

Extra volunteers for Sixtus Lodge

MANAWATU District Council is supporting calls by the Sixtus Lodge Trust Board for extra volunteers to help maintain the unique outdoor education centre north of Feilding. Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said the 6.5 hectare lodge, in a bush setting 20km from Apiti, was a "beautiful spot" that offered a back-to-nature

area with streams, glow-worm caves, limestone cliffs, fossils, bush walks, native birds and flora. Trust member Midge Janssen said hundreds of school groups from Manawatu and other districts had benefited from the Sixtus experience, with teachers reporting on children's noticeable growth in social and physical skills, confi-

tracks, monitored safety equipment and the water system, painted and cleaned, and handled many other necessary tasks." She said volunteer input, generous grants, and the proximity to Manawatu schools had enabled Sixtus Lodge to offer a low-cost appealing experience. "But as volunteers move away or beyond physical



experience for many school and community groups. "But the board needs help in attracting more people willing to give their time to carry out maintenance tasks at the centre," he said, "and we are looking at ways in which we can assist." Sixtus Lodge, which sleeps 50 people, was opened in 1977 to allow city children to experience the diverse geography of the

dence and knowledge. A wide variety of community groups also used the lodge for onsite activities. Mrs Janssen said most work at the lodge was carried out by a dedicated group of volunteers who travelled long distances each way to give thousands of hours of unpaid labour. "They have mowed lawns, cut firewood, repaired fences, cleared or extended

work, more are needed to take their place." Four working bees are held each year for anyone with skills in building maintenance, bush work, or odd jobs. The next working bee is planned for Saturday, August 28, with another on Saturday, October 30. Further information is available on (06) 358-0926 (evenings) or from the website, www.sixtuslodge.co.nz

Park's youthful supporters



HALCOMBE School, Kitchener Park and Manawatu District Council representatives after the collage presentation. They are, from left, Jahden Paki, Tyler Jefferies, Albert James, Fiona Hunter, Gavin Scott, Cara Gates and Hannah O'Brien.

STUDENTS from Halcombe School were so taken with an educational visit to Kitchener Park that they have presented a detailed collage on the environmental importance of the bush reserve to the Manawatu District Council. The colourful work, prepared by the school's room 4 students, was the result of a class trip to the 13-hectare reserve near Feilding in April as part of an enquiry into "Environmental Sustainability". It is now on display at the Feilding Public Library. Teacher Fiona Hunter said the park proved extremely valuable in supporting our learning and enthusiasm about caring for our natural environment".

"The children thought it great to get out of the classroom and gather all the information from those working at the park, who were only too willing to share their knowledge," she said. "We needed to hook into that." Mrs Hunter said the students were so impressed with what they learnt from the "experts in the field" that they wanted to ensure people in the community knew what was happening at the reserve. Kitchener Park Curator, Gavin Scott, described the Halcombe School initiative as a "win-win" outcome. "It means the children are getting knowledge and learning about the importance of sustainability, while at the

same time promoting the park," he said. "And who knows what potential lies within those children in regard to the botany world." Parks and Reserves Manager, Albert James, said the pupils had certainly done a good job in focusing on the restoration work being carried out at the reserve following its hammering by floodwaters in 2004. "But it doesn't just happen," he said. "The teachers and park personnel have been able to enthuse the kids with the excitement and knowledge of what it's all about. And from an environmental point of view, that's really good."

Nominations close tomorrow

TWENTY nominations have been received to date for the Manawatu District Council's local body elections, matching 2007's final tally. Nominations close tomorrow. Deputy Electoral Officer, Janine Hawthorn, said elections would be required for the mayoralty and all three council wards. Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, is again being challenged for the position

by Councillor Steve Gibson, while 11 people have indicated their desire to capture one of the five available Feilding Ward seats. Four nominations have been received for the Kairanga Ward (three required) and three for Kiwitea-Pohangina (two required). Nominations received by 9am yesterday were: **District Mayor:** Steve Gibson, Ian McKelvie.

Feilding Ward: Joyce Bailey, Matt Bell, Barbara Cameron, Bryan Cresswell, Steve Gibson, Tony Jensen, Klayne Leitch, Kester Olivecrona, Russell Parker, Shelly Thomas, Mark Waterson. **Kairanga Ward:** Margaret Giles, Kara Lummis, John Salmon, Howard Voss. **Kiwitea-Pohangina Ward:** John Baxter, Craig Manning, Alison Short.

Waste Management Plan draws responses

MANAWATU District Council has already received more than 100 responses to its Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan that is now open for public consultation. The plan outlines how council want to manage waste in the district for the next six years and into the future. The public have until Monday, August 30, to provide feedback. Copies of the draft plan and its summary are available from the MDC office in Feilding or from the council's website, www.mdc.govt.nz.

District Plan open to farmers' marketers

MDC is hoping that visitors to Feilding's weekly Farmers' Market Day tomorrow will take the opportunity to discuss contents of the Manawatu District Plan with members of its planning team. The plan's Discussion Document was recently released for public consultation and a second information-sharing opportunity for people attending the market is available in the Feilding and District Information Centre from 10am to 2pm. The public have until Friday, September 17, to comment on the document, which sets out the rules and policies for how people can develop and use land.

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

**Applications close 4pm,
Friday, August 27, 2010**




Council and Committee Meetings

Under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987, notice is given that the following meetings are scheduled for September:

Tuesday, September 7
8.00am Community Wellbeing Subcommittee

Tuesday, September 14
2.00pm Community Wellbeing Subcommittee (Creative Communities)

Thursday, September 16
8.30am Council. Public forum prior to meeting available – contact Customer Services and Democracy Manager for arrangements
8.45am Strategic Planning and Policy Committee

Wednesday, September 22
12.00pm MDC and PNCC Joint Strategic Planning Committee – in the Palmerston North City Council Administration Building

Unless specified, the above meetings will be held in the District Council Building, 135 Manchester Street, Feilding, and are open to the public.

Lorraine Vincent
Chief Executive