

# NEWSLINE

## DECEMBER 2019



### MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Christmas is always a busy and exciting time in the Waimate District with plenty of festivities underway in the next few weeks.

Our community Christmas tree is now on display in Seddon Square and the Christmas lights along the shop fronts on Queen Street and band rotunda are adding some extra festive cheer and merriment this season.

While we are planning our celebrations this Christmas, please also take some time to consider those in need of support in our district by donating a small gift to our Waimate Christmas Child appeal in association with the Salvation Army.

Council has had another busy and productive year and we are looking forward to achieving a great deal more in 2020. On behalf of Councillors and staff, I'd like to wish everyone across the district a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

### RATES REBATE SCHEME

Every year the New Zealand Government Rates Rebate Scheme provides a rebate of up to \$640 for low income earners who were paying rates for the home in which they were living on 1 July 2019.

Your rebate will be calculated based on your income, rates and the number of dependants living with you. The income eligibility for a rebate is \$25,660. However, if your income exceeds this amount you could still be entitled to a rebate depending on the total cost of your rates and the number of dependants. Rebate applications close 30 June 2020.

If you are eligible for a rates rebate we can help you apply. Application forms are available from Council or can be downloaded from: [govt.nz/rates-rebate](http://govt.nz/rates-rebate). As well as the application form, you will need accurate information about your income (and that of any spouse/partner and/or joint home owner who lives with you) for the tax year ended 31 March 2019.

### SEALING ROADS FOR DUST

Waimate District Council is offering residents the opportunity to seal a portion of public road adjacent to their dwelling where dust nuisance can be demonstrated.

Council's Roding Department will support the project with fifty percent of the associated costs to be met by the property owner and a maximum length limit of 200 metres.

If you are interested in this offer, please contact the Roding Department on 03 689 0074.

### LIGHT UP WAIMATE

Get into the festive spirit this Christmas and take the family down to take a look at the lights on display during the evening.

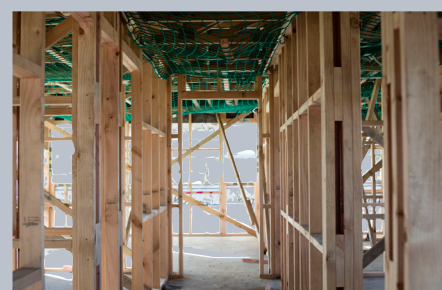
### WAIMATE BUILDING CONSENTS TO GO ONLINE

Waimate District Council is moving the building application process online with the introduction of a new web portal for building consents which will simplify the building consent process.

Simpli is an online lodgement portal for building consents which, in conjunction with Council's GoGet processing system, allows applicants to submit, manage and track their building consents from the initial application form through to the Code of Compliance Certificate being issued.

The online process is easy to navigate with a simple registration system that takes the applicant to a step by step submission form which includes property details, tradesperson details, a description of the building works and uploading required documentation such as plans and specifications.

Upon submission of the form, the application is vetted for completeness and if accepted, a building consent number is generated, initiated for processing, and an invoice is later generated and sent to the applicant through the portal.



Nine councils across the country are now utilising the Simpli portal system including the Waitaki District, which has improved performance, consistency and service delivery across the building regulatory services.

For more information go to: [simpli.govt.nz](http://simpli.govt.nz)

### WATER MAIN RENEWAL PROJECT

Waimate District Council's Exeter Street to Timaru Road urban water mains renewal project is well underway with work already complete on Oxford Street from Timaru Road to Augustine Street and Churchill Place.

The current pipe renewal programme for Waimate has dramatically reduced urban water loss.

The current project is scheduled for completion late January 2020 with further upgrades taking place over the next few years, as outlined in Council's Long Term Plan.

Below: Installation of the new 100mm PVC water main on Churchill Place.



### SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME 2020

The Event Centre's summer school holiday programme will get underway again in the third week of January 2020.

Programme details will be online next week. Come down and enjoy some skating, snag golf, pickle ball or the climbing wall these holidays.

### CIVIL DEFENCE EXERCISE PANDORA

Waimate District Council put their emergency training into action on 21 November for Civil Defence's annual emergency training exercise.

More than 30 staff, Police, FENZ, Emergency Management Officers from Selwyn and Ashburton District Councils as well as mentoring staff from Canterbury Civil Defence Emergency Management took part on the day to practice their skills and areas of expertise.

Every year, all regional Civil Defence groups and local authorities around New Zealand carry out an exercise to continue developing the skills of Emergency Operations Centre staff, test processes and assess for areas of improvement.

This year's scenario focussed on a significant earthquake occurring along the Ostler Fault near Twizel, to simulate similar impacts that could be expected from an Alpine Fault earthquake.

The outcomes from this exercise will be used towards planning for an Alpine Fault earthquake as part of the AF8 project.

