

Rural Round-up

FEBRUARY 2021

Water upgrade update

Council's safe drinking water programme includes upgrading all eight Council-run community supplies to ensure residents connected to the network have access to drinking water treated to the highest possible standards.

The upgrades will also improve resilience and capacity, with the installation of reservoirs at those sites that don't already have them. Most of these projects are expected to be complete in 2021.

Progress to date on rural supplies

HAUMOANA/TE AWANGA/PARKHILL

Water from the newly constructed treatment and storage facility on Parkhill Rd is now being piped to homes in Te Awanga and Haumoana. In the first half of this year a small booster pump will be installed to enable homes in Parkhill to be added to the network.

WHIRINAKI/ESK VALLEY

A new water treatment plant has been moved on to the site, and the existing treatment shed will then be converted into a pumping facility. Bringing these two formerly separate water sources together will improve resilience, and the new supply is expected to be reaching homes by late May.

TE PŌHUE

Groundworks have almost been completed, with the treatment building expected to be delivered by the end of January. One of the two existing 30,000 litre drinking water reservoirs has been retained and the other concrete one will be replaced. After testing in February, the water is due to be supplied through the new facility and into homes in March, after which two further 30,000 litre reservoirs for firefighting will be installed.

WAIMĀRAMA

Groundworks have been completed and the treatment building is on site. After its power supply has been upgraded the system is expected to be tested in March, with the aim of supplying water into homes from late April/early May.



Birds-eye view: The new Whirinaki/Esk Valley water treatment plant

Our rural roading network

We have 1304km of rural roading in Hastings district (separate from the Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency-managed state highways).

Rural rates fund our rural roads in partnership with NZTA (about half each) and as such we must abide by their rules and investment guidelines.

For example, NZTA does not fund seal extensions, but like Council has a strong focus on road safety.

Each summer we try to reseal 65km of the network, as well as do preventative maintenance such as clearing culverts.

Blocked culverts can cause significant damage to roads and other infrastructure if not managed well. Our engineers are noticing that a significant number of rural culverts have water pipes threaded through them. This is not allowed as these can cause blockages in the culvert pipes. Rural water pipes need to have their own duct installed under the road.

Trees growing on the side of the road are becoming an increasingly expensive problem to remove. If you have small wilding trees growing outside your property, and they are likely to become a problem in the future, we encourage you to remove them, if this can be done safely.

If you recognise a potential problem let us know, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Council on **06 871 5000** for advice.



Check it's alright before you light

Hawke's Bay is in a restricted fire season, which means you may need to apply for a permit to light a fire. The fire season status can change at any time. On the day you're wanting to light a fire, go to www.checkitsalright.nz to check the latest fire season status.

Rural halls funding

In the last rural halls funding round, six halls received a share of over \$120,000 of Hastings District Council funding. This was a larger than usual funding round that used some reserves and unallocated funding from previous funding rounds. Council's rural halls subcommittee received 10 applications totalling \$239,746.38, and awarded funding to projects that best met the priorities of the fund.

The Rural Halls Fund has an annual allocation of \$50,000 to be distributed as grants to rural halls across the Hastings district. This is an annual funding round that normally opens April 1 each year, for allocation in the subsequent financial year. Last year the fund was postponed until November 2020 due to COVID-19 and the opportunities presented to council via the Provincial Growth Fund.

2020/21 RURAL HALLS MAINTENANCE FUNDING RECIPIENTS

Tutira Community Hall - \$64,124, re-piling and strengthening works

Patoka Memorial Hall - \$3,750, bathroom refurbishment

St Therese Hall, Whakatū - \$1,300, hall upgrade, including floors and painting

Twyford Raupare Recreation Hall - \$39,626, hall upgrades, including walls and ceiling

Kereru Hall - \$4,241, upgrading the electricity supply

Sherenden Hall - \$7,000, rainwater and gutters project

The 2021/22 Rural Halls Maintenance Fund is planned to open in April 2021. You can find out more and apply online here www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/grants



Christmas was celebrated in true community style at the annual Christmas party at Poukawa Hall last year.

Organised by the Poukawa Hall committee, the event on November 14 was a great success.

About 80 locals gathered to catch up, the kids were entertained with sack and egg and spoon races, and played a variety of games on the lovely, warm, spring evening, while the impressive local Hawke's Bay band Magnetix had the crowd dancing in the hall until well after dark.

Food was provided in the form of a cube roll cooked to perfection by Cameron Lane, while a number of locals also brought a plate.

Organisers had the pleasure of announcing \$34,000 in PGF funding for the renovation of the weatherboards on the hall, and thanked Hastings District Council staff for their support in securing this funding, and also Hollie Burrige and Marcus Buddo for organising the process.

A raffle was held on the night with donated goods from local businesses including Hilton Bayliss at Ovation (lamb), Your Decal Shop, BJs bakery, Cameo Beauty, RARE Honey, Arbonne from Cynthia Lane, Bay Espresso Havelock North, and Te Mata Mushrooms, with the proceeds going towards further work on the hall.

A big thanks went to Antony Clark for being the photographer and capturing the essence of a wonderful night.

Finally, organisers thanked the Poukawa Valley community for making the valley a lovely place to live.

"We can't wait to see you at our 2021 community fundraisers and working bees!"



Rural Community Board Members



Nick Dawson
Chair | Kaweka

nick.nicky@xtra.co.nz



Sue Maxwell
Board | Tūtira

suemaxwell@gisborne.net.nz



Jonathan Stockley
Board | Maraekākaho

jonathan.kereru425@xtra.co.nz



Marcus Buddo
Board | Poukawa

marcusbuddo@gmail.com



Tania Kerr
Councillor

councillor.kerr@hdc.govt.nz



Sophie Siers
Councillor

councillor.siers@hdc.govt.nz