

COMMUNITY FOCUS



SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Kia Reretahi Tātau

January 2026

South Wairarapa Libraries bring books to your door

If you love books but can't get to your local library, South Wairarapa Libraries has a great service called HomeLink, which delivers books direct to you every three weeks - for free.

HomeLink was launched five years ago and has since become a vital lifeline for residents who enjoy reading but are unable to travel. Each delivery includes a paper form for readers to request specific titles or preferred genres of fiction or non-fiction. If you're unsure about what you'd like to read, our librarians can curate a personalised selection based on a chat about the types of books you like or base a selection on your past book borrowing. This way you can tap into our librarians' knowledge and discover new authors.

HomeLink brings literary treasures direct to your doorstep with up to 12 books and library items delivered each time, removing barriers to access caused by isolation or difficulty in travelling.

Find out more and register by email: libraries@swdc.govt.nz
or call South Wairarapa Libraries, phone 06 308 9030.



Rates rebates pop in session

Heartlands in Martinborough is to host a community session on Wednesday 12 February, which will explain how rates rebates work and how to find out if you are eligible to apply.

The session will run over two hours at Heartlands and the staff will help you to access online services for the Inland Revenue Department and the Ministry of Social Development in order to get the ball rolling on rates rebates, if you qualify. Photocopying, printing and scanning facilities will also be available.

A council representative will be present to help guide people through the process.

If you've ever wondered about rates rebates, here is your chance to learn more.

The Rates Rebate Session is at Heartlands, 39 Jellicoe Street, Martinborough on Wednesday 12 February between 10am to 12pm. Pop in any time. No appointments are necessary.



Te Papa Ora o Mōroa in action

South Wairarapa's new Wheels Park officially opened in November, attracting energetic wheels lovers to enjoy the brand new space on the corner of Pierce and Cotter streets in Greytown.

This first phase of the park was funded from the Council's Long-Term Plan, which has transformed the former grassy space into a dynamic wheels park. Future plans include a basketball court, playground and pump track, which will be led by the community.

In the meantime, the new park is open to the public and is called Te Papa Ora o Mōroa. The name Mōroa refers to the land at the southern end of Greytown; also known as the Mōroa plains. Papa means ground or space and ora means health, vitality and prosperity.

Sign up to receive your rates notices and newsletters by email - and help us to save funds on printing and postage costs. Email rates@swdc.govt.nz today if you'd like to switch from snail mail to email.

Getting a kick out of swimming

South Wairarapa is the perfect place to cool off this summer at one of the district's three swimming pools. The pools are free to access and are open seven days a week in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough, until Sunday 8 March 2026.

Pool hours and other details are on the Council website here: swdc.govt.nz/services/swimming-pools



Lead the way

We're big fans of seeing happy dogs out walking and wagging their tails in summer, so we're encouraging everyone in our community to keep dogs on a leash, unless they're at an off-leash dog park.



We know dogs need time out to play, walk and run so please make it a safe experience by keeping your dog on a leash at all times to reduce the risk of dog attacks, aggressive behaviour and excessive barking in public spaces. The use of a leash can also help to prevent damage to our fragile ecosystems, such as rivers, beaches

and parks, as well as wildlife living in these places.

The purpose of on leash laws under the Dog Control Act 1996 is to protect people's safety, prevent nuisance and ensure responsible dog ownership. The on-leash laws require owners to keep dogs under control in public places, reducing risks of injury, intimidation or damage.

A leash can also protect the safety of your pooch, making it less likely for them to get lost, injured or involved in a dangerous situation.

Dogs can enjoy off-leash fun at our dog parks in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough. These wide open spaces are designed for dogs to run, play and make new friends. By following leash laws, happy dogs and happy owners can enjoy safe outings.

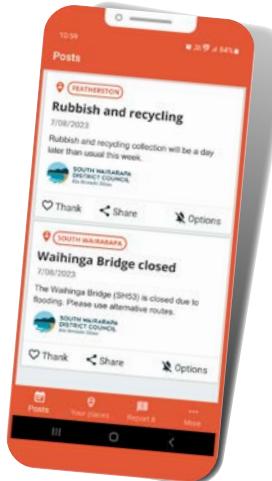
Find out more details about our dog parks online at: swdc.govt.nz/services/dogs

Stay in the loop with Antenno

Antenno is one of our favourite ways to keep the community informed about what's happening across the district, especially when there are high winds, torrential downpours, road or bridge closures and other important information. Best of all, it's a free, secure mobile app that puts real time council updates and community news in front of you.

The Antenno app is easy to download and there's no sign up process. It's a great way to keep informed, whether you live in Martinborough, Greytown, Featherston or further afield.

Download Antenno on the App store or Google Play.



Speed Management Plan approved

Our Speed Management Plan has been signed off by the Director of Land Transport, paving the way for new speed limits across the district.

The community played a part in shaping this plan and we appreciate receiving over 200 submissions during consultation last year, which was invaluable in enabling the plan to support safer speeds in high-risk areas. These areas are places around schools, peri-urban roads (these are roads around the fringes of urban areas), residential areas on coastal roads and also on unsealed roads – which account for about 30 percent of South Wairarapa's road network.

Variable speed limits will be introduced around eight schools to improve safety for all children and their families travelling to and from school.

The Speed Management Plan will be rolled out in stages from early 2026, firstly with the variable limits outside schools in time for term one, followed by changes throughout the year.

Watermain renewal underway

Renewal work has begun on Featherston's watermain infrastructure to improve the town's water supply resilience. The project is estimated to be complete in April 2026 and will see the replacement of 2.6 kms of watermains pipes, which are thought to be the cause of ongoing leaks and water loss. Phase one is on Crawford Street, Boundary Road, Waite Street, Birdwood Street and Fitzherbert Street.

Find out more about this project and more at swdc.govt.nz/featherston-watermain-renewals-2025-26

Consent sets the stage for Featherston wastewater upgrades

Featherston has the green light for a decade long programme of improvements to its Wastewater Treatment Plant. The newly granted 10-year resource consent opens the door for major upgrades that will deliver long lasting benefits for the community.

The approval is a step towards the Council's long-term vision to move towards land-based treatment systems. By steadily reducing reliance on discharges into waterways, the initiative will enhance environmental outcomes and support more sustainable management practices across the district.

Mayor Fran Wilde says wastewater infrastructure challenges in all three towns are a priority and there are challenges

- including balancing affordability with environmental responsibility.

Upgrades budgeted for in the 2025-34 Long-Term Plan include new inlet screens to improve filtration; enhanced oxidation pond equipment for greater efficiency and Dissolved Air Flotation (DAF) technology to reduce sediment and contaminants.

A constructed wetland and vegetated land contact area would naturally filter effluent and there would also be land application trials using trickle irrigation to reduce discharges to waterways.

Book us in

South Wairarapa Libraries (Martinborough, Featherston, Greytown) and Carterton Library are now operating independently instead of as the combined Wairarapa Library Service. Each library will continue to provide all your favourite services. You can log into the new South Wairarapa Libraries website to access your details and reserve items.

Both South Wairarapa Libraries and Carterton Library remain part of the SMART network and books can be borrowed from, reserved from, and returned to any SMART library.

Find out more about South Wairarapa Libraries at swlibrary.spydus.co.nz

Undetected leak? Here's how council can help

South Wairarapa properties (both residential and commercial) connected to the town water supply have an annual water allocation of 250 m³. That's 250,000 litres – and equivalent to about five to six backyard swimming pools or seven to eight shipping containers full of water.

Every year in June we carry out a water meter read of all three towns and Pirinoa, and properties are charged \$2.56 per m³ for water used beyond their allocation. Water meters provide us with important data, helping us reduce our overall consumption by identifying leaks and encouraging repairs.

We issue invoices to properties that exceed their annual allocation. If the extra water use is due to an undetected leak that gets fixed, Council's waiver policy applies and we may waive the bill. If a property is a high user but had a leak, they may receive a partial waiver.

So far for the 2024-25 meter readings, 122 invoices have been waived, saving residents more than \$11,000.



Learn more about the water waiver policy: swdc.govt.nz/water-meters



Get ready to catch the rain

South Wairarapa summers can be relentlessly dry so we are encouraging members of the community to catch every precious drop of rain you can - and these subsidised water tanks are a great place to start.

The tanks hold 200 litres and are available for \$128, making them an accessible option for individuals or families who want to store water for gardens, emergencies or even household use – with appropriate treatment to the water.

The tanks are available from South Wairarapa District Council's office at Martinborough Library during office hours or phone 06 306 9611 to find out more.

Rebates 2025-26

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$805.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2025.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a Non-SuperGold cardholder is \$32,210, or \$45,000 for a SuperGold Cardholder. You will need to provide a copy of your signed SuperGold card with your application.
2. You must provide details of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest and dividends. If requested by the Department of Internal Affairs you must provide proof of this income. Application forms will be sent to those who have previously received a rebate in 2024-25. Copies of the form can be obtained from the Council office in Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston libraries, or online www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms and by email: rates@swdc.govt.nz.

Having trouble paying your rates?

Please contact us as soon as possible so we can work with you on a payment plan. Council will make every effort to work with you on this process. As a last resort, Council policy is to approach banks and legal representatives to recover arrears.

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

Automatic payment

At the start of each new rating year, if you are paying your rates by automatic payment, you may need to recalculate your payments for the new year's rates.

Please check your payments and adjust these if required. Your payments still need to clear the quarterly instalment by the due date to avoid penalties.

We are unable to recalculate automatic payments for you. To avoid any issues, you can switch to a direct debit where we calculate the payments right up to 30 June, not each quarter. No penalties are charged if paying by direct debit.

**GET IT
SORTED**

Something needs fixing?
Let us know...

To South Wairarapa District Council,
P.O. Box 6, Martinborough 5741

Rates 2025-26

Instalment Three of Four

3

Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026.

The last day for payment is 20 February 2026. 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 for. If paying online please make a separate payment for each property.

Post vs mail

If you want to receive council notices and communications, including your rates notices via email rather than post, please email your details to rates@swdc.govt.nz

Payment by direct debit

We encourage ratepayers to pay rates by direct debit as this ensures the correct amount is paid and you avoid late payment penalties.

We 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 last minute. That way you will get the benefit of your funds for the longest time and avoid penalties. If you would like to pay using this method, forms are available from Featherston and Greytown libraries, the Council office in Martinborough and online at www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms.

All you need to do is complete the form and send it to SWDC, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741 or scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at Featherston or Greytown libraries.



From:

First name

Surname

What's the problem?

Where exactly?

Street or Road name and number

Your phone number (Should we need to contact you to clarify the details)