

## Voting looms for land owners

VOTING papers are due to be sent out to land owners tomorrow by the Manawatu District Council to measure the level of interest in proposed wastewater and water supply schemes at Himatangi Beach and Rongotea.

Assets Group Manager, Richard Kirby, said the community polls involved the distribution of about 420 voting documents in Himatangi Beach and a further 300 in Rongotea.

Voters have until noon on Thursday, April 8, to indicate whether they support the implementation of their particular scheme or not. The poll involves only one vote per property.

Results of the polls are expected to be posted to the MDC website by 2pm on Monday, April 12.

Mr Kirby said the methodology to be used by council in making a decision on the polls was three-fold:

- If less than 40 percent of the valid votes cast vote "yes", then the project

would not proceed.

- If more than 60 percent of the valid votes cast vote "yes", then the project would proceed.

- If between 40 percent and 60 percent (including 40 percent and 60 percent) of the valid votes cast vote "yes", the council would



determine whether to proceed or not.

Poll outcomes are to be discussed by council at its April 15 meeting.

Mr Kirby said it was important all land owners vote as council wanted to get good feedback to allow it to make an informed decision

at the April meeting.

"Council needs to get clear representation from the majority of the community," he said. "We have given as much information as we can and hope people have read that and vote accordingly."

He said if the community did not want a proposed scheme, then now was the opportunity to say so; but if it did support the proposal, now was the opportunity to say that as well.

The proposed wastewater scheme for Himatangi Beach is expected to cost between \$5.6 and \$6.6 million, of which 50 percent is to be funded by central government, while a \$2.3 million subsidy (80 percent) has been approved for Rongotea's proposed \$2.9 million water supply installation.

The Rongotea and Himatangi Beach polls are being conducted concurrently by the Christchurch-based organisation, *electionz.com*, which is responsible for running the national local body elections.

## Monarchs bring colour to park

MONARCH butterflies have injected a noticeable dash of colour to Feilding's Kowhai Park in recent weeks as a late hatching season boosted their numbers by the hundreds.

Up to 20 butterflies a day have been hatching from the 200 swan plants in a special allocated plot of land (pictured below) at the southern edge of the park.

Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said the late spell of hot weather ensured a good take as the butterflies emerged from hundreds of chrysalis hanging from the enclosure's fence and provided the best season since the area was estab-

lished three years ago.

"We were able to grow the plants on a bit this year, so they were a good size when they were put in," he said. "And because the weather was slightly cooler earlier on it gave the plants a chance to grow more before the monarchs came and put on the caterpillars. There has been a lot of activity."

He said the plants had also managed to keep ahead of the monarchs and get into flower and this allowed the mature butterflies to hang around for the nectar.

"We've also been able to keep a little yellow aphid off the plants this year using a



selective insecticide that kills it, but not the caterpillars."

He said the aphid sucked the sap out of the plant and introduced a disease that stifled growth before the plant withered and died.

The monarch butterfly plot had been a national dahlia trial ground, but Mr James introduced the swan plants in 2007 because of a declining number of butterflies.

## MAC's pre-Easter teen bash

MAKINO Aquatic Centre's final outdoor teen-only night of the summer season – the "Pre-Easter Bash" – is ready to hop into action tomorrow night. MAC Manager, Nick Mannix, is hoping for similar support to this event after 175

twens and teens crowded into the centre for the "Back to School Beach party" last month. The indoor pool will open if the weather is unsuitable. Mr Mannix said the four teen-only events held by MAC over the past few months had proved

extremely popular, with the social networking approach of texting, Facebook and Bebo helping to alert teenagers to the parties. Other themed activities are also planned for the rest of the year. Tomorrow's "bash" runs from 7pm to 9.30pm.

## Appeal for missing dog traps

MANAWATU District Council is appealing for the return of up to eight dog traps lent to property owners who faced problems with wandering and aggressive dogs.

Animal Control Officer, Herb Versteegen, said council remained unsure of the traps' whereabouts because of a missing register and was keen to collect cages that were no longer required.

"We are asking people if they have an unused trap on their property, which could be behind the wood shed or in the backyard, to give us a call and we'll come and collect it at

no cost."

He said some property owners may feel there could be a charge for having the council trap for a long pe-



riod of time, but that was not the case.

"Even if there is a trap still in use because of a continuing problem, we would still like to know of its location,


as council would then have a record of it."

Mr Versteegen said there was an ongoing need for the traps, as evident with the recent cat attacks in Feilding by two wandering dogs.

"Though we got those dogs fairly quickly, we may have had them even quicker by using a trap."

He said animal control officers on foot always faced a struggle when trying to apprehend elusive dogs.

The steel-wire cages, with a trapdoor, are about 1.5m long and confine the dogs in a humane fashion.



### Council and Committee Meetings

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

**Tuesday, April 6**  
8.30am Community Wellbeing Subcommittee


**Tuesday, April 13**  
7.30pm Marae Consultative Standing Committee

**Wednesday, April 14**  
2.00pm Community Wellbeing Subcommittee (Creative Communities)

**Thursday, April 15**  
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.

**Lorraine Vincent**  
Chief Executive




### 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.**