

The Coach House proposal in plan

COMMUNITY opinions on the Manawatu District Council's proposal to purchase The Coach House building (pictured) in Feilding are being sought in the council's recently released Draft Annual Plan 2010/11. The Coach House, in Bowen Street, houses the Manawatu Historic Vehicle Collection Trust's vintage machinery museum.

Council sees some strategic advantages in purchasing The Coach House. The building adjoins council-owned land earmarked for the Leisureville project and such a purchase could provide a wider range of options in use and development for leisure, recreation or other purposes. The Coach House Museum contains one of New

Zealand's best collections of horse-drawn vehicles and agricultural, horse-drawn equipment. Council's Strategic Planner, Phil Bronn, said public input regarding the proposed purchase and possible uses of the building would be welcomed within the DAP's consultation period. Other proposed projects in which council would welcome community feedback and comment are the development of the Sanson building facility, the District Plan



Recently, the trust had been offered the old Woolspinners building in South Street for its collection and in response drawn up an ambitious 10-year plan called Project Aorangi. As well as building renovation activities to bring the former Woolspinners building up to the required standard to house the trust's existing collections, the project also includes a number of new collections, an audio/visual centre, new archives and a cafe.

Monday, May 10, to air their thoughts with council. Copies of the plan summary were to be sent out this week to more than 12,000 residential addresses in the district as an insert in the "Feilding Herald". The documents can also be viewed on the council's website, www.mdc.govt.nz, and hard copies are available at the council's administration building in Manchester Street, Feilding Public Library and the Makino Aquatic Centre.

review and the Urban Growth Strategy. The DAP and summary also outline details on the Leisureville initiative (including the next phase of redevelopment of the Makino Aquatic Centre) and the co-ordinated strategic roading network linking the district with Palmerston North and the wider region. Submitters have until

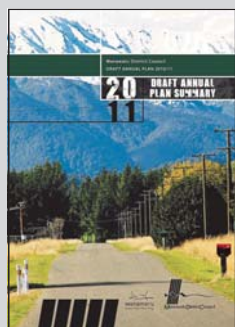
DAP meetings schedule

ONE public meeting and seven Community Committee meetings are still to be held as the Manawatu District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 remains open for consultation.

MDC officers and councillors will be in attendance at the public meeting in the council's administration building in Manchester Street, Feilding.

Members of the public are also welcome at the community committee meetings. The schedule is:

Public meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Feilding	29 April	5.30pm	Council Offices
Community Committees			
Rangiwahia	Today	7.30pm	Rangiwahia Hall
Bunnythorpe	21 April	7.30pm	Methodist Church Hall
Longburn	21 April	7.30pm	Longburn Hall
Sanson	28 April	7.30pm	Sanson Community Hall
Cheltenham	4 May	7.30pm	Cheltenham Fire Station
(to be confirmed)			
Himatangi Beach	4 May	7.30pm	Himatangi Beach Community Hall
Pohangina	4 May	7.30pm	County Fayre



Mayoral disappointment

MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, is disappointed at the voter opposition to proposed water supply and wastewater schemes for Rongotea and Himatangi Beach.

Community polls gauging the level of interest in the schemes showed 62 percent of voters against Rongotea's water supply installation and 56 percent of Himatangi Beach's landowners opposed to its wastewater scheme.

Progress results were announced on Monday with the final figures to be tabled at the council's monthly meeting today. Council would also decide on the progress, or otherwise, of the schemes.

Rongotea's figures revealed 147 voters opposed to the scheme (62.5 percent), as against 88 in favour (37.5 percent), with Himatangi Beach's figures at 174 against (56.7 percent) and 133 for (43.3 percent).

Mr McKelvie said though the results were disappointing from a council perspective he could understand the two communities wanting to retain their independence.

"I think it was a great opportunity for Rongotea and Himatangi Beach to obtain a scheme that would have added value to the future of their community and future-proofed it as well. It was disappointing they did not



MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, discusses the Himatangi Beach wastewater scheme at an earlier meeting.

take up that opportunity." He said council had made a decision to go out to the polls on the basis of community pressure and would abide by those results.

"Council's role was as a facilitator, rather than as a perpetrator, and to enable the communities to make an informed decision. I'm sure we've done that as well as we could.

"Whether council should have backed the proposals in a stronger way than it did, I'm not so sure. But in hindsight, maybe it should have."

Mr McKelvie said if such an approach was taken it did not necessarily mean a different result, as sometimes when councils applied pressure to people a negative reaction could eventuate.

"I don't believe we put the pressure on with these pro-

posals, but we certainly gave the people an opportunity to understand what they were looking at."

He said he was surprised at the results, especially Rongotea's, where he felt the community was much more in favour of the scheme than it eventually indicated.

"I thought the Himatangi Beach vote would be close, around the 50-50 mark, and it wasn't far from that."

Mr McKelvie said response to the polls was positive, with 235 of the 297 eligible voters in Rongotea (79.1 percent) casting a vote and 307 of the 442 landowners at Himatangi Beach (69 percent) returning their papers.

"It shows that if a community has an interest in something they will certainly turn out and vote," said Mr McKelvie.

District briefs

Toyota staff supports totara plantings

AN extra \$110 has been donated towards the planting of more totara trees at Totara Reserve Regional Park. Toyota NZ Ltd. staff in Palmerston North raised the money from a work multi day and felt the planting programme was worth supporting. The idea was prompted by Pohangina Valley Estate's successful garden party last month that raised \$1000 for the park. Toyota's contribution was added to that figure and Pohangina Valley Estate co-owner Fiona McMorran said the gesture was a surprise and gratefully received.

Between the Covers welcoming

BETWEEN the Covers is on a roll! The Feilding Public Library's informal book club is preparing for its fourth meet on Wednesday, April 28, when travel journeys will be shared and discussed. Library Assistant, Sue Bakker, said nearly 20 people have enjoyed the book club's friendly and comfortable setting since it began earlier in the year, and keenly reflected on biographies, short stories and DVDs. The club meets at 5.30pm on the last Wednesday of each month.

Kitchener Park working bee

A WORKING bee will bend to the task at Feilding's prized bush reserve, Kitchener Park, on Saturday morning. The volunteers will work in the paddock on the corner of Kawakawa and Awahuri Roads clearing grass and weeds from around trees planted with Forest & Bird Flooring Xtra in August last year. The working bee runs from 9.30am to noon and parking is in the old gravel pit off Kawakawa Road opposite the paddock.

Book issues continue to soar

BOOK issues from the Feilding Public Library continue to surpass previous years with the current running total of 262,839 issues from 1 July 2009 to 28 February 2010 maintaining the upward trend. The 2008-09 total for the corresponding period was 253,353. Library Manager, Simon Johnson, said library usage had increased by about 10 percent since 2005, with economic recession partly responsible. "People look to home-grown entertainment and occupation as a result and the library is central to that decision." He said the 200,000 issue mark for a six month period was broken for the first time last year between July and December.