

Referendum for beach residents

A REFERENDUM on the proposed wastewater scheme for Himatangi Beach is to be conducted by the Manawatu District Council following a public meeting in the township on Saturday.

Wastes Manager, Peterson Asante, said it was hoped to

dents had taken the opportunity to air their feelings and observations.

“There was a good response from the floor, with questions coming from all angles,” he said, “and this allowed council to outline certain points and provide clarification.”

tions, with answers, had been available to all those who attended the meeting.

Mr Asante said the scheme’s capital cost was \$5.6 - \$6.6 million of which 50 percent would be funded by central government.

“If the scheme goes ahead, council will provide indi-



MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie (facing camera), in discussion with a property owner following the meeting on the proposed wastewater scheme at Himatangi Beach.

send out the referendum form to more than 420 property owners within the next two or three weeks so they could indicate their support or otherwise for the proposed scheme.

Mr Asante said up to 240 people attended the 90 minute-long meeting and he was pleased that many resi-

Questions surrounding sand issues, electricity usage, the Sandown Park development and council’s provision for owners who had recently installed new systems were among those addressed.

An information sheet outlining the proposal and a list of frequently asked ques-

viduals with the opportunity of paying their contribution in a lump sum or to spread the repayments out, through rates, over a 20-year loan period.”

He said council was hoping to make a decision on the proposal in April after analysing the results of the referendum.

Water meeting for Rongotea

RONGOTEA residents have another opportunity to discuss a proposal for a \$2.9 million water supply installation for the town.

Manawatu District Council has organised a public meeting in the Te Kawau Memorial Hall at 7.30pm next Tuesday (February 23) to update the community on the reticulated water scheme and to answer any questions.

A referendum on whether the community want the installation is also planned for early March, with council expected to evaluate those results and make a decision in April.

Water Manager, Wayne Spencer, said property owners were being sent notification of next week’s meeting as well as an information sheet containing Frequently



Asked Questions. “I hope many residents take the opportunity to discuss the development as there have been rumours in the community on people

not understanding some aspects of the scheme,” said Mr Spencer.

“We want residents to be fully aware of what the proposal means to them and for everyone to have the facts.”

Central government has approved a \$2.3 million subsidy (80 percent) for the installation, leaving the community to fund \$579,000 at a cost of about \$1800 per property. About 300 houses in the town use tank water.

The meeting will be facilitated by Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie.

Community assistance vital

MANAWATU District animal control officer, Lesley Butler (pictured), said it was a community effort to successfully track down the two dogs responsible for the deaths of numerous cats in the southern part of Feilding over the past few weeks.

“It was vital they were caught otherwise there would have been no closure for the cat owners or the community at large,” she said.

Ms Butler was appreciative of the assistance animal control officers received from members of the Nassus Animal Shelter and cat owners as they scoured the streets in the early hours of the morning to locate the dogs. To-

tally Vets had also helped in the case. After news broke of the attacks, council eventually received reports on the



deaths of 18 cats in the area, with most suffering wounds consistent with dog bites.

Ms Butler said the door-knocking approach undertaken by council indicated

how serious the attacks were taken and she was grateful the dogs’ owner, who had been deeply shocked at what happened, came forward.

“The strong message out of this is that dog owners should make sure they know where their dog is at all times, as it’s easy to become complacent with pets.”

She also suggested that cat owners who lose their pets to possible attacks should notify council, even if they had not heard or seen anything, so details on location and times could be noted.

The two dogs have been euthanised.

MAC to host teen beach party

MAKINO Aquatic Centre will provide a beachy setting for its first teen only night of the year - the “Back to School Beach Party” tomorrow night.

MAC Manager, Nick Mannix, is hoping to attract more than 100 teenagers to the party after similar themed events last year, “Friday the 13th” and “The Nightmare Before Christmas”, caught

the imagination and proved extremely popular.

Social networking involving texting, Facebook and Bebo has again been used to alert teenagers to the party, running from 7pm - 9.30pm.

Mr Mannix said twilight volleyball, cricket, trampolining and a “big splash” in the dive pool would underline the beach party theme, and there was plenty of space

to just chill out.

* MAC is also offering a “Pedal and Paddle for Free” activity at the complex on Friday, February 26, and Monday, March 1.

Cyclists who arrive at the centre on those days will be given free admission and able to use the bike stands in the outdoor complex.



NEW signage at the refuse transfer station in Kawakawa Road, Feilding, is assisting users in sorting out their recyclable materials. Wastes Manager, Peterson Asante, said there had been a lot of positive feedback from users about how much easier it was to use the facility. “Feilding’s land transfer station is as good as you can get, but we are always looking at ways to improve services,” said Mr Asante.

creative communities NZ
Manawatu District



Manawatu District Council

The Creative Communities Scheme is a relationship between Creative New Zealand and local authorities and supports opportunities for New Zealanders to participate in the arts in their local area.

Any group, organisation or individual can apply for funding. The project must promote participation in the arts. Applicants should be residents of the Manawatu District Council area and the projects or activities must:

- increase participation in the arts
- increase the range and diversity of the arts available to communities
- enhance and strengthen the local arts sector

Priorities for the 2010 funding year include:
Youth Arts: Encouraging arts by youth and for youth.

Place Based Art: Encouraging arts that celebrate and promote the uniqueness of the Manawatu District.

Ethnic Arts: Encouraging ethnic groups in the community to participate in the arts.

Heritage Arts: Encouraging arts that promote the Manawatu District’s historic cultural heritage.

Please note that projects outside these priority areas will also be considered.

Application forms and further information available from: Manawatu District Council, Private Bag 10-001, Feilding 4743. Phone: (06) 323-0000. Fax: (06) 323-0822.

Applications close at 4pm on Friday, March 26.