

NEWSLINE

MARCH 2020

MAYOR'S COLUMN



This month is a busy one for the Waimate District with plenty of events on the calendar including the annual March Hare motorcycle rally.

Waimate will also be hosting two important community events this month, the annual Relay for Life fundraiser and the AF8 Roadshow and I encourage everyone to come along and get involved in these two events.

Waimate has also had some excellent news this week with the announcement that St John would be appointing three extra ambulance staff for the Waimate District. The new positions include a paramedic and two emergency medical assistants roles that will provide Waimate with a total staff of four. The additional roles will ease the burden of our existing staff member and enhance the skills of our current volunteers which will ensure a robust service for the community.

Mayor Craig Rowley

WAIMATE TO HOST AF8 ROADSHOW

Waimate is bringing the AF8 Roadshow to town this month. The award-winning programme will feature scientists and experts discuss the impacts of a major earthquake in our region and how we can plan and prepare in the Waimate District.

The AF8 Roadshow will be held at 7pm on Monday 23 March at the Regent Theatre and Waimate High School students will also have an opportunity to experience the Roadshow with a visit the following day. Come along and find out how we can plan and prepare in the Waimate District.

The Science Beneath Our Feet

AF8 Roadshow 17 March - 8 May 2020



QUEEN STREET SEWER UPGRADES

Council staff have carried out investigation and repair works to the main street sewer line this week which will help provide insights into future sewer upgrades scheduled this year.

In addition to the temporary repair on the sewer, Council are installing a new stormwater pipe to help with nuisance flooding on Queen Street, adding new kerb and channel with a wider pedestrian area and are investigating the option of installing ultra-fast broadband ducts at the same time.

RUBBISH AND RECYCLING CONSULTATION

Waimate District Council are getting underway with a new rubbish and recycling consultation process to find out your preferred options for future services. A consultation document and submission form will be sent to all households in the district by the end of March. Share your ideas for rubbish and recycling with us and let's chat about!

COUNCIL HONOURS LONG TERM EMPLOYEE

Council celebrated the work of long term Council employee Murray Martin last week, marking the occasion with a service award and tree planting at Knottingley Park and Arboretum.

Mr Martin, a 47-year employee of Council, began his Council career working for the Waimate County Council's bridging team in 1972 where he repaired and built bridges throughout the 1970s and 1980s, including 35 new bridges between 1975 and 1986.

From the late 1980s, Mr Martin moved into the District Council's Parks and Reserves team where he worked as a gardener until his retirement late last year.

Mayor Craig Rowley thanked Mr Martin for his dedication and acknowledged his services to Council and the district with a service award. Council staff and councillors also attended a special planting of a Quercus Red Oak to honour Murray in Knottingley Park and Arboretum.

UPGRADED TOBYS IN THE DISTRICT

Over the last few years, Council has been upgrading old water tobys (tap on boundary) with a new manifold meter unit when there is a need to renew or provide a new connection at urban dwellings.

These new model tobys have a dual-check valve for back flow prevention and a meter. The unit is installed in a compact poly box with a base and blue lid, and is easily accessible.



Most of the connections in Waimate are domestic and regarded as an 'Ordinary Supply' under the Council Bylaw. This means those connections are allocated 200 cubic metres of water per six months, which is covered by your targeted water rate of \$449.10 (in the 2019/20 financial year). These meters are not read for water meter charging.

If a connection is deemed commercial or high use for properties in excess of 1 hectare, it is regarded as an 'Extraordinary Supply' under the Bylaw and there is a water meter charge for every cubic metre used over 200 cubic metres of water per six months.

The Waimate urban network has had a high water loss ratio which we are reducing by upgrading our aging infrastructure. To help us understand water loss and usage we will be reading the water meters that have been installed. This information assists Council with future planning and water conservation.

If you've recently had your toby renewed, we encourage residents to read the water meter and monitor your own usage, including leak detection on your property. In the next edition of Newsline, we will talk about how to detect leaks on your property.

Waimate is very fortunate to have two ground water sources that supply its domestic and commercial needs. With good practice and management we can help conserve water for our community and maintain and protect our environment.

CREATIVE NZ COMMUNITIES GRANT

Do you have an idea for a project that might support community involvement in the arts, engage young people in the arts or create cultural diversity in the arts in the Waimate District? You can apply for funding from the Creative NZ Communities Scheme.

Every year, Creative New Zealand provides funding to city and district councils for distribution in their area. Waimate has received nearly \$20,000 for our community this year.

Detailed information and application forms are available from the Waimate Information Centre and on Council's website: waimatedc.govt.nz.

Applications are now open and will close 24 March 2020.



Council's Parks and Reserves Manager Graeme Watts (left), Murray Martin and Mayor Craig Rowley.

