

# 'Dead' turf needs replacing

## Hockey body seeks \$200k for Olympic grade surface

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The Gonville hockey turf is "dead" and needs replacing — at a cost of \$850,000.

Hockey Wanganui say the turf at Gonville Domain has come to the end of its useful life and is hoping for a \$200,000 ratepayer contribution towards a new one.

The current turf, laid in 1990 and recarpeted in 2006, is developing tears and the shellrock base is sinking in parts.

Hockey Wanganui's Aaron Manville told the Whanganui District Council's property and community services committee on Thursday that in a year it could become unplayable.

"We do have a problem. The Gonville turf is dead," he said.

Mr Manville said Hockey Wanganui had considered new turfs at Wanganui Collegiate or Springvale Park, but those would require a \$1.6 million to \$2 million build.

Resurfacing the Gonville turf was the only viable option, and the facility already had the required support facilities such as a clubrooms and lighting.

The new turf Hockey Wanganui wants to build would be up to modern specifications with a shell rock and asphalt base which would be much faster and up to Olympic standard.

"We want to promote Whanganui as a hockey tournament destination and obviously, having an Olympic grade surface will allow us to do



**TIME'S UP:** The Gonville hockey turf was relaid in 2006 but now needs a complete overhaul.

that," Mr Manville said.

The organisation has applied for funding from various community organisations and wants \$200,000 from council.

Hockey Wanganui says it has had a 17 per cent growth in player numbers in the past year with more than 1000

players now on the books.

It is estimated hockey brings \$815,000 into the Whanganui economy each year with 1600 players coming to the city to play.

Any ratepayer funding would have to be discussed and consulted on through the coun-

cil's long-term plan next year, but council property general manager Leighton Toy said the idea would be discussed at upcoming councillor workshops.

Hockey Wanganui says that, with an indication of support, it could probably bridge the financial gap and get the work done.

## Briefly

### Diwali celebration

The Lotus Women's Club of Whanganui invites the community to join it for a Diwali celebration at Carlton School Hall on Saturday night. Organiser Kanta Sharma said about 200 people were expected to attend the Hindu festival celebration with music, dancing and feasting. The evening will begin at 7pm, Carlton School, 99a Carlton Ave. All welcome, food and entertainment provided. Phone 022 644 6200 to find out more.

### Theft at dairy probed

Whanganui Police were called to the Rangitikei St dairy just after 2pm on Monday, following a report of a man shoplifting from the store. A spokeswoman said police were providing support services to the shopkeeper, who was shaken by the incident. Inquiries are being made into the theft. The dairy was the target of a violent aggravated robbery on September 9.

### Postal vote conducted

A postal vote will begin soon for the by-election in the Hawera-Normanby subdivision of the Hawera-Tangahoe community board. Voting documents will be delivered to eligible voters from October 11, and voters have until noon on November 3 to return their papers to the South Taranaki District Council. The three candidates are Raymond Buckland, Dee Cleaver and Roydon Collingwood. For more information contact the electoral office on 0800 922 822.

### New council roles

Some Whanganui District councillors have been given more roles by Mayor Hamish McDouall. First-term councillor Graeme Young has been appointed to the Whanganui District Council's tenders board. He joins fellow councillors Jenny Duncan and Hadleigh Reid and replaces Councillor David Bennett. Councillor Duncan will also be the council's representatives on the Manawatu-Whanganui disaster relief fund, replacing Mr McDouall.

## Pedestrian hit by car escapes injury

**MINOR CRASH:** Emergency services attended an accident after a car hit a pedestrian near the intersection of Liverpool St and Victoria Ave yesterday morning. Police and paramedics were called to the scene at about 11.50am where one person was seen to. A police spokesperson said there were no injuries.

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