Manawatu District Council

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BULLETIN

Manawatu
Young Heart, Easy Living

Holiday hosts roll with windy start

HIMATANGI Beach Holiday Park hosts, Margaret and Dennis Penney, are in for the "long haul" and have no intention of allowing a weather-affected 2009/10 holiday season opening to deter plans for the future.

Strong winds during the Christmas-New Year period caused chaos at the popular camping ground, with many campers leaving early or failing to appear after paying their deposit.

"The wind is destructive and has kept the people away," said Margaret. "The whole camping experience and wind don't go together – five windy days in a row is just hideous."

She said the park's regular campers were on site for Christmas and New Year, but from early January, as the poor weather continued, the phone calls started as people cancelled bookings.

"It's disappointing for everyone, especially the children," said Margaret.

Though this season's opening is the worst experienced by the Penney's since they took over the camp nearly seven years ago, they are prepared to roll with the fluctuating fortunes of running a holiday park.

"We are here for the long haul and it never entered our heads to question any future involvement. We are not unlike the farmers – they have a bad season but still have to keep going."

Margaret said she had been humbled by the positive feedback they had received this year and campers in a new area at the park were delighted with the extra room and facilities.

"The (Manawatu District) council very kindly increased our land at the western end and we've been able to put in nine more powered sites and do up the old playground toilet block. The people down there have loved it."

Another plus had been the record number of overseas campers using Himatangi Beach this season as the ideal stop-over between Taupo and Wellington.

EKETAHUNA dairy farmers, Sharon and Stewart Hickford, with their three children, Haylee (12), Cody (10) and Nicole (14), were enjoying their eighth visit to the Himatangi Beach Holiday Park as the weather started to improve this week.

Rates: Final day tomorrow

THE last day for payment of the second instalment of the Manawatu District Council's 2009-10 rates is tomorrow (January 22). A 10 percent penalty will be applied to the outstanding balance of the instalment as at Saturday, unless a prior direct debit arrangement has been made with council. Ratepayers paying by automatic payment are requested to ensure their payments are sufficient to clear the amount owing.

Further feedback requested

MANAWATU District Council is hoping for more public feedback to a customer service survey form currently in circulation.

The survey, comprising a number of council-focused questions, is available at the Feilding Public Library and Community Libraries, Makino Aquatic Centre, the council's public office in Manchester Street and the Feilding Information Centre. It also appears in today's "Feilding Herald".

Members of the public have until Friday, January 29, to fill in the form.

Customer Services and Democracy Manager, Janine Hawthorn, said a number of completed forms had already provided some good ideas on how to develop a new customer service strategy.

"The survey is important and organisational-wide," she said, "and is about anything and everything that the council does."

Mrs Hawthorn said clarifying comments associated with questions carrying an agree/disagree option were important as it allowed council to look at areas that may require improvement.

The survey is the first stage in the development of the strategy, which council hopes to adopt by May.

Temporary Road Closure to Traffic

Under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is given that the Manawatu District Council, for the purpose of permitting **Feilding & District Historical Society** to conduct **Settlers' Day**, will close the following roads to traffic for the period as stated.

Manchester Square – the internal roads of Manchester Square – from 9.30am to 2.30pm on Saturday, January 23.

During the period of closure, traffic will continue to flow on the perimeter road of the four quadrants of Manchester Square.

Wellington Anniversary Day (Monday, January 25) Holiday Arrangements

Office: Closed. Reopen on Tuesday, January 26.
Makino Aquatic Centre: Open 10am to 6pm.
Library: Closed. Books can be returned through slot to right of front door.
Refuse Bag Collection - Southern area and Feilding Central Business District: Collections normally carried out on Monday will be on Wednesday, January 27. Pick–up times may be earlier or later than normal over the holiday period. Please ensure bags are out by 7.30am.
Feilding Refuse Transfer Station - Kawakawa Road: Open from 9am to 5pm.
Emergencies: For urgent matters in holiday period telephone (06) 323-0000.

Council and Committee Meetings

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, notice is given that the following meetings are scheduled for February:

Tuesday, February 2
8.30am Community Wellbeing Subcommittee

Tuesday, February 9
7.30pm Marae Consultative Standing Committee

Wednesday, February 17
12.00pm Manawatu District and Palmerston North City Joint Strategic Planning Committee – to be held at Palmerston North City Council

Thursday, February 18
8.30am Council. Public forum prior to meeting available – contact Customer Services and Democracy Manager for arrangements
8.45am Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

Unless specified, the above meetings will be held in the District Council Building, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, and are open to the public.

Important Legislative Changes to Obtaining a PIM

Building Services

A Project Information Memorandum (PIM) is a report that a Territorial Authority (TA) issues to an applicant considering carrying out building work that requires a Building Consent. Amendments to the Building Act 2004 means that from January 31, on receipt of a Building Consent application, the TA will no longer be required to issue a PIM unless the owner specifically applies for one.

Reasons for change

Changes were made to PIM requirements because:

- Only a minority of PIM applications were made separately before a building consent application
- The Act needs to be more flexible to account for different types or scale of building projects, particularly where PIM information will not add much value to the process
- The Government wanted to provide owners with the choice to decide whether they believed they would benefit from a PIM or not.

It is important to note there is still certain information that needs to be checked that would have previously been included in the PIM process. The legislative changes provide the ability for TA's to include these checks and provision of information within the Building Consent process. The time taken to process this information will be included in the Building Consent fee.

As a result of these changes Manawatu District Council will be amending the Building Consent fee structure for certain fixed fee applications. However, fees for fireplaces, demolitions, fixed fee minor building work and PIM and/or building consent applications, where deposits apply, will remain unchanged with the ability to opt for building consent only.

Why should I apply for a PIM?

A PIM remains a very useful tool for people considering certain building work that requires a building consent. Information in a PIM, obtained early as part of the design process, can help designers, developers and applicants to avoid costly additional design work later and delays in the consent process. Examples of building projects that may benefit from an early PIM application include:

- New dwelling
- Significant additions to a dwelling, increasing footprint or adding a storey
- New commercial building
- Significant additions/alterations to a commercial building
- External or internal additions/alterations to a historic building
- Building projects of a large scale that are carried out in stages
- Building over two or more allotments
- Building across network utility operator's assets or public stormwater or sewer systems
- Buildings on land subject to natural hazards.

Please note: It is important that an owner clearly identifies on the PIM/BC application form whether a PIM is required. If you have any queries regarding these changes please contact Karel Boakes on (06) 323-0000 or send an email to karel.boakes@mdc.govt.nz