

## Input encouraged for District Plan

MANAWATU District Council is to release its 2010 District Plan Discussion Document next Thursday, July 29.

Principal Planner, Wendy Thompson, said the plan affected all Manawatu residents as it set out the rules and policies for how people could develop and use land in the district.

"We want to help our community understand what the District Plan is and how it affects them," she said.

"The community needs to start thinking about what they want this district and town to be like in 10 years' time. Where do they want to live, work and play?"

Ms Thompson said it was an important opportunity



for all residents and organisations to shape the direction of the new plan from the start of the process.

The Discussion Document also contains a series of questions designed to encourage comment from the public and they can do so

by using the feedback form at the end of the document or online at <http://www.mdc.govt.nz/districtplanreview>.

The deadline for public comment is Friday, September 17.

A Discussion Document Summary is to be inserted in the "Feilding Herald's" publication on Thursday, July 29.

Copies of the full Discussion Document will be available from next Thursday by contacting council on (06) 323-0000, visiting its office in Manchester Street, the Feilding Public Library or Makino Aquatic Centre or by emailing [districtplanreview@mdc.govt.nz](mailto:districtplanreview@mdc.govt.nz)



MORE than 100 people packed out the Bunnythorpe Methodist Church Hall on Monday evening for the first of the Manawatu District Council's information-sharing roadshows to discuss issues relevant to the district's future.

Other community meetings were held at Kairanga and Longburn on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. Proposals on a boundary ad-

justment with Palmerston North and an amalgamation of district and city, as well as future regional roading plans, were the topics covered at the meetings.

Chief Executive, Lorraine Vincent, was delighted with the good turnout at Bunnythorpe and the number of questions posed by an audience that was both "interested" and "curious" in the processes involved.

"The Bunnythorpe community was receptive to listening to the information and kept completely to the topics presented," she said.

"It was a pleasure to be able to share what we could with them."

The photograph shows Ms Vincent addressing the meeting after an introduction by Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie.

## Direct debit changes noted

THE introduction of a new computer system at Manawatu District Council has resulted in changes for ratepayers operating a direct debit payment system with the council.

Revenue Team Leader, Vicki Wills, said payments can now be deducted on any day of the week that suited ratepayers, rather than just on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

"And those paying by instalment will have their payments deducted on the instalment's due date," she said. "However, we can no longer accommodate ratepayers who have two direct debit payment plans associated to the same valuation reference number."

A change also applies to council-ratepayer correspondence on direct debit

payment plans. Future notifications will now be sent directly to the ratepayer of the valuation number.

Ms Wills said non-ratepayers who had a plan now needed to contact the ratepayer at the beginning of August.

"This is when council informs ratepayers of the outcome of the annual payment plan review," she said.

## Recognising MDC achievements

AS this will be my last column for this term, I think it worthwhile to look back over the past three years and note some of council's achievements during that time.

Undoubtedly, the major focus was the replacement of the long-serving and capable Rod Titcombe as our Chief Executive. This is always a difficult task for councils in New Zealand and does not always meet with success.

However, the appointment of one of Rod's team, Lorraine Vincent, proved to be extremely successful and council did not miss a beat as the new appointee settled in. The process worked well, involved the whole council and supported by all.

Another achievement has been the renovation of the council building, instigated during Rod's time. The end result provides better work spaces, a secure work environment and a much improved customer service and reception area. It has allowed council to retain exceptional staff and provide improved service to our ratepayers.

The recently completed report by Morrison Low on

the ABC work with Palmerston North has enabled council to instigate constructive discussions with our community on the best form of governance for the region in the next 20-odd years.

This process will continue over the next 12 months or so before the two councils



MAYORAL COMMENT  
by Ian McKelvie

come to any firm conclusion on the future direction we should take. And while we favour the boundary change option, that may well change, depending on feedback the councils receive.

It is important to realise that we must act in some way on this report as doing nothing is not an option.

The establishment of the Manawatu Community Trust to manage and own the council's Community Housing has been successful and the fact that the trust is now making significant progress with the establishment of Feilding Health further points to the great contribution it will make to our district in the future.

The Civic Centre Trust continues to do a wonderful job running the Civic Centre and proves, yet again, the benefit of community-appointed boards to our district.

Finally, the council has worked extremely hard to ensure that our storm water, wastewater and water schemes are up to scratch and that our roading is maintained at a high level. Much of this work is now near completion and has been budgeted for and funded.

One last thing: A great art sale organised by the Feilding and Districts Arts Society in the Palmerston North Convention Centre last weekend. Well done to all involved.

## Indoor pool users thanked

USERS of the Makino Aquatic Centre's 25m indoor pool have been thanked for their patience as work continued on locating a leak that has been hampering the pool's operational capability during the past two months.

Manager Nick Mannix said a temporary solution had been found - following some "kiwi ingenuity" by staff and

specialist tradesmen - that allowed the pool to be returned to its full capacity and normal operating temperature of 28 degrees.

The pool was closed for three days as its balance and filtration tanks, boilers and heat exchanger were checked and tested, with the leak's possible location now narrowed down.

Mr Mannix said the pool would operate normally until its annual closure in the summer when it would be emptied and the source of the leak located.

"The patience of our users in the past few weeks was good to see," he said, "and it's great to see them coming back to the pool."

### MAKE A STAND

#### Help Shape Your Community

**Ever thought you would like to be Mayor, Councillor or a District Health Board member?**



Do you have a willingness to participate?

Are you committed to your community?

Are you a leader?

Are you proactive about building relationships?

Are you a good listener, impartial, sincere, responsible, prudent, efficient, open?

Do you want to help shape the future of your community?

If this sounds like you  
your community needs you!

**Want to find out more?**

**Come and see us**

**Thursday 29 July, 7.00pm in the Manawatu District Council Offices,  
135 Manchester Street, Feilding**

**For more information, please call us on (06) 323-0000 or visit [www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz)**

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