

## Public views on waste important

WHEELIE bins or rubbish bags are among options listed in the Manawatu District Council's Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan's discussion document that is about to be sent out to all district ratepayers for feedback.

Wastes Manager, Peterson Asante, said the plan outlined how council wanted to manage waste in the district in the foreseeable future and the public had until August 30 to provide feedback to the services proposed.

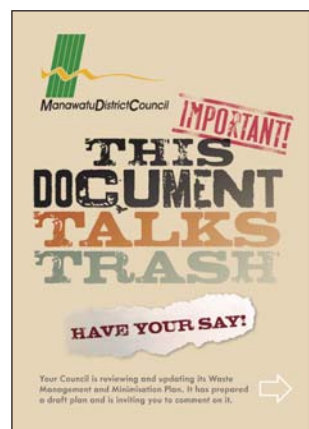
"It is a significant document as it shows where council wants to go and its planned contribution to the environment."

Mr Asante said the proposals when adopted would be part of the plan until 2016, so it was important for people to have their say.

"Council is targeting a 20 percent reduction in the amount of waste going to

landfills by 2015 and it wants the community to become more active in recycling and re-use of waste materials."

Kerbside refuse bag collections would continue, he



said, but council wanted to know if residents preferred wheelie bins rather than a prepaid rubbish bag.

Residents not on collection routes could continue taking refuse bags to the local transfer station and council

would still provide Feilding's CBD with a refuse collection service.

Mr Asante said proposals on refuse transfer stations included the viability of a new station for Himatangi Beach; the closure of the Bunnythorpe station, but retention of its recycling facility, and a reduction in hours at Kimbolton.

Council was also proposing a kerbside recycling collection to towns other than Feilding and establishing recycling facilities in eight rural townships as well as two new stations in Feilding.

Other details regarding waste services and funding options are also contained in the discussion document.

Copies of the plan are available from the MDC office in Feilding, or from the council's website, [www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz).

## Council candidates welcome briefing

EIGHT prospective candidates for the Manawatu District Council's 2010 elections attended a special briefing session last week on election processes and the roles of councils and elected members.

Electoral Officer, Warwick Lampp, was pleased with the session and said the candidates showed a healthy interest in the processes required and had asked some good questions.

He said the briefings were especially good for first-time candidates.

"The election process is pretty prescriptive," said Mr Lampp, "and there are some

things that candidates can get horribly wrong or can trip them up."

Deputy Electoral Officer, Janine Hawthorn, said it was the first time in a number of years that MDC had gone solo with such a session, having previously combined with Palmerston North City Council, and it was likely to be repeated in future elections.

Six candidates have already responded since nominations for this year's elections opened on July 23: **District Mayor:** Steve Gibson, Ian McKelvie. **Councillor (Feilding Ward):** Joyce Bailey, Steve Gibson,

Tony Jensen, Klayne Leitch. **Councillor (Kairanga Ward):** Howard Voss.

The nomination period runs until noon on August 20. Electors will receive voting documents from Friday, September 17, with completed forms to be returned by noon on Election Day, Saturday, October 9.

Nomination forms are available from the Manawatu District Council office, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, or from the council's website, [www.mdc.govt.nz](http://www.mdc.govt.nz).

## Awards for two council staff

MANAWATU District Council ports senior secondary students to undertake workplace strike when two of its staff, Customer Services Officer, Anna-Lisa Mulcock, and Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, Russell Dean, were recognised at the 2010 Feilding Excellence in Business Awards.

Anna-Lisa, who joined council in February last year, won the "Best New Employee" award, while Russell, with 35 years' service to council behind him, shared the "Best Long Serving Employee" title with Joyce Bailey, of Ravensdown.

Both Anna-Lisa and Russell were "shocked" and "surprised" at receiving the awards and appreciative of council putting forward their nominations for consideration.

Anna-Lisa described the award as important, while Russell said it represented the pinnacle of his career.

When Anna-Lisa started at council as a 16 year-old St Peter's College student she worked one day per week in general administrative support. Seven months later she was offered a full-time fixed term contract.

Her work experience had been provided by the Gateway programme, which sup-

ports senior secondary students to undertake workplace learning in a range of industries and businesses while still at school.

Anna-Lisa's current responsibilities now involve incoming calls in the contact centre, the handling of customer enquiries, payments and complaints at reception, and ongoing administrative support to management and



other departments.

Russell is the council's longest serving employee and one of the few left in the organisation who initially worked for the Feilding Borough Council.

He joined the borough in 1975 as a sewage treatment plant operator, and continued in that role after the MDC was formed in 1989. Russell was appointed Waste Plant Manager in 1994 and held that position until last year

when he became the Plant Supervisor.

Russell is responsible for the total operation and management of the Feilding Sewage Treatment Plant and eight rural waste schemes. He has been involved in a number of major upgrades during the past 35 years and revels in the technical, mechanical and processing aspects of the job.

Chief Executive, Lorraine Vincent, said it had been a great night for council and provided a positive reminder to the community that MDC had a "very human face" and fantastic staff.

"It was especially nice for Anna-Lisa and Russell's family and friends to be at the awards and share in their acknowledgements and success," she said.

## Manawatu District briefs

### Water billing goes four monthly

MANAWATU District Council is moving its water billing process period from two months to four months so it can align water billing with rating instalments. Revenue Team Leader, Vicki Wills, said this meant that ratepayers would receive their water invoice three times a year instead of the current six. The next billing periods are from July to October 2010 (invoice sent in November), November 2010 to February 2011 (invoice sent in March) and March to June 2011 (invoice sent in July). "If you are on a water meter the water rates paid through the rating system will be credited to your water account," she said "and should your water consumption be more than your annual water levy you will receive a bill from council for this extra consumption."

### Shame game into the spotlight

SHAME! is the theme for the Makino Aquatic Centre's latest party for tweens and teens at the indoor pool from 7pm to 9pm tomorrow (August 6). Revellers are encouraged to put their embarrassment at worshipping the likes of the Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls or Barbies to one side and be proud to say, "they're cool". Entry cost is \$3 and the party also features loud music, water canon and the inflatable special, Octonut and Spanner.

### Stanway/Halcombe rural water supply

THE new Stanway/Halcombe rural water supply water unit allocation policy became effective on July 1. Scheme users are now charged for the units of water that they own through their rate account. Options are available for those users who do not use their full allocation of units. Further details available from MDC on (06) 323-0000.

### Library quiz draws strong support

FIFTEEN teams entered the Feilding Public Library's recent quiz competition with the Funnell family claiming the top prize of a \$100 Paper Plus voucher. Contestants had to answer questions in a variety of categories including science, geography, kiwiana, trivia and the written word. Spot prizes and free DVD issues were also provided.

### Rongotea ratepayers have week to respond

RONGOTEA ratepayers have until next Friday (August 13) to respond to a survey regarding a voluntary water supply for the town. The residents have been asked if such a supply would benefit Rongotea in the long term and whether they would be interested in connecting in year one at the lower cost or in the future. An information meeting is also to be held in the Rongotea Library from 3pm to 7pm today (August 5).