



April 2022

Mayor's message

Autumn already, and the days are getting shorter. At the Council work is already underway to get ready for the elections in October, which means my last column is drawing near. In a month or two, sitting Councillors and myself will announce whether they are standing again, and join those who have decided to throw their hat in the ring for Council. We must all have a level playing field as far as voicing our views is concerned.



Your Councillors will continue to work hard until October. Roading and water infrastructure - and how to pay for it - continue to be at the forefront of our minds. We celebrate the completion of the first stage of Greytown's Papawai wastewater pipeline upgrade and the increased storage capacity at its Waiohine treatment plant, which will give Featherston and Greytown's drinking water much greater resilience. However, water costs and discovered replacements continue to blow out, and is a constant source of grief for Councillors and staff alike.

Did you celebrate Parks Week? Our parks and reserves are continually being improved. In recent months, the Featherston Peace Garden has been upgraded, murals are going up at Greytown pool and Featherston skate park and a wheels park in Greytown is shortly up for engagement. The coming winter is also the time to plant natives, and upgrade sports and other facilities. We look forward to updating you on all the good things we are doing in the coming months.

Before projects get underway, a ruler has usually been run over them the previous year. Our budget for the year ahead is currently being ironed out in discussions over the annual plan. I encourage everyone to follow the discussions - our meetings are all live streamed and kept on YouTube. Make sure that you are informed so that your vote in October is based on the facts, not rhetoric.

Alex Beijen
Mayor

Anzac Day and a new memorial

This Anzac Day will be quieter than usual because of Covid-19 but the day will not go unmarked. In Featherston, a twin town with the Belgian city of Messines, the Council and RSA are organising a socially distanced commemoration. Numbers will be limited. Other towns are marking Anzac Day as they see fit, to minimise the spread of infection.

Meanwhile, in Greytown, plans are afoot to create a new war memorial in the pool carpark area of Soldiers Memorial Park.

Brent Mortensen, vice present of the Greytown Returned and Services Association (RSA), said a decommissioned 25-pound artillery piece, currently in storage, will be part of a new memorial which is being designed for free by Sandpit Architects.

The design is still in the works but it will bear the names of the fallen, with text in English and Te Reo. The aim is to centralise the names of the town's war dead. At the moment, the nearby Soldiers Gate bears about 60 names from World War 1 and a stone outside the swimming pool has about 30 names of soldiers from WW2.

After the design is finished, fundraising will begin. Mortensen says he hopes anyone whose name has been missed out on the current memorials or whose relative's name has been misspelt will let them know when community feedback is sought. "There might be other people from Greytown that have fallen in other conflicts such as Korea or Vietnam that we don't know about." A group in Wellington has also agreed to restore the artillery piece for free.



Plotbox

Trying to find a loved one's grave should be much easier soon as the Council prepares to launch Plotbox, a new service which will digitally preserve our cemetery records. With the app, people will be able to find plots and names via the Council's website and Google maps. Staff have spent many hours loading all the records, many decades old, into the system and checking the identities of all the souls resting in the Featherston, Martinborough, Greytown and Waihenga cemeteries. "It's painstaking work and it must be all correct, especially as some of the plots are historic or associated with war dead," the Council's Amenities Manager, Bryce Neems said. It's hoped to have Plotbox operational in April.



Greytown Wheels Park

Soon the Council will be asking South Wairarapa residents for their final feedback on the design of the Greytown Wheels Park proposal, led by local residents. Keep an eye out for posters in our libraries or ads in print and social media which will show people how they can give feedback on the park's design. The park is pegged for a piece of Council land on the corner of Cotter and Pierce Street, opposite the Tararua Junction subdivision. Exciting features include a skate park, mini-basketball court and children's playground. Initial feedback has been extremely positive and the Council has set aside \$1 million to help with the fundraising.

Reading at home

With school holidays underway, the Wairarapa Library Service has devised a fantastic year-long holiday programme chock full of activities to keep your 5 to 11 year olds entertained. Almost all the activities can be done at home or in the library. This autumn's booklet is called Explore.

If you can't for any reason visit the library, the service is also now providing "home deliveries" through its recently launched HomeLink Service.

This service will be great for anyone who's recuperating from surgery, home with a baby or housebound for some other reason.

Sign up on the WLS website (wls.org.nz/homelink) or give the library a phone call. The librarians will talk with you about your reading preferences and choose the best books for your reading tastes. And the service is not just for adults – it provides children's and young adults books as well.



Every three weeks, up to 12 books will be delivered to your home and the library will collect your returns.

If you are not already a library member and this service sounds just like what you need, register online or give the library a call.

Dogs n Togs

The sun turned on its charm for dog owners and their canine companions at the Featherston swimming pool recently at the annual Dogs n Togs event. One of our animal control officers was also on hand as the dogs enjoyed a social day in and out of the pool. Ka pai to the Featherston Dog Park Group for organising!



Digital Seniors

Digital Seniors is a local initiative to help older people keep up with technology and help improve their lives. The organisation has been offering one-on-one help at weekly hubs in all of our three towns and also has an 0800 number for phone or video help. Digital Seniors has also recently launched a weekly entertainment session online with games, interesting speakers and online learning on a wide range of topics.

Whether it's help with your photos, learning how to Zoom your children, or deciphering your phone, Digital Seniors is there to help. More volunteers are also needed.

To find out more, contact Sarah Wright at contact@digitalseniors.co.nz or 0800 373 646.

Water reminder

There certainly has been plenty of water this summer. With that in mind, water restrictions have switched back to their usual status, which allows sprinkler use every second day between 6-8am and 7-9pm. It's Level 1 of Wellington Water's water alert system which is designed to help hold onto our valuable water supplies.

If you live in an even numbered house, use your sprinklers or irrigation systems only on even numbered days, and odd numbered addresses should stick to odd numbered dates.

Rebates 2021/22

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$665.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2021.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$26,510-\$42,000.
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 received a rebate in 2020/2021 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown libraries, the Council office and online www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms and can be obtained by calling 06 306 9611 ext. 858.

Get your rates invoice by email

If you wish to receive your rates 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 email address: rates@swdc.govt.nz

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 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 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 the Featherston and Greytown libraries, as well as the Council office and on our website

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, scan and email it to rates@swdc.govt.nz or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston or Greytown libraries.

Rates 2021/22 Instalment four

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 April - 30 June 2022.

The last day for payment is 20 May 2022.
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.



**GET IT
SORTED**

Something needs fixing?
Let us know...

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)