

August 2016 / issue 12

# HOT Wire



Newsletter of the  
**Wanganui Rural  
Community  
Board**

A photograph of a person riding a dark horse on a grassy hillside. The person is wearing a blue jacket and light-colored pants. The background shows rolling green hills under a clear sky.

**WE  
STAND.**

**For our rural community.**

**We are.  
Whanganui.**

 **WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

**We are.  
Local Government.**

[www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunity](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunity)

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Local Elections 2016  
**YOUR VOTE**  
**YOUR COMMUNITY**

## Wanganui Rural Community Board Elections 2016

On 8 October 2016 rural Whanganui voters will have the chance to elect seven Wanganui Rural Community Board Members as well as a Mayor for the Whanganui District and 12 Councillors.

The Community Board represents the Kaitoke and Whanganui subdivisions with two members each, as well as three from Kai Iwi. From these seven members, a Board Chair and Deputy Chair are selected.

The role of the Wanganui Rural Community Board is to represent and act as an advocate for the interests of our rural community. The Board holds meetings every six weeks which are open to the public. Board members also attend workshops and training sessions.

The Board meetings are attended by representatives from Horizons Regional Council, Tamaupoko Iwi and the Whanganui District Youth Committee. Although the Board has no voting rights at Whanganui District Council meetings, the Chair has speaking rights.

The Board's Strategic Plan 'Rural Directions 2014-2023' sets out a vision for Whanganui's rural community through six focus areas. You can read this document at [www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunity](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunity).

Mayor Annette Main, who is not standing for re-election as Mayor, encourages rural people to think about standing for the Community Board in order to make a difference to their community.

"There are all sorts of different people with diverse backgrounds and experience who would benefit our rural community by being on the Rural Community Board and sharing that experience with the Board and the wider rural sector.

"Potential Board Members should think about the range of skills and experience they have and what they can offer. There is a range of rural people out there from farmers to producers, people who live on lifestyle blocks, to people with Iwi connections and tourist operators. There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to what a 'rural' person is, which is why it is important that the rural sector is represented by a cross-section of people.

"Being on the Board is your chance to hear what rural people think and work with the Council and community to help develop positive outcomes for rural people."

**Nominations for candidates for the Rural Community Board are open until Friday, 12 August 2016. For more information about the elections, or a nomination form, please visit [www.whanganui.govt.nz/election](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/election).**

## What is the Wanganui Rural Community Board?

The responsibilities and powers of the Wanganui Rural Community Board are delegated by the Whanganui District Council. The Board's role is to:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interest of its community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Whanganui District Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the Community Board.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the Whanganui District Council within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to the Whanganui District Council for expenditure within the community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- Undertake any other responsibilities that are delegated to it by the Whanganui District Council.
- Exercise delegated authority to determine temporary rural road closure applications.

## Are you enrolled to vote?



If you are 18 or older, make sure you are on the electoral roll in order to vote in October's local elections.

**Visit [www.elections.org.nz](http://www.elections.org.nz) to enrol or update your details.**

## Trustpower Community Awards



The Trustpower Community Awards programme celebrates and rewards volunteers across New Zealand. If you know of a voluntary group or organisation which you think deserves to be recognised, visit [www.communityconnect.co.nz/enteronline](http://www.communityconnect.co.nz/enteronline). You can even nominate your own voluntary organisation. Entries close August 19.

## Results of the rural survey

A big thanks to everyone in the rural area who responded to the survey we sent out in March.

The surveys were posted randomly to rural people in our district to get a broader understanding of the issues facing our rural residents.

Of the 1500 people who were sent the surveys, 241 people replied. All participants were put in the draw for a \$100 Farmlands voucher as an incentive and we are pleased to announce the winner was Susan Bunn.

Respondents were asked what are the top two issues they are facing in their rural area. Overall the most frequently mentioned issue was roading. This included speed limit concerns, roading and verge maintenance, the quality of roads and traffic concerns such as intersections.

Other common issues raised were increases to rural rates, including paying for the new wastewater treatment plant. Pest control, both flora and fauna, were also raised as well as the lack of coverage and speed of broadband.

Water was a strong theme, including concerns about drought, continuing flood protection and issues arising from the June 2015 storm event. Other respondents had concerns about land, such as erosion and subdivisions. Rubbish dumping was also raised.

When the key issues were broken down to subdivisions, most themes remain consistent across all. Less commonly identified issues include theft in Otamatea and Whanganui, lack of events and a decreasing population in Mangamahu, water quality and noise pollution in Kaitoke and rural fire support in Kaukatea and Whanganui.

The incoming Board will be looking at ways it can address some of these issues and the information provided from the survey will be used to assist with delivering on objectives outlined in the Board's Strategic Plan Rural Directions 2014-2023'.

As well as using the survey to get a broader understanding of the issues facing rural people, the Board also used the survey to look at better ways to communicate with constituents. One of the preferred methods of communication is by email.

As a result, we are now sending Hotwire via email as well as delivering it in print format. If you haven't already subscribed and would like to receive Hotwire by email, please visit [www.whanganui.govt.nz/communityboard](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/communityboard) to sign up for our November 2016 edition.

## Rural Community Board Survey results

**241** rural residents completed the survey  sent out in March 2016

Most frequently mentioned issue:

 **Roading**

Followed by:



**Pest control, lack of coverage and speed of broadband, increase of rural rates and issues around water, including drought.**

Other issues included:

 **Rubbish dumping, land erosion and subdivisions**

The survey also showed us that Facebook as a method of communicating was a less desired method, possibly because of lack of broadband access for some people and because there was a lack of awareness about the Board's Facebook page. For those who are able to access it, we are on Facebook under 'Wanganui Community Board'.

We have recently extended the content on our Facebook page to include notifications of the next Community Board meetings, agendas, information about voting in the October 2016 election and links to the Whanganui District Council's 'Have your say' page, which seeks feedback on Council-related issues or formal consultation processes.

## Zone 3 Community Boards update

The Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Zone 3 Community Boards conference was held in May in Whanganui, opened by Mayor Annette Main and with nine community boards represented.

The conference addressed a wide range of matters of concern to community boards.

Whanganui District Council Senior Roading Engineer Rui Leitao presented on the impact of forestry traffic and the decline in funding for roads. The presentation collated material from several years' investigation and suggested possible solutions.

Hastings Rural Community Board Chair Peter Kay delivered a paper on rural recycling. The early success of the work done by his team may germinate ideas for the Wanganui Community Board in dealing to the ongoing problems with garbage dumping in rural areas.

New Zealand Community Board Executive Committee Chair Mick Lester talked about the complexities of workplace safety in local government, especially as far as volunteer workers are affected.

LGNZ Senior Policy Advisor Dr Mike Reid updated the conference on the current work of LGNZ, with a focus on pending changes to local government legislation.

At a panel presentation on District Plans Wanganui Rural Community Board Deputy Alan Taylor talked about why it is so important for community boards to make submissions to plan changes and Mick Lester spoke about how to make effective submissions. Whanganui District Council Planning Manager Jonathan Barrett delivered a presentation on the purpose and structure of district plans.

LGNZ Zone 3 community boards and New Zealand Community Board Executive is grateful for the support given by Whanganui District Council toward the hosting of the conference.



**Viewpoint Whanganui is a forum featuring a series of topics for people to provide informal feedback on.**

It was launched in May and includes the ability to comment on issues which affect our district, as well as participate in polls and surveys.

Viewpoint Whanganui doesn't replace the Whanganui District Council's formal consultation process, but provides another way for people to talk about issues affecting our district which matter to them.

Council's Policy Analyst Alex Staric, who helped create Viewpoint Whanganui, hopes rural people will engage with the site.

"We are using 'Viewpoint Whanganui' to collect information about what direction the community thinks we need to take. This will assist with getting an understanding from people about issues and ideas early on or even during a project or strategy rather than at the end, which we think works better for everyone.

"We will be posting topics on anything from the environment to our district's infrastructure. Or we might ask for information about a policy or bylaw we want to adopt before the official consultative procedure begins to see if we are on the right track.

"All information provided will be treated and stored confidentially. As long as people treat each other well online, we welcome all sorts of different views on diverse subjects. I'd like to see a wide range of people contribute to the Viewpoint Whanganui blog. It would be great to have everyone use it like they use other social media tools.

"It's a direct line to our community and a way to get people engaging with us."

**To give us your views please visit**  
[www.whatdoyouthink.org.nz](http://www.whatdoyouthink.org.nz).

## Want to talk about rural issues?

The Wanganui Rural Community Board represents the interests of our rural sector within the community and at the Whanganui District Council table. The Board members invite you to contact them to discuss matters affecting the rural community. Visit [www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunity](http://www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunity) or go to 'Wanganui Rural Community Board' on [www.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) to find out more.