

# MASTERTON MONTHLY WRAP JANUARY 2020

## MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Firstly, I would like to take a minute to acknowledge the tragic events that have occurred around our region in the last few weeks. It has been a challenging period for many in our community and my sympathies go out to each and all affected by the lives lost at Whakataki and Mataikona.

We had some fantastic news last week with the Government announcing more than \$7 million for water resilience projects in Wairarapa.

This will fund the development of an overarching strategy which will help give us the big picture around our region's water needs and the opportunities for ensuring sustainable supply.

It also gives those progressing the Wakamoekau water storage project proposed for near Masterton the ability to progress to the next stage of feasibility. These projects are in addition to Masterton's own urban water storage investments and maintenance work on our water mains.

I'm also pleased to acknowledge the strong response we've had from the community about the future of Masterton's Town Hall. The survey closes on 7 February, after which myself and elected members will be considering all the feedback to determine next steps.

If you haven't already done so, please head over to [www.mastertontown.nz](http://www.mastertontown.nz) to tell us what you think.



## WATER METERS

Masterton District Council plans to begin installing water meters in Masterton in February.

This should cause only minor disruption, though water will be turned off for a short period. Householders will receive a notice advising of the work several days before it is scheduled. Meters are being installed at all properties in Masterton that receive a treated water supply, but there will be no change to water charges until the 2021-22 financial year after public consultation.

The meters will be installed under the blue panel on the roadside outside the boundary of properties – where the tap is to turn off the water supply (often called a toby). Most of the 9,000 meters being installed will be for supplies to individual houses. Some houses have a shared supply, with water from one toby going to more than one property. In these cases, the council will talk to property owners about options for metering the separate properties.

In 2018 Masterton District Council decided to spend \$5.2 million to install smart water meters across the urban area. Meters will help reduce Masterton's water consumption, allow us to identify leaks in the supply network, and give water users better information about their water use.



## SHARED COMMUNITY SPACES

Bringing Masterton Together

## TOWN HALL: HAVE YOUR SAY BEFORE 7 FEB

Since early December we've been asking for the community's thoughts about the Town Hall and, if Council invests in a new facility, what it needs to include.

We've had a huge response with the number of people who have taken the survey now past 600.

The survey is open until 7 February, so don't miss your chance to have your say. We want to know what you think should be included in a multi-purpose facility, whether you would be willing for your household to pay \$200 a year for such a facility, and what you think of the current façade.

The information gathered through this survey will be used to develop a proposed next step, which will be consulted on as part of the Annual Plan in March and April.

Head over to [www.mastertontown.nz](http://www.mastertontown.nz) for the full details.

## WATER RESTRICTIONS

Low rainfall over Christmas and January has put considerable pressure on rivers in the district, and it is likely further water restrictions will be required.

The restriction level could move from sprinklers on alternate days to a complete sprinkler ban by the end of January, unless there is considerable rain. The sprinkler ban would be triggered if flow levels in the Waingawa River fall below 1,300 litres per second. This would mean watering with handheld hoses only. All garden watering would be prohibited if the flow falls below 1,100 litres per second.

The average consumption for January has been about 13,775,000 litres per day. For a hot, dry weekend, consumption is about 15 million litres per day, but when the weather turns wet, this can drop to 11 million litres.

# HE TĀKAI KŌRERO MAI I WHAKAORIORI KOHITĀTEA 2020

## SPEED REVIEW

Masterton District Council will begin the formal consultation on a range of speed limit reductions on roads in the Masterton district on 3 February 2019.

The proposed changes include a reduction in speed from 50km/h to 30km/h in Masterton's CBD, 40km/h limits in Castlepoint and Riversdale, and a mix of permanent and variable speed reductions around schools.

In most cases they reflect the existing mean speed of traffic. Manager Assets and Operations David Hopman said the proposed changes focused on priority areas.

"We've considered speed around schools, speed in areas with high numbers of vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists, and speed limit reductions relating to growth and changes in land use," he said.

"Speed has a major influence on the survivability of crashes for pedestrians. We believe these changes generally reflect how motorists are already behaving, and will make roads safer, without having a major impact on travel times."

The council has discussed the changes with the Police, Automobile Association, Road Transport Forum and New Zealand Transport Agency, and as a result there have been minor changes to the proposals agreed by the council in September.

The consultation document will be available on the council website from 3 February. The consultation will run until 6 March.



THURSDAY  
6TH  
FEBRUARY  
2020  
10AM-3PM

## HERBS ACOUSTIC, MAISEY RIKA AND MORE

Kiwi reggae royalty Herbs will headline the biggest Waifest lineup ever put together, in Masterton on Waitangi Day.

Led by original member John Dilworth Karaka, Herbs now perform acoustically, with Maurice Watane, and Joseph Tama London completing the lineup for the free council event in Queen Elizabeth Park.

Also on the bill for Waifest is singer-songwriter Maisey Rika, who has made a name for herself with evocative tracks in te reo Māori. More artists will be confirmed for the Waifest lineup in coming days.

Waifest has become an annual summer highlight in Masterton and council Chief Executive Kath Ross is delighted with the lineup.

"Waifest is a celebration of the diversity of Masterton's people, as well as marking our national day," she said. "I'm sure these performers will bring out the crowds for a great community day, one where we can come together and celebrate together."

## WHAT'S ON

Thursday 6 February - Waifest  
10am to 3pm Queen Elizabeth Park

Friday 7 February - Town Hall survey closes  
[www.mastertontown.nz](http://www.mastertontown.nz)

Wednesday 12 February - Infrastructure and Services Committee Meeting  
2pm, Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road

Wednesday 19 February - Council Meeting  
3pm, Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road

## THE FUTURE OF HENLEY LAKE

Over summer we've been talking about the future of Henley Lake with organisations that use the lake a lot. Last week we started asking walkers their thoughts.

We're doing this to gather insights about what the lake means to the community and what parts of the greenspace and lake are perceived as most valuable. We're gathering the information because Masterton has a choice to make about Henley Lake's future; water is a scarce resource in our district and we need to carefully consider how we use it.

Currently, we source the water that goes into Henley Lake from the Ruamahunga River. We are considering whether this is the best option for the future.

We'll be asking the wider community its thoughts in a couple of months. If you'd like to be kept updated on this project, sign up to receive emails at: [www.mstn.govt.nz](http://www.mstn.govt.nz)

