



July 2012

# Looking South

## Get ready to ShakeOut!

At 9.26am on Wednesday 26 September [9:26-26:9], we aim to have one million people in New Zealand taking part in the ShakeOut earthquake drill, the world's first nation-wide ShakeOut drill and the biggest earthquake awareness campaign ever held in New Zealand.

New Zealand ShakeOut has been created to help people and organisations get better prepared for major earthquakes, and practice how to be protected when

they happen. Everyone will practice "Drop, Cover and Hold"—the right action to take in an earthquake.

New Zealand ShakeOut also provides a fantastic opportunity for individuals, families, organisations and businesses to examine and review their own emergency preparedness arrangements. Families and households can create, review and practice their household plans.



The three mayors, Ron Mark of Carterton DC, Adrienne Staples South Wairarapa DC and Garry Daniell of the Masterton DC.

### Be a part of it... It's easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Sign up now! – go to [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz) (it only takes two minutes).
2. Spread the word (share with friends, family and workmates by word of mouth, Facebook, Twitter and email).
3. Do the Drop, Cover and Hold drill on 9:26 – 26:9.

## A Message from the Mayor

There has been much coverage in the media lately regarding proposed changes to local government structure in the Wellington Region. In the Wairarapa, the group formed with representatives from the three councils and originally tasked to look at more shared services, now has the mandate to investigate all governance options available to us, including being part of a larger, regional model.

A recent study commissioned recommended that in the Wairarapa we should either become one amalgamated council or take that one step further and become a unitary authority i.e. one that covers the regional council responsibilities as well. This prompted a flurry of criticism around affordability and being too narrow minded. What must be remembered is that this report compiled by Morrison Lowe is one opinion in a process that is just beginning. There is still much work to be done, especially around the impact on ratepayers by any proposed change.

We are actively involved in all the discussions being held, including with the independent panel commissioned by Greater Wellington Regional Council. When we are clearer about the impacts of the various options then we will invite the public to take part in the debate. South Wairarapa District Council wants to explore 'all roads to Rome' and not be bullied by others who think they know what's best for us.

While it is clear that the status quo is not an option, any changes need to deliver a system that is service focussed, modern and efficient, not just change some lines on a map. It must be significantly better than what we have now or there is no point in going through the expense of change.

Adrienne Staples  
The Mayor



## Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2012/13

Applications for the South Wairarapa District Sport NZ (previously SPARC) Rural Travel Fund 2012/13 are now open and will be accepted until 17 August 2012.

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 can be obtained from the Council office, Council website and South Wairarapa district

libraries [www.swdc.govt.nz/](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/) grants. Eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions (FAQs) are available on the Council website. If you want more information contact Suzanne Clark on 06 306-9611 or [suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz](mailto:suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz).

Government assistance will be sought to provide funding for this project if possible.



## Creative Communities Grants for projects commencing after 12 September 2012

### South Wairarapa



Applications for South Wairarapa District Creative Communities grants are now open and will close on

31 August 2012. Applications will be considered on the 12 September 2012 and applicants will be notified shortly following.

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](mailto:suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz).

Application forms can be obtained from the Council office, located 19 Kitchener St, Martinborough, all libraries in the South Wairarapa and the Council website [www.swdc.govt.nz](http://www.swdc.govt.nz).

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

## Find Us on Facebook

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



*Road Closures, water supply repairs, rates reminders and more!*

*Like our page by 15 August 2012 and go into the draw to win a Fujifilm Finepix XP50 camera!*



*With special thanks to Technology Solutions for sponsoring this awesome prize! Technology Solutions is a full service IT company in Wairarapa and can deal with any PC problem you throw at them.*

[www.techs.co.nz](http://www.techs.co.nz)

22 Victoria Street,  
Masterton, 0800 878 878





## Keep Our Coast Clean



Council has recently received notification from the Greater Wellington Regional Council that they have noticed garden waste being dumped over fences and onto the dunes in some areas of Coastal Wairarapa. Many pest plants are garden escapees which have the potential to take over the dunes and ruin the areas we love, but often taken for granted.

You can help support these sensitive environmental areas by disposing of your garden waste accordingly, either by composting or taking advantage of the transfer station located in your area.

There is a transfer station at Pirinoa and opening times are Wednesday 1.00pm – 3pm: Saturday 10am – 12 Noon and Sunday 4pm - 6pm.



## Fee Changes

In the Long Term Plan adjustments have been made to the building fees and charges schedule to recognise increased costs in processing building consent applications. In reviewing the fees, Council also worked with Masterton District Council (MDC) to align fees as part of our approach to streamline processes between the Councils and generally offer a more consistent service.

Adjustments have also been made to the cemetery fees

and charges schedule again to recognise increased costs, and the actual cost of providing cemetery services. These charges also align with MDC.

Details of all our fees and charges can be found on the Council website or by contacting the Council Office.

### Inorganic Collections

The next collection will be on:

**27th - 31st August 2012**

The Inorganic Collection takes place on your normal collection day.

Items **MUST** be out on the kerbside by 07:30AM.

One item per property able to be lifted by one person. Typical items may include unwanted furniture and small home appliances.



## 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.

## Rates 2012/13 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 2012**

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

Further information about rates are included in the "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.

## 2012-2013 Rates to Increase by 4.31%

The South Wairarapa District Council is pleased to announce that the rates increase for the 2012 – 2013 year will be 4.31%, which is less than the 4.74% increase that was proposed in the Draft 2012-2022 Long-term Plan.

Following the consultation period and submissions process, the Council adopted its LTP on 27th June 2012.

The forecast rates increases for 2012-2022 are as follows:

PROPOSED INCREASE IN RATES REVENUE									
2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
4.31%	4.07%	2.44%	4.29%	5.00%	3.82%	3.17%	3.35%	3.71%	3.01%

The percentages above relate to the increase over the prior year in the total dollar value of rates required. Individual property rates changes will vary from this because of valuation changes.

## 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