

NEWSLINE

FEBRUARY 2021

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Firstly, I'd like to wish you all a happy, prosperous and healthy new year - welcome to the first Newsline Mayor's Column for 2021.

During the festive break, it was fantastic to see so many families enjoying the Waimate District from dining experiences, shopping on the main street to spending time in the great outdoors and exploring every pocket our wonderful district has to offer.

Whether you travelled away, stayed local or enjoyed some downtime at home, I hope you all found time to enjoy a well-deserved break and recharge the batteries. Just over a month in and 2021 is already shaping up to be a huge year. Councillors have already met and are ready to continue building on the many achievements and progress milestones from 2020.

Though, it certainly wasn't the start to the year any of us expected, with the district being hit with significant surface flooding and sustaining some severe weather in the days that followed. As it turned out, the Council office and Library were no exception, and in fact, Council staff are continuing to work with contractors to repair and restore the main office back to normal business operations, and reopen the Library. In the interim, Council's reception function has been transferred to the Waimate Event Centre and all staff are back on board to assist with your enquiries.

Once again, there's been a tremendous show of resilience and community spirit to overcome difficult challenges, and Council appreciate your support, well-wishes, patience and understanding during this time. Rest assured, we are doing everything possible to restore "business as usual" at the earliest opportunity.

NEW CITIZENS OFFICIALLY WELCOMED



Last week, Council acknowledged and welcomed six Waimate residents who have all recently received their New Zealand citizenship status during the COVID-19 lockdown. In absence of the official citizenship ceremony, the new citizens and their families enjoyed a morning tea with councillors and staff to celebrate their newfound status. Flanking Mayor Craig Rowley are new citizens; Adam Hughes, Katherine Studholme, Marvin Amolong, Steven Fish, Jonathan Fish and Hazel Fish. Congratulations and welcome to you all.

HEY, CHEQUE THIS OUT!

In line with the bank's sweeping changes nationwide, as of May 2021, the Waimate District Council can no longer accept cheques as a form of payment. Our preferred payment option for rates will be direct debit, and if you haven't already, we strongly encourage you to work with our staff to get this set up. For all other payments, other ways to pay include EFTPOS, internet banking and cash. Thank you for your patience, support and understanding as we implement this important change moving ahead.



HERITAGE & RECREATIONAL TRACK GRANTS

Waimate District Council invite applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the following:

Heritage Grant

Eligible projects include archaeological and traditional sites, buildings and sites with Historic Place classifications, notable and heritage trees and other buildings or sites the Council consider worthy of assistance. A maximum of \$1000 can be granted.

Recreational Track Grant

Eligible projects include track signage, GIS mapping, development of new recreational tracks, improvement and/or maintenance of existing tracks. A maximum of up to \$10,000 is available this round.

Enquiries and completed applications to: Grants Administrator, PO Box 122, Waimate 7960, or Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate, phone 03 689 7771, or email: info@waimatedc.govt.nz. **Applications close Tuesday 16 February 2021.**

RURAL RUBBISH DUMPING RAISES CONCERNS



Waimate District residents are being urged to respect the rural recycling stations, or face possible enforcement action.

During the festive break, large amounts of household reusables and whiteware were dumped nearby the bins, with the culprits clearly disregarding the rules and guidelines for the rural stations.

Council's Compliance Officer Jonts McKerrow said while fly-tipping doesn't necessarily present itself as a major issue within the district, depot users needed to exercise more patience if they arrived to see all of the respective bins at capacity.

"The primary issue is leaving recyclables on the ground or nearby, and this is typically done due to the bins being at capacity.

The bins are serviced every Monday and Friday, therefore if the bins are full, please try again at a later date," McKerrow said.

McKerrow also pointed out an increase in non-recyclables being dumped at the sites, both in the bins and on the ground.

"This is not at all acceptable and breaches the signage guidelines."

Compliance monitoring of the eight rural recycling sites will continue, with those identified as incorrectly using the sites to be subject to a \$300 infringement fine, further education and possible enforcement penalties.

For more information on what you can and can't recycle, please visit waimatedc.govt.nz/environment-waste



WAIMATE JOBS' WEBSITE GOES LIVE

As momentum continues with the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs' employment initiative, an important milestone has recently been reached with the official launch of waimatejobs.co.nz



The website caters for both job seekers and potential employers, helping to bolster employment opportunities throughout the district.

In conjunction with the Waimate District Jobs Hub Facebook page, all jobs and training opportunities are listed through the website regularly, with openings including full time, part time, seasonal, casual, apprenticeships and various work experience vacancies.

If you're looking for work in the Waimate District, or you're an employer needing some support with recruitment, get online, complete a registration form/expression of interest and Lisa will be in touch soon.

For all other queries, please contact Lisa directly at 027 257 8578 or email lisa.dobson@waimatedc.govt.nz.

waimatejobs.co.nz 