

## Cold water tap service offered

FEILDING residents are to be given an opportunity this month to have washers in dripping cold water taps repaired free of charge.

A partnership between the Manawatu District Council and Trev's Plumbing Ltd. will allow faulty standard cold water tap washers to be changed for people facing difficulties in getting the work carried out.

People seeking assistance are to contact council on a "first in, first served" basis so they can be booked into the free service, which is to be carried out on three consecutive Wednesdays (June 23 and 30 and July 7).

Plumber Trevor Hendra said he should be able to handle up to 20 residential properties each Wednesday, depending on the number of basin and hose tap washers to be replaced, and hoped people would take advantage of the service.

"There are a lot of people in Feilding unable to carry out the repairs themselves, or afford the services of a plumber, so this is a chance to help them out," he said. "If it's more than a washer required, we will give them some direction on how it can be repaired."

Mr Hendra said the service, for domestic users only and not involving leaking hot taps, would help conserve water and mean



FEILDING plumber Trevor Hendra will soon be repairing a leaking cold water tap washer near you.

less water needed to be processed.

"Conserving water is a big saving, not only for the people having it done, but for all ratepayers. People have to realise that as the town grows, the water system is not growing as fast, so you have to conserve."

Water Manager, Wayne Spencer, said a similar initiative was offered by council some years ago, but had petered out, and he felt it

was now a good time to start it again.

"Since it's been some time since that service, we are expecting a surge of initial interest this time round."

Mr Spencer said a dripping cold water tap could double water consumption in the one household.

The tap amnesty will operate on three consecutive Wednesdays in a selected time period once a year.

## Good annual rate achievement

THE 2010-11 Annual Plan was completed last week and contains an increased rates revenue across the Manawatu District of 3.5 percent - a very good achievement for us considering it includes a GST increase applicable to 1.66 percent.

This number is brought about by the GST rise being implemented on October 1, which is three months into our new financial year, and means the composite GST content of rates for next year is 14.17 percent (the first instalment being 12.5 percent and the second and third instalments at 15 percent).

The significant increase in rate to some of our small sewerage schemes around the district has been mitigated by council moving to harmonise operating charges across all the schemes over the next three years.

We have moved the schools, who received subsidy from the relevant schemes, onto the general UTR attributed to the public conveniences, which is much



MAYORAL COMMENT  
by Ian McKelvie

fairer, as all of us have children attending these schools, not just the sewerage scheme ratepayers.

Other major projects which are still being developed, but

will have little or no effect on rates, include the Sanson building development and the Coach House move. The Makino Aquatic Centre redevelopment received much attention from the submission process and will be the subject of further scrutiny from a community focus group before any new plans are developed.

Great turnouts at the community meeting planning the World Cup Community Festival programme, the Reel Earth Film Festival launch and the Manawatu Multi Cultural Council's fundraiser in the Regent were highlights of the past week.

And the Feilding Little Theatre's production of "Nonsense!" is great and well worth attending if one gets the chance.

One last thing: Aaron Cruden - fantastic!

## District briefs

### Rubbish request to Mt Biggs users

WASTES Manager, Peterson Asante, is requesting people using the rubbish collection point at Mt Biggs School to confine their drop-offs to the designated collection day. Rotting rubbish deposited in the shed some days before it's collected each Monday has caused a rodent problem for the school. Mr Asante said the problem was being addressed but he would appreciate help from residents in the area to restrict their drop-offs to the Monday.

### Makino's balmy "Winter Wonderland"

COLD temperatures in keeping with the theme, "Winter Wonderland", may have restricted numbers at the Makino Aquatic Centre's latest teen-only night, but it didn't prevent the 80 participants creating a sunny atmosphere. A feature of the night, yellow snow cones, proved a huge hit, and sold well.

### Bulk refuse collections

BULK refuse collections will be held at Himatangi Beach on Saturday, June 5, and Tangimoana on Saturday, June 12. A truck will begin moving around the streets of each community at 9am. Normal waste disposal fees apply: small load (car boot size) \$25, medium load (standard trailer size) \$40, large loads (400 to 600kg) \$60. A limit of 3 cubic metres per property applies.

## Posters deliver messages

POSTERS promoting the reduction of alcohol harm have appeared throughout Feilding and surrounding townships as the result of a Youth Week 2010 project co-ordinated by Te Manawa Services and supported by Manawatu District Council and Feilding police.

Year 8 students from Feilding Intermediate have worked on designing a selection of posters for circulation through schools, libraries, liquor stores, hotels, supermarkets and health centres.

The project was funded by an Alcohol Advisory Committee of New Zealand (ALAC) grant and in conjunction with New Zealand Aotearoa Adolescent Health and Development, a national network that sponsors and coordinates Youth Week activities.

Te Manawa Services' Community Action Coordinator, Lisa Foggin, said 90 "C'Mon NZ. Think!" and 10 "Drinking. Was it really worth it?" posters were distributed by the students, with some of the messages also appearing in Ashhurst, Bulls and Dannevirke.

Reaction to the posters had been mixed, with some outlets keen to display them, while others were more muted. The students did receive positive response from several responsible publicans, however, who also shared their concerns regarding the harmful effects of alcohol.

Ms Foggin said the project followed a Youth Forum presentation on reducing the impact of alcohol harm that highlighted a number of issues including the respon-

sibility of liquor sellers not to sell alcohol to under 18s.

Feilding Intermediate student Ryan Harrison said young people should take heed of the messages for their own children and the next generation, while colleague Bayley Macdonald said the project was timely in view of the recent teenage drinking tragedies in Auckland.

Principal Environmental Officer, Colin Perrin, said council welcomed the students' initiative in raising awareness on the importance of alcohol reduction and said it was a topical issue in view of proposed changes to alcohol-related legislation.

"We are only too happy to support any on-going education on the issue," he said.



FEILDING Intermediate students displaying their alcohol poster designs are, from left, Gerard Horsfield, Nathan Curtis, Ryan Harrison and Bayley Macdonald.