



# The Woodvillian

## Community Monthly Newsletter

Sharing information with the people of  
**Woodville, Kumeroa, Hopelands, Papatawa, Ballance, Maharahara West**

Issue 60

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### Woodville's Public Meeting with NZTA - Manawatu Gorge Closure

As you would have seen and heard by now, the public meeting on Wednesday evening (19th July) was an interesting occasion to say the least. It has been in other media, but is worthy of being replicated here in the Woodvillian. Approximately 400 people attended with some very to the point questions asked, and some not very forthcoming answers. While I appreciate that NZTA do not have all the answers it does seem to be a case of wait and see, with too many words and too little action.



At the head table was Ross l'Anson and Emma Speight from NZTA, along with our Mayor Tracey Collis and Ray Cannon from Tararua Alliance. The majority of questions were directed at the NZTA representatives with some of the questions and answers from the panel as follows:

- Why not put a tunnel through? *Yes a tunnel is a consideration, however the formation of the rock is a concern*
- Why can't the area of concern be blasted to bring everything down then clear it all? *We can't be sure this would work*
- What is government going to do about infrastructure? *NZTA will be moving quickly for resolution*
- Is there a guarantee that the alternative route will not bypass Woodville? *No there is not*
- Have accidents increased on the Saddle Hill since the Gorge closed? *No stats available*
- Can a drone be put up so the general public can see the damage in the gorge? *Yes we will do that*
- Who are the geotechs who have seen the report - has the report been verified? *Two organisations have been involved - Opus and Beca . They agreed that workers had to be removed from the gorge.*
- Why was nothing done following the last closure? *Options were identified at that time, with the upgrade to the Saddle Road being the recommendation.*
- Why have the roads remained open to trucks? *Roads can't be closed. NZTA is working with Fonterra, TDC and the Road Transport Association.*
- Are there geological issues with the Saddle? *It is safe for now*
- Why are the timeframes so long? *There are processes that have to be followed. There is progress*
- At what point does money get released for the East to West link development. How critical does it need to get before the funding is approved? *Funding has been approved for development. Alistair Scott (local MP) advised that it is not a matter of money, rather the right route in a timely manner. It will be made a national issue.*
- Why has the road from East to West not been made a road of significance? *It doesn't move enough vehicles.*
- Who is going to fund our vehicle repairs, etc? *This is a cost we all have to bear. With the repairs to the Saddle wear and tear on vehicles will diminish.*
- Will the community get a rates rebate? Or assistance with petrol prices? *Talk to TDC about rates rebate. Mayor will approach government about petrol prices and road user charges.*
- Why is it going to take five months before a decision is made? *NZTA are working as quickly as we can*
- What is being done about the truck engine braking, especially during the night? *No response*
- What is being done re the stock effluent, as it is becoming a problem on the Saddle Hill? *NZTA are looking into this - are aware that it is causing an issue*

## **Woodville's Public Meeting - continues**

NZTA reiterated throughout the evening that progress was being made, however it is difficult to see that with so little happening. Whether as a resident of Woodville or a local business owner, a daily commuter to/from Palmerston North, or a farmer we are all impacted. At last count, 43% of all vehicles are bypassing Woodville and turning our country roads into state highways. This disadvantages the businesses in town as well as the farmers and residents along the bypass roads which are ill equipped to deal with the amount of traffic. Neither NZTA nor TDC, who have all the control in this matter, have resolved this issue and while platitudes are being made there doesn't seem to be a drive fix the issue.

To ensure we get the action this deserves, please get political. TDC are doing roadworks on Oxford and Pinfold Roads and will be putting in a speed restriction - while it has taken a long time, thanks TDC for your support in finally helping divert traffic back through town. For the gorge closure and alternative route - contact your local MP (in case you are wondering who that is given his presence hasn't been overwhelming in our town - it's Alistair Scott, National) or Ron Mark (NZ First), Keiran McAnulty (Labour), John Hart (Greens). This is an election year - make the politicians step up and resolve this issue.

## **Have Your Say**

*Robin Winter*

Don't we love the Gorge? It's been such a beautiful (but forever unreliable) part of our lives that many of us are feeling pain to think it might never be re-opened. Many are also feeling angry that all these years have gone by with only short-term fixes being made. And all the while, alternative routes were being checked out, but the plans have sat on a shelf somewhere getting dusty.

Even so, we must bite the bullet. Today is exactly the right time to lobby government to get ourselves a short, reliable, SHW quality route from here to Manawatu. So, make your views known. Tell our MP Alistair Scott, and tell all the other hopefuls for the Wairarapa seat. Tell all the MPs.

On 28 August, at the Old Folks Hall at 7 pm, WDV has invited all the Election candidates to attend a meeting for Woodville people. You can be there and ask those candidates to support our district and our town. Ask them to support an alternative route that does NOT bypass Woodville. Then you can vote for whoever is offering us the best option. And the Election is just 2 months away, on 23 September.

You can tell them about our needs. We all know what those needs are. Some of you urgently need a business support package. Some of you urgently need to get safely to work or to school every day. Some of you just need financial help with all the extra costs of travelling to Manawatu now.

The timeline that was suggested last Wednesday night is not long. People (including our Mayor Tracey) will be deciding on possible alternative routes within the next 5 months. They will consult with communities (that's us!) after that. So, we need to work together and decide what kind of route would best serve Woodville, and tell them - long before they make their first decisions.

Someone needs to collect information and thoughts on these important issues on behalf of everyone in our town and district. Could Woodville Districts Vision do that, and then act as your advocate? On 5 September WDV will hold our AGM. Perhaps some of you want to help with this task? If you do, come to the AGM and get yourself elected. WDV has work to do, and many hands make light work !

## **Woodville Police Update**

Hi everyone. I had planned to enclose with this newsletter prevention pamphlets for burglaries and theft ex cars. Unfortunately they are not available yet but will be included in the next few months. On the morning of Sunday 2 July we had a number of cars broken into around the Fergusson and Vogel street area between about 3 & 5am. If anyone saw anything or knows who was involved we would like to hear from you.

Property crimes continue to be the biggest issue we are facing in this community. While some offences are being committed by offenders from out of town, a large proportion are being done by persons living within our community. I believe the crime is being driven by drugs and people needing money. Please take steps to make it harder for these people to hurt our community by locking your vehicles and checking your garages and homes to make sure you are taking the best precautions possible to make it harder for these offenders to target you and your possessions.

There have been a couple of incidents lately where people have contacted us on private numbers to report offences or disturbances. This is not the best thing to do. If you see or hear of anything that you think needs Police attention, such as cars stuck after ripping up a grass verge, or suspicious vehicles at rural properties, please ring 111. They will get all the information off you and will organise a Police response.

The continued Gorge closure is hard for lots of people. Local businesses need our support so do whatever you can. Jobs are hard to come by and the last thing we want is for businesses to have to start or continue to layoff anyone. If you are driving and you use the alternate routes, make sure you build enough time into the journey so you are

## Woodville Police Update continues

not rushed and forced into silly mistakes. Highway patrols have been significantly increased but speed is still an issue. I caught a driver doing 124 in foggy conditions where you couldn't see more than 100 metres. That is putting lives at risk. Plan your journey and be patient. It was great to see a big turnout for the town meeting last week and there is obvious frustration amongst a lot of people. I hope everyone takes their time to consider whatever options are placed in front of us over coming months to make sure that the best solution for the long term is put in place.

Over recent months some of the persons caught and charged in relation to Woodville offences include a pair of 16 and 17 year olds from Dannevirke caught after stealing a car from a Woodville address, a 39 year old male sentenced to 4 mths Home Detention and 12 months disqualification after being involved in a Police Pursuit and then ramming the patrol car, a 30 year old male who has pleaded guilty to a number of fraud and making false statement charges, a 19 year old Dannevirke male who was caught up in a domestic situation in Woodville and has pleaded guilty to a raft of weapons and violence charges, a 32 year old male who received 4 mths imprisonment for causing sustained loss of traction and two offences of driving while disqualified, a 41 year old male who pleaded guilty to assault and breach of a protection order received 4 mths Home Detention, 2 Drink Drivers have been caught in Woodville so far this month - a 16 year old from Eketahuna and a 32 year old from Palmerston North, one vehicle suspected of driving on grass areas around town has been impounded and in a separate incident a driver has received tickets after getting stuck on Grant St and his details passed to TDC should they wish to seek reparation for any ground repair costs, and a 30 year old male with links to the Woodville area is awaiting sentencing on Burglary, Drink Driving and Driving while Disqualified matters after offending in Bluff Road.

Please take care over the winter months and look after your neighbours.  
All the best. Karl Williams. O/C Woodville Police.

## Radio Woodville

Radio Woodville's regular Tuesday night training session took on a whole new spin recently, with Radio New Zealand's Phil O'Brien turning up for a chat.



Phil O'Brien

A dozen of the station's volunteers were treated to an hour and a half of insights, industry gossip and encouragement as Mr O'Brien, well-known as the host of RNZ's Saturday Night Requests show and the extremely popular Matinee Idle, talked about his "40-something" years behind the mic, how radio has changed over the years and why radio in general and community radio stations in particular are still relevant, and important.

"It's always about the listeners," he said. "You're talking to them, keeping them informed, entertained and involved – you're not just sitting in a dark room playing music on your own." He said

Radio Woodville should be proud of its facilities and people, and its place in the community.

Mr O'Brien started out as a cadet with the NZBC in the 1970s, moving into commercial radio in New Zealand and Australia before eventually returning to the state broadcaster where he created Matinee Idle, now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year and famous for its eclectic range of music. "I'm trying to play as wide a range as possible because I've got what no one else that I'm aware of has got – a national audience and I'm told to play whatever I like, and it's a huge privilege," Mr O'Brien said.

Radio Woodville's station manager Eric Bodell said Mr O'Brien's visit had proved motivating. "He's a bit of a hero to all of us, and to hear his experiences and views on the continued place of radio in towns like ours was inspirational!"

Radio Woodville broadcasts 24 hours a day on 99.8 MHz and also streams on the Internet, at [www.radiowoodville.co.nz](http://www.radiowoodville.co.nz). Volunteers sit behind the mic for about half that time. The rest of the hours are handled by Alph the computer, so there's always room for more volunteers, Mr Bodell said. "Just pop in and have a chat, or come along to our Tuesday night training at 7pm - we'd be happy to see you," he added.

## What's On

**Housie** - every second Saturday. Next housie is on Saturday 12th and 26th August. At the Old Folks Hall, 1.00 pm.

**Woodville Country Spinners** meet every other Tuesday at the Anglican Church Hall, Fox Street at 10.30am. Joy Cumming 376 5409

**Woodville Districts Vision (WDV)** meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Supper Room in The Stadium, at 7 pm. All welcome

**WDV AGM** - Tuesday 5th September at 7pm, Supper Room in The Stadium.

**The Junction Country Music Club** day is on the second Sunday of each month starting at 1.30 pm in the Old Folks Hall. Everyone is welcome to come along and enjoy a great afternoon of country music.

**Papatawa Garden Club** first Monday of the month. Further enquiries to Margaret Worboys 376 4023 or Kay Ball 376 5252

The next **Old Gorge Cemetery Conducted Tour** will be on the 30 July at 2.30pm and will be visiting graves and hearing the stories of some of the early settlers and families of the Papatawa area. For further information 376 5690.

**Pahiatua Woodville Genealogy Group** will meet in the 18<sup>th</sup> July 7pm. If you are interested, make contact with Joan 376 5690 or Brenda 376 4500

## Woodville Lions Again Entertain our Senior Citizens

Dot Johnstone

There's no doubt members of the Woodville Lions Club sure make a lasting impression with the good work they carry out being both getters and givers of their time so tirelessly for the better of our community. I was privileged to qualify for an invitation to attend their annual seniors' mid-winter Christmas feast held on 12 July at the Woodville Racecourse. Tucking into delicious food served up with generous helpings of cheer and banter made for a very joyful afternoon taking the edge off winter while Mt Whariti was being blanketed in snow. After the meal we were so sweetly serenaded by local vocalist Lynne Budden strumming the guitar and singing old time favourites while most delighted in joining in to the tune of "Que sera".

Following the singing, we became engrossed with a tale Ian Sutherland (who became Woodville's policeman when Bert Thrush retired) delivered regarding a couple of Irishmen and their encounter of a miracle. To be sure the conclusion of the yarn had us all laughing our heads off ensuring we all walked away with such a smile on our faces. When the laughter subsided Ralph Mountford, on behalf of all those present, thanked the Lions very much. With more reason for a twinkle in her eye, Mrs McIntyre became the honorary recipient of a box of chocolates - compliments of being the oldest person present in the room.



Left - Mrs Nola McIntyre, John Winterburn.  
Right - George Judd, Stu Sinclair, Mrs Doreen Stewart



The **Lindauer Studio** is currently closed due to there being no one on the premises now that the iSite has moved across the road. Until formal arrangements have been made for the ongoing use of the old iSite and Library building is there anyone who would be available to go on a roster to ensure the Lindauer Studio is open. If there are a number of people willing to support this then the time required for each person will be minimal. For more information please contact Kevin McIntyre 376 5690

**Community Vehicle** - Is there a need for a community vehicle? The Pahiatua vehicle is not fully utilised and there may be the possibility that it could be available for use by Woodville people. Volunteer drivers would be required, but before we go down this track we would like to gauge the community's need. Would you use it if it was available? There is a cost associated which is approximately \$3 one way and \$5 return within an hour. Please contact Robin 376 5901 or Maggie 376 5991 (evenings).

**Meet the Candidates** for the upcoming national election. Monday 28th August at 7pm in the Old Folks Hall. Those who have accepted thus far: Alistair Scott (National), John Hart (Greens) Keiran McAnulty (Labour), Ron Mark (NZ First).

**Please come along to this evening to ensure the politicians know how important the impact of closing the Manawatu Gorge is to us**

### Submission Deadline

Submissions for the next edition close by **Thursday 10 August 2017**. Please submit by email to [wdvnews@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:wdvnews@hotmail.co.nz), or contact the editor. Editors decision on publication of items is final.

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**Keep Moving**  
If you don't use it  
you'll lose it



**Zumba** - Wednesdays at the Wdv School Hall - 6pm

**Tai Chi** - Thursday 10am at the Old Folks Hall

### Exercise for over 70's:

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room each side. With a 2kg potato bag in each hand extend your arms out straight from your sides and hold there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute and then relax.

Each day you'll find you can hold this position for longer.

After a couple of weeks move up to 5kg bags. Then try 10kg potato bags and eventually try to get to where you can lift a 20kg bag in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute (I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at this level, put a potato in each bag!

