

July 2017

Looking South



A Message from the Mayor

New pool fencing law

Parliament has passed new laws to protect children from drowning in swimming pools.

The 1987 swimming pool fencing requirements reduced the accidental drowning of children from more than 100 per decade to approximately 20 per decade. The new measures in the Building (Pools) Amendment Act took effect on 1 January 2017 and are predicted to save an additional six children's lives per decade.

The most important change for pool owners is the compulsory nationwide requirement for all swimming pools to be inspected and certified every three years. If Council undertakes the inspection and certification, a charge of \$185.00 will be applicable, with any additional follow-up inspections charged at \$148.00 per time. A pool owner can opt to use an independently qualified pool inspector.

However, the new law no longer requires spa pools to be fenced. Small, heated pools pose a low risk of drowning to small children. They will

comply if they restrict access by having a lockable, child-resistant cover and being at least 760mm above ground. The new law also explicitly excludes garden and drainage ponds from having to meet swimming pool fencing requirements.

The new law is less rigid, no longer requiring a pool to have to be fenced on all four sides if the access of children is adequately excluded. A cliff face or infinity pool feature where children cannot get access will meet the law. It also allows new technologies to be used to ensure gates and doors prevent access.

These requirements are now incorporated into the Building Act. This enables better integration with other safety and building regulation powers for inspections, enforcement, waivers and modifications. It also enables, as for lifts and other safety requirements, inspections and certification to be done by approved, independently qualified pool inspectors as well as council officers.

Creative Communities Scheme Funding

Applications for the South Wairarapa district Creative Communities Scheme are being accepted until 25 August 2017 for arts projects commencing after 14 September 2017. Approximately \$5,500 is available for distribution to suitable arts projects.

The application form and guide are available from the Council office, district libraries and Council's website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants. For more information contact Suzanne Clark 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.



SWDC submissions for the Annual Plan have come in and we were delighted to receive so many, over 105, covering over 400 points. This is a great outcome and demonstrates to us that people in the South Wairarapa are passionate about and want to have a say in how our district develops. Hearings for submissions were held on 31 May at Council offices in Martinborough and Council deliberated on the submissions on 1 June.

Submissions were in favour of free swimming for adults and children in the three South Wairarapa Council swimming pools, accelerating the implementation of the wastewater irrigation plan for the district, deferring some roading rehabilitation for one year and redirecting funds instead to footpaths, footpath maintenance and road crossings and setting aside funds for either an upgrade of the existing Featherston pound or a joint facility with other Wairarapa Councils.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to make a submission, we value your input.

Viv Napier
The Mayor



Wastewater Update

Featherston

In February 2017 the SWDC lodged a consent application to the GWRC to better manage the wastewater in Featherston. Issues in Featherston are that the current discharge contains phosphorus and nitrogen, these encourage algal growth, which may be toxic and reduce oxygen in waterways, ammonia is also an issue.

The proposed solution is to receive wastewater into very large settling ponds, solids settle to the bottom, discharge is passed through UV treatment system which eliminates 99+% living matter and discharge via irrigation to land.

The GWRC is now considering this application. When it is formally accepted they will publicly notify the application, enabling people to make submissions. The application will be heard by independent commissioners. This is a public process and submitters can present their submissions in person at the hearing if they wish. The public submission phase will be advertised in media and on our website.

The property we purchased in Featherston has an irrigation system covering approximately 70 Ha. Indications are this equipment is suitable for the distribution of treated wastewater, meaning as soon as we get the consent we can utilise this equipment. We will make an immediate positive impact on the environment by diverting a significant proportion of the discharge to land.

Martinborough

Since the granting of the consent the council has continued upgrading the plant, completing such work as a new inlet flowmeter installation (a flowmeter measures the amount of waste water entering the plant).

As part of compliance existing outlet flows are being sent daily to the GWRC Data System, this data demonstrates to GWRC how much water is being discharged.

Management Plans have been produced for the Operations Manual, Odour, Discharge to Water, Discharge to Land, and Environmental Monitoring Plan, all within the required time. Annual and quarterly reports were also completed.

We are continuing consultation discussions with Iwi for the production of the Tangata Whenua Values Monitoring Plan, to work with Iwi on monitoring the impact of the discharge on the Ruamahunga.

A community liaison group has been formed and we are meeting quarterly. The group will have a planned visit to

the plant when the irrigator is operational, expected July or August this year.

A site visit with the GWRC and operators was held in May 2016 as required in the consent to explain to operators what the changes will be and familiarise GWRC with the site.

Monthly monitoring of the discharge within the river as well as ecological river surveys have been completed, the ecological river surveys provide more detailed monitoring of effects on the environment over the season and demonstrate the improvements.

The consent monitoring programme also was implemented ahead of time.

Submitters during the consent process were supportive of the overall strategy, however did observe that the implementation plan was too long. The plan was based around rates affordability. Council has considered this feedback and has agreed to accelerate the programme. We have purchased automated irrigation equipment, which is currently being constructed on site, for Martinborough.

Greytown

As with Martinborough, a new inlet flowmeter has been installed and the existing outlet flows are being sent quarterly to the GWRC Data System.

Management Plans have been produced for Operations Manual, Odour, Discharge to Water, Discharge to Land, Environmental Monitoring Plan, and Site Flooding, all within the required time. Annual and quarterly reports were completed on time and we are continuing consultation discussions with Iwi for the production of the Tangata Whenua Values Monitoring Plan for the Papawai area.

A community liaison group has been formed and we are meeting quarterly.

We are also in on-going discussions with the Greytown Soaring Centre for the management of the irrigation that will cross any runways and maintaining fields. This planning is progressing and hopefully the system will be operational for summer 2018.

Monthly monitoring of the discharge and within the river, as well as ecological river surveys has been completed.

As noted in the Martinborough commentary, Council has agreed to accelerate the programme outlined in our resource consent application, whereby we aim to bring forward stage 1B from 2022 to the 2018 year. To achieve this goal, we need to construct pump sheds, purchase and install UV treatment plant, and purchase and install irrigation equipment.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2017/18 Funding Round Open 1 July 2017 – 18 August 2017

SWDC has approx. \$9,000 to give to local schools and sports clubs who have young people aged between 5-19 years to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Application forms and eligibility criteria can be obtained from the Council office, Council website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants and district libraries. For more information contact Suzanne Clark on 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.



South Wairarapa Community Boards

In the South Wairarapa there is a Community Board for each ward: Featherston, Martinborough and Greytown. The Community Boards are made up of four elected community representatives plus two Councillors.

Featherston Community Board Update

Brenda West, Chair

The Featherston Community Board for the new term that began November 2016 has seen a complete set of fresh faces. Together we are discovering our strengths and abilities and are working on ways that we can bring our skills and knowledge to what we care about the most, our community.

Throughout our term we aim to become more involved with our businesses, groups and individuals and find out how we can best serve the town with the resources that we have been provided with. We hold regular workshops, working on the best way to communicate, understand and work alongside Council to sort through local community issues. Everyone on the Featherston Community Board are passionate about our community and our people. We thoroughly enjoy being part of a team that look at keeping Featherston's best interest at heart.

Martinborough Community Board Update

Lisa Cornelissen, Chair

Martinborough Community Board represents the Martinborough ward which includes a large rural and coastal area. We advocate to South Wairarapa District Council on behalf of the Martinborough Ward community and our six members work hard to engage as widely as possible within our community.

Our strategic priorities for the current term are:

- ◆ An engaged, involved community
- ◆ A well connected, liveable and accessible district
- ◆ A vibrant Martinborough town centre
- ◆ Ensuring the best deal for local decision-making
- ◆ Ensure that Pain Farm continues to be managed in the spirit of the original Bequest
- ◆ A sustainable district

Our Grant Programme supports our strategic priorities and we have awarded grant funding of over \$10,000 in the last twelve months. Recipients include sporting clubs, Mens Shed, the Homework and Breakfast Club and the annual Fireworks display in Considine Park.

We are currently looking at options for a Community Garden in Martinborough and we are working on youth engagement, WW1 commemorations and cycle safety. We also set priorities for footpath repairs and new footpaths.

For more information including contact details and our full three year plan: www.swdc.govt.nz/MCB

Greytown Community Board Update

Leigh Hay, Chair

The Greytown Community Board represents and acts as an advocate for the interests of the Greytown Ward communities. We play a key role in engaging with community groups. We also support local businesses and Tourism to Greytown which helps boost economic growth.

We support non-profit organisations for essential social services or a recreational, cultural, educational or sporting purpose located or operating in the Greytown Ward of the South Wairarapa District.

We consult and advocate on the communities behalf with the SWDC on a wide range of issues such as the historic zone, historic trees, parks, reserves, local amenities, footpaths and roading. We submit to annual plans and long term plans.

We have a Youth representative on our board to ensure those views are heard.

Some current projects are the Main St Beautification Programme, Free Swim programme for Greytown children, upgrading the cemetery driveway, Greytown Community Grant programme, finalising the Greytown Emergency Planning Hub Guide, Youth Training initiative with Kuranui College, working with youth/elderly in a partnership programme to help IT skills, maintaining the Greytown Community Board Facebook.

We consult with local communities to ensure our heritage and history is respected while allowing us to grow and prosper as a town.

Wairarapa Councils Work Together to Assist Edgecumbe Recovery

In May the Whakatāne District Council unanimously approved the 'Liveable Homes' programme, which is designed to ensure that all homes damaged in April's floods can be repaired to a habitable standard, regardless of owners' personal circumstances.

'Liveable Homes' is a key initiative for the Whakatāne District Recovery project and aims to provide a 'hand-up' for people who don't have the means to repair their own houses.

Preliminary information indicates that there could be up to

240 flood-damaged houses in the District where the owners will not be able to fund the repair work needed to make their homes liveable again. In most instances, that is because the homes involved are uninsured, or under-insured, most of the properties are in Edgecumbe.

All three Wairarapa Mayors have come together to run a combined campaign to encourage fundraising through www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/ebopmayoralfund.

To donate visit

www.givealittle.co.nz/cause/ebopmayoralfund

Rebates 2017/18

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$620.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2017.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,790-\$42,000.
- ◆ You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2016/2017 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries, the Council office and online swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property.

Get Your Rates invoice by email

We now have a facility to send rates invoices by email. If you wish to receive your rate notice by email contact rates@swdc.govt.nz

We encourage you to take up this option to allow Council to use the postage savings on projects to 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. Council's policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to assist us in recovering arrears at the end of the rating year.

For any queries regarding your rates, please contact our rates team at the following e-mail address: rates@swdc.govt.nz

Rates 2017/18 Instalment One

Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates invoice covering the period 1 July – 30 September 2017.

**The last day for payment
is 21 August 2017**

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

Please help us to process payments by ensuring you include the property valuation number for all properties you are paying. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

Payment by Direct Debit

Council encourages ratepayers to pay rates via Direct Debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid paying penalties for late payment.

Based on feedback from ratepayers, we now offer **weekly, fortnightly, monthly** or **quarterly** direct debit options to pay rates.

Direct debit is the easiest 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 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.

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)*