



July 2014

Looking South

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL'S ANNUAL PLAN 2014/2015

Council adopted the 2014/15 annual plan at its meeting of 25 June 2014 following the public consultation phase, which included consideration of in excess of 150 submissions. The overall rates increase of 3.58% is slightly more than anticipated in the draft annual plan, the additional 0.14% (approximately \$10,000) was in response to the submissions process.

The annual plan includes a number of exciting key new initiatives that will enhance the district. These initiatives, which are a nice mix of infrastructure, recreation, and environmental projects include:

- ◆ Two kilometres of new seal extension. This work is not subsidised by NZTA and \$240K has been allowed in the budget for this work.
- ◆ A cycle trail from Cross Creek to Featherston has been included in this Annual Plan, the cost of \$205K is proposed to be funded from reserves. The benefits of the recently opened cycle trail across the Rimutaka Incline and around the south coast has already been felt in Featherston and this "spur" into Featherston is expected to provide benefit not only to Featherston but to the wider district.
- ◆ The Martinborough Town Hall earthquake strengthening and upgrade project is planned to commence in the latter part of this year. This is an exciting project that will see the Town Hall brought up to a standard that will provide an excellent venue for many years to come, and the construction of library and other community facilities. Council resolved to approve the project in principle and approved \$325,000 to complete the "developed design" phase. This phase will enable detailed costings to be prepared, and initial grant applications to be made. Council will consider these costings in December to ensure the project is on track.
- ◆ The development of the Featherston emergency water supply will continue. We have approval for a subsidy from the Ministry of Health amounting to \$618K, being two thirds of the cost of project. The commissioning will avoid having to use the Boar Bush and Taits Creek supplies which have proven to be unreliable of late.
- ◆ We are currently seeking views, in conjunction with the Featherston Community Board, on the use for the land we recently swapped in Main Street Featherston. Once these views have been received and the results analysed funding can be set aside to progress this development.
- ◆ Wastewater treatment and disposal continues to be Council's major long term project. It is anticipated that new consents will be issued in the 2014/15 year; this will be a major milestone for Council. This project will cost in the order of \$34M over 50 years. The project has been designed so that the funding flows will be more or less those anticipated in the 2012/22 Long Term Plan.

A Message from the Mayor

In recent times there has been much fuss made by the government about councils being inefficient and needing to trim costs. There is no doubt that all organisations whether private or public should look to be as streamlined as possible and councils in particular need to be prudent in their operations. A recent independent report by Grant Thornton however shows that most Councils in New Zealand are functioning well, quite contrary to the allegations made from within government.

One area of cost escalation that we find difficult to control though, is the ever increasing burden of bureaucracy handed down to us by central government. A prime example of this, is the recent change to reporting on the Resource Management Act. Soon we will be required to provide government with a prescribed report on every resource consent that we issue. Who will use this information and for what purpose is unclear. What good will it do the ratepayer? None! Nevertheless, due to the amount of consents we issue, meeting these requirements will probably mean employing another person or letting something else slip by the way.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Changes to the Local Government Act, The Food Act and Alcohol Act all require more work and more reports from local government. The only way to cover the cost of these additional requirements is through rates.

Through working together, the Wairarapa councils have so far managed to minimize the effects as much as we can. At the same time we are lobbying the government to understand the impacts of their top down decision making.



Adrienne Staples
The Mayor

Graffiti Vandalism

Graffiti vandalism is an affront to civic pride. It damages the appearance of our towns to residents and visitors alike. It leads to reduced perceptions of safety in the community, and can be viewed as an indicator of the potential for more serious crimes. SWDC encourages residents to report all Graffiti to SWDC so it can be recorded in our database – ideally you should provide a photograph and details of the location. These can be sent to amenities@swdc.govt.nz or to SWDC PO Box 6 Martinborough, C/O Amenities Administrator.

SWDC only removes graffiti on its own properties, however we strongly recommend that private property owners remove graffiti as soon as possible.

We have graffiti removal kits available for you to use. These are available at Featherston and Greytown Libraries

and SWDC Office in Martinborough. The kits are free (but we'd like them back when you're finished so we can refill them) and have been provided by the Wairarapa Safe and Healthy Community Council (Connecting Communities).



Lee Carter - Chair Featherston Community Board



I grew up in the Featherston community from 1966 through to early 1980's. I had the opportunity of being schooled at Featherston, following on to Kuranui and Makora College.

I returned to Kuranui Collage as an adult student to finish secretarial course. This enabled me to expand my future career options giving me a varied

employment history, from administrator at Greytown and Masterton Hospital to first maitre d'at the newly opened Martinborough Hotel to working in Wellington as Executive Support for The Treasury, Ministry of Research, Science and Technology, and MAF (now MPI) to managing staff at the National Library, and now currently at Internal Affairs. In between all that, I also did a stint at Barnardos.

I've been commuting for about 16 years from Featherston to Wellington.

Six years ago my husband and I returned to Featherston, having brought up our family in Martinborough over the past 18 plus years. Being part of Featherston and Featherston Community Board, has given me a real insight to this little town, we are rich with community spirit!

I'm currently a member of the Featherston Fell Museum, Featherston Lions and the Graffiti Working Party (SWDC). I would also highly recommend the Featherston Netball Club (having been a past member) and prayer sessions held at the Featherston AOG church (to which I attend on Friday mornings because I think God is important and so is praying for our community, businesses, families and people in need). My interests are mainly outdoor activities, family, fashion and my favourite TV programme at the minute is "Game of Thrones"!!

David Montgomerie – Councillor, Greytown Ward



I was elected as a Councillor in 2013. I am part of the fifth generation of the Montgomerie family to live in Greytown. I studied law at the University of Canterbury and practised as a commercial litigator in Christchurch, acting mainly on civil enforcement matters and also providing advice to several

local government organisations. I have since returned to the Wairarapa and work as a Rural and Lifestyle Sales Consultant with Property Brokers in Greytown.

My current Council memberships include the hearings committee, emergency services working party and Waiohine floodplain management planning advisory committee. I am also the SWDC appointee on the Cobblestones Museum Trust Board.

At the same time as being elected as a Councillor, I was also elected as a Trustee of the Greytown District Trust Lands Trust. The Trust manages a significant property portfolio, which includes a number of commercial and industrial properties in Greytown, and is particularly interested in economic development.

I am also a member of the Greytown Community Gym Committee, South Wairarapa Young Farmers and the New Zealand Institute of Directors.

Burning Treated Timber

Residents are reminded that burning treated timber is banned in New Zealand due to the risk to health.

Although it may be tempting to use off-cuts and other construction timber waste for heating, the three Wairarapa councils would like to remind their communities not to burn treated timbers either in the open air or in a wood burner, as this releases toxic fumes into the air and poses a risk to anyone breathing in the contaminated air.

Most residential building in New Zealand uses pinus radiata timber, which is not naturally resistant to insects and fungi, so to enhance resistance the timber is treated with chemicals such as chromated copper arsenic (CCA). CCA has pesticide and anti-fungal properties and

New Zealand is one of the world's biggest users of this chemical. It is because of the toxicity of CCA the burning of treated timber is banned.



Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2014/15 Funding Round Open

1 July 2014 – 13 August 2014

Applications are now being accepted from School Club and Sports Club teams located in the South Wairarapa district.



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, eligibility criteria and frequently asked questions (FAQs) can be obtained from the Council office, Council website www.swdc.govt.nz/grants and South

Wairarapa district libraries. If you want more information contact Suzanne Clark on 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.

Applications from interested school and sports clubs must be submitted at this time as there will be no further funding round for the 2014/15 year. Be aware that your information may be shared between the Wairarapa councils.

Martinborough Town Hall Project Approved

Following consultation on its annual plan, Council has approved the restoration and extension of the historic Martinborough Town Hall into a multi-purpose community hub, subject to detailed cost estimates and sufficient community fundraising.

The proposal includes strengthening the existing earthquake-prone building and extending it to house community services and activities including a library and a toy library.

Up to \$325,000 has been committed to develop a detailed design and quantity surveyor's costing. This work will be complete by December when the council will decide whether to proceed to the next stage. If the detailed building costs were in line with current high-level cost estimates, the project would apply for grant funding from a range of charitable trusts, which if successful, would see the project commence in earnest.

The rates impact will be limited to the cost of servicing a \$900,000 loan to cover the cost of strengthening the building. The council plans to contribute another \$2.3 million to the building project through land sales and capitalisation of existing budget items into a loan, rather than funding it through rates. This is essentially a consolidation of some of Council's existing assets into one community hub which will serve the town and district for many years to come.

The balance of the building project, currently estimated to cost \$5.2 million, will come from grants and public fundraising.

The steering group are now working hard behind the scenes to develop a detailed design brief, consult with operational partners and further develop the fundraising strategy. The public fundraising campaign has already attracted almost \$1 million in signed pledges from the community.

You can follow progress at [facebook.com\MartinboroughCommunityCentre](https://www.facebook.com/MartinboroughCommunityCentre)

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, 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 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 2014

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

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