



Chief Executive's message



Tena koutou katoa

Happy new year!

My name is Janice Smith and I'm honoured to be the newly appointed Chief Executive of South Wairarapa District Council. I hope you and your whānau had an enjoyable holiday break and have welcomed 2024 in with excitement. I personally have had a wonderful time exploring the beautiful South Wairarapa and beyond, the place I now call home.

While I am brand new to this wonderful district, I have many years in government and local government environments. For the past eighteen years of my career, I have worked and lived in Te Tai Tokerau at the Far North District Council. Starting initially as Finance Manager and working my way through to the General Manager of Corporate Services and into Acting CE roles. Prior to my time in Aotearoa New Zealand, I worked in Local Government in the UK where I qualified as a public sector trained accountant.

Working in the finance and corporate service space has given me great exposure to the many facets wider council organisations operate in, and the types of work and challenges that communities face. I am keen to better understand what's unique to our area, and to work with our communities to continue towards our district's aspiration of *"the best of country living with the community at the heart of everything we do"*. Together, we can build a community that thrives economically, socially, and environmentally as we move into this new year.

The preparations for our 2024-34 Long-Term Plan (LTP) are continuing and by the time you read this, the "big issues" for consultation and public feedback will have been identified with the formal consultation document well underway. This critical piece of work sets the scene for some significant issues we want the community's views on.

Front of mind for myself and Council officers at the moment is the direction that our new Government will take us, the implications of the Affordable Water, Resource Management and Local Government reforms. As the pathways become clearer, we will endeavor to bring you along with what changes need to be made to the directions we have embarked on.

Janice Smith
Chief Executive

Featherston Masterplan Consultation

We're seeking the community's feedback on the Draft Featherston Masterplan & Implementation Plan.

The Featherston Masterplan will lay the foundations to realise a series of infrastructure upgrades and enhancements across the town over the next three decades.

You can find the Draft Masterplan, consultation summary and background to the work, as well as how to submit your feedback over on the consultation page at swdc.govt.nz/featherston-masterplan

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website to find out about engagement opportunities, such as community drop-in sessions. Consultation is open until 18 February 2024.



New Rating Valuations

South Wairarapa District Council's valuation service provider, Quotable Value (QV), will be releasing their 3-yearly rating valuation assessment in early 2024. We have been told these will be available in March and homeowners will get a notice by post or email. Any changes to the release dates will be on our website.

The new rating valuations will be used for the 2024/25 rating year. We recommend you check details such as improvements to make sure these are accurate. **There is a scheduled objection period, details of which will be included in your notice.** Please contact QV directly for any queries regarding the revaluation – phone **0800 787 284** or email objectionsupport@qv.co.nz once you have received your notice.

For more information on rating values, visit QVs 'About Rating Valuations' at qv.co.nz/about/about-rating-valuations.



Community Grants

If you're part of a community organisation, marae committee, or a group of individuals, who have come together for a common purpose to benefit the South Wairarapa, we have a number of grant funding options available in early 2024. These include;

- Pain Farm funding distribution from the Pain Farm estate for the benefit of the residents of Martinborough.
- Sports NZ Rural Travel Fund
- Creative Communities Scheme
- Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough Community Boards
- Māori Standing Committee
- Creative Communities Festival Fund.

For more details, please visit swdc.govt.nz/community/grants. We encourage you to apply, and recommend you read the Grant Policy and application information to ensure any conditions are met.

Splish Splash - Pools are Open

The FREE South Wairarapa summer pools are open now until 17 March 2024.

School Holidays timetable (until Sunday 28 January 2024)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Martinborough	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm
Greytown	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 5.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 5.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm
Featherston	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 5.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	1.00pm – 5.30pm	1.00pm – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm

School Term timetable (Monday 29 January 2024 to Sunday 17 March 2024)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Martinborough	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm
Greytown	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 5.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 5.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm
Featherston	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 5.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	2.00pm – 5.30pm	2.00pm – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm	11.00am – 7.30pm



What will South Wairarapa look like in 10 years?

We're currently preparing the consultation document for the South Wairarapa District Councils 2024-34 Long-term Plan (LTP).

The LTP sets the strategic direction for the district over the next 10 years, with a strong focus on the initial three years. It outlines priorities, how much it all costs, and where the money comes from.

You can keep up to date with our progress at swdc.govt.nz/long-term-plan-2024-34, including opportunities over the coming months to voice what you consider Council could prioritise as part of the public consultation. Planning in uncertain times is a challenge and now, more than ever, it is essential we hear from our communities.

Donald Street Pump Station

In September last year, we celebrated as Wellington Water switched on the Donald Street Wastewater Pump Station, marking a big milestone on an important project for Featherston residents.

The two key parts of the project included an upgrade of the Pump Station itself with provision for underground temporary storage, and renewal of the main wastewater pipe that connects the Pump station to the wastewater gravity mains (known as a 'rising main').

The outcomes of this work are immense and include a large increase in the pump station efficiency and capacity, helping move wastewater away from the eastern part of Featherston to help reduce the number of wastewater overflows into the environment. Increased resilience is another key outcome with a wastewater storage facility installed, giving us somewhere to store wastewater if the pump station stops working during a major event such as an earthquake.

The total project cost came in on budget of \$2.8m. This included increasing the scope of the project, whilst minimising the cost by including the renewal of the rising main, saving at least \$400k.

Well done to the Wellington Water and CCL teams on the delivery of this massive project to provide such value for the Featherston community.



Would you like your invoices and communications by email?

Did you know you can receive your rates invoice and this newsletter by email to reduce printing and postage costs?

By requesting email invoices and helping save money, that means there's more for good things our community needs, and it reduces our carbon footprint. When providing your email address for rates invoicing, please let us know if you would also like to receive other Council communications by email. We find email to be a good way of sharing important news and sending out reminders. Sign up by emailing rates@swdc.govt.nz.

Rebates 2023/24

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$750.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2023.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$30,000 - \$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 previously received a rebate in 2022/23. 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 can be obtained by calling 06 306 9611.

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 that 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 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

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.

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 in Martinborough 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, or 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 2023/24 Instalment Three

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 January 2024 - 31 March 2024.

The last day for payment is 20 February 2024. 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.



**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 or Road name and number

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