Manawatu District Council

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BULLETIN

Manawatu
Young Heart, Easy Living

Functional memorial enhances cemetery

A FUNCTIONAL memorial honouring members of a long-standing Pohangina family has been completed at the township's cemetery and drawn praise from the Manawatu District Council.

The wooden structure – in memory of Ruth May McLean and Raymond Patrick McLean - contains a plaque and seat on one side and sink and washing facilities on the other.

Sited near the entrance to the cemetery, the memorial was designed and built by relatives of Mr and Mrs McLean, who were dry stock farmers in the district, with the family also supplying the materials and labour. They will also be responsible for its upkeep.

Grandson Nathan McLean said the family wanted nothing flashy but a functional feature that blended in with the environment and served a purpose for everyone visiting the cemetery.

"We wanted to make it rustic in appearance, with natural colourings, and one that would suit the Pohangina way of life."

He said his grandmother had been a regular visitor to the cemetery for many years and always commented on how helpful it would be to have a practical facility that people could use when tending the graves. The only water source was a tap near the boundary fence.

Nathan, a control systems engineer who worked overseas for the past few years, drew the design on a computer and sent it to council so all necessary building regulations were met.

Construction responsibilities rested with Dennis McLean, a son of Ruth and Ray and father of Nathan, an experienced builder born and raised in Pohangina.

Dennis said he was pleased with the outcome and hoped the facility would further enhance and complement recent works undertaken by council to return the site to its lawn cemetery origins.

Customer Services and Democracy Manager, Janine Hawthorn, said the memorial was a fitting acknowledgment of the McLean family's standing in the community.

"It adds something special to the cemetery and allows visitors to have a seat and look out to the ranges and take in the beauty of the Pohangina landscape."

Mrs Hawthorn said council could possibly use the memorial as a template for similar facilities that may be considered at other cemeteries throughout the district.

DESIGNER Nathan McLean (left) and builder Dennis McLean with their recently completed functional memorial at the Pohangina Cemetery.

Promising start for the new year

THE new year is away to a better start than 2009 and we should see confidence growing in the Manawatu District as 2010 progresses.

Dairy prices are up considerably, crop prices are rebounding a little and sheep and beef prices are holding better than was predicted a few months ago. Retail in our region is holding better than elsewhere and while Government spending cuts are impacting in the education sector we don't appear to be suffering the major increases in unemployment that are affecting other parts of the country.

While these factors look promising, and we can expect some economic growth this year, Council is very aware of the pressure that households and our rural sector are under and will be prudent around rates time.

The Council has some big decisions facing it this year and we are going to have to give serious thought to its priorities as the Annual Plan is reviewed. And we have the following major projects to prioritise:

- The Sanson Tavern or Gateway project with the consultants to report back to Council in March.
- The Makino pool upgrade which was given some initial funding last year and will be reporting back to Council with an exciting new proposal in late March.

MAYORAL COMMENT
by Ian McKelvie

- Leisureville, or Makino Park as it is now known, which has been progressing through the development and costing stages and is nearly in a state where we can plan its future.
- The Manawatu Horse Drawn Vehicle Museum has an exciting opportunity to expand and move and Council has been asked for assistance with this project – a decision on this will be made by the end of March.
- The District Plan review has commenced and will require a considerable resource over the next three years – all budgeted for, but none-the-less a major undertaking for Council and our community. Included in this work is a review of our Urban Growth Strategy for Feilding and a rezoning of Manfeild Park.

Probably the piece of work being undertaken with Palmerston North on our future boundary options will require the greatest amount of Council's attention, as it is reported back in April and May. This, when completed, will give us some strong pointers as to our best options for the governance of the region in the next 20 years or so.

So, all in all, 2010 will be a big one for our District Council and, of course, it will culminate in the Local Body elections in October.

One last thing: The senseless vandals that damaged the trees on Kimbolton Road accentuate the cost our ratepayers face each week because of vandalism and graffiti – someone must have seen them and know who did it. Finally, the Dairy Show is on at Manfeild Park on Friday and Saturday – it is a spectacle worth seeing.

Proposed Roading Work Update

ROAD	FROM	TO	STAGE
PAVEMENT REHABILITATION			
• Cemetery Road	0.5km from Mt Stewart-Halcombe Road	A distance of 1.07km towards Sanson	Construction commencing Jan/Feb 2010
• Lees Road	3.78km from Awahuri Feilding Road	A distance of 1.6km towards Lees Road	Construction commencing Jan/Feb 2010
• Pohangina Road	At Ashhurst boundary	A distance of 1.96km towards Pohangina	Tender
• Himatangi Beach Road	0.52km from State Highway 1	A distance of 0.98km towards Himatangi Beach	Tender
• Campbell Road	Dixons Line	Kung-Fu corner	Further investigation underway. Property and boundary requirements
• Denbigh Street (Stage 1)	East Street	Kimbolton Road	Tender. Sewer component added to scope of works (small delay)
PAVEMENT RESURFACING			
• District Wide	97km programmed		Commencing Feb 2010
NEW DEVELOPMENT			
• Port Street East	Pharazyn Street	Churcher Street	Design
FOOTPATH RENEWALS / RESURFACING			
• Kimbolton Road (Kimbolton)	Path up to school		Construction late Jan 2010
• Halcombe Township	Vicinity of roundabout		Tender
• East Street (eastern side)	Kimbolton Road	Fairview Ave	Design

District working group's positive impact

THE establishment of a Building Services District Working Group last September is proving to be a positive step towards developing an effective partnership between the building industry and regulatory services in Manawatu.

The group comprises Building Team Leader, Chris Henry; Regulatory Supervisor, Karel Boakes (representing Manawatu District Council); Geoff Cockery (Head of Building Services, Palmerston North City Council) and a number of external stakeholders including designers and builders.

Ms Boakes said the group's purpose was to discuss the delivery of building services across the region, address any concerns either party may have and improve understanding and communication between councils and the local construction industry.

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 Promotions Inc.** to conduct a **NZ Military Vehicle Club Rally**, proposes to close the following roads to traffic for the period as stated:

Internal roads of Manchester Square from 9.30am to noon on Saturday, April 3

During the period of closure, traffic will continue to flow around the perimeter of Manchester Square.

Any person objecting to the proposal can lodge notice of his/her objection and grounds in writing before **4pm, Friday, February 12**, at the office of the Manawatu District Council, Private Bag 10-001, Feilding.

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive