

Update from Council



January 2007

Splash extension on track for next summer

The big hole has been dug and now work is well under way on the foundations for the Splash Centre extension.

The extension ranked first out of 14 projects in Referendum '05.

In November the Council announced that the contract to build the Splash Centre extension had been awarded to Wanganui company Wells & Wadsworth.

The contract price of \$5,601,027.30 includes all building works (except the hydroslides) and mechanical and electrical fit-out. The construction period is 52 weeks.

The hydroslide contract has been let to Christchurch company Cresta for \$462,884 and the hydroslides are due to be on site by the end of September.

The hole for the main pool has now been dug. There will be an underground service walkway below the pool and during January work focused on installing steel reinforcing and pouring concrete for the walkway.

When completed, facilities will include seven pools (training, learn to swim, hydrotherapy with ramps for

disabled access, aquarobics, 'lazy river', toddlers' beach, hot pools) plus a café, sauna, steam room, gymnasium, twin hydroslides and a stair tower.

By next summer we will have a fantastic new facility for everyone to enjoy.



Embracing the Whanganui River

Second choice in Referendum '05 was the redevelopment of Wanganui's riverfront – and that project too is now under construction.

Driving in the piles for the timber walkway started in mid-January and will take about five weeks to complete. Work will start on paving and seal around the end of April and the entire project will take about 24 weeks to complete.

The area involved in the \$1.8M project stretches along the river from the town bridge to the Waimarie mooring jetty. This section will be upgraded with a cantilevered boardwalk along the river's edge, courtyard style landscaping and planting, plus extra amenities to add comfort and security.

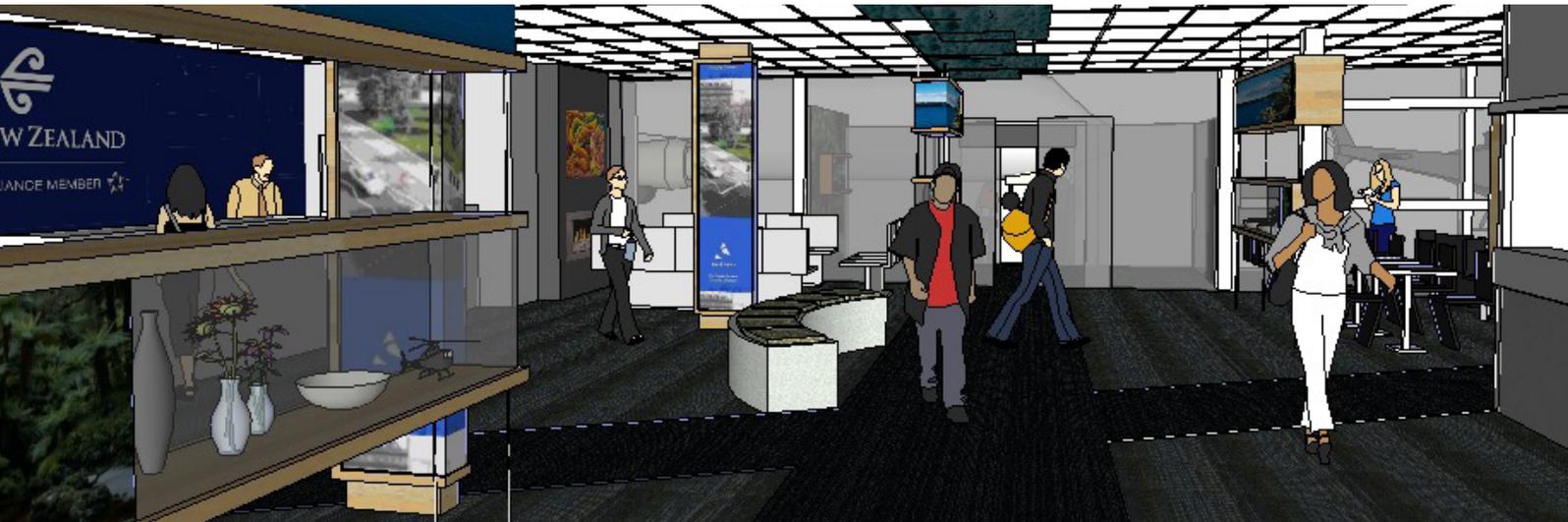
Wanganui District Council Property Manager Rowan McGregor says that in the past Wanganui people turned their back on the river, with nearby businesses facing away from our biggest natural asset. This is now a process of changing direction, facing and embracing the river and enhancing the area for beautification and passive recreation.

Mayor Michael Laws said that the current construction of both the Splash Centre extension and the riverfront development would complete the priorities established at Referendum '05.

"These are true public projects. It has been an absolute honour to ensure that those wishes are coming true."



Airport activity takes off!



Wanganui's tired-looking airport terminal is in for a facelift.

The Airport Management Board is arranging for the building to be improved by tidying up the fascia, possibly by adding an illuminated 'Wanganui' sign. This new frontage will be a small part of a major new look for the aging airport.

The baggage claim area will be brought under cover and there will be an annexe developed off the wind lobby. The café and toilets will remain in their present location but both areas will be completely refurbished.

The terminal will also become a display area for Wanganui's artworks and crafts, and stand-alone display cases will be incorporated into the floor plan.

The outside area, including gardens, will also be revamped.

It is anticipated that work will commence in April with completion expected by August 2007.

Other good news for the airport is the announcement that from February 11 Air NZ Link carrier Eagle Air will be operating Wanganui-Wellington flights. The Council and Airport Management Board have been working on this for some time and our persistence has paid off!

As well as providing an alternative to driving to Wellington, it gives Wanganui people better connections to South Island and international flights.

Airport activity this year also includes resealing of the runway which is scheduled to start on February 5 and should take about 20 working days to complete.

The work will be carried out at night so there will be no disruption to passenger services.

Wanganui's story to be told in stained glass

The first stained glass panel of the Wanganui Story is in place in the Council Chamber.

Designed and constructed by the combined talents of Julie Greig and Greg Hall, this first leadlight panel features a depiction of the tooth of a megalodon, a giant shark that once roamed here when Wanganui was deep under water. The tooth was found at Pipiriki and is now shown amongst geological strata to represent our region's prehistoric beginnings.

Events that have shaped Wanganui will be captured for posterity in a series of 32 stained glass windows that will adorn the Council Chamber. Each panel will depict an important episode in the history of our city and the district. Julie Greig is developing the storyline and panel illustrations and Greg Hall will construct the stained glass panels.

Wanganui businesses and individuals have the opportunity to be part of this exciting project by sponsoring a glass panel. The project will enhance the

exceptional architecture of the Council's magnificent rimu panelled round Council Chamber featuring a domed ceiling "floating" on glass panels.

A board displaying a miniature version of each panel, an explanation of its significance and the name of the panel sponsor will also be installed in the Council Chamber.

The Council is seeking more sponsors for the glass panels. The cost is \$3000 plus GST per panel.

