

## Chance to express feelings

MANAWATU District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, is hoping tomorrow's special ceremony in Feilding will allow people to express their feelings to those families affected by the series of tragedies that have rocked the community in the past few weeks.

The "Our Community Cares" gathering, starting at the clock tower at 5pm, was organised by community leaders as a mark of respect to those who have lost their lives and the families and friends affected by the recent events.

"We are just a small community and everybody knows somebody who knows the families affected – but they don't know them well enough to go and see them at their house or ring them up to say hello," said Mr McKelvie.

He said the real value of tomorrow's ceremony was that people would feel much more comfortable in letting family representatives know how much they were in their thoughts... "it will allow them to free up".

Mr McKelvie said it was also an opportunity to thank

those people associated with the emergency services, many of them volunteers, whose resolve had been tested by the tragedies.

"These events impact on a small community like ours more than in bigger areas," he said. "I don't like it and I've found it quite testing. I took off to Fiji last week and came back Monday – only to start again.

"But you have to keep your chin up, because if you don't, the rest of the community may not keep theirs up," he said.

## Strong interest in local elections

VOTING is required for the mayoralty and all three Manawatu District Council wards after nominations closed last Friday for the 2010 Local Body Elections.

Twenty-three nominations were received for the positions of District Mayor and 10 councillors, compared to 20 nominations in 2007, 19 in 2004 and 22 in 2001.

Manawatu District Mayor, Ian McKelvie, will again be challenged for the position by Councillor Steve Gibson, as he was in 2007.

Two councillors, John Gregory (Feilding Ward) and Prue McBeth (Kiwitea-Pohangina Ward), are retiring after 12 years' service, while Alison Short is seeking re-election for the Kiwitea-Pohangina Ward rather than Feilding.

Twelve nominations (10 at

the last election) have been received for the five positions in the Feilding Ward; four people (five in 2007) are vying for the three seats in Kairanga and five candidates are seeking the two positions in the Kiwitea-Pohangina Ward, compared to three last time.

**Local Elections 2010**  
**YOUR VOTE**  
**YOUR COMMUNITY**

Electoral Officer, Warwick Lampp, said the nomination process had gone smoothly, with good numbers indicating a strong interest in local government, as compared to other councils in New Zealand.

He said Manawatu received nominations regularly in the four-week nomination period, while some areas experienced a last-

minute flood of interest that he described as "manic".

Deputy Electoral Officer, Janine Hawthorn, was pleased with the response as it indicated more of an interest in the district to council affairs and local government in general.

Mrs Hawthorn said she had fielded a number of calls from people wanting to know more about the candidates and said community groups were now in the process of organising 'meet the candidates' meetings. The venues and times would be advertised when confirmed.

Electors will receive their voting documents from Friday, September 17, with completed forms to be returned by noon on Election Day, Saturday, October 9. Preliminary results are expected later that day.



A MANAWATU District Council Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to John and Anne Darragh in recognition of their significant contribution to the Feilding community. District Mayor, Ian McKelvie (right), acknowledged the couple's lengthy service to the town's business sector at last week's council meeting. Mr Darragh joined the family business, Darragh's General Store, in 1959, and retired from retailing earlier this year after selling JD's Linen Shop.

## Submitters' varied topics

BUILDING facades and Ohakea as an international airport hub are two subjects raised by submitters to the Manawatu District Plan's Discussion Document, now open for public consultation.

Senior Planner, Kirsten Pike, said a reasonable amount of feedback had been received on a wide range of topics, with some people presenting conflicting views on particular issues.

One submitter supported the retention of old facades in the Central Business District (CBD) to preserve the town's "character", while another felt there was "too much design facade – it's cheap and nasty".

A Tangimoana respondent also called for the possibility

of a joint commercial-New Zealand Royal Air Force venture at Ohakea to be revisited because such an international hub for the central North Island would boost the district beyond its "wildest estimates".

"Such a venture is so logical it is hard to believe it did not eventuate soon after World War II," the submitter added.

Another person said valuable farmland should not be converted to residential or commercial uses, food supplies should be secured for the future and buildings to go "up" and not "out".

Protection of the sand dunes at Himatangi Beach, boy

racers on rural roads and water tanks for new houses

are other views received by council to the Discussion Document, which is open for comment until Friday, September 17.

Ms Pike said some members of the public had also asked about the difference between the District Plan and the council's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP).

"The District Plan sets out the rules and policies for how people can use and develop land under the Resource Management Act, whereas the LTCCP sets the long-term vision or community outcomes for the district, together with details on how they will be achieved and financed," she said.

## Waste plan sparks interest

MANAWATU District residents are deep into waste and letting their views be known on future services. Nearly 1500 responses have already been received on the council's Draft Waste Management and Minimisation Plan that is open for public consultation until Monday, Au-

gust 30. The plan outlines how council want to manage waste in the district for the next six years and into the future. Wastes Manager, Peterson Asante, said he was pleased with the response to date and was hoping more people would reply to a questionnaire circulated in the

district. "Many people are keen to do their bit to save the environment and so this is an opportunity for them to have a say as to how we manage our waste responsibility," he said. Responses will be analysed and a report prepared for a council meeting next month.

### WHO IS STANDING?

#### District Mayor

- Steve Gibson
- Ian McKelvie

#### Feilding Ward (five required)

- Joyce Bailey
- Bryan Cresswell
- Margaret Kouvelis
- Russell Parker
- Matt Bell
- Steve Gibson
- Klayne Leitch
- Shelly Thomas
- Barbara Cameron
- Tony Jensen
- Kester Olivecrona
- Mark Waterson

#### Kairanga Ward (three required)

- Margaret Giles
- Howard Voss
- Kara Lummis
- John Salmon

#### Kiwitea - Pohangina Ward (two required)

- John Baxter
- Craig Manning
- Steve Bielski
- Alison Short
- Mike Hoggard



### Temporary closure of roads to traffic

Under the Transport (Vehicular Traffic Road Closure) Regulations 1965, notice is given that the Manawatu District Council, for the purpose of permitting **Feilding Promotion Inc.** to conduct a **Festival of Cycling** event, will close the following roads to traffic for the periods stated:

**Manchester Street** from Bowen to Fergusson Streets, **Stafford Street** from Bowen to Fergusson Streets, **Kimbolton Road** from Aorangi to Manchester Streets (including clock tower roundabout), **Fergusson Street** from Aorangi to Manchester Streets, **Manchester Square**, **MacArthur Street** and **Goodbehere Street** - from 1.30pm to 6.30pm on Saturday, August 28.

**Kimbolton Road** from Manchester Street to Warwick Street roundabout - from 4pm to 6.30pm on Saturday, August 28.

During the period of closure, provision will be made for traffic that would otherwise use the road.

**Lorraine Vincent**  
Chief Executive