

Southlink



News from the South Taranaki District Council

New \$2.6m Patea Water Plant Opened



South Taranaki District Mayor, Ross Dunlop, and local kaumatua, Syd Kershaw, officially blessed and opened the new \$2.6 million Patea Water Plant last week.

The work, which involved building a new bore, reservoir and water plant, gives Patea a much greater security of water supply, particularly over summer, and means that the town will be fully compliant with the latest Drinking Water Standards.

Mayor Dunlop says the Council has invested a huge amount of time and money into upgrading and modernising the District's water supplies.

"Since 2005, the main priority of the Council has been on improving the District's water infrastructure. Over

the last six years we have completed nearly \$50 million of work. Today our water supplies are more robust than they have ever been with new treatment plants, water bores, reservoirs and some interconnections between supplies," he says.

STDC engineering assets and planning manager, Howard Wilkinson, says that as a result of work the Council has been doing in Patea over the last couple of years, they have been able to reduce water loss from the town's pipe network by 80%.

"However, even with this great effort we still needed to build an extra borehole to supply enough water and allow one of the other boreholes to be maintained," he says.

"We also drilled a monitoring well so we can check that we are not drawing sea water towards our boreholes. In the past, boreholes in Patea have had to be abandoned because they have become too salty," says Mr Wilkinson. Water from the two existing bores was analysed and showed the water was between 158-179 years old.

"When water is that old, it's very safe to drink as bacteria and protozoa cannot survive for that length of time."

Mr Wilkinson also says while the old reservoir on the

sand hill on the approach to Patea was a local landmark, it had to come to the end of its operational life.

"We had originally planned to build another reservoir next to it on the hill, but a seismic analysis showed that in an earthquake similar to those experienced in Christchurch, the stability of the hill couldn't be guaranteed. So we had to build the new reservoir at the bottom of the hill and we pump water from the reservoir into the reticulation network to make sure the pressure is adequate. We also have an emergency generator onsite in case of power failure," says Mr Wilkinson.

"The Ministry of Health also contributed grants of \$360,000 (excl gst) to the upgrades," he says.

In his closing remarks Mayor Dunlop reflected on other major projects in Patea which the Council had recently invested in; namely the multi-million dollar clean up of the old freezing works, construction of the new Museum and the town swimming pool.

Mr Dunlop says that over the next couple of years the Council has also budgeted around half a million dollars to replace some of the old pipes in the town's water reticulation network.

HAWERA **fest** **TICKETS ON SALE NOW** **LADIES** **KIDS OF 88**
SAT 15 DEC @ Hawera Showgrounds from 1.30pm
\$32.50 + booking fee, from www.ticketdirect.co.nz or South Taranaki i-SITE

Reminder
Rates Due - 28 Nov
The last day for 2nd quarter rates payment is 4:30pm, Wednesday 28 November 2012.

Please Take Care With Fires

As we are heading towards summer STDC principal rural fire officer, John Gunn, asks rural property owners to be careful with any open air fires and to consider the following before lighting any fires:

- Weather conditions, including wind strength and direction and the likely weather conditions that could apply during the duration of the fire.
- Don't smoke out your neighbours or allow smoke to cause a driving hazard over nearby roads.
- Ensure that the fire cannot spread beyond your property - you are morally bound to supervise the fire until it is burnt out.
- Clear any overhanging vegetation that could restrict a Fire Services Fire Appliance being able to gain access to your property.
- If you are planning a fire within 1km of a Department of Conservation reserve you will need to contact DOC for a fire permit.
- Council would appreciate notification of any sizeable fires that land owners are planning.
- If your fire looks like it may get out of control please phone the Fire Service on 111.

Also check your RAPID no.

Mr Gunn is also urging rural residents to check their RAPID numbers (Rural Address Property Identification) so it's easier for emergency services to find them.

"Rural residents should check their RAPID numbers to make sure that numbers aren't missing or they can be clearly seen and to contact the Council if they need replacing," says Mr Gunn.

"In an emergency situation every second counts and you don't want to waste time trying to find the location which can be difficult in unfamiliar rural areas, especially at night."

The RAPID system gives properties a unique number based on their distance along a road from its starting point or intersection with another road and can be identified as white or silver numbers on a dark blue post.

Issuing RAPID numbers is co-ordinated through the STDC. Please contact the Council for any concerns related to RAPID numbers.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON LIQUOR CONTROL

The South Taranaki District Council (STDC) has recently reviewed the District's Liquor Control Bylaw and wants to know what you think about it by 10 December.

The proposed Bylaw identifies public areas where alcohol is banned and looks to extend or introduce new Liquor Ban Areas in a number of South Taranaki towns.

This is your chance to let the Mayor and Councillors understand your views about the proposed Liquor Control Bylaw, so please take the time to have your say.

Full or Summary copies of the proposed Liquor Control Bylaw, with submission forms, are available from any LibraryPlus facility, the Council's Administration Building in Albion Street or on the Council Website www.southtaranaki.com.

Public consultation runs from 9 November until 10 December 2012.



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