COMMUNITY FOCUS

October 2026

SOUTH WAIRARAPA DISTRICT COUNCIL
Kia Reretahi Tātau

Cape Palliser Road wins a funding lifeline

South Wairarapa ratepayers have been given welcome certainty following confirmation that NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA) will continue providing the majority of funding for Cape Palliser Road.

Mayor Fran Wilde describes the decision as an early Christmas present for local residents, district ratepayers and the Council, saying it eases a significant financial burden on both ratepayers and the Council.

Cape Palliser Road was designated a Special Purpose Road in 1997, making it eligible for 100% government funding. However, the Special Purpose Road category is being phased out nationally and the funding arrangement was due to end at the close of the current financial year. Council's Long-Term Plan had estimated this could result in a rates increase of around 4% for the road alone from July 2027.

NZTA has now confirmed it will fund the road at a 95% Financial Assistance Rate from July 2027 through to June 2030. Storm recovery work currently underway will continue to receive 100% funding.

Mayor Wilde said the decision recognises both the importance and vulnerability of the road, which is vital for residents, farmers and fishers as well as being an iconic route providing access to nationally significant visitor attractions, important cultural sites and one of the country's most distinctive landscapes.





Stronger coastal connection

Coastal resilience is high priority for the Council following this year's severe weather events. In February, the Hurupi Stream Bridge was damaged, temporarily cutting off Cape Palliser, Ngāwi and neighbouring communities from the rest of the district. Emergency crews restored access quickly and now the bridge has been repaired and is stronger than ever.

The repair work has been completed using the HEX-LOC® system (formerly known as EcoReef) to reinforce and stabilise its approach. This innovative erosion-control system is designed to help withstand future flood events, reduce the risk of damage and improve long-term resilience on vital infrastructure, such as Hurupi Stream Bridge.

The Council is grateful to the community for their patience while repairs were being made.

Go paperless – get your rates invoice, newsletter and dog registration by email

Last year we spent $25,168 on postage for rates invoices and dog registrations. With postage costs continuing to increase, we want to use funds where it counts so if you would like to go paper free, give us a call on 06 306 9611 or send a quick email to **rates@swdc.govt.nz**

Making waves this summer

The countdown to swimming season is on. South Wairarapa's three free community pools reopen on Saturday 28 November in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough. Hours will vary slightly during Term 4 and the school holiday season which starts on Saturday 19 December.

Find out more about South Wairarapa pools and summer hours at swdc.govt.nz/services/swimming pools



South Wairarapa swimming pool hours

Term 4 hours	Featherston	Martinborough	Greytown
Monday	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm
Tuesday	1pm – 5.30pm	1pm – 5.30pm	1pm – 5.30pm
Wednesday	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm
Thursday	1pm – 5.30pm	1pm – 5.30pm	1pm – 5.30pm
Friday	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm
Saturday	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm
Sunday	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm	1pm – 7pm

From ideas to impact - grants make a difference

From public art and community events to food security and local wellbeing initiatives, Community Board grants are helping to turn community visions into projects that make a lasting difference.

Demand for grants is currently strong, with applications coming from a wide range of organisations and community groups. In recent Community Board funding rounds, successful recipients ranged from arts to essential services, with foodbanks across South Wairarapa receiving the largest grant allocations.

The inaugural Featherston Pae Tū Mōkai Mural Festival is an example of a successful funding application, which brought members of the community together in July this year. It was supported with funds from Featherston Community Board and it saw school children, volunteers and residents gather together to create public artwork that reflects the district's identity and natural environment.

Artists Steffen Kreft and Kelly Spencer share a vision of transforming Featherston into a destination for meaningful public art. That vision began last year with artwork on the Bakehouse building celebrating Featherston Booktown Karukatea Festival and continues with the new mural, Life Beneath the Surface, on the wall facing the FreshChoice supermarket car park.

This mural showcases two remarkable residents of Lake Wairarapa: the ancient tadpole shrimp searching the lakebed for food and the dramatic lamprey winding its way across the wall. A group of Featherston School students helped bring the artwork to life when they painted the first brushstrokes of the mural under Steffen's guidance.

With plans already underway for future mural festivals and additional community murals across Featherston, the project highlights how local funding can spark ideas, encourage participation, and leave a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Find out more about Council grants and funding on our website at swdc.govt.nz/community/grants



Be wise about water in summer



As we head into summer, now is a great time to start preparing to protect our precious water supply. With the possibility of a drier summer ahead, a little preparation now can make a big difference later.

One way to get ready is by collecting rainwater when it falls. Subsidised 200-litre rainwater collection tanks are available from the Council offices in Martinborough for $128, providing a practical way to store water for gardens and outdoor use during hot, dry days.

Find out more by popping into the Council office or call us on 06 306 9611.

South Wairarapa Libraries craft new kete



South Wairarapa Libraries marked Māori Language Week (Te Wiki o te reo Māori) this year by creating a new games kete and videos to showcase the week, as well as practice te reo. Both resources are available for free from the libraries.

"The new te reo games kete includes different kēmu kāri (card games), magnetic dress-up figures, a te reo Bingo game and tipu board game. Each kete contains a mixture of games and they are free to borrow from our libraries in Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough," says Libraries' Te Ao Māori Specialist, Ali Te Pohe.

"Library staff found the videos and kete to be a lot of fun to make and they really boosted staff confidence in speaking te reo."

This is the 51st year of Te Wiki o te reo Māori. The first year was 1975.

Find out more on the South Wairarapa Libraries website at swlibrary.spydus.co.nz

Next steps to modernise wastewater services

Work is progressing towards upgrading wastewater treatment plants in Martinborough, Greytown and Featherston, with a contract signed between the Council and Filtec Limited for the delivery of upgrades.

Each of the three wastewater treatment plants needs biological nutrient upgrades to address resource consent compliance. This is an important step towards the Council's commitment to improve water management and infrastructure and enable sustainable growth.

The Council's 2025-34 Long-Term Plan prioritises significant upgrades to the three plants. Work with Greater Wellington Regional Council has helped to inform achievable and technically proven enhancements to improve the performance of the plants.

Mayor Fran Wilde says this project is essential for sustainable growth aspirations in South Wairarapa communities.

A rigorous tender evaluation process was followed to award the contract for delivery of the work which is scheduled for completion within the 2027/28 financial year. It will be completed under the banner of Waitī Waters, the new regional water services organisation established by the South Wairarapa, Carterton, Masterton and Tararua councils.

Find out more at swdc.govt.nz/wastewater-treatment-plant-upgrades-project



Wind blowing over your recycling bin?

If you're finding the contents of your recycling bin spilled over the street, help is at hand with bin clips to secure the lids of these bins.

We can't stop the wind but we can offer you free clips to hold the lids in place.

Pop into Featherston, Martinborough or Greytown library, or the council office in Martinborough and pick up a clip or two. They work a treat to hold your recycling bin lid in place.

Rebates 2026-27

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to $830.00 for low income earners. Ratepayers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2026.

1. Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a non SuperGold cardholder $33,210 or SuperGold cardholder $46,400. 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 2025–26. 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 by email: **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

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 2026-27
Instalment Two of Four

2

Enclosed with this newsletter is the rates invoice covering the period of 1 October 2026 to 31 December 2026.

The last day for payment is 20 November 2026. 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**

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, fortn htly, 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**.

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 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)*