

HOTwire

Newsletter of the Wanganui Rural Community Board

Rural Community Board: what role do we play?

In the first Hotwire of 2014, Wanganui Rural Community Board Chair Alan Taylor writes about the role of the Wanganui Rural Community Board and how it can advocate for you.

Wanganui District Council surveys have clearly identified that the role of the Wanganui Rural Community Board is neither widely understood, nor even is there comprehensive awareness of the Board's existence. We must change this.

Community boards are present in places throughout New Zealand where there is value in recognising the special needs and characteristics of distinct communities within the wider role of councils. Hence, it is the role of our community board to represent you and advocate for your interests within the wider Wanganui District.

Your Board watches over the services provided by Council and assesses the impact of Council policy on our community. Your Board is an effective part of policy making, participating at several levels of Council decision making.

Unequivocally, the Rural Community Board has a strong and mutually respectful relationship with the Wanganui District Council. In this we are the envy of many other New Zealand boards.

While the Mayor and Councillors are elected directly by all Wanganui residents, Rural Community Board members are answerable to far fewer voters, which means your voice is heard from a distinctly rural perspective. This is critical in an environment where the rural economy is such a vital component of the total district's performance.

The Board, as part of its brief, undertakes specific tasks that contribute to rural well-being; social, cultural, and economic. A shining example of achievement in this respect is the nationally award-winning delivery of broadband service to remote Wanganui by a small team led by Board Member David (Tex) Matthews. (You can read more over the page about how initiatives like this have helped Wanganui become a Smart21 Intelligent Community.)

This is just one aspect of the Board's achievement. Other projects are on-going and will be covered in future newsletters.

The Community Board has an obligation to listen to your concerns and speak for you when appropriate. We do get results. Please talk to us and become active in the critical rural network that makes Wanganui tick. You can find our contact details on the back page. We look forward to hearing from you.



The Wanganui Rural Community Board 2014: (back) Erin Reeve, Bill Ashworth, Darryl Monk, (front) Cr Jenny Duncan, David Matthews (Deputy Chair), Alan Taylor (Chair), Cr Hamish McDouall, Matthew Collins (absent Andy Collins)



In this issue

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Farm visits 2014

Rural Community Board Chair Alan Taylor writes about the benefit of gaining first-hand experience when spending time on local farms.

In mid-February the Wanganui Rural Community Board organised two local farm trips for councillors and staff from Wanganui District Council and Horizons Regional Council, as well as members of Federated Farmers and the local media. The first visit was to Bruce and Annette Cave's intensive Tayforth dairy property, the second to Community Board Member Tex Matthews' extensive Kakatahi sheep and beef property.

The purpose of the farm tours was for visitors to get a feel for the diversity in farming practices between the two farms and to get a better understanding of issues affecting rural people in our district. The visits were an incredibly worthwhile venture, with the 'real world' experience helping to widen the perspective of the differences, difficulties, challenges and potential that exists in our rural economy.

While there was a huge difference between the farms' virgin landscapes (tussock on sand dunes in the first case, and native forest on steep hills in the second), they both indicate that significant modification of the respective natural environments can be safely implemented if managed judiciously.

The second striking aspect of both farms is how they epitomise the solid economic base of our district. Both farms are significant employers and contribute considerably to our economy by turning over several hundred thousand dollars per labour unit. They demonstrate just two of the many dimensions of Wanganui's agricultural potential.

Both farms should have been eye-openers to visitors about the ability to modify nature in a constructive and productive manner.



Community Board members and district councillors with Bruce and Annette Cave at their Seafield Road farm

New Community Board members welcomed



New Community Board members, Erin Reeve and Matthew Collins

Two new members have joined the Wanganui Rural Community Board this year, both bringing a range of skills and experience. Erin Reeve, who is a recruitment officer for Silver Fern Farms in Waitotara, represents the Kai-Iwi subdivision, while Matthew Collins, who grew up in Mangamahu, represents the Kaitoke subdivision.

During the last eight years Erin has lived in Kai Iwi, Maxwell and Westmere (where she currently resides). She joined the Community Board to represent the 'smaller farmer'.

"Lifestylers make up a huge number of our rural community and with that come a lot of families wanting a rural based upbringing for their children. Wanganui is an amazing place for young people to live and grow and our rural community is strongly recognised as the backbone of the greater Wanganui community."

Matthew, who studied Political Science at Massey University, is passionate about rural issues and says it is vital for rural communities to have a strong voice and a powerful hand in decision making at Council level.

"As your representative, I understand my role will be to take your concerns and recommendations to the Council via the Rural Community Board. I believe rural people should have reasonable access to education and health services necessary for community welfare."

Smart21 again in 2014



The Wanganui District was selected as a Smart21 Intelligent Community in 2014, following its recognition in 2013.

A significant part of the achievement was due to the innovation of the rural sector, which has worked to put in place affordable, fast, open and reliable broadband services. To find out more about the Intelligent Community Forum's Smart21 list, visit www.intelligentcommunity.org.

Keeping our beautiful countryside clean

Community Board member Andy Collins writes about the importance of keeping rural Wanganui clean and tidy, and where to dispose of waste and unwanted goods.

Throughout the more remote areas of our district, the Wanganui District Council has placed skip bins in strategic locations for residents to dispose of their domestic rubbish.

But from time-to-time the skip bins are used by those who shouldn't use them, or they are filled with material which shouldn't go in them.

The bins are for area catchment properties and only 'domestic' waste, such as rubbish bags, should be placed in them. We have noticed they are being used by visitors or 'townies' to get rid of all sorts of things. On occasions, locals are also trying to get rid of things like couches or television sets. We ask that you be vigilant around what is placed in the bins and discourage people from using them inappropriately. Wanganui District Council is happy to receive the names or number plates of those not using the bins correctly. You can call them on (06) 349 0001.

Remember, bigger items of waste or unwanted goods such as whiteware, e-waste (old computers and printers) and furniture can be taken to the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre (79 Maria Place - next to the Fire Station) when you're next in town. The second hand shop there is also looking for household goods to re-use or sell. The table on the right gives you an idea of the kind of material they recycle and most of it is free, or fairly cheap, to get rid of. You can also visit www.wrrc.co.nz.

Sustainable Whanganui, which is on the same premises, is also looking for CDs and DVD covers, books, magazines, ice cream containers, paper, art and craft material, beeswax, broken coloured china, wool, string, plant pots, wheels, lids, coffee grounds and cardboard tubes. These materials are used for art projects and for 'up-cycling' (making old things in to new ones). Keen gardeners can also pick up free plant pots and seeds from Sustainable Whanganui.

If you have neighbours or family members who have recyclable materials, why not organise a trip into town and take everyone's stuff at once?

That is the kind of community spirit and support the rural community is known for.

We don't want to get to the stage where the skip bin sites have to be removed, as that is a pain for everyone. They just need to be used effectively. Come on, let's keep our countryside beautiful.



W H A N G A N U I RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

FREE DISPOSAL OF
 NORMAL 'DRY' RECYCLABLES, CAR BATTERIES, SCRAP METAL (CLEAN),
 POLYSTYRENE (DOMESTIC) & SECOND HAND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS (SUITABLE FOR RESALE)

FEES: (CASH/EFTPOS ONLY)
unless previous arrangements made

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|---------------------|--|
| GREENWASTE | CAR BOOT _____ \$5.00 WOOL SACK _____ \$5.00 TRAILER _____ \$15.00 LARGE TRAILER _____ \$25.00 COMMERCIAL _____ \$75/Tonne |
| RUBBISH BAGS | _____ \$3.00 per bag |
| WHITWARE | FRIDGE/ FREEZERS _____ \$15.00 <small>(without degassing certificate)</small> OTHER WHITWARE _____ FREE |
| TYRES | CAR _____ \$5.00 TRUCK _____ \$10.00 |
| WASTE OIL | PER 4 LITRES _____ \$2.00 |
| E-WASTE | (depends on type - enquire at kiosk) |

OPERATING HOURS
 Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 4.30pm
 Sunday 10am to 4.00pm
 This site will be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day,
 Good Friday And New Years Day

WWW.WRRC.CO.NZ | PH: 06 3487950

Stock grazing permit now available online

Do you need to apply for a permit to graze stock on a road reserve? You can now do it online by visiting the 'Animal Control' page on www.wanganui.govt.nz.

Simply enter your details, choose the address you want to graze stock on from a drop down list and upload any supporting documents. An email is automatically sent to you – and by the click of your mouse, you have applied for the permit.

More Wanganui District Council services will be available online in the coming months, including the ability to register dogs and pay infringements.

Wyley's Bridge update

The Wanganui District Council has completed the geotechnical work required for the replacement for Bridge 46 (known as 'Wyley's Bridge'). The current bridge, which crosses the Whangaehu River at the beginning of Mangamahu Road, is at the end of its life and is due for replacement in 2014/15.

Senior Roading Engineer Rui Leitao said the geotechnical work, which forms part of the investigation phase of this project, will assess the best alignment option for the replacement bridge as well as confirm the cost of the project. The investigation report will form part of the tendering process.

At a meeting in July 2013, Mangamahu ratepayers unanimously agreed to contribute \$200,000 of local share toward the cost of commencing this \$3M project, which is led by the Wanganui District Council.



The replacement bridge will also be funded by the Rangitikei District Council and the New Zealand Transport Authority.

"The Mangamahu community's serious need for this vital link to industry was met by their wallets and created enough pressure and intent to allow this project to commence," said Mr Leitao.



Tex's joke corner

Board Member David (Tex) Matthews believes a joke always makes people feel a bit better. Here's one about man's best friend...

IF YOU CAN....

....start the day without caffeine
If you can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains
If you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles
If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it
If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time
If you can overlook when people take things out on you
If you can take criticism and blame without resentment
If you can face the world without lies or deceit
If you can conquer tension without medical help
If you can relax without alcohol
If you can sleep soundly at night...

***...THEN YOU ARE PROBABLY
THE FAMILY DOG!***



Want to talk about rural issues?

Wanganui Rural Community Board represents the interests of our rural sector within the community and at the Wanganui District Council table. The Board members invite you to contact them to discuss matters affecting the rural community.

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