

HE TĀKAI KŌRERO MAI I WHAKAORIORI

MASTERTON MONTHLY WRAP

HERE-TURI-KŌKĀ 2024

AUGUST 2024

Poll next year on Māori ward

Masterton District Council will conduct a poll on its Māori ward during next year's local government elections.

At a meeting on 31 July, councillors voted to retain the current Māori ward until the next election where it will conduct a binding poll to meet new central government requirements set out in recent changes to the Local Electoral Act 2001.

This requires councils that established a Māori ward under prior legislation to resolve to disestablish the Māori ward by 6 September 2024 or to hold a binding poll at the 2025 election.

The Council agreed to establish a Māori ward in May 2021, and was one of a number of councils throughout New Zealand that opposed the legislative change.

Mayor Gary Caffell said the decision to hold a poll during the election in October 2025 was the most cost-effective way of meeting government requirements.

"The poll will cost our community about \$35,000, but disestablishing at this point in time would cost our community more both in reducing the Māori voice at the table, and diverting council resources to revising representation arrangements to meet new deadlines," he said.

"Our Māori ward was established to ensure a Māori voice around the council table and enable Māori representation in our decision-making processes. I believe this has been achieved – I'm really disappointed we have to go through this process. To me it is ridiculous.

"We had support from our Rangitāne and Ngāti Kahungunu entities when we established our Māori ward, and they continue to support retaining it. The community will have their say on retaining the Māori ward at the poll during the election.

"Between now and the election we will ensure we make available a range of information on the Māori ward process so our community can make an informed decision."



Welcoming Week returning

Welcoming Week is returning to Masterton from September 6-15 as part of a national celebration led by Immigration New Zealand. Organised by Masterton District Council's Welcoming Community Advisor, the week includes the Cultural Festival, returning after the highly successful inaugural festival last year.

It is an opportunity to celebrate the values that unite us as people who call Masterton home.

The festival will be held this year in the Green Space in Queen Elizabeth Park (beside Kids own Playground) on Saturday 7 September, 10.30am-2pm. It will include a range of cultural performances and fabulous food stalls.

Welcome week will also see the return of the the Human Library at Masterton District Library on 12 September. It's an opportunity to listen to the unique life experiences from community members as they talk with an interviewer about their journey to Masterton.

A community sports open day organised by Wairarapa Badminton Academy and Welcoming Communities is also planned.

A Welcoming Workplace initiative to celebrating inclusivity will spotlight the amazing efforts happening in our community by sharing top inclusive practices in our workplaces. These will be shared online on the Masterton District Library Facebook page.

As part of Welcoming Week, on Friday 6 September, primary school students are encouraged to wear their national dress to school.

Look out for confirmed timings on the Council website.



Ka pai lineup for Te Wiki!

A great programme of activities, from boardgames to virtual reality, has been arranged at Masterton District Library for Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori – Saturday 14 - Saturday 21 Mahuru (September).

A special screening in te reo of Disney's Encanto film will also take place at the Screening Room – with up to 10 tickets for the free screening given out at each event.



Council Meetings

The meetings of the Council and its committees for the coming month are listed below.

Unless specified, all meetings will be held in the Kiwi Room at Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings. The meetings will also be accessible to the public via the livestream on the Masterton District Council YouTube channel. Agendas will be available on the Council website (www.mstn.govt.nz) and copies will be available for inspection at the main Council office, 161 Queen Street, and at the Library, 54 Queen Street, two working days prior to the meeting.

Opportunity for Public Comment

At the beginning of some meetings, a period is available for those who wish to speak or comment on any matter relevant to the meeting in question. Requests to speak at a meeting should be made to Harriet Kennedy, Governance Team Leader, phone 370 6300 or email mdc@mstn.govt.nz at least one clear day before the meeting.

Rural focus for pool inspections

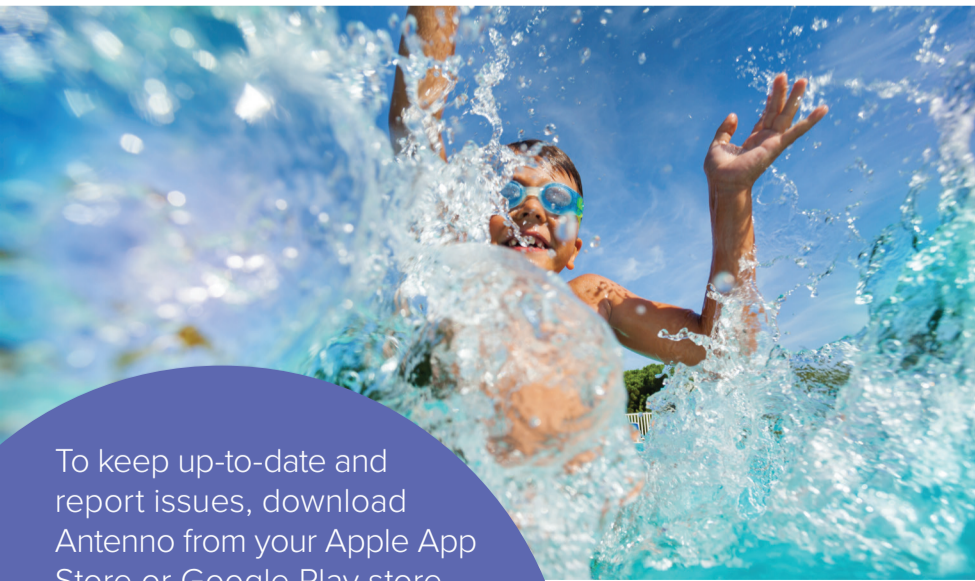
Council staff are currently focussing on rural areas as pool inspections continue.

Property owners have been mailed advice that inspections will take place over the next month – they can contact the Council to book a specific time for an inspection.

Under the Building Act, the Council is required to inspect pools to ensure they meet requirements for fencing and access.

Inspections carry a fee of \$205.

Requirements for private pools are set on the council website, search 'private swimming pools'.



To keep up-to-date and report issues, download Anteno from your Apple App Store or Google Play store.



MDC is open for business!

Masterton District Council is making it easier for new businesses to get started with its 'Taking Care of Business' (TCOB) one-stop shop.

The new way of working means aspiring business owners can fill out one form and a dedicated Business Support Advisor will help them navigate the licenses, consents, and application timelines they'll need to meet to open a compliant business.

Matt Steele, Economic Development lead said: "We're here to support businesses getting their doors open. Taking Care of Business means our entrepreneurs get a coordinated response and great customer service.

"There can be lots of legal requirements when you open a new business. Depending on the type of business, people might need to work with multiple teams like building, planning, and health. Talking to us early means we can outline what's required and get it moving all at once."

The process is treated as commercially sensitive to ensure confidentiality.

More information can be found on the Council website – search 'Setting up a new business'.



Registrations open for Christmas parade

Registrations are now open for participants in Masterton District Council's Christmas Parade, which will take place along Queen Street on Saturday 30 November.

Registrations close at 4pm on Thursday, 31 October, using the online form or hard copy forms available at the Council's Queen Street office and Masterton District Library.

Trust House is again sponsoring prizes for the best float or activity in each of four categories – commercial, community group, sports group, education.

There will be a \$500 prize for each category winner, and \$250 for each runner-up.

And if you need to paint your float, you can apply to Resene for help at: sponsorship@resene.co.nz



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