

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Last month, Council staff parked their work clothes to one side and threw their support behind the annual Waimate Community Christmas Dinner fundraiser, dressing-up for the day to raise almost \$700.

This year's theme was 'favourite book characters' and Council staff truly got into the spirit of the day with a variety of costumes including Pocahontas, Robin Hood, Gandalf and a brightly coloured group of Teletubbies on display, among a wide array of other fictional faves.

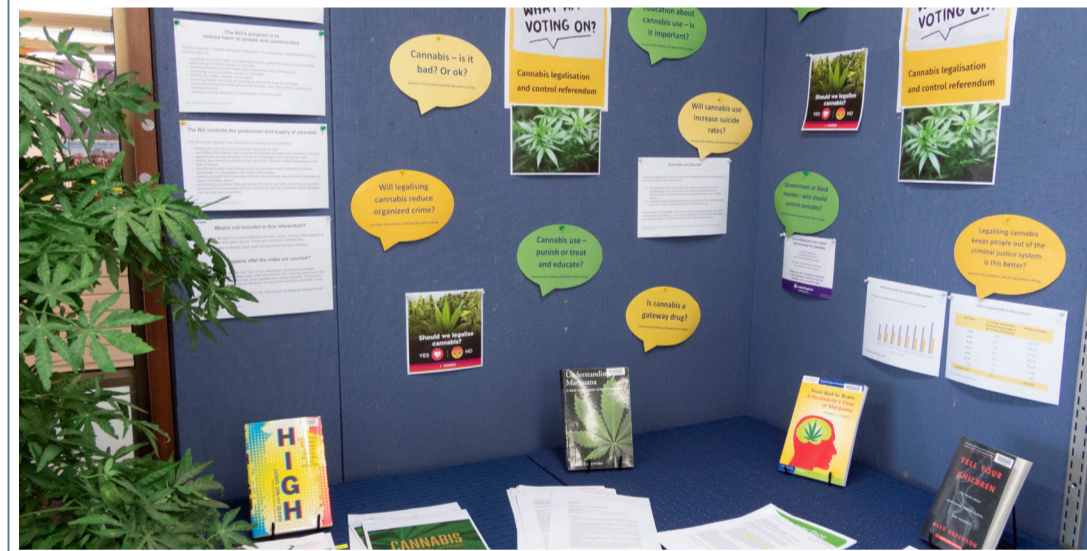
Overall, it was fantastic to see the effort staff put into this occasion, supporting such an important cause for our district. With many families already feeling the effects of the economic downturn this year, and finances stretched, organisers of the Community Christmas Dinner are anticipating a larger than usual turn out - therefore, if you are able to donate to this worthy cause, please contact the facilitator, Indrea Alexander on 03 689 7390.

REFERENDUM DISPLAY AT WAIMATE LIBRARY

Waimate Library is currently showcasing a display on the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Referendum, which will be held during the General Election in September.

The library display provides an opportunity for voters to find out what the referendum is about and what the bill proposes for New Zealanders. There are plenty of supporting materials and copies of some supplementary research on display that will aid voters to make an informed choice on election day.

In addition to this display, the library will also be featuring further information around the End of Life Choice referendum, collectively encouraging residents to drop in and learn more in the coming weeks on both important and timely topics.



KNOTTINGLEY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Council's Parks and Reserves team and Friends of Knottingley Park volunteers have been installing signage throughout Knottingley Park and Arboretum over the last few weeks to highlight selected tree areas within the Park.



The tree areas contain several specimen trees that have a number placed on them and a tree trail pamphlet is currently being produced for people to learn about the tree names and origins of each tree.

Preparation work for resealing the main roadway through the Park has also been completed with some areas widened and car parking added. Sealing of the roadway is scheduled to take place during the spring and summer.

LITTERING IN WAIMATE DISTRICT

Under the Litter Act 1979, the Waimate District Council now has the ability to issue a \$300 infringement notice for the illegal dumping of rubbish.

The aim of the infringement is to act as a deterrent and recover costs from cleaning up and the disposing of the rubbish. The district has eight community recycling centres and the introduction of an infringement notice also serves as a timely reminder of what are acceptable recyclables and what is rubbish.

In recent weeks, Council staff have had several non-recyclable items dumped at these recycling stations including whiteware, bags of rubbish and contaminated food wrappers (which cannot be recycled).

Non-recyclable items include coated paper containers such as milk cartons, soft plastics and plastic bags, polystyrene and food containers such as pizza boxes.



RATES REBATES 2020/21

Rates rebate forms are now available for the new financial year. For more information, or to get your form, contact the Council office at 03 689 0000.

Please note, the next rates instalment is due Friday 28 August. 2020.

HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL TRACK GRANTS OPEN

Applications are now open for the Heritage and Recreational Track Grants in the Waimate District. Eligible heritage projects include archaeological and traditional sites, buildings and sites with Historic Place classifications, notable and heritage trees and other buildings or sites Council considers worthy of assistance, of which a maximum of \$1000 can be granted.

Recreational Track projects can include track signage, GIS mapping, development of new recreational tracks, improvement and/or maintenance of existing tracks with a maximum of up to \$10,000 available this round. For further information go to: waimatedc.govt.nz. Applications (close 18 August 2020) can be sent to: Grants Administrator, PO Box 122, Waimate 7960, email: info@waimatedc.govt.nz or phone: 03 689 7771.