

January 2017

Looking South



A Message from the Mayor

The new council was sworn in on 19 October 2016, I was very proud to become the new Mayor along with six new Councillors and three returning Councillors. We have a very diverse council, as you can see by the photos in this newsletter and I am excited to be working with a dedicated, enthusiastic and positive group of people.

There are also six new Community Board members with one still to be elected for the Martinborough Community Board. Each board is already developing plans for the next three years.

The council has embarked on an intensive induction and training programme that will ensure everyone around the council table understands their roles, obligations and how SWDC runs. Training sessions have included governance, financial governance, civil defence, annual plan development, the Health and Safety at Work Act and briefings from the Local Government Commission. The work programme for the New Year includes a tour of council assets and facilities, a communications workshop, Treaty of Waitangi training and briefings from outside organisations.

The recent Kaikoura earthquake certainly reminded us that we all need to have a household emergency plan. The new recommendation is to have at least seven days of supplies for your family to be self-sufficient.

Remember **DROP, COVER, HOLD** and if you are at the coast **LONG, STRONG BE GONE**.

At the December meeting Council adopted the Draft Easter Sunday Shop Trading Policy; public consultation on this policy has already begun. I encourage everyone to engage in this consultation by completing the enclosed submission form. This is also available on the SWDC website, SWDC Facebook and newspapers.

Viv Napier
The Mayor



Easter Sunday Trading Have your say

In December 2016, Council viewed the results of an informal survey of 229 people and adopted the Statement of Proposal and Draft Policy on Easter Sunday Trading. Three quarters of those questioned were in favour of Easter Sunday trading.

The Draft Policy is to allow trading on Easter Sunday where business owners wish to open, and where they can staff their businesses with employees who are happy to work on that day. Easter weekend in South Wairarapa is a time of high visitor numbers and trading on Easter Sunday may offer opportunities for local retailers to benefit economically. At the same time Easter Sunday is a day of significance and some members of our community will prefer that the status quo is maintained.

Before making any final decisions, we'd like to have your input. We welcome submissions from any interested person or organisation on any aspect of the proposed policy. The Statement of Proposal and Draft Policy is available on our website swdc.govt.nz as is an online submission form. We have also enclosed a submission form with this rates newsletter.

Creative Communities Scheme

Applications for the South Wairarapa district Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) are now being accepted until the 24 February 2017 for projects starting after 10 March 2017 and planned for completion by 10 March 2018. Approximately \$9,500 is available for distribution to suitable arts projects.

Before completing your application form you should carefully read the CCS brochure to determine whether your project is eligible. An application guide is also available and will assist you in making a great application. The brochure, application guide and application form can be obtained from the Council office, all libraries in the South Wairarapa and the Council website. If you want advice on your application contact Suzanne Clark phone 06 306-9611 or suzanne.clark@swdc.govt.nz.



Your Council



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Cr **Paora Ammunson**
Cr **Margaret Craig**

In the event of an earthquake or tsunami

- ◆ All of New Zealand is at risk of earthquakes and all of our coastline is at risk of tsunami. Knowing the right immediate action to take can prevent injury and save lives.
- ◆ In an earthquake, Drop, Cover, Hold. It makes you a smaller target, stops you being knocked over and protects your head, neck and vital organs.
- ◆ During a tsunami warning, remember Long or Strong, Get Gone. If you are near the coast, in an earthquake that rolls for more than a minute OR makes it hard to stand up, don't wait for a tsunami warning. Move to high ground or as far inland as you can. Walk if you can. Stay there until you get the all clear.
- ◆ Make a plan today. Know where to go, and find out who can help you and who might need your help. Visit civildefence.govt.nz to find out more.

Water & Fire

Swimming Pools

Featherston, Greytown and Martinborough summer pools are open for the season until 12 March 2017.

Pool Hours

During the school holidays:

Saturday to Thursday 1pm – 5.30pm
Friday 1pm – 7.30pm

When school returns:

Monday to Thursday 2pm – 5.30pm
Friday 2pm – 7.30pm
Saturday and Sunday 1pm – 5.30pm

Admission remains the same with Adults \$3 and Children \$2. 10-swim tickets are available at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children, and can be purchased at the pools or from the Council office in Martinborough.



Water Conservation

Some people may not be aware that South Wairarapa has permanent restrictions for garden watering. Even numbers of the street can water on even days of the month and odd numbers on odd days. Avoid water evaporation by watering your gardens early in the morning or early evening rather than in the heat of the day.

The forecast dry conditions will likely reduce the water flow in the Ruamahanga River to a level that triggers the need for Council, under its Resource Consent, to immediately reduce water use across the district.

The Council may need to implement further restrictions on garden watering, irrigation and other water based activities.

Please keep an ear on the radio, or check our website if you are unsure whether restrictions have been applied. For urban water enquiries refer to our website at swdc.govt.nz or call (06) 3069611. For rural watering, and bore enquiries contact Greater Wellington Regional Council on 0800 496 734 or (04) 384 5708. Please help us conserve this very precious resource.

Rural and Urban Fires

Please remember that all outdoor fires in the urban towns require a permit before they can be lit. This is regardless of what kind of appliance is being used. Permits can be requested from the Council office in Martinborough or the Libraries in Greytown and Featherston. An inspection by the Fire Officer will usually occur within two working days.

If you live in the rural areas, please check with the Wairarapa Rural Fire District in the first instance on 06 370 9557 or www.wrfd.org.nz. Notification of Total Fire Bans in the Urban and Rural areas will be advised on the radio and the Council (urban) and WRFD (rural) website at swdc.govt.nz and wrfd.org.nz.

Rebates 2016/17

The Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$610.00 for low income earners. Rate payers must have been living in the home they own on 1 July 2016.

- ◆ Your rebate will be calculated based on your gross income from 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016, your rates, and the number of dependants you have. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$24,470-\$42,000.
- ◆ You must provide proof of income from your income provider for ALL forms of income, including interest & dividends.
- ◆ Application forms will be sent to those who have received a rebate in 2015/2016 and are also available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries, the Council office and online swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property.

Get Your Rates invoice by email

We now have a facility to send rates invoices by email.

If you wish to receive your rate 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.

Payment by Direct Debit

For the many who have asked, we now offer both a **monthly** and a **quarterly** direct debit facility to pay rates.

Direct debit is the cheapest 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 possible time, and avoid penalties. If you would

like your payments to be made by using this method the forms are available from the Featherston and Greytown Libraries as well as the Council office and on our website swdc.govt.nz/rates-and-property. All you need to do is complete the form and send it to the Council Office, PO Box 6, Martinborough 5741, or drop it off at either the Council office in Martinborough or at the Featherston and Greytown Libraries.

Rates 2016/17 Instalment Three

Enclosed with this newsletter is the third rates assessment/invoice for the rating year, covering 1 Jan – 31 March 2017

**The last day for payment
is 20 February 2017**

**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

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)*