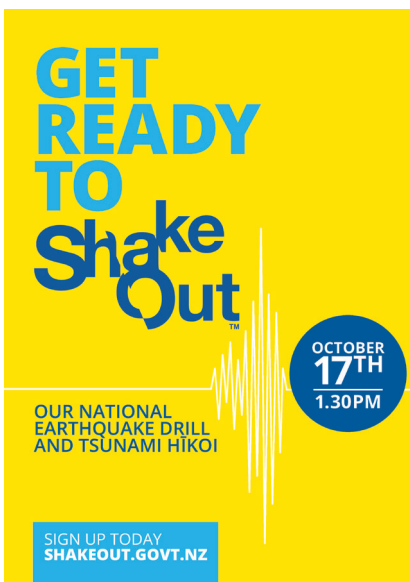


TOTARA FOREST ALIVE WITH THE VOICES OF YOUNGSTERS

Last month we mentioned work going on at the Maori Cemetery and Totara Forest. The final part of the project included planting native trees and shrubs in the Totara Forest and we had a whole lot of help from very enthusiastic children from Centennial School.

Over 200 natives, including Tōtara, Cabbage trees (tī kōuka), Kōwhai and Lancewood (horoeke) were planted with the youngsters digging holes, planting the plants and making sure they got a good watering in the process!



WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CITIZENS

Six people became New Zealand citizens recently. Originally from Scotland, England and Iran, the new citizens were sworn in and welcomed at a civic ceremony held in the Council Chambers.

Formalities included a welcome speech by Mayor Craig Rowley, swearing an oath in front of councillors, family members and friends, singing the national anthem and viewing a brief DVD about New Zealand containing messages from the Governor General Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy and Minister of Internal Affairs Hon Tracey Martin.

The audience were then treated to a performance from the Waimate High School kapa haka group before light refreshments were served.



Back row (from left): Mayor Craig Rowley, Diana Whipp, Sally Evered, Jason Evered, and Leo Milani. Front row (from left): Jackson and Scarlett Evered.

RATES REBATE



The 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.

To check if you are eligible visit www.govt.nz/rates-rebates or call into Waimate District Council for an application form.

'GUARDIAN' WORKING TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

The appointment of a Compliance Officer in the Waimate District will result in greater communication and protection for people and property.

Former police detective Jonts McKerrow took up the role on Monday and will be responsible for monitoring and enforcing Council bylaws, legislation and resource consent conditions.

The role is partly funded by Environment Canterbury. Joint collaboration between Waimate District Council and Environment Canterbury (ECan) will see Mr McKerrow work alongside ECan staff and the community to monitor and respond to complaints about resource consent conditions in the district.

Chief Executive Stuart Duncan says the role, rather than being the 'police' of enforcement, will be a guardian of community wellbeing.

"Ensuring we have high levels of compliance in Waimate District is part of that guardianship role and that, in turn, brings benefits to the whole community," says Mr Duncan.

"Legislation, Council bylaws and other rules are there to protect people and property, and help maintain community harmony. Jonts will work with the public in a co-operative and helpful way, providing advice and information and, when necessary, enforcing those rules that help protect our community."

Environment Canterbury Southern Zone Delivery Manager Chris Eccleston says, "This new position presents a really exciting opportunity. It strengthens the collaboration between Waimate District Council and Environment Canterbury when it comes to protecting our environment and boosts the local compliance resources of both organisations."