 734 or (04) 384 5708

Featherston and Greytown water supply

Stage 1 of the improvement works is 60% completed. Contractors are working hard to make the new bore-field available should it be needed to supplement the supply until the whole project is completed.

The balance of the work, Stage Two (including the new ultra violet treatment) is expected to be complete and commissioned by June 2017.

The project aims to provide additional security of supply to Featherston and Greytown residents and to better achieve compliance with the Drinking Water Standards.

This project is partly funded by the Ministry of Health subsidy scheme and is expected to cost approximately \$1.4M.

Water race governance

Council is working towards the establishment of an advisory user group fully representative of the Moroa and Longwood water race users. Further progress expected early in the New Year.

Fire – a hot topic!

In the South Wairarapa we have a restricted fire zone within the three urban centres, where you may burn by permit only. Permits can be requested at the Council Offices in Martinborough or the Greytown and Featherston Libraries. Permits are issued by the Council Fire Officer once an inspection is completed and approved.

Due to the recent dry conditions, from Friday 11 December 2015, a Prohibited Fire Season (total fire ban) came into effect in our three urban centres – Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston. This means you are not allowed to light any fire within the urban areas. You would be liable for all costs to put out the fire and any damage caused by the fire.

If you have any questions about urban fires, please check our website www.swdc.govt.nz or contact us on 06 3069611

Rural fires are under the jurisdiction of the Wairarapa Rural Fire District. You can reach them on 06 370 9557 (this number is always monitored), if you have any questions about rural fire or visit their website: www.wrfd.org.nz



Western Lake Road Cycle Track

South Wairarapa District Council awarded the construction contract to Pope and Gray Contractors, Greytown for Stage 1 of the 8.60kms lime cycle track on Western Lake Road near Featherston.

Works started on 25th November 2015 with the removal of the grass berm in preparation for the placement of the lime surface.

The track will be located on the East side of the road, ensuring that cyclists will not be blown onto the road by high winds along the proposed route.

The cycle track will link the Rimutaka cycle trail to Featherston and beyond.

Stage 2 will begin in the next financial year, including the installation of a bridge and culvert extensions across a number of streams and creeks.

Rebates 2015/16

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610.00 for low income earners.

Ratepayers must have been living in the house on 1 July 2015 and be listed as an owner on the certificate of title.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your Income from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, your rates and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$0-\$42,000.
- ◆ You must provide proof for all forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries the Council office and online www.swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property

Get Your Rates invoice by email

If you would like to receive your rates invoice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz

We encourage you to take up this option, as savings made on postage can be put towards projects that will benefit the district.

Having Trouble Paying your Rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan.

Councils policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to assist us in recovering arrears at the end of the rating year.

Payment by Direct Debit

For the many who have asked, we now offer both a **monthly** and a **quarterly** direct debit facility to pay rates.

Direct debit is the cheapest 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 possible 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 the Council Office, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741 or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston and Greytown Libraries.

Rates 2015/16 Instalment Three

Enclosed with this newsletter is the third rates assessment/invoice for the rating year, covering 1 January to 31 March

**The last day for payment
is 20 February 2016**

**Please pay by this date to
avoid the 10% penalty.**

Please help us to process payments by ensuring you include the the RID number as the reference number (located on the bottom left hand side of the invoice) for all the properties you are paying.

GET IT SORTED

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)*