

Youth projects to benefit from grant

MANAWATU District Council has been granted \$30,000 from the Ministry of Youth Development's Youth Development Partnership Fund to bolster and support youth engagement in the region.

The partnership fund provides an opportunity for councils, young people aged 12 to 24 years and the ministry to work together on youth development projects.

Community and Strategic

graphic imagery," said Ms Hunt. "They decide upon elements of the photo-voice project to 'action', enabling them to become actively involved in solutions."

She said RAP, which began in 2009 as a pilot programme, was initiated as a response to the need for young people to be involved in decision-making at the local level and provide opportunities for their views to be expressed.

Photo-voice projects were youth-led, contributed to youth wellbeing and addressed social issues as seen through their eyes.

"As a council we want to assist our young people to identify their own issues, make decisions and become involved in community actions and solutions that are meaningful to them."

Ms Hunt said photo-voice projects were expertly facilitated by Lisa Foggin, of



MANAWATU Youth Forum discuss issues of interest at a meeting in the council chamber.

Development Officer, Tracey Hunt, said council was delighted to receive the grant for use over the next year for Manawatu Youth Forum, known as Respect All People (RAP), which incorporates youth forums and pre-prepared photo-voice presentations.

"Photo-voice effectively enables young people to participate in research and communicate their beliefs and needs through photo-

voice has been the chosen method of communication and youth development, with initial projects focusing on safety."

Ms Hunt said photo-voice had been widely recognised internationally and within New Zealand as an innovative approach to empower youth, whose voices were often silenced, to participate in research and enable them to communicate their beliefs and needs.

Te Manawa Services, with support from schools, RAP committee and council.

The RAP project targets all school pupils in the Manawatu District, with seven schools (Awahou, Feilding Intermediate, Feilding High School, Cheltenham, Hato Paora College, Bunnythorpe and St Josephs Feilding) preparing photo-voice presentations last year.

Region's long-term future at stake

FOR many years, matters on our boundary with the city have hindered good planning, sound decision-making and sensible infrastructure development. Last week, the Manawatu District and Palmerston North City Councils, through the Joint Strategic Planning Committee, received a report that could potentially change all that.

The ABC Options report, on work completed with PNCC on boundary matters and ratified by council at last Thursday's meeting, will be a huge step forward for our region once it comes to a conclusion in the New Year.

In the report, Auckland consultants Morrison Low made a number of recommendations, including the options of amalgamation or a significant boundary change that would include Longburn, Bunnythorpe and the area inside the Kairanga-Bunnythorpe Road in the new city.

While a boundary change would have a short-term impact on the remainder of the Manawatu District, it could be compensated for by the city until the district mitigated the loss of rate income. This would be totally achievable given a suitable time frame, and the consequential growth of the city would pay handsome dividends for both

city and district in the future. The benefits to those people affected by the proposed boundary change would likely involve access to city facilities as ratepayers, improved infrastructure and much better planning processes that would lead to increased land values and future opportunities.



MAYORAL COMMENT
by Ian McKelvie

Benefits to the rest of the Manawatu District would be our association with a vibrant growing city and the potential for growth as job opportunities and residential demand increased. It would allow the district to concentrate on servicing its rural hinterland in a more influential and complete manner and place Feilding firmly on the map as the "Rural Capital" of our region.

Feilding's location and

proximity to Palmerston North enables it to service a large part of our greater rural region as an attractive place to live and do business.

The "comfortable" option would have been to do nothing, the provision of cross boundary services or a small boundary change. However, the report pointed out the likely expense and fragility of cross boundary services ... and we are already experiencing those problems. It also pointed out the short-sighted benefits of a small boundary change, which in all likelihood would lead to further adjustments being required in the near future.

If progressed, the report could result in a significant change for many in our community and we would need to carefully explain the reasons for any change and the benefits that would result from whatever preferred option was chosen early next year.

One last thing: This is not about rates or the short-term - it is about the long-term future and success of our region, higher salaries and wages, job opportunities and, most importantly, the chance to give our children and grandchildren a reason to live and work in Manawatu rather than taking their skills elsewhere in the world.

ONLY a few appointment spots are left for Feilding residents wanting to have washers in dripping cold water taps repaired free of charge. Plumber Trevor Hendra, who is carrying out the work in a joint partnership with the Manawatu District Council, said there were just a few spaces left on the third and final day (July 7) of the tap amnesty. People seeking assistance in replacing faulty standard cold water tap washers were able to contact council on a "first in, first served" basis and book the service, which started yesterday for three consecutive Wednesdays. The photograph shows Janet White - who described the service as "awesome" and a "good idea" - with son Jayden (5) as Trevor replaces the laundry tap washer. The amnesty is to operate on three consecutive Wednesdays in a selected time period once a year.



District briefs

Indoor pool closed next Wednesday

MAKINO Aquatic Centre's 25m indoor pool is to close for a day next Wednesday (June 30) as tests are carried out to locate a leak in the pool. MAC Manager Nick Mannix said it was hoped to have the problem identified as quickly as possible.

Twilight look-a-likes for MAC party

TEENAGERS will be kept busy at the Makino Aquatic Centre's latest themed party, "Eclipse", tomorrow night. The celebration of the latest instalment in the twilight movie saga begins in the Feilding Public Library at 6pm for a twilight look-a-like competition and quiz. Among the many prizes to be won is a double pass to "Eclipse" for the best look-a-like. Revellers will then head to the MAC at 7pm for party time - loud music, water canon and The Rocket!

Dog registrations fees posted soon

DOG registration fee notices are to be posted to about 4500 owners in the Manawatu District at the end of the month. Principal Environmental Officer, Colin Perrin, said the notices were being sent out a little later than normal to coincide with the introduction of a new computing system at the MDC. The latest fees - which take effect from July 1 - are \$40 for neutered/spayed/working dogs and preferred owners (\$35 last year) and \$90 for all other dogs (up from \$80). The fees apply to all dogs over three months of age registered before August 1 in any year.

Chemical collection bookings wanted

UNWANTED or expired agrichemicals in the Manawatu/Greater Wellington area are to be collected in the Agrecovery Rural Recycling programme from July 13 to 15. The collection replaces the retraction and recovery programmes previously delivered by local authorities. Booking chemicals for disposal are required by July 1 and can be made through Agrecovery on 0800 247 326 or online at www.agrecovery.co.nz

Artistically Creative Need Financial Help?

Creative Communities Scheme

Applications for the above are now being called for.

Applications for arts and culture purposes only can be made by groups or individuals within the MDC area.



Application forms and further information are available from:

Manawatu District Council
Private Bag 10-001
Feilding 4743
Telephone: (06) 323-0000