

Hot Wire



Newsletter of the Wanganui Rural Community Board



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Hotwire - September/October 2017

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What is the Rural Community Board? Board member profiles

The Wanganui Rural Community Board represents the interests of our rural sector within the community and at the Whanganui District Council table. The Board also represents the Whanganui community on wider issues that are not specifically rural. The role of the Wanganui Rural Community Board is to:

- Represent and act as an advocate for the interests of the community.
- Consider and report on all matters referred to it by the Council, or any matter of interest or concern to the community.
- Maintain an overview of services provided by the Council within the community.
- Prepare an annual submission to both the Regional and District Councils for expenditure and levels of service within the community.
- Prepare submissions on central government legislation where there are implications for the rural community.
- Communicate with community organisations and special interest groups within the community.
- Exercise delegated authority to determine rural road closures
- Undertake any other responsibilities delegated to it by the Council.

The Wanganui Rural Community Board is made up of three subdivisions: Whanganui, Kai Iwi and Kaitoke.

The Board welcomes your input about matters which affect the rural community. You can email board members using the addresses next to their profiles on the following pages.

Your new board

The Wanganui Rural Community Board welcomes new board members, David Wells, Grant Skilton (Deputy Chair), Michael Dick, Alistair Duff and Sandra Falkner.

They join David Matthews (Chair) and Bill Ashworth from the 2013-2016 term, who are back on the Board.



To get to know your Board members, here's a profile on each of them. Whanganui District Councillors Josh Chandulal-Mackay and Murray Cleveland also join the team as Council representatives. The Whanganui District Council Youth Council representatives are Rhea Colaabavala and Ahilan Saravanapavan.

David (Tex) Matthews – Chair Whanganui subdivision

David Matthews farms 50km up the Parapara Road (State Highway 4) on a 2000ha hill country sheep and beef farm. At 53, Tex describes himself as an 'old bastard'.



This is Tex's fourth term on the Wanganui Rural Community Board. He took over as Chair during the second half of the last term, after former Chair Alan Taylor resigned from the Board to run as a Whanganui District Councillor.

Tex's highlights as a Board member include working with Inspire Net to improve broadband in our rural area.

A more recent success was "managing to talk the Council out of charging \$50 to those not connected to the Wastewater Treatment Plant".

One of the issues Tex isn't as happy about in his role as Chair is "not being able to convince the Council of the importance and need to spend \$350,000 for a larger culvert on Wikitoria Road in order to guarantee better access to the airport in an emergency and also to alleviate the flooding risk in Onetere Drive".

david.matthews@whanganui.govt.nz

Grant Skilton - Deputy Chair Kai Iwi subdivision

Grant Skilton, together with his family, runs a large-scale pork production and cattle grazing operation on farms at Tayforth and Maxwell.

Originally Grant trained as an agricultural scientist and has leadership and governance experience as a company director. He has had an active role in Young Farmers.

He also has close connections to the dairy, cropping, food production and forestry industries. As a significant rural community stakeholder, Grant is committed to ensuring the rural perspective is reflected in all decisions made by the Council through his role on the Rural Community Board.

In particular, he is concerned at the level of rates paid in Whanganui and that as a rural community "we need to make sure we are getting good value for that level of rating".

Grant is married and has a young family.

grant.skilton@whanganui.govt.nz



Michael Dick
Kai Iwi subdivision

Michael stood for the Board to advocate for the Mowhanau community, which is his home.



Prior to his retirement, Michael was Manager of a ready mixed concrete company and during his working life gained valuable knowledge in the Wairarapa area infrastructure. On retirement he and his wife moved to Kai Iwi Beach.

michael.dick@whanganui.govt.nz

David Wells
Whanganui subdivision

David farms sheep, beef and grows kiwifruit with his wife Julie in the Mangamahu Valley on land which has been in the family for three generations.

"After completion of a university degree and overseas travel, I returned home in the late 1970s to run the family farm and play a significant role in developing and running kiwifruit orchards in the region. This included involvement in the development of Fordell Freezers/Wharekai packhouse as well as Wanganui Coolstore and Packhouse at the Castlecliff Wharf.



"Now, having finished these roles and with four children who only return home occasionally, I am pleased to represent our local rural community on the Wanganui Rural Community Board. Having been in the role for approximately eight months, it is apparent that roading and communications are the big issues. We are hopeful we are making some progress with the communication issues. However, roading is of serious concern with government reducing its funding input.

"This, combined with extra maintenance costs associated with tree harvest, will impact on the standard of rural roads and the costs incurred by all ratepayers. All sections of the Council, including the Rural Community Board, are putting huge time and effort into this problem. I have found all Council staff and Councillors extremely approachable, so if anyone would like any help with specific local issues I would be pleased to try and assist."

david.wells@whanganui.govt.nz

Bill Ashworth
Kaitoke subdivision



Bill is 64 and has lived in Fordell for a large part of those 64 years. He enjoys the privacy and lifestyle of the rural setting.

Bill is on the staff at Whanganui City College.

"This is my third term on the Rural Community Board and I enjoy promoting and raising rural issues with the Council. I have a lifelong interest and passion for basketball in the city, having served 10 years as president of Basketball

Wanganui and regularly coach school teams on a Friday night at the Sports Stadium."

bill.ashworth@whanganui.govt.nz

Alastair Duff
Kaitoke subdivision

Following a by-election held on 17 February 2017, Alistair was elected as a member for the Wanganui Rural Community Board Kaitoke subdivision with 142 votes.

Alastair currently lives in the Kaitoke area after moving there from Westmere in 2005. He says Lake Wiritoa is a fantastic part of the Kaitoke area and has a vibrant small community vibe.



"I have been teaching in the technology field at Whanganui City College for the past 12 years.

"This is my first term on the Rural Community Board and I look forward to working with the Rural team and the Whanganui District Council on behalf of the community. I am a keen fisherman and sailor, getting out as often as time allows. As a mechanical engineer in a past

life, I like to spend time in the shed creating things and enjoy cars from the 1950s and 1960s."

alistair.duff@whanganui.govt.nz



Alistair Duff, pictured with Whanganui District Council Chief Executive Kym Fell, being sworn in as a member of the Wanganui Rural Community Board

Sandra Falkner
Kai Iwi subdivision

Having farmed for many years in the Waitotara Valley, Sandra has recently moved to Westmere.

"Over the last few years our rural community has faced some serious adverse events which have seen our communities working together.

"It's important to me that our urban and rural communities continue to work with each other, as without such co-operation we would not exist."



sandra.falkner@whanganui.govt.nz

Council representatives

Cr Josh Chandulal-Mackay

Josh was born and raised in Whanganui, attending St Anne's School and Wanganui Collegiate.

"I got my start in local government after joining the Youth Committee aged 12 where I remained up until leaving for university at 18. I've lived in Palmerston North for three years, completing a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Psychology in 2015. I successfully ran for a seat on the Whanganui District Council last year."



Alongside his role as a District Councillor, Josh works part-time as a compliance assistant with Craig's Investment Partners. He also sits on the Board of the Youth Services Trust and on the St Anne's School Board of Trustees.

josh.chandulal-mackay@whanganui.govt.nz

Cr Murray Cleveland

Apart from a couple of short secondments away with work, Murray has lived in Whanganui for all of the past 59 years.



He is a first-term Councillor on the Whanganui District Council.

"With my infrastructure background, combined with a personal interest in farming, I was very pleased to be appointed to the Rural Community Board by Mayor Hamish McDouall."

Outside of work and the Council, Murray serves in the NZ Cadet Forces in an Area Support role for three Whanganui units, as well as one in Waiouru. He also enjoys travelling and renovating houses.

Murray is married to Shelley and "our three adult children have only produced one grandchild between them, but there is another one due soon."

He has worked in the civil engineering industry for the last 42 years.

murray.cleveland@whanganui.govt.nz

Security cameras

Board Chair Tex Matthews reflects on a project to install security cameras throughout the district.

A number of security cameras have been set up privately in Wanganui with some success in dealing with nuisance and criminal behaviour. Photos captured from the camera are sent via the internet to a property with a recorder where several weeks of photos can be recorded at once. The information can then be shared with other property owners and the Police.

The Police are in favour of cameras because at times when a crime has been committed, they have nothing to go on. At least with a photo they have somewhere to start.

Following further interest in having more cameras, camera installer Graham Palamountain spoke to the Rural Community Board earlier this year about the viability of setting up cameras, with a combination of funding from the Whanganui District Council, the Rural Community Board, property owners and philanthropic organisations.

The cameras cost around \$6,000 each, with a two-photo system to capture the number plate and a photo of the vehicle. The reality is, not everyone will commit to funding a camera, so it may cost more, but we have evidence that the cameras work.

I wouldn't be asking the community to fund something which fails.

In my area of the Parapara, with several side roads, we will need at least eight cameras.

If we have more than 100 people committing to putting in between \$250-\$650, depending on what kind of property they have, it would just about get us there.

At a recent meeting at the Avoca Hotel in Upokongaro, about 30 people turned up to find out more about the logistics of installing cameras in their own rural areas. Several people attended from Okoia/Longacre and are organising their own system with Graham Palamountain, which is a great outcome.

The Board is working with the Council on issues of funding, ownership, privacy and protocols about who can view the data.

Watch this space to see how we progress with this project to keep our communities safer.

Facebook crime-solving

While we are on the topic of rural security, in late-February, when my neighbour Shane was working for me, he had his own personal four-wheeler bike stolen. As he worked late that day, he did not notice it was stolen until the next night.

A road working crew from Loaders said they saw a couple of people loading a bike onto a trailer at the bottom of Fields Track on Tuesday afternoon.

The Police were notified of the theft on Wednesday night of that week. The bike is an old 400 Honda and quite distinctive, as Shane customised it.

On Thursday morning that same week, Shane posted a photo of his bike on Facebook. On Friday night, just 36 hours after it was stolen, a man from Wanganui rang to tell him that he had his bike. He had swapped it for a two-wheeler the day before. This man even tracked down the two-wheeler in Palmerston North using Facebook.

In early May I received notification from the Police that an arrest had been made in connection with this crime.

It just goes to show you the power of social media in alerting crime to the Police and to holding the people committing crimes to account.

The effects of forestry on our roads

Bill Ashworth writes about the effect of forestry harvesting on rural roads over the next 25 years and what possible options the Whanganui District Council could look at for addressing the damage.



Whanganui has 30,000ha of forest due to be harvested and trucked out on local roads over the next 25 years. A Whanganui District Council study on the effects of forestry on our district's rural roads shows it will cost an extra \$20M over the next 30 years to provide the current level of service on these roads, taking into account steadily increasing heavy traffic volumes.

Rural roads under pressure are Brunswick Road, Blueskin Road, Tokomaru East Road, Tokomaru West Road, Rangitatau East Road and Rangitatau West Road on the western side of the district. On the eastern side, Kauangaroa Road and Warrengate Road will be impacted.

These are the roads which link forests, both in the Whanganui District and beyond, with the State Highway networks. The rural community contributes 50 percent of its rates toward roading in our district, compared to 10 percent contributed by urban ratepayers.

In the Community Views survey (May 2017, undertaken by research company Versus) rural people were asked which areas they wanted to see improved, with logging trucks and damage to roads from harvesting amongst the issues raised.

Rural communities have provided feedback to the Wanganui Rural Community Board on a variety of options that might help fund this extra \$20M.

The options supported by the Wanganui Rural Community Board are:

A targeted rate/user pays system paid by forestry owners

Although forest owners are not in favour of this option, they felt that \$20M spread over 30 years (\$667,000/year) over the whole District may not be that imposing. There will be no New Zealand Transport Agency financial assistance.

A rural road designation with limited use

Although in Whanganui this option is limited by geography, there are opportunities to exclude some rural roads from being used by logging traffic.

A rural road designation with 'time of year' logging restrictions

Since water is the greatest accelerator of pavement deterioration, there is an option of limiting logging traffic on some rural roads during July and September each year.

Boundary consistency between districts

Forest owners across New Zealand have a problem with inconsistencies between all Road Controlling Authorities (RCAs). A consistent approach toward permits, bylaws and liaison across RCAs and improved communication across boundaries will allow for better asset management.

Temporarily reduced levels of service

This option allows rural roads to become 'rougher' and/or unsealed during logging periods. This could extend over a number of years. This option is supported by the Wanganui Rural Community Board if safety concerns are addressed.

What is **not supported** by the Board is a **permanently** reduced level of service for rural roads.

On Whanganui hill country, forestry produces 500 tonnes/ha over a 30-year period. On the same hill country, sheep and beef farming will produce less than 10 tonnes/ha over the same period.

What are other people saying?

Forest owners and logging truck operators have provided their input through a number of means, including meetings with the Whanganui Rural Community Board and feedback on the 10-Year and Annual Plan processes.

New Zealand Forest Managers

In a submission to the Whanganui District Council Annual Plan 2017/18, New Zealand Forest Managers said they were happy to work with the Council to develop a range of options to address the issue, such as predictive modelling.

FOMS and Log Loaders

The Whanganui Rural Community Board and Whanganui District councillors and staff visited the Eastown Road Weigh Station in August to meet with Director Marcus Musson from harvesting and marketing company FOMS and Log Loaders operator Ian Harrex. The Council had floated the idea of re-locating the log loading operation from Eastown Road to Taupo Quay to reduce reliance on local roads and using the State Highway Network.

Mr Musson and Mr Harrex invited the Council to see the log loading operation at Eastown to talk about the down-sides of relocating to Taupo Quay, such as noise, safety and environmental issues.

Mr Musson told the group that forestry owners want to see facts and figures if a targeted rate is sought.



Members of the Rural Community Board with Marcus Musson from harvesting and marketing company FOMS (far right)

Federated Farmers

Feedback from Federated Farmers, in their submission to the Whanganui District Council's 2017/18 Annual Plan, says it "supports the Council's intention to use targeted rates to provide greater transparency, and to improve fairness and equity".

Branch spokesperson Tim Matthews told Councillors they should look at what Ruapehu District Council is considering, which is a special differential rate to recover costs from the forestry landowners.

What are other Councils doing?

The Ruapehu District Council adopted a forestry differential rate in its 2015-25 Long Term Plan. Other councils with similar issues such as Northland and Wairoa are working through how to address the issue.



The Rural Community Board, Council staff and councillors, at the Eastown Road Weigh Station in August

How to dispose of whiteware in the rural area

We've noticed people have been leaving whiteware, such as fridges, freezers and washing machines, at rural refuse sites.



Please don't leave your whiteware at these sites, as there is no easy way of getting it collected. Instead, please drop it to the Whanganui Resource Recovery Centre (WRRC) in Maria Place in town. Fridges and freezers costs \$15.00 to dispose of at the WRRC without a degassing certificate.

Check with your neighbours to see if they have anything to drop off and see if you can organise a trip. As well as the WRRC, you can also take your whiteware to scrap metal dealers.

The WRRC, which is a partnership between Tupoho Whanau Trust, Whanganui District Council and Sustainable Whanganui, also takes a variety of waste products for recycling.



WHANGANUI RESOURCE RECOVERY CENTRE

FREE DISPOSAL OF
PAPER & CARDBOARD, PLASTICS GRADE 1-7, ALUMINUM/STEEL CANS,
GLASS BOTTLES & JARS, SCRAP METAL (CLEAN), CAR AND TRUCK BATTERIES

FEES: CASH/EFTPOS ONLY	
GREENWASTE	CAR BOOT _____ \$5.00 WOOL SACK _____ \$5.00 UTE _____ \$10.00 - \$15.00 SMALL TRAILER _____ \$15.00 LARGE TRAILER _____ \$25.00
RUBBISH BAGS	_____ \$3.00 per bag
WHITeware	FRIDGE/ FREEZERS _____ \$15.00 <small>(without degassing certificate)</small> OTHER WHITeware _____ \$6.00
TYRES	CAR _____ \$6.00 TRUCK _____ \$12.00
WASTE OIL	PER LITRE _____ \$0.50c
E-WASTE	TV _____ \$10.00 OTHER E-WASTE ENQUIRE AT FORECOURT

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, New Years Day, 2nd Jan, Anzac Morning

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

Rural Directions 2017-2027

Wanganui Rural Community Board's Strategic Plan - Rural Directions 2017-2027, is available to read at www.whanganui.govt.nz/ruralcommunityboard

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