

Looking South

January 2019



A Message from the Mayor

Happy New Year. I hope you've managed to have some relaxation time with friends and family over the holiday season.

This year is local government election year. Elections will be held on 12 October 2019, which seems a long time away, but if you're thinking about standing for election it's good to start having those conversations with your family early. For our Council to be successful, we need good people who reflect the diversity of our community. Nominations for candidates open on 19 July and close at noon on 16 August. More information is available at www.localcouncils.govt.nz.

Following the news that Paul Crimp will be stepping down in March, I've started the recruitment process to find a replacement chief executive. I look forward to being able to share news of a successful outcome on this in our next newsletter.

Under Mr Crimp's leadership over the past five years, we have strengthened our financial position and delivered against some major projects. Examples include: progressing wastewater to land, refurbishing Featherston's ANZAC Hall, opening the WaiHINGA Centre in Martinborough, developing a progressive long-term plan for the future, and much of this was achieved during discussions of council amalgamation. Thank you to Mr Crimp for his contribution to South Wairarapa.

Our annual plan will be out for consultation in April. This is your opportunity to have your say on the things we need to do to make South Wairarapa a better place to live.

Best wishes

Viv Napier
The Mayor



WaiHINGA Centre now open for business

The Grand Opening of Te WaiHINGA Centre in Martinborough was celebrated in December by hundreds of members of the local community and invited guests. Former Deputy Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Wyatt Creech, a Martinborough local, formally opened the Centre.

The Centre includes the strengthened and refurbished old Town Hall and a modern, multi-purpose community hub, which includes the relocated Martinborough i-SITE visitor centre, library, toy library, Plunket and new Knucklebone coffee bar, as well as meeting rooms for community groups.

The project has been funded jointly by Council and the WaiHINGA Charitable Trust. The project is coming in within the total budget, which was set at \$5.332 million (including \$200,000 contingency). The Council provided \$2.8 million towards the project, and the remaining cost has been covered by funds and grants raised by the Trust.

Free e-waste disposal at Martinborough

With the aim of reducing e-waste going to landfill and recovering valuable electronic materials, electronic waste can be disposed of free of charge, at Martinborough transfer station. Note that disposal of damaged or disassembled goods will incur a cost.

Transfer station opening hours

Martinborough

Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Saturday 10am – 4pm
Sunday 10am – 1pm

Featherston

Thursday 11am – 3pm
Saturday 11am – 3pm
Sunday 11am – 3pm

Greytown

Tuesday 1pm – 3.30pm
Saturday 10am – 12pm
Sunday 10am – 1pm

Pirinoa

Wednesday 1pm – 3pm
Saturday 10am – 12pm
Sunday 4pm – 6pm

Saving water this summer

We are fortunate that in the first half of summer we haven't experienced drought as we did last year, but nonetheless we still need to avoid water wastage as much as possible.

As a reminder for those on mains water supply, our district has a Water Conservation Policy that allows watering of gardens on alternate days throughout the year. The policy permits odd numbered properties (including odd fire numbers) to water on odd numbered dates and even numbered properties (including even numbers) to water on even dates.

When river levels drop below a certain threshold, stricter restrictions will apply. If this happens, residents will be notified on the radio, our website and our Facebook page.

Fixing water leaks

For metered properties, which most urban properties are, if you use more than the threshold of 350m³ of water over the year, you will be charged an additional charge of \$1.84 per cubic metre.

Residents are responsible for maintaining the pipes that run from their house or business to the Council-owned pipe, which usually terminates at your property boundary. If you suspect a leaking water pipe, tap, water cistern etc. on your property, call a plumber. If you think there is a leaking water main, please contact the Council on 06 306 9611 (24 hours).



2019 Local Elections – are you a non-resident ratepayer?

If you live outside the district and pay rates there, but also pay rates on a property here in South Wairarapa, you may be eligible to enrol as a non-resident ratepayer elector here.

Also, because South Wairarapa has community boards, if you are a residential elector in one community board area and pay rates on a property in another community board area, you may be eligible to enrol as a ratepayer elector in that other community board area as well.

A firm, company, trust, corporation or society which pays rates on a property may nominate one of its members or officers as a non-resident ratepayer elector, provided that the nominator and the person nominated are both registered as Parliamentary electors at addresses which are outside the South Wairarapa District.

In the case of partners, joint tenants and tenants in common, who collectively pay rates on a property, one of the group may be nominated to be entered on the ratepayer electoral roll. Again, the nominated person and the nominator must be registered as Parliamentary electors at addresses which are outside the South Wairarapa District.



Creative Communities Scheme Funding

Applications for the South Wairarapa district Creative Communities Scheme are being accepted until 28 February 2019 for arts projects commencing after 21 March 2019. Approximately \$6,000 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.



Cleaning up our waterways

We're making good progress towards the goal we set eight years ago to discharge one hundred percent of our treated wastewater to land (except in exceptional circumstances). This is a commitment we take very seriously.

Wastewater, treated to a very high level, is already being discharged to land at the Martinborough water treatment site and in a few months, we will start to discharge at the Greytown site. In Featherston, while we await the outcome of the 35-year resource consent application made in February 2017, Council is applying for a short-term consent to discharge to the Council-owned land furthest away from the township.

Irrigation equipment is already in place at the site and an extension of an existing pipeline would connect it to the treatment plant. Irrigating at the site will provide valuable information about the ability of the land to soak up water and to allay concerns held by residents, which will help support the longer term consent. The main benefit though would be cleaning up our waterways sooner. So it's a favourable, cost-effective, short-term solution for moving towards our goal.



FREE summer pools

For the second summer running, we're offering FREE summer pools from 1 December 2018 to 17 March 2019. This is one of the commitments Council made following feedback we received during consultation on the Long Term Plan.

Following feedback from residents, at the start of the season we installed sunshades and drinking fountains at all three pools, as these were relatively easy and inexpensive things to do.

We've also received feedback that the pools should be open

for longer hours and a longer season. However, given the impact this would have on the pools running costs, especially if the pools continue to be free for the public, this is something that we would need to consider as part of the upcoming annual plan process.

The annual plan consultation is the best avenue to have your ideas considered by Council, on swimming pools, and any other council-related matters.

Opening hours for the pools are:

During school holidays:

Saturday to Thursday 1:00pm – 5:30pm
Friday 1:00pm – 7:30pm

During school term:

Monday – Thursday 2:00pm – 5:30pm
Friday 2:00pm – 7:30pm
Saturday and Sunday 1:00pm – 5:30pm
More information on our website at:
www.swdc.govt.nz/swimming-pools



Rebates 2018/19

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$630.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2018.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$25,180-\$42,000.
2. You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
3. Application forms have been sent to those who received a rebate in 2017/2018 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 2018/19 Instalment Three

Enclosed with this newsletter is the **third rates invoice covering the period 1 January – 31 March 2019.**

The last day for payment is 20th February 2019

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 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, scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz 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)*