

NEWSLINE

DECEMBER 2021



MAYOR'S COLUMN



As we move in to the final few weeks of 2021, we look back on a challenging year lined with COVID-19 disruption and Government uncertainty in a number of areas.

It was heartening to see a wide sector of the community, both rural and urban, coming together at the recent Groundswell protest and street demonstration, to signal their views against the Government's Three Waters Reform Programme.

For those that missed my brief address to attendees, Council are currently working with a number of like-minded councils to challenge the Government around their proposed models for three waters, collectively opposing the mandate and policy. More information will be released on this in the coming weeks and we'll be doing everything we can to get the best outcome for our ratepayers.

Meanwhile, with the COVID-19 alert levels now becoming a thing of the past, we have now moved into Orange under the new Traffic Light System. With further restrictions still in place on international travel, we are expecting a larger than normal turnout at the Waimate Lakes Camping Area in the run up to and during our summer period. Take a few minutes to familiarise yourself with the new rules and guidelines, enjoy the wonderful facilities on offer and have a great time with family and friends on the stunning shores of both Lake Aviemore and Waitaki.

In line with the Traffic Light System, Council will require Vaccine Passes from Monday 17 January to access some premises. These include Council's Main Office on Queen Street, Waimate District Library, Event Centre, Dog Pound and the Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool. Vaccine Passes will not apply to the Waimate Lakes Camping Area, campgrounds, resource recovery park, public toilets or parks and reserves. While Council respects your individual choice not to be vaccinated, it is our role to ensure we take all measures to protect our staff, contractors and the wider community from COVID-19, therefore we believe Vaccine Passes are the best process to achieve this.

With this being the final Newsline for 2021, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for reading and staying tuned every month, and to wish everyone a great Christmas and New Year.

Here's hoping we can all look forward to a more prosperous and settled 2022.

Until next time, take care.

QUEEN STREET UPGRADE REMAINS ON TRACK



The major stormwater and wastewater network upgrade on Queen Street remains on track to be completed by mid February 2022. Works will temporarily come to a halt in the days prior to Christmas, with contractors clearing the site until mid-January.

Please be advised, pedestrian access is still available to businesses along Queen Street during this upgrade. Safety barriers and cones may give the perception that the area is off limits, however designated access remains along the footpath during this time.

Contractors are working as diligently and efficiently as possible. While every effort is made to keep disruption to a minimum, we acknowledge there is never a good time to carry out civil works – particularly in a high traffic area such as the CBD. As the upgrade moves further along Queen Street, improved access, including more car parks, will be established.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding as we work to complete this project in the coming months.

2022 BIN CALENDAR

The first half of the 2022 Waimate District Kerbside Rubbish and Recycling Collection Calendar is now available on Council's website, waimatedc.govt.nz or at Council's reception (125 Queen Street). This covers January through to June 2022.

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		
January																																	
February																																	
March																																	
April																																	
May																																	
June																																	

2021 SUMMER READING CHALLENGE ROLLS OUT

Reading enthusiasts across the district will have an added incentive to pick up reading material this summer, as the popular Summer Reading Challenge returns for another year.

Following the success of previous campaigns, this year's theme will see participants "read around the world", ticking off popular locations as they progress with their reading time over six weeks.

The challenge, facilitated by the Waimate District Library, officially commences on Wednesday 15 December 2021 and concludes on 26 January 2022.

Waimate District Library Senior Librarian Tony Morton says he is delighted to welcome back the Summer Reading Challenge, and is encouraging readers of all ages to take part.

"We know that over the summer break, children tend to slip out of practice and read a lot less. This challenge is a great motivator and a fun task to help keep them on track . . . and they really enjoy the concept," Morton said.

"But it's not just for children, adults can pick up their own passport, tally up 12 hours of reading and go in the draw to win some great prizes too. It's about celebrating the joy of reading and encouraging people to read whatever they like and when they like."

To complete the challenge, adults are expected to read for 12 hours, while children require only six. Reading material can include books, audiobooks, e-books, magazines, newspapers, PressReader, novels and Beamafilm movies (with captions).

To take part in this year's Summer Reading Challenge, drop in to the Waimate District Library, pick up your passport and start reading. All completed passports will go in the draw to win a prize, while children will receive a personalised certificate of completion. Participants can complete multiple passports throughout the challenge.



HOUSEBOUND SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE



Waimate residents unable to leave home will soon have the option of having the library brought to them as part of a new initiative rolling out later this month.

The Housebound Service will cater for any individual unable to physically visit the Waimate District Library, either temporarily or permanently, with eligible members instead able to request library items to be collected by a nominated support person, or be delivered to their front door on a rostered basis.

The Housebound Service will require members to meet a set criteria prior to acceptance, with delivery only available to residents within the Waimate urban catchment. Eligible members will be asked their preferred reading material, with items then made available on a click and collect basis at any time, or once every three weeks (via delivery).

Waimate District Library Senior Librarian Tony Morton said the service, offered free of charge, would help connect those isolated through illness, disability, injury or other reasons, providing them equal access to those library members on site.

"A service like this can be a lifeline for people who are vulnerable and who struggle to get out and about through no fault of their own. The Housebound Service is about breaking down those access barriers and making it even easier for people to access our library services from the comfort and safety of their own home," Morton said.

"For those who use this service, we believe it will be a valuable opportunity for them to connect with the library and enjoy all the items available including books, magazines, DVDs and all of our digital services."

Anyone who wishes to sign-up for the service should speak with library staff on 03 689 0071, or email library@waimatedc.govt.nz to find out more.

