

MASTERTON MONTHLY WRAP

AUGUST 2020

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

In June, Masterton District Council committed to developing a multi-purpose facility, incorporating a town hall, in Masterton. We're planning to spend \$250,000 over the next 12 months to progress initial planning and design for this facility.

But before we progressed too far, we needed to take a step back and take a fresh look at what it is we are trying to achieve for our community, and what elements should be included in a multi-purpose facility. To help, council has visited a range of different facilities around the lower North Island to see first-hand what other towns have developed for their communities.

We visited the Lower Hutt Events Centre, the Bulls Community Centre, Toi Toi centre in Hastings, and the Blyth Performing Arts Centre at Iona College, also in Hastings.

The facilities we saw varied significantly – from a community hub bringing together

different community services and facilities, to a sophisticated performing arts centre.

Seeing these different venues first-hand, and speaking with the key people involved in each of the projects, gave us a really good understanding of how they had been developed and what they are providing for the community.

Since our visit we have been discussing further our objectives for a multi-purpose facility in Masterton – essentially, what is it that we are trying to achieve by building such a facility? What are the benefits such a facility will bring to our community?

All of this work is happening quickly and we are well on the way to having the project well progressed by early next year.

I look forward to sharing our confirmed objectives for the facility with you all shortly, and updating you on progress with this important facility.



HOOD SET TO TAKE OFF

The Government's contribution of \$10 million to the upgrade of Hood Aerodrome has been welcomed by the council as helping kick-start a major economic boost for Wairarapa.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson announced the funding commitment at Hood Aerodrome last month as part of the Government's post-COVID-19 recovery package.

The council is contributing \$7m to the project, which includes work to widen and extend the runway, including road realignments, lighting, electrical, water and wastewater upgrades, and additional security.

Masterton Mayor Lyn Patterson said the funding was welcome at a time when good news was sorely needed. Hood Aerodrome is recognised

as a priority in the Wairarapa Economic Development Strategy.

"We have a national attraction at our fingertips, but we need to invest to bring it up to a standard that will attract more activity.

"This project gives us an exciting opportunity to transform Hood Aerodrome into a modern, functional airport with increased capacity over the longer-term."

Lyn expects the significant infrastructure upgrade project to motivate existing businesses to expand and new business ventures to set up at Hood.

"The opportunity this presents includes the creation of up to 200 additional jobs in the future, as these new ventures become fully operational."

SKATEPARK PLANS FIRING UP

Plans are progressing for the revamp of Masterton's skatepark, with the Government's announcement of \$1.3 million in funding for the project providing a timely boost.

Concept designs for the upgraded park were discussed with interested members of the skating community on 1 August, and designers RICH Landscapes will now work on detailed designs for the work, which will include lighting, and new skateable features, as well as a much-needed resurface of the entire skatepark.

The Government's funding is part of its COVID-19 recovery package with upgrades to the site set to begin in the next six months.

Masterton Mayor Lyn Patterson is delighted with the announcement.

"A new, redeveloped skatepark presents so many opportunities and benefits for our community.

"We received strong support for the project, demonstrating the importance of catering to the needs of our younger community members," Lyn said.



HE TĀKAI KŌRERO MAI I WHAKAORI HERE-TURI-KŌKĀ 2020



DON'T BE LATE ON RATES

Paying rates is a crucial part of maintaining the everyday services that Masterton District Council provides. These include things like construction and maintenance of our local roads, and looking after parks, reserves, and cemeteries, as well as providing staff for civil defence, environmental initiatives, and community development.

Each year we update how much we need to collect in rates to cover the yearly costs of these

services, and projects like the rejuvenation of the Masterton town centre.

The first rates instalment for the current financial year (30 June 2020 - 30 June 2021) is due on 20 August. You can check out what your rates pay for by searching your address on our rates page: www.mstn.govt.nz/rates

If you think you may have trouble paying this instalment, give our friendly rates team a call on 06 370 6300.

WHAT YOUR 2020-21 MONTHLY RATES PAY FOR

Here's an example of what rates on a property worth \$285,000 (an average Masterton property) cover.

TOTAL MONTHLY RATES: \$206



MASTERTON'S AIR QUALITY - JULY

The amount of pollution in Masterton's skies exceeded World Health Organisation guidance limits on 10 days in July - the same as June.

Pollution was recorded as "moderate" pollution on 13 days (one fewer than June) and "low" on eight days (more than the five days recorded in June).

Helping to clean up our smoggy skies is easy: make sure wood is dry, and untreated, ensure your fire burns bright and hot so it doesn't produce smoke, and don't shut the fire damper (air vent) down overnight.



Note: measurements are based on fine particle air pollution (PM2.5) of which WHO allows three days a year exceeding the guideline limit. For more information visit: www.mstn.govt.nz

WHAT'S ON

Friday 14 August - 4:30pm

Applications close for Creative Communities Scheme
Applications close for Masterton Arts Fund

Wednesday 19 August - 2pm

Audit and Risk Committee meeting
Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton

Thursday 20 August

First instalment of rates due

Wednesday 26 August - 4pm

Infrastructure and Services Committee meeting
Kiwi Room, Waiata House, 27 Lincoln Road, Masterton

Tuesday 16 June - 1:30pm

Wairarapa COVID-19 Recovery Joint Committee
SWDC Chambers, 18 Kitchener St, Martinborough

OFF TO A FLYING START!

The new flying fox in the Kid's Own playground in Queen Elizabeth Park, Masterton, is already proving a hit with customers.

Aging equipment needed to be replaced and the upgraded version is now lighter and easier to pull back to the starting platform.

As well as a new platform, cable, and polls, council contractors also widened the soft landing area to ensure the flying fox complies with the New Zealand standard for playground equipment.

