

## Rebates 2022/23

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$700.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2022.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$28,080 - \$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 2021/22 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown libraries, the Council office and online [www.swdc.govt.nz/services/forms](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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, 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 the Featherston or Greytown libraries.

## Rates 2022/23 Instalment Two

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Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period 1 October to 31 December 2022.

The last day for payment is 21 November 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.

# COMMUNITY FOCUS

October 2022



**SOUTH WAIRARAPA  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
*Kia Reretahi Tātau*

## Chief Executive's message

I know everyone's been talking about the rain this winter, and it really has been a concern, especially for our roading team. The level of rain we've received is far in excess of normal levels, and the ground is at 160% saturation level, meaning that many rural roads and hillsides are at risk of slips. It goes without saying that until summer comes and much of the roading repair work can be done effectively, it's 'Driver beware'. We will of course attend to all urgent repair works as we have been doing.

It's much more pleasant to talk of some of the good things that are happening in our district. Kainga Ora's re-entry to the Wairarapa after a 20-year absence is great news for those in need of social housing. It is in no way a fix for our critical need for more affordable housing and rentals but it is a start. Our own social housing, units for the elderly, is progressively improved between tenancies, maintaining healthy housing standards.

There have been a number of complex issues coming before Council recently, including at least one solar farm proposal outside Greytown and assisting Hinekura residents as we progress a realigned road; street lighting and flooding

issues in Featherston. The lighting is a PowerCo issue of course, and the flooding is being worked on in tandem with other agencies. But we want you to know that we are listening, and we are dealing with the other issues as fast as we can, within our budget and resources.

Indeed, by the time you read this, we will have a new Council and three new community boards who will be racing to get abreast of their responsibilities before the year ends. The first meeting for the new Council will be a powhiri in late October.

A summer full of events and good times is surely ahead, and all of us at Council wish you well until the New Year.

Ngā mihi

**Harry Wilson**  
*Chief Executive*



## Rosa leaves her mark

Local artist Rosa Doyle has completed three more murals for Greytown swimmers to enjoy this season, continuing her series on birds. The murals were commissioned by the Greytown Community Board from its beautification fund. Rosa's colourful creations first started appearing at the Soldiers Park Memorial pool last summer. A busy graphic designer, Rosa's work does not allow much time for painting. And as she is also planning to go overseas in a few months, she says she's grateful to have had the chance to leave a little of her artistic mark on our beautiful district.



**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)



## Rangatahi Strategy

Our Council is always working to engage young people more in local government.

So we have grabbed with both hands the opportunity to work with the other two Wairarapa Councils to review the district-wide Rangatahi (Youth) Strategy. This review has been expanded to include South Wairarapa.

It's vital that rangatahi (12-24 year olds) are at the heart of the process, so recently our community development and policy teams have been out asking young people for their views via feedback sessions across the Wairarapa.

This included a visit to Kuranui College (right and below) where the teams from South Wairarapa and Masterton District Councils got to share information about what we do at Council. We also gathered views on what it's like to be a young person living in the Wairarapa, and what it would take to make it even better for them.

For young people, living in the Wairarapa can be great but there are some obstacles. There can be difficulties such as lack of public transport, trouble finding work or limited mental health services.

More than 140 students filled in survey forms at Kuranui alone. Their views will go through to a Rangatahi Strategy focus group. To find out more, head to [www.mstn.govt.nz/rangatahi-youth-strategy](http://www.mstn.govt.nz/rangatahi-youth-strategy).

The Rangatahi Focus Group will assist and advise the three councils to come up with a strategy which will:

- identify key barriers and issues for youth in our region
- connect with decision makers to make sure they know the youth perspective and how best to work alongside youth
- help the three Wairarapa District Councils prioritise what they should do for youth.



## Building consents

South Wairarapa District Council has moved to a new online building consent application and processing system from 27 September.

The new system, Objective Build, is the next generation of regulatory software and has replaced the current Simpli system.

All consents in the Simpli system for which Code of Compliance Certificates have yet to be issued will be automatically transferred to Objective Build.

Learn more about building consents at [www.swdc.govt.nz/services/building-consents/](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/services/building-consents/)

## Social housing

The Council has welcomed Kainga Ora's announcement that it has bought a block of land on Greytown's East St for much-needed social housing. Three other sites in Masterton and Woodville have also been secured. It's the first time since 1999 that Kainga Ora has had a presence in the Wairarapa and Tararua regions and should mean the creation of around 50 new public homes. With 237 people on the social housing register, our Council is excited to have been involved in bringing new public housing to our area.

## Share your views on smoking and vaping

Wairarapa's three district councils have been asking residents, businesses and community organisations for their views on smoking and vaping to contribute to the development of a combined smoke- and vape-free policy for the region.

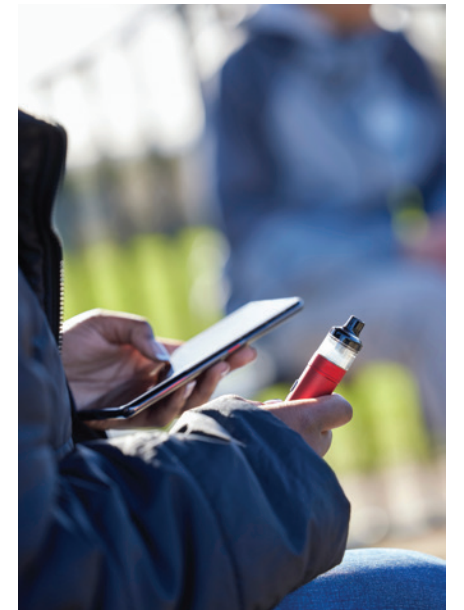
South Wairarapa, Masterton and Carterton District Councils already have their own policies but have agreed to a joint Wairarapa Smoke- and Vape-free Policy to advance New Zealand's goal of being smokefree by 2025.

The combined policy will provide a consistent approach across the region so that the policy can be easily interpreted and supported by our community.

We asked people to do a survey asking questions about which locations they thought should be smoke or vape free, including parks, playgrounds, outdoor dining areas and other public spaces.

The survey also asked about general attitudes towards smoking and vaping, and ways to encourage smoke and vape-free environments.

The survey closed on 2 October. Keep up to date at [www.swdc.govt.nz/smoking-and-vaping-survey](http://www.swdc.govt.nz/smoking-and-vaping-survey)



## Mind your hedges

Spring brings a wonderful surge of growth in our gardens, trees and hedges - sometimes a little too much. We're kindly requesting that people take a second look at whether hedges and trees on their properties are encroaching on the sidewalks. Spring and autumn are times when leaves can also get slippery for prams, wheelchairs and those with pedestrian issues. Please take a few minutes to sweep up leaves on berms and footpaths around your property.



## Sounds like a Plan

The Wairarapa Combined District Plan is currently undergoing its 10-yearly review and a draft is going out for public feedback at the end of October.

The initial scoping phase has helped determine whether resource management issues in the existing plan are still relevant, and whether any new issues have risen.

The consultation period will be open for eight weeks. It will be informal and a chance to provide feedback ahead of the formal notification in 2023. You'll be able to give written feedback or go to community "drop in" sessions with planning staff.

Look for more details, and the draft plan itself when it is released, at [www.wairapaplan.co.nz](http://www.wairapaplan.co.nz)