

Rural Report

SEPTEMBER 2022

Local body election voting papers arriving soon

Voting papers for this year's local body elections will be in the post from September 16.

Three of the four Rural Community Board subdivisions had only one candidate apiece stand for election, and with only one vacancy in each they were elected unopposed.

The Rural Community Board representatives who were unopposed and thus elected are: Jonathan Stockley (Maraekākaho), Abby Morley (Tūtira) and Isabelle Crawhaw (Kaweka).

In the Poukawa subdivision two candidates are standing ... Lilly Lawson and Vicky Scoular. You can find out more about these candidates at www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/our-council/elections/ and click on the candidates button.

People on the Māori roll will be able to vote for three councillors in the newly formed Takitimu Ward, which encompasses the whole district.

People who are on the Māori roll who live in the Poukawa subdivision will also be able to vote for a Rural Community Board member.

Three Rural Community Board members stood down this year – Nick Dawson (Kaweka), Sue Maxwell (Tūtira) and Marcus Buddo (Poukawa). Marcus is standing for election again – this time for a place on council in the Kāhurānaki ward (where John Roil is also standing).

Of the Rural Community Board's current council representatives, Tania Kerr has been re-elected unopposed in the Mohaka ward, and Sophie Siers will finish with Hastings District Council after this term – she is running for a seat on the Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

The council representatives for the new term's Rural Community Board will be appointed after the election. There will be two rural ward councillors,

one from the Mōhaka Ward, one from the Kāhurānaki Ward, and one Takitimu Māori Ward councillor.

Tūtira community board member Sue Maxwell is calling time on a 13-year stint representing her community.

First elected in 2009, she says some of the main achievements her community had seen over that time were the refurbishment of the Waikare Sports Club and Tūtira Community Hall, and the sealing of the Matahorua loop road.

Nick Dawson was first elected to the board in 2013 and became its chair in 2019. He said some of his highlights included the successful board recommendation that council contribute \$200,000 in drought relief to farmers in 2020, ongoing hall upgrades, and the installation of more rural recycling stations.

Voting papers will be sent to all eligible voters from Friday 16 September 2022.

Voting will close at 12 noon on 8 October 2022.

If you are returning your voting paper by mail, you must post your voting paper in a NZ Post box before Tuesday, October 4 to reach the electoral officer before close of voting on October 8, 2022.

You can also drop your completed voting paper into an orange ballot box at the Civic Administration Building, 207 Lyndon Road East, Hastings or the Libraries at Flaxmere, Hastings and Havelock North.

If you do not receive a voting paper in the mail, or spoil your voting paper, contact the electoral officer and ask about doing a special vote. Check the Council website for other special voting opportunities and orange ballot box locations.



Roading update

Stage 2 of the Mount Erin Road upgrade started on September 12, including earthworks and site clearance, pavement construction, and chip sealing.

Stage 2 will also see improvements made to the Mount Erin Rd/School Rd and St Georges Rd/Te Aute Rd intersections.

The road will remain open to traffic during construction with traffic management in place. Please follow directions from traffic management and contractor staff.

The work is expected to be completed in January 2023.

Rural recycling stations

The Waipātiki Beach Community now has a permanent recycling station established.

This adds to other stations at Maraekākaho, Pukehamoamo, Poukawa, Waimārama, Blackbridge and Tūtira.

All sites are operating well, being well-used, and on the whole have minimal issues with contamination, with communities proactively reporting to Council waste officers if illegal dumping or non-recyclable rubbish is being dropped off.

Blossom Fest – Save the Date

Hastings will welcome Spring with a three-day weekend, jam-packed with free activities and events for families and party seekers at this year's Blossom Parade and Festival.

Anchored around the flagship Blossom Parade that's been a "must do" on the Hastings event calendar since 1950, Blossom Fest is a new extravaganza that will extend over three days from September 23 to 25, with FREE carnival rides, live music, street performances and more.

The Blossom Parade stars as the main act at 1pm on Saturday, with Heretaunga St East, Landmarks Square and Albert Square buzzing with activity from 10am to 9pm.

This year's parade theme, 'Transport to Delight', was inspired by earlier Blossom Parades when special trains were scheduled to bring visitors from Wellington, with even the train's boiler decorated to mark the occasion.

The theme is open to interpretation for the community groups or



individuals who would like to get involved, with entries still being accepted – think blossom cars, bikes, quad bikes, trains, balloons, boats, roller skates, skateboards, and other flights of fancy.

Go to www.artsinc.co.nz for more info on entering a float.

If you just want to come into town to check out all the free activities that are going on, all the details are at www.hastingsblossomfest.co.nz



Rural halls funding

Maintaining and enhancing the district's rural halls is an important way to support the wellbeing of rural communities.

These halls are often the hubs for activities that bring the community together, and also carry the history of their areas, their upkeep helping to preserve this heritage.

Council supports 21 halls in the plains and rural district of Hastings, and in the 2022/23 year, the Rural Halls Subcommittee allocated just over \$130,000 for a variety of improvements, earthquake assessments and upgrades to nine halls.

The recipients were:

Tūtira Community Hall - \$17,861 – to install a new septic system

Waikare and Districts Sports Club - \$6,300 – to upgrade their water filtration system

Pakowhai War Memorial Hall - \$11,500 – towards roof repairs

Poukawa Hall - \$2000 – towards replacing the main heritage doors

Kererū Hall Society - \$17,151 – towards bathroom renovations

Clive Community Hall - \$3,254 – to repair water damage and lighting

Sherenden Hall Society - \$1,800 – to install gutter guard

Matapiro District Recreation Society Inc - \$2,036 – Maintenance of their accessibility ramp

Kaiwaka, Tūtira, Sherenden, Pakowhai, Kererū and Matapiro Halls all also received a share of \$70,000 to enable detailed earthquake assessment and strengthening reports to be undertaken.

The next Rural Halls Maintenance Funding round will open on March 31 and close on the April 28, 2023.

Contact ruralhalls@hdc.govt.nz for info.

Focus on Business – Mavis Mullins

This week is the last week to get tickets to the latest Focus on Business event, featuring guest speaker Mavis Mullins – MBA, NZOM.

She will be talking about her pathway from working in her family's shearing business to the top of her field in governance and leadership.

Mavis's extensive list of national awards, honours and accolades are testament to her governance excellence, her ability to connect people and her inspirational leadership. In 2002, she was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her services to the wool industry. She has won numerous business and leadership awards including being inducted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame in 2017.

Hastings District Council hosts the quarterly series of breakfast events to support and encourage local businesses: the heart of our economy.

When: Wednesday, September 21, doors open at 7am and speaker starts at 7.30am.

Where: Functions on Hastings, Toitoi – Hawke's Bay Arts and Events Centre.

Tickets: \$37.50 pp or \$260 for a table of 8 (includes buffet breakfast), available until Friday, September 16, from www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/focusonbusiness