

Jan 2012

# Looking South



## A Message from the Mayor

It's hard to believe that summer is half way through and at Council we are once again underway preparing our next Long Term Plan. Despite all the talk of super cities and amalgamations it is still business as usual when it comes to meeting our statutory planning obligations regardless of what the future may bring. Our council officers are bringing a much more strategic view to our assets management so we can better plan improvements to our district's facilities.

Our two greatest challenges in the short term are upgrading our urban sewerage systems to an environmentally acceptable standard that is affordable for our residents and earthquake proofing the Martinborough Town Hall. We have already done a great deal of work on the sewerage issue and are exceptionally pleased with the results so far. The Town Hall however is not so straightforward and work is progressing.

Throughout the whole district there are demands for improved community facilities like covered swimming pools, better sports fields and increased library services. All these demands need to be weighed against our core service requirements like water, roads and rubbish to see the impact on rates of increasing services. This is never an easy task and we will be seeking our residents' input on what they want for our district and how they see the future South Wairarapa.



Adrienne Staples  
The Mayor

## Council Website Gets an Extreme Makeover



The South Wairarapa District Council has a brand new website that went live on 30 November 2011. Visit us at [www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz). Our vision is to be "The Best Little Council in New Zealand" which means aiming for excellence in everything we do. This includes making it as easy as possible for you to access the information you need, and providing more services online.

As part of this makeover the Council logo has been refreshed and given a more modern look, which reflects Council's revitalised structure and vision. Great care was taken to preserve the main features of the original logo, as retaining the district's history as represented in the symbol was important.

If you have seen our website before we think you will like the changes. If you have never used our website, now is your chance to easily find useful information on rates, rubbish and recycling, building consents, health licences and more.

We have designed our new website with you in mind. Constructive feedback about the website or any of the other services at Council is welcome! We have thought of a few great things to add in the future, like online rates payments and forms you can complete online. Please email your feedback, ideas and solutions to [feedback@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:feedback@swdc.govt.nz).

### A message to all in the South Wairarapa Community

A community hui and workshop is being held at Hau Ariki Marae, Regent Street, Martinborough, on Monday evening 30 January 2012. The purpose of the hui is to identify long-term issues that are important to the local community, and to come up with an action plan addressing each of the issues. Everyone is welcome to attend this workshop and please call Glenn Bunny at Council if you have any questions on 06 3069 611

## Herrick's UV Plant

The Council received assistance in the form of a subsidy from the Ministry of Health to upgrade the public water supply at Martinborough. The work programme over two years included a new supply bore and pump at the Herrick's bore field, an additional water storage reservoir of 750m<sup>3</sup> volume and ultraviolet(UV) water disinfection units. This disinfection is required because Council water bores are quite shallow and regarded as "insecure" from a potential contamination perspective. The units were brought into service on 5 December 2011.

The existing supply has always been regarded as an untreated supply and therefore non complying with the National Drinking Water Standards. Once the ultra violet units have been certified as being effective over a period of time, the District Health Board on behalf of the Ministry of Health will be able to give full accreditation to Council and hence compliance with the current Drinking Water Standards. This will be a significant step towards ensuring that positive public health outcomes are available for Martinborough residents and ratepayers.



The image shows the two UV units that have been placed within a new extension to the plant building at the Herricks bore site

## Martinborough Waste Water Treatment Plant



The image shows the new plant in its housing adjacent to the maturation cells at the wastewater treatment plant

The consent variation which took effect in October 2011 required Council to address and reduce the pathogen levels in the treated waste water discharged to the Ruamahanga River. To achieve this Council has installed a new Ultra Violet disinfection unit which was commissioned on 1 December 2011. Early results are encouraging and if consistently sustained will see significant long term improvements to the wastewater discharge quality. This work is the first stage of enhancements to treated water quality as in the long term the Council will consider discharging to available land.

Council is currently preparing a new consent application to replace the existing resource consent which expires in July 2012.

## Libraries open all day Saturday!

The library service is trialling all day opening, 10am to 5pm, each Saturday during January 2012. An added bonus is that the library staff will still offer the same services, so at Featherston or Greytown libraries, you can register your dog on a Saturday, pay your rates, gain a fire permit or buy rubbish bags. The librarians want you to tell us what hours you want the libraries to be open – so tell us please. Please fill out the survey form that you can obtain from either the Council or library websites

[www.swdc.govt.nz/](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/) and [www.wls.org/](http://www.wls.org/) or from the council office or libraries. If you don't tell us, we don't know. Our libraries are not the quiet, retiring little places they used to be – they are vibrant, alive and full of the unexpected. They are community centres and the more use they get, the more valuable and vital they become to the community. Join the trend and make Saturday afternoons library afternoons.

Shirley Nightingale, District Librarian, SWDC

## New Citizens welcomed by the Governor General

One of the functions that local government carries out each year is to conduct ceremonies to confer New Zealand citizenship on those persons who have been approved for the grant of citizenship. Here in the South Wairarapa these occasions take place two or three times each year. The most recent ceremony hosted by her Worship the Mayor was held on 3 November 2011 at the Kiwi Hall in Featherston at which eight new citizens took their oath or affirmation of allegiance.

The occasion is a very special, not just for the new citizen but for the family and friends who gather to witness the citizen being granted formal membership of the New Zealand community. The ceremony which is always administered by the Mayor is attended as well by the Chief Executive of the Council or his representative, and by councillors and community board members.

While every ceremony is always memorable for those gathered none perhaps more so than the November ceremony which was conducted in the presence of our new Governor-General His Excellency, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae. When the Mayor learnt that



Rosemary Clarkson, Kristine Lynn Sexton De Lange, Viljoen De Lange, Mayor Adrienne Staples, the Governor-General His Excellency, Lt Gen The Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae, Frederick (Jaco) Pieterse, Elisa Crichton Mahoney, Lisa Portas, Paula Banham and Donald Banham.

he was visiting the District she asked if he might join the ceremony, an invitation he was delighted to accept and at which he delivered his own personal message of welcome. It was His Excellency's first citizenship ceremony and after the formalities were concluded he joined the small gathering to meet all the new citizens informally.

## Creative Communities Scheme

Do you have an arts activity that will commence after the 21 March 2012 that meets one or more of the following criteria?

- ◆ Broad community involvement
- ◆ Diversity
- ◆ Involves young people

If so you may be eligible for a creative communities grant. The application form and associated 'Guide for Applicants' can be downloaded from our website [www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz), or request them from the District libraries or the Council office. Applications close on the 24 February 2012.



## To assist your local Civil Defence organisation in the event of an emergency, why not become a volunteer?

### Changes to Civil Defence in the Wairarapa.

A reconfigured Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) structure is being implemented to coordinate CDEM activities in the Wellington Region and bring together all the expertise from the nine councils into one organisation.

The proposed Wairarapa CDEM office will fit within the new Wellington regional structure. The positions created within the Wairarapa will improve control support in emergencies.

The two Wairarapa CDEM staff will be involved at an area level and act as controller for area and local emergencies.

### Volunteers

Civil Defence Emergency Management is delivered through a series of partnerships between many different groups: local councils, emergency services, community

agencies and the wider community. All New Zealand communities rely upon these partnerships for effective emergency response and relief and volunteers are a vital component of this partnership.

You can assist Civil Defence by volunteering to assist South Wairarapa District Council in emergencies.

Volunteers fulfil a range of roles in an emergency, including rescue, relief and welfare services and come from all walks of life. Devoting your time to volunteering in a civil defence capacity can be both rewarding and challenging.

To volunteer please contact Chris Ferguson (06) 3069611 ext 825 or email [chris.ferguson@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:chris.ferguson@swdc.govt.nz) for a job description and application form or download them from our website [www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz)



## Long Term Plan

Every local authority is required to have a ten year "long term plan" (LTP), and this must be reviewed and updated every three years. The 2012/22 LTP is due for adoption by the end of June 2012.

We are taking a longer term view for the current LTP and while we still need to focus on the immediate future, we are taking the opportunity to consider the longer term issues that we face. Our plan is to consider not only the near future, but also 10,20,30+ years out. This may take a few iterations to get right but the important thing is to start.

We have already carried out a number of internal and targeted external workshops to consider the longer term view and some interesting and useful points have been raised. The draft LTP is due out for consultation mid April 2012.

## Paying Rates by Direct Debit

Enclosed with this newsletter is a direct debit form. We would like you to consider this method of paying your rates. It is really simple and takes the stress out of having to remember when the last day for payment is. Administratively it is much easier for us as well. We withdraw the funds on the last day for payment, so you retain all the benefits of having the funds in your account right up until the last minute. All you need to do is fill in

## Rates 2011/12 Instalment Three

Enclosed with this newsletter is the second rates assessment/invoice for the rating quarter 1 October – 31 December

**The last day for payment  
is 20 February 2012**

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

Further information about rates are included in the "Part B" insert which accompanied the first instalment but if you want another copy please contact us, or visit our website.

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.

the "rating unit" number where indicated, sign and either drop the form in to a service centre or post to us. We currently have over 1400 ratepayers pay by this method. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

*(to those 1,400 who already pay by direct debit you can discard the form, unfortunately the easiest way to contact those that don't pay by direct debit is to send a form to all ratepayers).*

## 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