



July 2021

Mayor's message

As the country appears to have been spared the worst of the Covid effects, we can be very happy South Wairarapa has coped better than most, with the only positive GDP growth in the country, and a solid tourism and business turnover. Indeed, this growth, along with climbing house prices, means one of the real issues we have is finding staff to fill demand for labour.



I am delighted we've had another fantastic response to consultation on our key planning documents – this year the draft Long Term Plan 2021-2031 (LTP) and Spatial Plan Step 1 Residential Growth Options. The community was really engaged at the Town Hall meetings and we received 865 submissions on the LTP and 213 submissions on the Spatial Plan. Your Councillors and I then spent over three days hearing from submitters in person and deliberating on the content of the plans.

Your Councillors, Council staff and I feel we have presented a prudent LTP, yet addressing the issues of infrastructure that must be fixed to ensure we have robust assets that can cope as our district grows. This cannot be completed in 6 months, but will be done. The 3 waters – water, waste water and stormwater form a major part of the budgets going forward, and we are closely monitoring our spending in all areas. Officers will be carrying out more analysis of the rich feedback from the community on the residential growth options and we'll update you on our proposals as they progress.

As part of our ongoing commitment to the wellbeing of our communities, we are pleased to announce the opening of our Community and Youth Grant funds on 14 July 2021. Criteria and eligibility will be assessed against our Grants Policy.

Moving forward we will be able to offer Memorandum of Understanding agreements to qualifying organisations. This will provide assurance of funding across multiple years, increasing financial visibility and requiring less administration.

Later this year we will be calling for nominations for our Civic Awards through the Community Boards. I cannot stress how important it is to recognise the individuals and groups that contribute so much to our community, and urge you to make a nomination when they open.

Alex Beijen
Mayor

Rates rebates – could you be eligible?

The start of the new rating year means the start of the new rates rebate application period. Each year ratepayers can apply for a rates rebate if they meet the following criteria:

- You are listed on the Rating Information Database (RID) as the ratepayer of the property
- You were living at the property on 1 July 2021
- You meet the income threshold based on the previous tax year (1 April 20 to 31 March 21)

If you were financially impacted by COVID19 in the 20/21 financial year, you may be eligible for a rates rebate of up to \$665.00.

To see if you are eligible, please check out the DIA Rates Rebate Calculator online – www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate/rates-rebate-calculator - or contact the rates team.

You need to apply each year as

applications do not roll over from one year to the next. If you received a rates rebate for the 2020/21 rating year, we will send you an application for the new rating year.

Having trouble paying your rates?

If you are having trouble paying your rates, please contact the rates team as soon as possible. We do have options available to help you, but you need to let us know.

Paying by Automatic Payment? If you are paying by automatic payment you will need to recalculate your payments based on the new year's rates and take into account the quarterly due dates to avoid penalties.

If you wanted to switch to a direct debit, forms are available from our website www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms under Rates & Property or contact the rates team.

If you have any questions about rates rebates, direct debits, or automatic payments, please contact us rates@swdc.govt.nz or 06 306 9611 ext 858.

Sport NZ Rural Travel Fund 2021/22

Funding Round Open 10 July 2021 – 13 August 2021

Applications are now being accepted from school and sports club teams located in the South Wairarapa district.



SWDC has \$9,500, provided by Sport NZ, to give to local school or sports club teams in the South Wairarapa who have young people aged between 5-19 years that require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions.

Application forms and eligibility criteria can be obtained from swdc.govt.nz/community/grants.

Creative Communities Scheme

Funding Round Open 2 August – 27 August 2021

Applications are opening soon for the Creative Communities Scheme.

This initiative supports and encourages local communities to create and present diverse opportunities for accessing and participating in arts activities within the South Wairarapa. The scheme is a partnership between Councils and Creative NZ and is calling for applications for projects within 12 months of 17 September 2021.

The next round will be held in February 2022.

For further details and forms please go to our website www.swdc.govt.nz/community/grants. Application forms will also be available from South Wairarapa libraries and the Council office in Martinborough.



South Wairarapa urban rubbish and recycling calendar 2021/22

Put out rubbish bags + wheelie bin on **red weeks**



Key

Put out rubbish bags + crates on **blue weeks**



Your bin sticker tells you which day of the week.

● Public holiday / no collection

■ Collections a day later than usual

MAY 2021

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JULY 2021

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○ Normal collection: 27th & 28th Dec

JANUARY 2022

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○ Normal collection: 3rd & 4th Jan

FEBRUARY 2022

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MARCH 2022

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APRIL 2022

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Note: South Wairarapa Coastal collections will take place on public holidays, except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Community and Youth Grant Funds

Open from 14 July - 16 August 2021

We are inviting applications from eligible organisations that contribute to the community in one of the following areas: Arts, Museums, Heritage and Culture (including Māoritanga), Environment, Events, Sports and Recreation, Social and Educational Services, and Economic Development.

There is \$170,000 available for distribution for community grants and \$75,000 available for youth grants.

Criteria and eligibility will be assessed against our Grants Policy and multi-year funding will be available to qualifying organisations. The application form, policy, and other information is available at www.swdc.govt.nz/community/grants

Venues for hire

Planning an event? Venues for hire again

Venues include the Waihinga Centre (the Martinborough Town Hall and the Martinborough Supper Room), the Greytown Town Centre, the Featherston ANZAC Hall and the Featherston Sports Stadium.

The venues may be hired out completely or in part – they all have smaller rooms available for a more intimate gathering.

Contact our Venues Coordinator on 06 306 9611 ext. 865 or email venues@swdc.govt.nz



Library news

All four branches (Martinborough, Greytown, Featherston and Carterton) are open Monday-Friday 9.30am-5pm and now Saturday 10am-2pm.



Broadcaster and oral historian Hugo Manson and National Library oral history adviser Lynette Shum led the two-day workshop

The Libraries have recently been reorganised to create more spaces for reading or studying, to highlight the collections and make their layout flow. You'll also notice a lot of new stock coming in. Covid-19 has slowed delivery of items, but we're seeing about 500 new items a month arriving.

Nearly all Wairarapa Library Service (WLS) staff now work across all four branches. It means you'll get to know our entire team. New to the Libraries are a number of staff employed through funding from the NZ Libraries Partnership Programme. The addition of these staff means we can now start providing you with the depth of public library services commonly found across the country.

Libraries now offer Skinny Jump modems, a low-cost prepaid broadband service for eligible Kiwi homes, with 30GB of broadband for just \$5. Thanks to the loan of a 3D printer from Masterton District Library, 3D printing workshops are underway. Building Blocks (Lego) Club for young and old is about to begin across the libraries along with sessions on robotics, and digital basics. In August a major workshop is planned for those keen to learn more about podcasting. This builds on a recent Oral Historian workshop lead by Hugo Manson and Lynette Shum.

Climate change update

The South Wairarapa District Council adopted the revised Ruamāhanga Strategy and action plan on climate change. This is an important milestone following a review of what has been done since 2019 and since we updated the last action plan.

The latest greenhouse gas report (2020) for SWDC corporate emissions was also presented to Council. Gross greenhouse gas emissions (excluding forestry) decreased slightly (2.5%) to 241.44tCo2e. This is a good sign, however, the Council and all residents need to maintain efforts to reduce emissions and mitigate climate change.

There is a new climate change dashboard from May 2021 for the community. This dashboard allows residents

to view different measures (weather, air quality, electric vehicle and electricity consumption) all in the same document. You can find it on the Council's website.

[swdc.govt.nz/community/climate-change](https://www.swdc.govt.nz/community/climate-change)

Conservation Week will be held from 30th August to 16th September throughout the Wairarapa region. There will be an art exhibition in different towns, evenings with great guest speakers, and much more. The final programme will be available shortly. It is a great programme due to the collaborative efforts of a range of different stakeholders, such as local government, Department of Conservation, community groups, schools, etc.

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 One

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the first rates invoice covering the period 1 July - 30 September 2021.

The last day for payment is 20 August 2021. 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)