

Rural Report

JULY 2021

Council starts initial conversation on representation

Welcome to the July edition of the quarterly rural newsletter – an update on matters of interest to our rural community.

Of significance in coming months is the representation review that's been prompted by Hastings District Council adopting Māori wards.

As a local authority, Hastings District Council is required to review how you are

represented around the Council table, and this usually happens at least once every six years – the last was conducted in 2018.

Following council's decision to introduce Māori wards earlier this year, it is now required to review its representation arrangements. The outcome will apply to the 2022 and 2025 local elections.

Council has already resolved to keep the First Past the Post electoral system. This representation review needs to determine the following:

- How many councillors there should be on Council
- Whether councillors should be elected by ward, or a combination of by ward and across the whole district (at large), and the names of the wards.
- Whether or not to have any community boards, and if so, the number, boundaries and names of the boards, and the number of members for each board.

In preparation for the review, Council is required to put together a proposal, and is calling on residents to assist by sharing their views via a feedback form on www.myvoicemychoice.co.nz, available until August 9.

There is also a community meeting being held on August 2, 6pm, at Hastings District Council Chambers, which will be livestreamed on Facebook.



TIMELINE

- Pre-engagement community survey
24 July – 9 August
- Community meeting
2 August, 6pm
- Council decides on initial proposal
Statutory deadline: 31 August
Target date: 19 August
- Public notification of initial proposal
Target date: 23 August
- Formal consultation
Target dates: 23 August – 24 September
- Public hearing and Council decides on final proposal
Target date: 14 October
- Public notification of final proposal
Target date: 19 October



In our rural areas Council has set up a Green Bin recycling scheme. This works with the assistance of members of the communities who advise when the bins require emptying. They are in:

- Tutira
- Pukehāmoamo
- Poukawa
- Maraekākaho
- Waimārama – open seven days a week fenced
- Waipātiki (1 year trial – finishes in October this year)

Rural residents can also drop their recycling off at:

- **Henderson Rd Transfer Station** – open 7 days a week – manned site from 7.45am to 4.30pm Mon to Sat, and 9.45am to 4.30pm Sundays. Closed Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday.
- **Blackbridge Transfer Station** – open Thursday to Monday 8am to 4.30pm. Closed Tuesday and Wednesday, Good Friday, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Overall, the sites are currently being treated well with very little contamination. This follows some previous issues involving graffiti and attempted theft of platforms, theft and damage to property, and a lot of rubbish contamination bins at Waimārama and Pukehāmoamo.

Council's waste operations team says it's great these issues have been improving recently and they thanked the community for doing their part to ensuring our recycling services operate efficiently and effectively.

Funding money up for grabs for great waste minimisation projects

Hastings District Council's annual Large Contestable Waste Minimisation Funding round will open on August 19.

"We want to encourage our community to come up with projects that help reduce waste going to landfill, and people with great ideas to apply for this funding," said waste minimisation officer Cloe Vining.

There's up to \$20,000 up for grabs, and it doesn't matter whether you're an individual, school, community group, or business.

Projects that have been funded in other parts of the country include community compost set ups, bins for waste diversion at events, machinery for community clothing repairs, zero waste construction trials, educational projects, and upcycling projects.

Get information and apply online on www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/hastings/grants/waste-minimisation-fund

Small Hall Sessions bring communities together in rural halls

Over the last couple of months, halls around the region have been full to bursting with audiences enjoying live music thanks to the Small Hall Sessions initiative.

Supported by Hastings District Council through the Creative

Community scheme, organiser Jamie Macphail saw the opportunity to utilise a number of country halls, and bring some of New Zealand's best music acts to the people.

This has been a hugely successful series, with Hastings district halls at Haumoana, Maraekākaho, Sherenden, Waimārama, Te Awanga, and St Andrews Hall in Hastings joining others hosting the live gigs.

This initiative is testament to those in the community who look after these halls, aided by local rural halls maintenance and central government funding, all of which ensures they endure for generations to come.



Photo: Ankh Photography

Rural halls workshop and networking event

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DATE

To support the district's 21 rural halls, the rural halls subcommittee with support of Hastings District Council staff, will be hosting another rural halls workshop and networking event.

This session will be focused on not-for-profit law and delivered by Mark von Dadelszen.

Mark is a local lawyer and advises not-for-profit entities, legal firms, and individuals throughout New Zealand on issues involving societies and charities, with that work including drafting and amending rules and trust deeds, advising on strategic and governance issues and chairing meetings.

Mark's societies and charities knowledge and skills are underpinned by years of experience in the governance of, and advice to, a wide range of community and professional organisations, as well as experience during his professional career in other areas of law relevant to societies and charities.

Where: Twyford & Raupare Memorial Recreation Centre (Twyford Community Hall), 142 Twyford Road RD 5 Hastings, 4175

When: Wednesday, October 27, 2021 | 5.30pm to 8pm

Please RSVP to ruralhalls@hdc.govt.nz to confirm attendance and detail how many of the committee/group will be attending (3 max per hall). Light dinner/afternoon tea will be provided.

Rural Community Board Members



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Bridge strengthening complete

Kuripapango Bridge on the Taihape/Napier road has been strengthened and widened so it can accommodate greater vehicle weights and dimensions, in line with government requirements. Works took place from March to May 2021.

Co-funded by Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, Rangitikei District Council and Hastings District Council, the strengthening work was a requirement that arose after the Government put in place new restrictions around vehicle weights and dimensions in 2016.

Work was completed on Tuesday 18 May.

Rural halls funding

In the last rural halls funding round, six halls received a share of over \$20,000 of Hastings District Council funding.

Kereru Hall Society - \$8,619 for roof repairs.

Waimārama Maraetotara Memorial Hall - \$6,427 towards amenities upgrade.

Maraekākaho Church Hall Trust - \$7,671 towards external repairs, maintenance and painting.

The 2022/23 Rural Halls Maintenance Fund is planned to open in April 2022. You can find out more at

www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/grants



YOU ARE INVITED
**Rural Halls
Celebration Lunch**

There has been lots of maintenance work happening across Hastings district jointly funded by the Hastings District Council and Kānoa - The Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit (formerly PGF).

To celebrate all the hard work happening over the past 12-18 months, we are hosting a celebration lunch for the hall committees, community members and the trade staff who have contributed to the upgrades of these important community buildings. We hope you can join us for lunch.

Location: Maraekākaho Hall, 64 Kereru Road, Hastings
When: Monday 6 September 2021
Time: 12.30 - 2pm
Please RSVP to ruralhalls@hdc.govt.nz



Kānoa Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

HASTINGS DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kauhīhera ā-Rohe o Heretaunga