



April 2013

Looking South

A Message from the Mayor

The Long Hot Summer

Thanks to everyone for their continued water conservation efforts. This summer has been incredibly dry, but we are happy to announce that to date our three towns have only used 3.7% more water than last year, when we had an exceptionally wet summer. Town water usage has gradually decreased in the district over that last three years. This reduction is a shared effort between residents doing their part to conserve, and the on-going Council programme for leak detection and repair.

Water in our district comes from the Waiohine catchment for Featherston, the Kuratawhiti Street bore for Greytown residents, and the Herricks bore field for users in Martinborough. Council's Water Resource Consent requires district-wide

water reduction when rivers get below a certain level. Residents' conservation efforts are to be applauded because even though drought has been declared, our water supplies have remained sufficient for all to use.

Council officers are preparing alternate supplies for the urban areas as a contingency in case current levels are further depleted. The recent strain on the Wellington water supply has triggered the decision for extra storage in storage ponds and reservoirs, giving us 4 days of stored water (without replenishment) at Greytown and 2-3 days at Martinborough.

Keep an eye on the Council website for updates on water restrictions, and keep up the good work.

Council is currently very busy with its Annual Plan. This is the second year of the current Long Term Plan and we see things pretty much on track as outlined in that plan. A recently produced, independent league table of 67 councils in New Zealand shows South Wairarapa at 11th place, up from 21st last year. Aspects considered in this table are community affordability, asset to debt ratio, total debt and material contingencies. Council is very pleased with this improvement but realise that in these tough times we must be always on the lookout for ways to improve effectiveness and efficiency.

It was with this in mind that SWDC along with the two other councils in Wairarapa embarked on the path of looking at the reorganisation of local government in our district as a whole. As much as we are proud of our individual towns and settlements, it is increasingly difficult to justify three separate councils here. Modern technology such as iPads and smartphones are changing the way business is done. If we are to deliver the very best service for our ratepayers then it is timely that local government takes stock of how it sets and delivers these services.

Much work has been done on reorganisation possibilities with more being undertaken at present looking at affordability if Wairarapa was to become a unitary authority, that is a council that delivers both territorial and regional services. Once that report is received then we will have a clearer understanding of the best way to proceed.

Adrienne Staples
The Mayor



Draft Annual Plan Meetings

Formal consultation on the Draft Annual Plan will take place over the period 19 April 2013 to 20 May 2013.

Council will be hosting informal public workshops at the following locations to present and discuss the Draft Annual Plan with interested members of the public:

Martinborough: Council Chambers, 7pm, 6 May 2013

Featherston: Kiwi Hall, 7pm, 13 May 2013

Greytown: Greytown Town Centre, 7pm, 14 May 2013

You are most welcome to attend and discuss the background and content of the Annual Plan with Her Worship the Mayor, Councillors and Community Board Members.

News from the Planning and Environment Team

The Planning Team

Coastal Reserves Management Plan and Development Plan

The Planning Team is responsible for putting together management and development plans for Council-owned reserves. One we have on the books at the moment is the Coastal Reserves Management Plan and Development Plan. These plans were put out for public consultation earlier in the year which gave the public a chance to tell us what they thought. The plans set out the direction for developing Council-owned coastal reserves in the South Wairarapa and we are looking to have them finalised in the coming months. Please feel free to come into our offices and have a look at them if you are interested.

The Environment Health Team

The Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012

We are busy gearing up for a significant change in the liquor legislation. The new Act (called the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012) shifts the onus from national to local decision making when dealing with alcohol. Although the Act doesn't fully come into effect until December this year, we have a whole lot of things to put in place before this date. This includes developing a Local Alcohol Policy (LAP) – which is a set of decisions about sale and supply based on what our community wants.

Dog Issues

On the dog front, the Martinborough Dog Park has been a great success for owners and dogs alike and we would welcome any feedback on how it is working for you.

Dog owners please remember to pick up your dog poo after you, not just in the Dog Parks but around the towns. Council does have bags and hand sanitiser available for sale.

It's a few weeks away before you need to register your dog but you may want to write a reminder now. Dog registration is due on the 30 June and needs to be paid by 1 August to avoid penalties.

Council will shortly be reviewing the dog bylaw and policy to make sure that it continues to provide a good



balance between public safety and the recreational needs of dogs and their owners. Details of any proposed changes will be advertised as being available to view on Council's website, at the Libraries and at the Council office, and your views on those changes will be sought at that time.

The Building Team

Consents, Earthquake Prone Buildings and Fencing Swimming Pools

The building department continues to be very busy with a significant increase in building consent numbers since July last year. From 1 July 2012 to 21 March 2013 there was a 33% increase in consent numbers compared with the same period the year before. This is good news for the local contractors who may benefit from the increase.

Over the past few years we have written to owners of buildings that have been identified as potentially earthquake prone asking that they provide engineer reports so that their building reference can be removed from the council's register. Thanks to those who have complied with the request and we look forward to receiving reports from the remaining building owners.

It has been a great summer and we are sure if you have a swimming pool it would have received plenty of use. Now would be good time to ensure that the fence around your pool is still code compliant and prevents the entry of any child up to the age of six. If you are unsure of the current requirements and whether your pool complies please contact the Building Department.

Stella Bull Park Development

On 13 March the Greytown Community Board granted \$341.80 to the Friends of Stella Bull Park to establish a heritage garden in the Park in accordance with the Development Plan. An example of a colonial provider garden with a focus on heritage apple trees is planned with nine heritage apple trees planted in 2012 funded by donations from families with Greytown roots. This year another seven trees will be planted with the donation from the Community Board. When the trees have matured the community will be encouraged to enjoy the fruit in season.

Property for Lease

Greytown's Old Library building will soon be advertised again as available for lease. This historic Greytown building was built around 1890 as the town's Masonic Lodge. It was used as the public library from 1980 to 2007, and more recently has been home to the Wine Centre and some short-term exhibitions. If you're interested in finding out more about leasing the building, please contact Helen McNaught, Facilities and Parks Officer on helen.mcnaught@swdc.govt.nz



CREATIVE COMMUNITIES GRANTS for projects commencing after 23 May 2013



Applications for South Wairarapa District Creative Communities grants are now open and will close on 23 May 2013. Applications will be considered on 12 June 2013 and applicants will be notified shortly afterward. Applicants should be aware that the three Wairarapa councils' assessment committees share information including applications and meeting minutes.

If you want advice on your application contact Suzanne Clark at South Wairarapa District Council, phone 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.

Application forms can be obtained from the Council office, located at 19 Kitchener St, Martinborough, all libraries in the South Wairarapa and the Council website www.swdc.govt.nz.

Written applications must be addressed to:
The Committee Secretary, South Wairarapa District Council, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741.



Greytown Junior Kapa Haka (successful applicant 2012).

Martinborough Village Library will be open ... soon.

Our librarians thank you all so much for your patience while the library has been operating out of the Portacabin in the Pain & Kershaw carpark, and we would also like to thank David Kershaw very much for allowing us to stay there. It certainly has made life easier being situated so close to the previous library building and being able to access the main book stock easily.

The new library will be behind the Village Café on Kitchener Street. At the time of writing this the moving date is not known but likely to be in early May. Once the contract to lease the new space was signed, the building works began to convert the three existing offices into a larger space and that was quickly followed by interior decoration and carpet rejuvenation. Meanwhile the librarians spend time inside the former library refreshing and sorting the book stock and undertaking a complete stocktake. It is amazing what you find when you clean out all the corners. Moving the books and shelves will be done by professional book movers. Meanwhile, it is business as usual in the Cabin. The books and shelves in the Cabin will be the last to move, meaning there will be no gap in the provision of services during the migration from Jellicoe Street to Kitchener Street.

New Martinborough Toilets

The installation of the new Martinborough public toilets was finished in time for the second Martinborough Fair at the beginning of March. The landscaping of the exterior will be done in autumn, and will include the VJ-Day roses which are to be moved from the Square. There has been a lot of positive feedback about the "colonial cottage" appearance, which was designed to match the adjacent museum. While the toilet appears nineteenth-century on the outside, it's pure 21st century inside – these water and power-efficient toilets talk to you, although many find it disconcerting to be told they have 10 minutes to do their business!

Greytown folk may be popping over to try out Martinborough's new Exeloo, as construction for the new public toilets in Greytown is expected to begin in June. Council staff achieved good discounts on the two Exeloo purchases, and expect the total cost to be around \$100,000 less than budgeted.



Inorganic Collections for 2013 6-10 May 2013 5-9 August 2013

The Inorganic Collection takes place on your normal collection day twice a year.

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.

Rebates 2012/13

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$590 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2012.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, rates and the number of dependants. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$23,650
- ◆ 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.

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 70c per envelope the savings are considerable and of benefit to all.

Rates 2012/13 Instalment Four

Enclosed with this newsletter is the fourth rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 April – 30 June

**The last day for payment is
20 May 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 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