

January 2015

# Looking South



## A Message from the Mayor

### Martinborough Community Centre Project Update

It's the start of 2015 and there is another busy year ahead for the Martinborough Community Centre Project. 2014 saw a lot of work undertaken by our fantastic team of volunteers – whether it was communications work, fundraising or working on the construction team our people have been very busy! Our resource consent was lodged with SWDC in December 2014 and we hope to have a decision on this shortly.

Late last year we ran a competition to name the new centre. We had a great response and obtained the services of a marketing and branding expert to help us decide on the winner. At the time of going to print



we were researching the winning name to ensure it is appropriate and acceptable to all sectors of our community. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who put forward a name, it was clear that a number of people had put significant thought into their suggestions.

To date we have raised over \$1.3m from the community and external funders. We have our next council 'check point' in March 2015 and, providing we have raised the necessary funds, we will continue to move forward. We were lucky enough to secure \$150,000 from Trust House in November 2014 and we have an application in with Eastern and Central which will be deliberated on early this year. We are hoping to raise a further \$250,000 from the community during the first 4 months of 2015 and we have a public meeting planned for February the 12th to update the community on the project progress.

Martinborough Community Centre Steering Group

Much is on the horizon for Council in this coming year. First and foremost in everyone's mind of course is the proposed reorganisation of councils in the Wellington area. In actual fact though SWDC will have no input into the process from here as it is driven by the Local Government Commission. For us we are very much focussing on business as usual and that of course means getting our teeth into our next Long Term Plan. It is important that we document our communities' wishes as a sound basis for whatever governance arrangements we have in the future.

The largest project on our horizon is the waste water upgrade required for all three towns. The investment required for this is significant and needs to be spread over some considerable time to make it affordable for ratepayers. At the same time we need to ensure other projects that make our district desirable, like amenity upgrades, are not sacrificed. Having the best sewerage system in the country may win us an environmental tick of approval but it won't be a huge draw card for visitors or new residents.

One project about to get underway is the upgrade to Featherston's Anzac Hall. The three hundred and sixty thousand dollar project includes a new roof, repainting, rewiring and general refurbishment. We have been fortunate to receive a generous grant of two hundred and forty thousand dollars from Lotteries which means all the work can be carried out at one time. The balance will be funded from Council reserves. This work means our wonderful heritage building will be spick and span for her centenary in October 2016 and in good condition to last another hundred years.



Adrienne Staples  
The Mayor

## Consultation on resource consent applications

**Legal situation** – Under clauses 1(h) and 1AA of Schedule 4 of the Resource Management Act 1991 applicants must identify persons potentially affected by a proposal. This information is then passed to Council to consider along with all other matters covered by the Assessment of Environmental Effects which an applicant must prepare.

An applicant is however not required to consult with any person or party so identified. Because of this statutory limitation, it is up to an applicant to decide whether or not to consult with any party, including Maori. Council cannot in law require consultation to take place.

**Best Practice** – In terms of best practice it is however a significant “omission” for any applicant to not undertake consultation with those persons whom they have identified as potentially affected, especially Maori. It is strongly recommended by Council that consultation with those persons at least be undertaken.

**Benefits** – Consultation can in fact assist an applicant to

prepare a sound application, particularly where there may be Maori interests at play. Consultation also enables an applicant to identify issues of concern to potentially affected persons early in the process and then to use this knowledge to adjust their application to address those matters.

By doing this the likelihood of an application requiring public notification and having to go through long and expensive hearings procedures can be avoided. It also helps to avoid misunderstandings about what is happening because people are told directly what is being proposed, rather than relying on hearsay and gossip which can be completely inaccurate.

Lastly applicants and other persons should understand that consultation does not in itself require agreement to be reached, rather it is an important step toward both an applicant and a potential submitter(s) understanding the interests of the other. At the same time it provides valuable commentary for Council to consider when deciding to approve or decline an application.

## Profiles of Councillors and Community Board Members

### Councillor Colin Olds

I have been a Featherston Ward Councillor for just over a year now. The decisions made around the table are South Wairarapa focused and encompass the district as a whole.

I have lived in the Wairarapa most of my life, after moving here from the South Island in the early sixties. My early days were spent at Taueru where my father was the huntsman for the local hunt club. We spent some time in Levin, then moved back to Masterton where I commenced my Motor Mechanic training.

I married Lyn in the late seventies. Together we established Lyndale Rest Home in Masterton and Palliser Home and Hospital in Greytown.

We have two adult children, Julie a lawyer in Masterton and Chris an electrician in Nelson who I might add has produced our first grandchild.

My interests over the years have been varied; Civil Defence, Police, Honorary Fisheries Officer, Business Associations, Lions, Anzac Committee, and more latterly the Menz shed.

The South Wairarapa has been good to me over the years and by being a councillor, it means that I can give a little back.

Having, been appointed to the Ruamahunga Whaitua committee, I feel privileged that my input will assist in working collaboratively towards a better future for generations to come.



### Victoria Read

I sit on the Martinborough Community Board and also act as the project co-ordinator and client representative for the Martinborough Community Centre Project. I am passionate about Martinborough and the future of our town, the rural surrounds and our place in the Wellington region.



When we were first elected we determined to become a really pro-active community board and set up a new three year strategy for the board and funding framework. This was a really important step in defining who we are and how we can serve the community. (This is available on the SWDC website).

My main area of interest is planning for the future. I am a strong advocate of community lead projects and the community centre is a good example of this. Inclusiveness is very important in a project like this to ensure that a new facility provides access and opportunity to all members of the community and we have worked really hard to consult as many groups and people as we could during the planning stages.

I also believe that Ultra Fast Broadband is going to be essential for our town to prosper going forward and am part of a group working to try and make this a reality. If we want our local retail/hospitality and support businesses to prosper all year round we need to provide the support services for families to want to live here. More and more business is moving online and I would love to see more people being able to conduct business from Martinborough.

Our future governance structure is very uncertain at present however I hope to continue to work for the community going forward.



## 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** available so get in while the special is on till March.

**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)237 010 16



## Creative Communities Grants for projects commencing after 31 March 2015



Applications for South Wairarapa District Creative Communities grants are now open and will close on 27 February 2015. Applications will be considered on the 13 March 2015 and applicants will be notified shortly following.

Application forms can be obtained from the Council office, all libraries in the South Wairarapa and the Council website [www.swdc.govt.nz/grants](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/grants).

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

## TRAINING

### “Community helping community - the key to the first 72 hours”

**Sunday 8th March Frank Cody Lounge, Masterton District Council**

**10am – 1pm Session One** – Personal and Community Preparedness

**1:30pm – 4:30pm Session Two** – Gathering and Communicating Emergency Information

**Sunday 15th March Frank Cody Lounge, Masterton District Council**

**10am – 1pm Session Three**

Providing Comfort in the Community

**1:30pm – 4:30pm Session Four**

Working in a CDC after a large emergency

When completed you will be able to ensure your personal, family and neighbourhood preparedness, share the preparedness message, and assist during and after an emergency supporting people and gathering information in your community and at a Civil Defence Centre.

Following the course you can choose to be head away happy with the knowledge gained or register to be a Civil Defence volunteer with the opportunity to take part in further training.

The course is free, tea coffee and biscuits provided. Bring your own lunch.

If you or someone you know in the Wairarapa is interested register by visiting [www.getprepared.org.nz](http://www.getprepared.org.nz) or

alternately contact Kim Whiteman

[kim.whiteman@gw.govt.nz](mailto:kim.whiteman@gw.govt.nz) or 0274 466 5628



## Wellington Region Emergency Management Office (WREMO)

NB. You must attend session one first other sessions can be attended in any order so if you are available for a session you can pick it up in the next training round.



## Rebates 2014/15

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$605 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2014.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, rates and the number of dependants. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,250
- ◆ 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](mailto: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 2014/15 Instalment Three

Enclosed with this newsletter is the third rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 January – 31 March

**The last day for payment is 20 February 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