

July 2015

Looking South



A Message from the Mayor

Long Term Plan (LTP) 2015

Thank you to all those who provided input into the long term plan by attending forums, public meetings or making a written submission, your input helps shape the future of our community. This year's rates increase is 2.98% with a 10 year average of 2.62%.

The recently adopted Long term plan includes a mixture of infrastructure, recreation, and environmental initiatives including a number of exciting new initiatives as a direct result of the submissions and consultation.

- ◆ The establishment of a Rural Roads reserve
- ◆ Supporting Greytown Sport and Leisure Society to provide a coordinated approach to sport and leisure in South Wairarapa
- ◆ Establishing maintenance plans for Considine Park and Card Reserve

Previously planned and continuing projects include

- ◆ The development of a Cycle Strategy to ensure future investments in this area are safe, feasible and affordable.
- ◆ The development of Coastal Reserves in line with the recently completed plans.
- ◆ Building the Featherston Town Square
- ◆ Establishing Development Plans for Soldiers Memorial Park, Stella Bull Park and a new youth focused facility on Pierce Street in Greytown.
- ◆ A 1km per year seal extensions with a policy put in place to determine priority.
- ◆ The continuing upgrade of the wastewater treatment and disposal to land is the Council's major long term project. It is anticipated that new consents will be issued in the 2015/16 year; a major milestone in the project. This project will cost approximately \$29M up to 50 years of which \$7.4M has already been spent. In line with the consultation the next 5 years rates are smoothed over this time period.

All these projects will enhance our district over the coming years.

Library news

DID YOU KNOW that South Wairarapa people have access to around 85,000 books through the Wairarapa Library Service, which combines the libraries of Featherston, Greytown, Martinborough and Carterton?

DID YOU KNOW that our libraries offer more than just books? We also have magazines and DVDs to borrow; we provide free internet computers and free wifi access, story times for pre-schoolers, school holiday programmes, and photocopying services.

DID YOU KNOW that you can access the libraries online at https://ent.kotui.org.nz/client/en_AU/wls/?dt=list? Once you've got a PIN number for your library card, you can order titles from the catalogue, check your account, get book recommendations, access our online resources, and download e-books and talking books from our website.

By now most people will have heard that the plan to amalgamate Wairarapa into a Wellington Super City has been scrapped. This has been greeted with a sigh of relief by most people although it is fair to say that others see it as a lost opportunity. Whatever their view though, I am now regularly being asked, "what happens now?"

Reorganisation of local government in Wellington/Wairarapa is still very much a live issue. The Local Government Commission has however indicated strongly that it wishes to work with the region to come up with options that will gain majority support of council and community. This involves asking the first question of what problems are we actually trying to solve?

The Wairarapa councils did a great deal of work on this question when reorganisation was first mooted 3 years ago. There is no doubt that our priorities in Wairarapa differ from our metropolitan cousins and we will work hard to ensure that our voice is heard in this discussion.

One thing is certain though. The Local Government Commission have ensured us that they wish the process to be thorough. This means that it will be business as usual for at least another year.

Adrienne Staples
The Mayor



DID YOU KNOW that our online resources include The Computer School, where you can access training modules on computer hardware and software, learn about social media and get help on using devices like tablets and smartphones.

If you're already a whiz with mobile devices, then you'll be interested in the Bookmyne app, which is available for both Android and iOS devices. With this you can access your library on the go. You can search for books and order them, and keep track of your library account. The Android version of the app also enables you to use your device's camera to scan the barcode on a book, CD, DVD, or other item and search for available copies at your library. You can download Bookmyne from the Apple App Store (for iOS devices like the iPhone or iPad) or from the Google Play Store (for Android based devices like Samsung Galaxy, Nexus etc).

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2015/16

Funding Round Open 1 July 2015 – 14 August 2015

Applications are now being accepted from school and sports club teams located in the South Wairarapa district.



SWDC has approximately \$9,000, provided by Sport NZ, to give to local school or sports club teams in the South Wairarapa who have young people aged between 5-19 years that require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Application forms, eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be obtained from the Council office, Council website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants and South Wairarapa district libraries. If you want more information contact Suzanne Clark on 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.

Applications from school and sports clubs must be submitted at this time as there will be no further funding round for the 2015/16 year. Be aware that your information may be shared between the Wairarapa councils.

News Flash! Martinborough's Big Lottery Win

No, it wasn't Big Wednesday or Powerball but it was something just as valuable for our community. The Lotteries Commission has made a very generous grant of \$475,000 to the Waihinga Centre Project.

This was one of the major funding applications for the redevelopment of the Martinborough Town Hall and an important component in the fundraising programme.

In other news...

The Steering group and a large group of volunteers are still fundraising. We have reached \$1.4 million and are aiming to raise another \$100,000 by the end of 2015. The Contemporary Art Auction in May was a highly successful event. It was run in conjunction with the Ruamahunga Health Trust and raised over \$70,000 to be divided between both charities.

The Waihinga Charitable Trust has been set up and Trustees are now in place. They will be working together with the council to oversee the delivery of the project. Shortly they will be calling in the first round of pledges from the community.

What Happens Now?

The next step is to confirm the project costs and then seek Council approval to get the construction drawings done.

Inorganic Collections in the week of 3 -7 August 2015

This is our second Inorganic Collection this year and takes place on your normal collection day on the week of 3 -7 August 2015. Items MUST be out on the kerbside by 7:30AM. Typical items may include unwanted furniture and small home appliances.

One item per property able to be lifted by one person

Note for Tora, Te Awaiti and White Rock coastal residents: If your regular collection day falls after one of the above dates, your inorganic collection day will be aligned with your regular collection day.

Featherston Water Supply Upgrade Update

Council has let a tender for Stage 1 of this project which is to complete the bore-field and pipeline works to the treatment plant. The contract value is \$ 655K and has been let to Ordish and Stevens of Masterton. The stage is expected to be completed before Christmas 2015. The treatment plant upgrade is expected to be completed by April 2016. When



the work is completed Council expects to be able to provide treated water to its consumers that fully complies with the NZ Drinking Water Standards. The Government has provided \$667,000 subsidy towards the cost of this project which is expected cost about \$1.2M in total.

The change to the bore supply means that the water will be easier to treat and will not require filtration. At the moment the water from the Waiohine River requires filtration before treatment therefore production costs will reduce.

Creative Communities Scheme

Applications for the South Wairarapa district Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) are now being accepted until the 28 August 2015 for projects commencing after the 11 September 2015. Approximately \$6,000 is available for distribution to suitable arts projects.



Before completing your application form you should carefully read the CCS brochure to determine whether your project is eligible. An application guide is also available and will assist you in making a great application. The brochure, application guide and application form can be obtained from the Council office, all libraries in the South Wairarapa and the Council website. If you want advice on your application contact Suzanne Clark phone 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.

Staying Safe This Winter

Many homes burn wood as a source of heat and enjoyment. It's economical, renewable and can heat your home well.

A wood burner or open fire that is not being maintained and used properly can produce excessive smoke which builds up dangerous creosote and carbon in the chimney and/or flue. Because of this wood burners and open fires can be fire hazards. These unburnt residues can ignite and lead to a chimney fire or worse, a fire that spreads into the building structure and walls. Such fires pose a serious risk to property and people.

An efficient fire will have bright swirling flames and red glowing embers with little or no smoke.

The following tips include some of the ways to avoid this fire risk:

- ◆ Only burn dry, well-seasoned wood that has been split properly.
- ◆ Don't use wood that has been rained on or is damp.
- ◆ Burn fires bright and hot (if the glass front of your wood burner is covered with "gunk" you are not burning your fire hot enough or the wood is not dried properly).
- ◆ Don't burn domestic rubbish, glossy paper, coal or magazines and wrappers (they produce harmful chemicals and creosote and cause offensive objectionable smoke).
- ◆ If your wood burner is smoking excessively, get it checked.
- ◆ Keep your burner well maintained and serviced (make sure the chimney/flue is cleaned every year, many insurers require this to maintain your cover).
- ◆ Replace broken fire bricks and keep the burner in good repair.

DIY repairs to wood burners may damage the fire box which will cause smoke or fire safety problems and mean that you are not insured in the case of a fire.



Wairarapa Healthy Homes

This programme which is sponsored by the South Wairarapa District Council, still has plenty of quota for Free Home insulation in Wairarapa.

Criteria:

If your home was built before 2000, you qualify for free installation where the home owner has a community services card or gold card with community services card endorsement AND you have anyone living in the home who is under the age of 17 OR over the age 65. In circumstances where these criteria cannot be met but where there is anyone suffering from a medical condition it may be possible to obtain a health referral.

Rentals still a really good deal for landlords if tenants have community services cards and fit the criteria above.

Everyone else 33% discount.

FREE assessments : Please get us in to have a look if your house has not been assessed in last 5 years chances are we can help.

For further information contact Lyn Tankersley, Branch Manager, Energy Smart 021 846 869 or (06) 370 1019

Rebates 2015/16

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2015.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your Income, from 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015, rates and the number of dependants. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,440
- ◆ However if your income exceeds this amount you could still be entitled to a rebate depending on the total cost of your rates and number of dependants. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office.

Would you prefer to receive your rate demand by email?

We now have the facility to send rate demands by email. If you wish to receive your rate demand by email please email rates@swdc.govt.nz, and we will add your details to our database.

We encourage you to take up this option, some local authorities have up to 20% of rate demands delivered by email and at 80c per envelope the savings are considerable and of benefit to all.

Rates 2015/16 Instalment One

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 July – 30 September

The last day for payment is 20th August 2015

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

Further information about rates are included in "Part B" insert which accompanies this instalment.

Payment by direct credit is welcomed. Please help us to process these payments by including the property (RID) number for all properties you are paying.

Direct Debit Forms

We included with a previous Rates Notice a direct debit form hoping to encourage ratepayers to consider this method of rates payment, if not already signed up. 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 get the benefit of your funds for the longest possible time.

If you have not had the opportunity to do so but would like to pay by Direct Debit please complete

and return that form to us. If you have not kept the form we sent, just contact us by phone or email/post or drop in to one of our service centres to arrange to complete the required form.

We are very pleased with the response to our last notice about paying by Direct Debit with 200 additional ratepayers signed up. Our thanks to all those who pay by this method as administratively it is easier for us and means you not having to stress about paying on time.

GET IT SORTED

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

From:

Name

Surname

What's the Problem

Where Exactly?

Street, Road, Number