



Above: A render and two images showing near completion of stage one of Te Papa Ora o Mōroa – South Wairarapa's new wheels park in Greytown.

## Te Papa Ora o Mōroa ready to roll

South Wairarapa's new wheels park is set to open to the community this month in Greytown — a full two months ahead of the original December forecast. The highly anticipated new wheels park will be known as Te Papa Ora o Mōroa or Papa Ora, for short.

Phase one of the project, delivered as part of the Council's Long-Term Plan, is nearly complete and ready to welcome scooters, bikers, and skaters of all ages and stages. The designers and project managers from Convic (Australia) will visit in October to inspect the final build and prepare for the handover of the space.

The park will cater to tamariki, rangatahi and adults.

### What's next?

While the wheels park is ready to roll, there's more in store with plans to include a playground for younger tamariki, a basketball court for friendly competition and a pump track for thrill-seekers, along with expanded carparking for easier access.

Community fund raising will see these additions made to the park.

An official opening celebration has been scheduled for November. Keep an eye on our website for confirmed details and get ready to roll into something special.

## Wairarapa and Tararua councils join forces for water

In August, South Wairarapa, Carterton, Masterton and Tararua District Councils adopted their Water Services Delivery Plan and submitted them for approval to the Department of Internal Affairs.

These plans set out how the Councils and iwi will work together to establish the new water services organisation and deliver safe, reliable water services across the Wairarapa and Tararua regions.

The four councils have worked closely with Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu to shape the governance and structure of the new organisation.

Over the next 18 months, the work to establish the organisation will take place in two stages. In stage 1, the organisation will be legally established by March 2026 and in stage 2, the organisation will be operational and delivering water services to the community by July 2027.

Until the organisation is up and running in 2027, South Wairarapa District Council will continue to be responsible for water services.

**Read the Council's FAQs online at:**  
[swdc.govt.nz/local-water-done-well](https://swdc.govt.nz/local-water-done-well)

## Martinborough Wastewater Pond looks its best in years



Above: The wastewater pond in Martinborough is now settling in preparation for assessment.

The Martinborough Wastewater Treatment Plant looks the best it has in years, says the Council's amenities team, which says that 660 tonnes of sludge have been removed and placed in geobags to dry for safe disposal. The pond will now settle in preparation for assessing its improved performance and Greater Wellington Regional Council has lifted the abatement notice.

While desludging doesn't boost the capacity of the pond, it is a key step towards better performance and compliance.

Planning is underway for the next phase, including land-based discharge options and future upgrades funded in the 2025-34 Long-Term Plan.

The Council says a big thank you to Glasgow Contractors, whose workers spent four months on-site and are now gearing up to start work at the Greytown plant later this year.

Community updates will continue as the Council work with Wellington Water to move towards full compliance.

## Wairarapa Walking Festival returns in November

Hot foot it along to the fifth Wairarapa Walking Festival which runs, if you'll excuse the pun, throughout the Wairarapa region from Friday 14 November to Sunday 23 November.

The festival features a curated programme of guided walks from the coast to the forest, taking in explorations of working farms, marae, experiences that foster a celebration of the region's dark skies, food and wine, along with its local ecosystems.

Wairarapa Walking Festival is sponsored by Tranzit Coachlines, Masterton Foot Clinic, Masterton Shoe Clinic, Carterton District Council, Masterton District Council,

South Wairarapa District Council and Living Streets Aotearoa.



**Find out more about the walks and make bookings online at [www.eventfinda.co.nz/tours-festivals](http://www.eventfinda.co.nz/tours-festivals)**



## Featherston picnic spot has a literary lift

One of Featherston's favourite picnic spots now reflects what the town is best known for: books, books and more books, thanks to new book-themed bench seats.

The old seating was past its best and needed to be replaced, which led to a collaboration between the Council and the community to celebrate the town's love affair with the written word.

The idea for book-themed seating sprang from local book champion Peter Biggs (aka Biggsy), the chairperson of the Featherston Booktown Trust. He asked the Council's amenities team if book-themed bench seats might be a possibility. The answer was a resounding yes and the amenities team worked with local steel specialists, Norse Ironworks, to craft sturdy steel seats with a story — literally. Each seat has a book-themed design etched into its back, in celebration of Featherston's status as the first and only official Booktown in Aotearoa.

Local company Black Axe removed the old wooden seats and recycled what they could, laying fresh concrete bases for the new structures. The result is a joyful blend of community spirit, clever design and literary flair — perfect for a sunny day sandwich with a side of storytelling.



## South Wairarapa's Speed Management Plan ready for approval

The Council has finalised its Speed Management Plan which has been submitted to the Director of Land Transport for approval for changes to speed limits across the district, especially in areas with high pedestrian and cycling activity. These include peri-urban roads – on the edge of town, where people walk and cycle often; coastal settlements – like Cape Palliser Road, where footpaths are limited and unsealed roads, which make up around 30% of the district's network.

Community consultation ran for six weeks in June and July, with 220 submissions received and 15 speakers at hearings.

Elected members deliberated in August on the recommendations made following consultation, to ensure a safe and balanced approach to speed for people moving throughout the district. While the majority of the proposed speed limit changes were adopted, some further amendments were made and included in the final plan.

Once approved, the Plan will be rolled out in phases to help make roads safer for everyone.



Above: Proposed changes to speed, if approved, will impact roads across the district.

## Splash-tastic summer pools opening soon

As spring temperatures rise, South Wairarapa District Council is turning down the heat—poolside style. Get ready to dive into summer when the district's three swimming pools open on Saturday 29 November to help you chill out in the coolest way possible.

### Where to cool off

- Featherston Pool – Johnston Street
- Greytown Pool – 11/55 Kuratawhiti Street
- Martinborough Pool – 1 Princess Street

These seasonal oases are managed by Community Leisure Management (CLM) for the council, and the best part is that entry is absolutely free. That's right—no wallet, no worries, just water.

The summer swim season runs at all three pools from Saturday 29 November to Sunday 9 March.

Grab your sunglasses, slap on some sunscreen and soak your way through summer.

The pool hours will be updated on the council website and shared on social media and at once they're finalised soon.

## Golden – koura - anniversary for Te Wiki o te Reo Māori

Māori Language Week celebrated 50 years as an annual celebration in September, so we thought we would introduce Ali Te Pohe; Wairarapa Library Service's Te Ao Māori Specialist. Ali encourages all who are keen to learn te Reo Māori language to check out the physical Māori collections at the three South Wairarapa libraries in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough. "Wā Kōrero (story time) has free stories, activities, movement and rhymes every week during the school term at Featherston Library at 10am on Tuesdays; at Greytown Library at 10am on Fridays and at Martinborough Library at 10am on Tuesdays."

Asked to name her favourite te reo Māori children's book in South Wairarapa's libraries, Ali suggests *Kei hea te hipi kākārīki? nā Mem Fox / Where is the green sheep?* by Mem Fox.

Her favourite te reo Māori book for adults is *Aroha* by Dr Hinemoa Elder.

"The subtitle is: Māori wisdom for a contented life lived in harmony with our planet - it's a beautiful read."

Asked what the biggest opportunity for libraries is during Te Wiki o te Reo Māori, she says: "To visibly support and embed te reo within our communities – at kōrero with customers, programmes, story times, in print books or digital initiatives."



# 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](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms) and by email: [rates@swdc.govt.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# Rates 2025-26 Instalment Two



Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 October 2025 - 31 December 2025.

The last day for payment is 20 November 2025. 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:rates@swdc.govt.nz) or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at Featherston or Greytown libraries.



# 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)