

Dune erosion work underway



MEMBERS of the Feilding Conservation Corps plant spinifex and marram grass in a blowout at the Himatangi Beach Dune Reserve.

A SPECIAL sand erosion control project is now underway at the Himatangi Beach Dune Reserve with members of the public requested to keep clear of the area so restoration work can be effectively carried out.

Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said it was hoped to develop native plantings and board walks throughout the dunes in front of Hunia Terrace over the next few years.

"We do need the public's help in regard to the scheme and new signs have been set up asking them to keep clear of the dunes at all times," he said.

Restoration of the dune reserve is aimed at preventing sand shifting across the

area and causing blowouts.

Members of the Feilding Conservation Group were on site last week carrying out some re-vegetation work at a major blowout near the vehicle access track to the beach that occurred during the past summer.

"We've managed to stabilise the blowout and are now going in to plant marram and spinifex grasses," said Mr James.

He said the conservation group planted out about 1000 plants, with the spinifex along the fore dunes and the marram at the back to form a windbreak.

"We had hoped to have all the plantings completed by now but it's been so dry this season that it wasn't worth

planting until now. And we didn't want to disturb the sand too much."

Hay bales have also been spread across the blowout to form further wind barriers and assist the sand to build up again and form a nice even base.

"What we have to do now is keep an eye on the area and look for any other blowouts that may occur."

He said if the spinifex plantings along the fore dunes proved successful then any problem at the back would be lessened.

"But nature is wonderful and will do its own thing – we just have to try and keep one step ahead."

YELLOW snow cones will feature at the Makino Aquatic Centre's next teen-only night, "Winter Wonderland", from 7pm to 9.30pm tomorrow. The themed parties are proving extremely popular for the district's teens and tweens and MAC organisers are hoping to exceed the indoor attendance record of 100 set at last month's party, "Pyjama Night".

Race challenge for manager

MANAWATU District Council's Support Services and Environmental Group Manager, Shayne Harris (pictured), has been elected President of MotorSport New Zealand.

He was elected unopposed at the organisation's annual council meeting at the weekend following former president Steven Kennedy's decision to step down after a 12-year tenure.

Mr Harris had been Vice President for the past year.

Motorsport New Zealand represents 150 clubs and has 20,000 members.

Mr Harris said it was an honour and privilege to head an organisation appointed by the international body, Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile

(FIA), to regulate the sport in New Zealand.

He has been involved in motor sport for nearly 26 years, starting out in his mid-20s driving Formula Vee (now Formula First) race



cars. He later became president of the class and a life member.

"Once I stopped competing after 10 years – it was a bit like rugby when the time comes to hang up your boots – I got involved in the

official side of the sport with clerk of the course and stewarding duties."

He later became Motorsport NZ's Assistant Event Director for seven years (running national race championships), Clerk of the Course for the Hamilton street race since its inception three years ago and Director for Rally NZ in the past two years.

Mr Harris recognises the responsibilities of the new role, "but I've got good support and you can't do it without that".

He was also mindful of balancing his work commitments at the council with those as leader of one of New Zealand's biggest sporting bodies.

Open day benefits helicopter

CREW members with the Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter service may receive new gear as a result of the Emergency and Armed Services' open day at Manfeild Park, Feilding, earlier this year.

Base Manager, Bruce Brownlie, received a cheque for \$741.20 from Sergeant Mike Lawton, of Feilding Emergency Management Officer, Ross Brannigan, said the organising committee had been unanimous in donating the money to a service that struck a chord with everybody in the community.

involved a variety of displays and activities from the Army, Air Force, Navy, Civil Defence, Coastguard and Ambulance and Fire Services.

Mr Brownlie said he was grateful for the donation and felt new crew gear could be an appropriate way of spending the money.

Manawatu District Council Emergency Management Officer, Ross Brannigan, said the organising committee had been unanimous in donating the money to a service that struck a chord with everybody in the community.

"And for those involved in emergency services, the value and worth of the rescue helicopter is well recognised. It does a fabulous job."

Sergeant Lawton said the service was utilised across a wide range of police activities – from road trauma to search and rescue.

"The helicopter plays a vital role in assisting us to deal with the tragedies and incidents we go to and it's hard to imagine how we would get on now if we didn't have it," he said.



PILOT Clayton Girven readies for liftoff as Palmerston North Rescue Helicopter Base Manager, Bruce Brownlie, and Sergeant Mike Lawton prepare to load the cheque aboard.

Submissions impress Mayor

MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, was impressed at the quality of many submissions presented at this week's public hearings on the Manawatu District Council's 2010/11 Draft Annual Plan.

One hundred and three submissions were received for the DAP, with 40 individuals, businesses and organisations speaking to their submission during the three days of hearings.

Mr McKelvie said there had been a lot of interest from users of the Makino Aquatic Centre at proposed developments to the complex, with a large number expressing their wish for the retention of the 50m outdoor pool.

"There were many well researched submissions and they will be really useful to the focus group that will participate in any decisions on changes to the pool."

He said council was not surprised at the interest in the pool's future as this had become evident from the moment it first released possible options.

Mr McKelvie said a number of interesting issues were raised by submitters, including the possibility of multi-unit housing outside Feilding, while Sanson representatives expressed their views on parks and reserves and rubbish services.

Among the numerous organisations to present their

submissions were Feilding Promotion, Rongotea and Bunnythorpe Community Committees, Destination Manawatu, Vision Manawatu, Federated Farmers, Manawatu Historic Vehicle Collection Trust, Te Kawanu Memorial Centre and Manawatu District Neighbourhood Support.

"Other than one or two agencies, there were not many people wanting more money spent," he said, "which is a bit of a change."

"On the whole, council will consider the submissions and we are likely to end up with little change to our expenditure for the year, but some alterations within it," said Mr McKelvie.



Notice of Impounding and Proposed Sale of Impounded Stock

The following stock has been seized for impounding:

one black and brown male goat (found on Kimber Street, Halcombe)

Notice is given that unless claimed by the owners the stock will be sold by public auction or otherwise disposed of in accordance with the Impounding Act 1955 at: Manawatu Pound, Awa Street, Feilding, on **Friday, June 4, at 10.30am.**

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive