

No “simple fix” for traffic issue

TRAFFIC issues at Bunnythorpe are proving to be one of the most significant challenges facing a project team working on a strategic road network around Palmerston North and into the Manawatu District.

Assets Group Manager, Richard Kirby, a member of the Palmerston North-Manawatu Joint Strategic Transport Study’s Technical Group, said dealing with traffic through and around

the transport study – to develop an evidence-based 30-year strategy for an area bounded by the Manawatu Gorge, Feilding, Sanson and Shannon – had involved collation of information and been largely completed.

“We are now moving into a more critical phase by taking all that information and seeing what common threads there are to build a robust case for the network,” he said. “Results

Traffic counts in the area were rising by 1 to 2 per cent each year, and Feilding concerns centre on Aorangi Bridge which is crossed by more than 14,000 vehicles a day, largely travelling between the town and Palmerston North.

“That’s a fairly high count and more than daily traffic movements between Bulls and Sanson on State Highways 1 and 3,” he said.

Mr Kirby said there was a



A RAIL crossing in the centre of Bunnythorpe provides another element to the existing traffic issues in the town.

the township was not a “simple fix”.

Bunnythorpe was a focal point for most traffic routes in the region – Mt Stewart to the Manawatu Gorge, Feilding to Palmerston North, the ring road and the north-east industrial area.

“The common factor is Bunnythorpe,” said Mr Kirby, “and the plan now is for a realistic proposal for traffic in that area.”

Mr Kirby said phase 1 of

showed there was not much commonality between the reports, there was no silver bullet, and highlighted the Bunnythorpe problem.”

Mr Kirby said there were a number of documents and policies linked to the study, which represented a

“turning point” for regional traffic links, and “if we don’t get this right, then we could end up with inefficient roading movements in the future.”

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preference for existing roads to be upgraded, rather than new ones built, and this could mean traffic continuing to flow through Bunnythorpe in the short to medium term rather than around the township.

“And the crux of the matter is to make those routes a little bit safer, not only for the traffic but also the people of Bunnythorpe.”



NIGHT-TIME diving proved to be a highlight at the Makino Aquatic Centre’s “Back to School Beach Party” for teenagers at the complex on Friday night. About 175 enthusiastic “teens” and “tweens” (a record turnout) descended on MAC for its first teenage-only night of 2010 after similar-themed events last year, “Friday the 13th” and “The Nightmare Before Christmas”. Programme Co-ordinator, Adie Johansen, said the popularity of the diving boards was high throughout, while many others enjoyed the volleyball, cricket and pool activities. “We opened the doors just before 7pm and had a constant queue of kids wanting to get in for the first half an hour. All the kids who came were well behaved and they had a blast having the outdoor complex to themselves.” The next such event will be on Friday, March 19, for the Makino’s Pre-Easter Bash!

Talking to neighbour helpful

SOCIETY today faces many challenges and one of the most serious is the reliance the economy has on constant growth for its health.

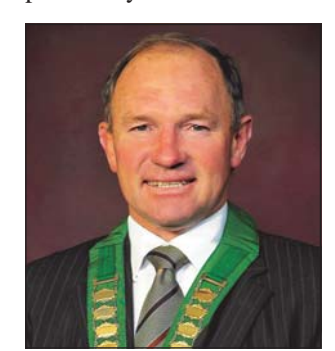
A meeting of the region’s leaders recently to discuss the state of the Manawatu River is in part a result of this pressure. That meeting appeared to me to have been a great success as all involved agreed to continue the discussions and provide a sound, long-term solution to the river’s issues.

And the other very clear point that came out of the meeting is that it helps to talk to your neighbour.

The Manawatu River is unique by New Zealand standards as it has 4500 farms and a large number of fully consented discharges in its catchment, but a small natural catchment area (only 10 percent of it is in forest or native bush). This means, unusually, a large part of the catchment starts in farmland.

These factors account for

many of the difficulties to be faced as we work to improve the water quality. It is grossly unfair to claim as the “Manawatu Standard” did that the “polluters own up”, as we all must share the responsibility for factors that



MAYORAL COMMENT
by Ian McKelvie

affect the river due to those generations who have benefited from it to date.

We all have to participate in the long, slow healing process that starts now, and for some of our communities and individuals there will be

a cost involved. For this reason, the issue must be handled quickly and with great diplomacy. If it is not, there will be no easy solution.


There are many other factors needing consideration when considering the pressure constant growth puts on our environment and society and we have a unique opportunity to continue this process when reviewing our Regional Economic Development Strategy. We are a unique region with some great advantages that we can capitalise on with the right drivers in place.

One last thing: Great effort by the team at the Feilding police station that instigated the combined Armed and Emergency Services Open Day at Manfeild. I didn’t realise how many amazing bits of equipment we had available to us locally.

Finally: Mayoral Cycle challenge at Timona Park on Sunday!

Pedal power wanted

MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, is buoyed by interest shown in the annual Mayoral Cycle Challenge at Timona Park, Feilding, on Sunday (February 28) at 11am and is confident of a good turnout. Mr McKelvie said many people had already indicated to him “on the street” that they were keen to be involved in the 2010 challenge and their presence could well help Feilding’s chances to win New Zealand’s Most Cycle Mad Town title. All registered participants will go in a draw to win a new Avanti bike and other spot prizes and organisers, Sport Manawatu, are also inviting cyclists aged eight years and under to dress up their bikes for the occasion. Entry is free and registrations open at 10.15am.



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 Host Lions Club** to conduct the **Taonui Air Show**, will close the following road to traffic for the period stated:

Campbell Road, from its intersection with Taonui Road to a point 1.5km towards Bunnythorpe, from 7am to 6pm on Saturday, March 6.

Postponement date: Sunday, March 7.

During the period of closure, provision will be made for traffic that would otherwise use the road.

Public Notice under Clause 20(2) of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991

Operative Date of Plan Change No 33 to Manawatu District Plan

Notice is given that Plan Change 33 to the Manawatu District Plan was approved by a resolution of the Manawatu District Council on February 18. It will become operative on Thursday, March 4, 2010.

Plan Change 33 will have the affect of changing the District Plan by permitting shops, with a gross floor area of at least 2,000m², within the block bounded by Aorangi, Eyre, Manchester and Gladstone Streets, Feilding, if they comply with standards in respect of landscaping, site access and car parking.

Plan Change 33 affects the following sections of the District Plan:

- Plan Strategy, Managing Land Use Effects 4.6 – Business Zone
- Plan Strategy, Managing Land Use Effects 4.7 – Industrial Zone
- Rule B5 – Industrial Zone
- Rule A2, Rules Applying Throughout the District, 2.4.5 Parking Standards for Permitted and Controlled Activities in all zones

Details of the amendments are available at the Manawatu District Council office, Public Library and on the Council website, www.mdc.govt.nz Any enquiries regarding Plan Change 33 should be directed to Wendy Thompson on (06) 323-0000.

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive