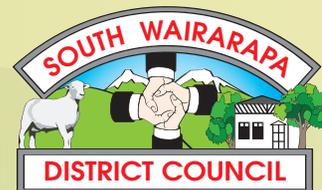


# Looking South

July 2013



## A Message from the Mayor

There is no doubt that the world we work in is vastly different from yesteryear. Computers and mobile phones have changed how we communicate with one another not just as individuals but also business to business. Councils too have had to embrace modern technology especially if we want to get messages to any of the younger audiences. Facebook is just one way we have 'connected'.

SWDC now has 200 followers ("likes") on our Facebook page. This is more than we expected and we're glad to know our communication efforts are appreciated. To put it into perspective, Wellington City Council's Facebook page has 1,892 followers for a population of 200,000 (.01%). SWDC has 200 followers for a population of 9,430 (2%). This is really great coverage and a tick in the win column for improved and more transparent Council communication. One ratepayer commented:

"Congratulations, I am sure those numbers will grow much bigger and it's great to have this level of communication from the Council. Thank you."

People really appreciated the updates on road closures and outages during the recent storms (thank you to the infrastructure team for updating the page throughout the storm weekend). Even if power is out, people can still access Facebook via their cell phones so it is a fantastic emergency management tool.

Thank you for your continued support of our Facebook page. If you haven't 'liked' our page yet, it might pay to do so before the next winter storm.



[www.facebook.com/SouthWairarapaDistrictCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/SouthWairarapaDistrictCouncil)

Adrienne Staples  
The Mayor

## TV Take Back



SWDC and Earthcare Ltd are finalising the roll out of South Wairarapa's TV TakeBack Scheme, in line with the upcoming digital television changeover. The exact date of the TV Takeback Scheme has not yet been announced by the Government but it is expected to be the 21st of August 2013.

TV TakeBack collection sites will be open during normal operating hours at the Featherston & Greytown Recycling centres and at the Martinborough Transfer Station. For the duration of the TV TakeBack Campaign, a free TV drop off service will be available to residents **while the Government subsidy applies** and we will advise more detail about this once it comes to hand.

TVs contain materials like lead which are hazardous to the environment and

your health if dumped in landfills so they need to be recycled sensibly. When you recycle your old TV the components are reused in the following ways:

- ◆ Glass is recycled overseas into new products.
- ◆ Metals such as steel are melted down and made into new products like construction material.
- ◆ Copper wire is removed and recycled in New Zealand.
- ◆ Circuit boards are recycled overseas.
- ◆ Aluminum is removed and recycled in New Zealand.

A small proportion of a TV cannot be recycled and does go to landfill.

## Looking forward to going digital – it's our turn next

It's time to get organised now to go digital.

With the move to digital television just around the corner on the 29 September, there is not much time to go to learn whether your existing television will work in a digital format. It's really important to check the television you already have before you decide to purchase a new television as it may be that your current set can be simply converted.

If you have any questions or need advice, contact Robin Winter, Community Advisor, on 027 540 2314, or email [robin.winter@goingdigital.co.nz](mailto:robin.winter@goingdigital.co.nz), go to [www.goingdigital.co.nz](http://www.goingdigital.co.nz) or call 0800 838 800.

Targeted Assistance Packages are available for those who have a TV and



who do not yet have Freeview, Sky or Vodafone, and who are either:

- ◆ aged 75 and over with a Community Services Card; or
- ◆ recipients of a Veteran's Pension or Invalids' Benefit; or
- ◆ former Veteran's Pension and Invalid's Benefit recipients who transferred to NZ Superannuation at age 65 or over.

People who qualify for the Targeted Assistance Package should have already received a letter from Going Digital, but if you think you are eligible and have not received any information contact them on 0800 838 800.

## E-Waste

E-Waste recycling facilities will soon be available at Featherston & Greytown Recycling centres and at the Martinborough Transfer Station. The prices set at the E-Waste collection points cover handling the E-Waste, and for packaging and transporting items to the approved E-Waste export recycler, as the value of the recovered material is less than the collection costs.

It is everybody's responsibility to ensure hazardous e-waste does not enter our landfills by recycling at a small cost.



## Reduce Household Food Waste

Did you know that a recent kerbside refuse survey of household waste in the South Wairarapa showed that 38% (or 2.5kg) of the contents of a yellow rubbish bag was made up of kitchen waste? By reducing the amount of food scraps that we put in the rubbish we can save the householder and the Council costs in transporting this waste to landfills. An Australian programme called FoodWise has recently been successful in reducing organic waste with simple ideas to cut your food wastage considerably like using airtight containers in the fridge and learning how to correctly store certain foods. Check out the web site [www.foodwise.com.au](http://www.foodwise.com.au) for great ideas on how each residence can reduce their organic waste.



## Inorganic Collection Dates

Collection will take place in the Week of 5 – 9 August 2013.

Inorganic Collection will be on the same day as rubbish collection in relevant town.

Monday – \*Coastal

Tuesday – Greytown

Wednesday – Martinborough

Thursday – Featherston

\* For Tora, Te Awaiti & White Rock coastal residents, if the regular collection day falls after the above date (as they are collected fortnightly from May – Sept inclusive) the inorganic collection will be aligned with their regular collection day.

Remember that inorganic collection day allows for one item per property able to be lifted by one person.



**SPORT  
NEW ZEALAND**

## Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2013/14

Applications for the South Wairarapa District Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2013/14 are now open and will be accepted until 30 August 2013.

If you are a school club or sports club team in the South Wairarapa with young people aged between 5-19 years who require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions, then the Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund is for you.

Application forms, eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be obtained from the Council office, Council website and South Wairarapa district libraries [www.swdc.govt.nz/grants](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/grants).

If you want more information contact Suzanne Clark on 06 306-9611 or [suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz).

Applications will be considered September 2013.



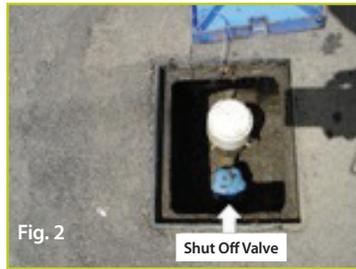
Junior Soccer, photo courtesy of Donald Yee Photographer.

## Water Meters

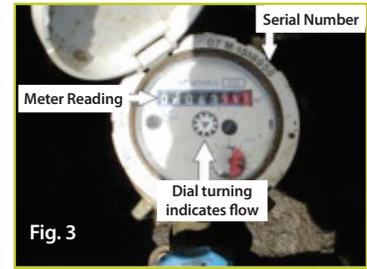
SWDC is looking at the number of times it reads water meters. A reminder to all water users that it is important to check your water meters periodically to monitor your water use and to check for leaks. This is simple to do - just follow these steps on locating and reading your water meter:



Most water meters are located in a blue toby box on the property boundary, either on a footpath or in the grass berm (Fig. 1)



If required, the water supply to your house can be turned off by turning the shut off valve clockwise (Fig. 2)



To read your meter, lift the meter cap to expose the dial. The black dials indicate water consumption in m3 and the red figures show consumption in litres. The number stamped into the rim is the serial number and is used to identify each meter (Fig. 3)

To check for leaks on your property, turn off all taps and appliances that use water and then check the meter. If the circular dial in the centre of the meter is turning it means water is flowing through the meter and therefore a possible leak. Contact a plumber to fix the leak - remember, you will be charged for using over 350m3 per year, even if it is due to a leak.

## Wairarapa Library Services Update

Martinborough Library has now moved into new premises behind the Village Café and is back to the usual hours of 9.30am to 5pm weekdays and 10am to 12pm Saturdays. There is ample parking behind the library off Ohio Street including a disabled parking bay. We are still settling in but loving the warmth and close proximity to coffee.

The two biggest events a library can undergo are moving premises and changing the library software, so we are very relieved that we have managed to successfully achieve both at the same time. On 6 June 2013 all the Wairarapa Library Service libraries changed from our old library management system to Kotui. Kotui is a nationwide system used by 16 other libraries and will bring some great improvements to customers. We are still getting used to using it and working out the inevitable glitches that always occur with change. Customers may experience some anomalies as we work through, so please be patient with us while we learn. Change can be difficult but we hope that once we have learnt all the "ins and outs" of Kotui we will be able to show customers all the great improvements it offers. We also have a lovely new website to browse ([www.wls.org.nz](http://www.wls.org.nz)). By using your borrower number and PIN you can reserve and renew your items, download audio and ebooks and catch up with the latest additions to the catalogue. Our thanks for all the patience our customers have shown over the last months with the library move and the migration to Kotui. Come into your library, ask a librarian and check out what's new.

## What to do When a Sewer Blockage Occurs

If you think that your household sewer lateral is blocked you should call the Council office in the first instance and report your concern. If calling outside Council hours please leave your name, address and contact phone with the afterhours service. These details will be forwarded to the Council contractors, City Care. The contractors will inspect the blockage to see whether it is in the Council sewer main or in the private lateral. A private lateral is the pipe that runs from the private property and connects to the Council sewer main.



Council will rectify any issues with the sewer main but a blockage in the private lateral is the responsibility of the homeowner. Plumber's costs for clearing blockages or for any repair work associated with the private laterals must be met by the landowner.

## Rates Notification

Some of you will notice you are receiving a rates notice for each of your rateable units. Our new computer system, NCS, is designed to issue a rate demand for each rateable unit and we have now completed that update.

This system is the same as that used by many Local Authorities including Masterton and Carterton District Councils.

## Rates Rebate 2013/14

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$595 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2013.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, rates and the number of dependants.
- ◆ The income eligibility for a rebate is \$23,870. 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.
- ◆ Application forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office.

## Rates 2013/14 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  
20 August 2013**

**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 do not have 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