

## Public interest in Makino proposals

PROPOSED developments at the Makino Aquatic Centre have drawn the most interest as the public consultation period for the Manawatu District Council's Draft Annual Plan 2010/11 nears its final week.

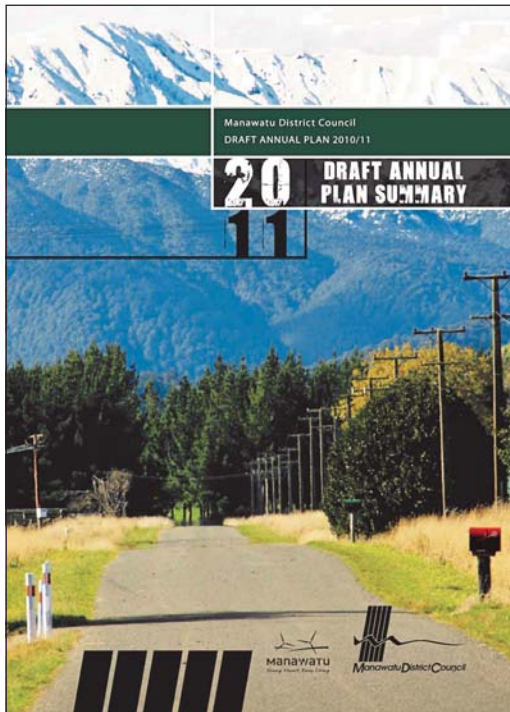
Nineteen submissions on the draft – which highlights the second year of the Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) – had been received by yesterday. The consultation period ends Monday, May 10.

Retention of the 50m outdoor pool was favoured by the majority of submitters responding to MAC proposals that included the replacement of the pool with a covered deep water 25m indoor pool and a covered dedicated learners' pool.

One submitter said they would be sorry to see the 50m pool replaced, especially after providing many years of family enjoyment, while another felt it allowed older children and new swimmers to develop swimming skills in a safe environment.

A supporter of MAC's proposed redevelopment said a 10-lane, 50m indoor pool with seating for 1500 people would attract national swimming fixtures to the region.

Another leading project to draw public reaction was the development of the San-



son building facility, with one submitter believing the travelling public would ignore whatever occurred at the site, and another urging the involvement of the Rangitikei District Council and Bulls township in any future discussions.

Roading requests included roundabouts on Kimbolton

Road, a walkway linking Mt Taylor to town and more pavement rehabilitation, as well as a call for the reinstatement of parallel parking from Hobson Street to Manchester Street because of longer cars protruding into the traffic flow.

Car parking options in Hobson Street were also mooted by a returning resident who congratulated the council on the tidiness of Feilding and the many recreational features and community events in the town.

Links with Palmerston North regarding cross-boundary servicing, boundary adjustments and amalgamation also drew comment.

Strategic Planner, Phil Bronn, said residents

were encouraged to read the plan, or its summary, and make a submission if they had a strong opinion on any issue.

The documents can be viewed on MDC's website, [www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz), and hard copies are available at the council offices, Feilding Public Library and MAC.

## Historic photos on-line

A SERIES of 62 photographs supplied by Apiti historian/researcher Ruth McIntyre depicting early scenes of the Manawatu District have now been added to the Feilding Public Library's historical photos website.

Many of the black and white images are from a substantial postcard collection that Mrs McIntyre has collected over the years.

Library Manager, Simon Johnson, said Mrs McIntyre's valuable photographs could be viewed either online or in hard copy form.

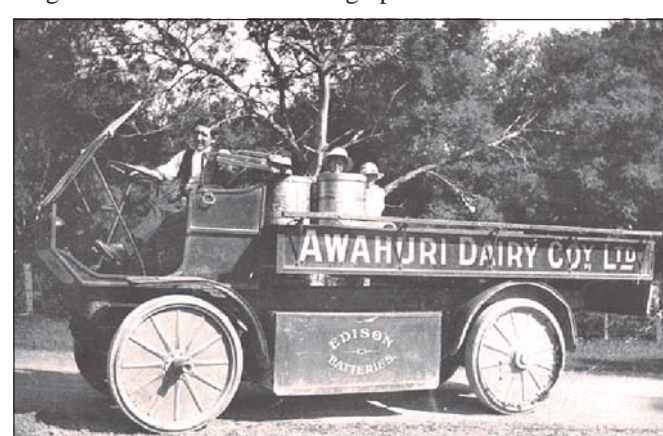
"The most significant ones relate to towns and events that we previously didn't have in our catalogue," he said.

Photographs of commercial buildings and churches in Apiti, Kimbolton, Bunnythorpe and Halcombe, dating back to the late 19th century, are available to view, as well as Feilding's Manchester Street, Manchester Square and Kimbolton Road.

Mr Johnson said two of the most interesting prints were of Apiti Lake, subsequently destroyed in the late 1940s after a huge landslide cascaded the water out onto the surrounding countryside.

"There is also a wonderful photograph of an electric truck used by the Awahuri Dairy Co. about 100 years ago," he said.

The American manufactured Walker Electric Truck, powered by a rack of batteries under the tray, had a range of about 60km.



View this early 20th century Walker Electric Truck and other historic photos online at <http://feildingphotos.mdc.govt.nz>

Mr Johnson said specialists were used to transfer the images into digitalised and hard copy forms and asked for people with other old photographs to consider lending them to the library for possible cataloguing. "This type of material is a valuable resource and it would be good to build up the library's historic photo-

graphic collection," he said. Mrs McIntyre said a number of the photographs were from her mother, Nita Ratford (nee Wishnowsky), who had grown up in Halcombe and belonged to the town's St John's Lutheran Church.

She is hoping that photographs collected for her latest

project – World War I soldiers from Apiti and surrounding districts who had served overseas – may also appear on the library website.

Her interest in the soldiers was fuelled by husband Roger's father, Hugh McLellan McIntyre, who flew Spitfires with 273 Squadron in World War II.

## Draft Annual Plan meetings schedule

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

Public meeting	Date	Time	Venue
Feilding	Today	5.30pm	Council Offices
Community Committees			
Cheltenham	4 May	7.30pm	Cheltenham Fire Station
Himatangi Beach	4 May	7.30pm	Himatangi Beach Community Hall
Pohangina	4 May	7.30pm	County Fayre

## Letter details wastewater decision

A LETTER updating Manawatu District Council's decision on the proposed Himatangi Beach wastewater scheme has been sent to the 442 landowners affected by the proposal.

Wastes Manager, Peterson Asante, said the letter outlined council's resolution after discussing the results of a recent Community Poll that gauged the level of interest in the scheme. The poll indicated 56.7 percent of voters opposed to the scheme, with 43.3 percent in support.

Councillors decided at the April 15 meeting that:

1. Council approach the Ministry of Health to preserve council's position with the ministry regarding the approved subsidy (50 percent).
2. Council approach Horizons Regional Council for assistance in the implementation of a wastewater scheme at Himatangi Beach.
3. Council considers an alternative funding solution that may include making a district-wide

capital contribution to the Himatangi Beach wastewater scheme.

4. Involve the Himatangi Beach community in these discussions.

Mr Asante said council was also looking at establishing a focus group consisting of three to four members of the community, one to two councillors and council officers to undertake a review of the scheme.

He told landowners that a council would keep updating them on progress of the focus group.

MAKINO Aquatic Centre's indoor attendance record for teenage-only parties was equalled when 100 tweens and teens attended last Friday's Pyjama Night.

Enjoying the occasion in their colourful PJs are, from left, Georgia and Alexa Bishop-Matthews and Tayla Berrington.

Programme Co-ordinator, Adie Johansen, said the great turnout boded well for other themed parties planned for the complex during the winter months.

The next event is Winter Wonderland – featuring "yellow" snow cones – from 7pm to 9.30pm on Friday, May 28.



## Database quiz primed and ready

FEILDING Public Library is running an on-line quiz series next month to raise awareness of its five leading information databases.

The four week-long competition – sponsored by Feilding firm DR Electronics Ltd. – will require participants to access the library's databases for the answers.

The databases are Encyclopaedia Britannica Online, World Book Online, EBSCO – containing full text news and magazine stories, Gale – incorporating health and student resources, and the Oxford English Dictionary, featuring all 20-plus volumes.

Library Manager, Simon Johnson, said it was important that people searching for information were aware of the on-line alternatives to Wikipedia.

"The encyclopaedias we have available have been put together by paid professionals and recognised as a proper resource," he said. "Most users have to pay to access them, but the library has done this already so they can now use them for free. That's the important thing." Each week in May a question will be posed for each of the three age categories – under 12, 12 to 18 and 19

and above – that can be answered by using the library's databases. Each correct answer will go into a draw at the end of the four weeks for DR Electronics' vouchers valued at up to \$150.

Mr Johnson said the competition was open to library members but they needed a password to the library network and guide to its electronic resources on how to access the databases.

The weekly questions will be available at the library, on the library's web page, [www.mdc.govt.nz/library](http://www.mdc.govt.nz/library) or at DR Electronics, 47 Kimbolton Road.