

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

As we enjoy the last few weeks of summer, it's pleasing to look back on what has been a very popular and successful camping season at the Waimate Lakes area. Our five campgrounds have played host to hundreds of visitors and season pass holders since September, and overall, the level of compliance and attitude has been impressive.

While the surge in numbers can likely be linked with the border restrictions and lack of international travel opportunities due to COVID-19, the weather has certainly played its part too. Many of our season regulars have returned, along with many other campers new to the area – all enjoying the summer sun, the waters of Lake Aviemore and everything else the area has on offer.

Looking ahead, this month marks a busy time on the calendar with plenty of high profile events coming up (subject to COVID-19 guidelines). Sadly, the 35th March Hare Rally, due to be held 5-7 March, won't be able to go ahead, with COVID restrictions at Alert Level 2 allowing a maximum of 100 people at any one gathering.

Other events circled on the calendar include the Bushtown Steam Up Day and the 2021 Waimate Civic Awards. Step back in time and enjoy the array of steam traction engines, vintage tractors, miniature model train displays, children's activities and plenty more entertainment on Sunday (14 March – 10am), and with nominations now in for the Civic Awards, I look forward to reflecting on some of the district's success stories and celebrating the deserving individual, group and organisations that continually go the extra mile and raise the bar.

Keep following the COVID rules and play your part for our community.

Until next time, stay well.

MEET EMILY, NICK & JULIE . . .



The Waimate District Council has recently welcomed three new faces, with Emily Hansen, Nick Fazakerley and Julie Price all taking on their new roles in recent weeks.

The roles, which encompass Digital Librarian, Emergency Management and Health and Safety Advisor and Community Engagement Librarian, are community-focused roles, with an emphasis on promoting the Library and building community resilience.

Within their roles, the trio will be community bound, with both Emily and Julie taking on Government funded secondments within the library sector and Nick joining the team as Emergency Management and Health and Safety Advisor.

As Digital Librarian, Emily will focus on digital inclusion, supporting and assisting learners and jobseekers while increasing digital literacy across the district, while Julie has taken on the responsibility of Community Engagement Librarian, helping to support community recovery, and engage and support education services.

Nick, who has relocated south from Hawkes Bay, brings a wealth of experience in emergency management to the role, having previously worked for not-for-profit groups, including the world's largest humanitarian organisation, Red Cross.

Emily, Julie and Nick are already making connections within the community, therefore, if you, your group or organisation would like to speak with any of them further, please contact Council at 03 689 0000, or email, council@waimatedc.govt.nz for more information.

WAIMATE DISTRICT LIBRARY - UPDATE

Following significant flooding damage at the start of the year, the Waimate District Library has remained closed since 3 January. With the carpet now replaced and some minor last minute details in hand, the Library is due to reopen its doors to the public on Tuesday 9 March 2021, at 10am. An official reopening ribbon will be cut by Mayor Craig Rowley, with councillors, iwi, invited guests and members of the community to be in attendance.

WASTE REMOVAL AT OXIDATION PONDS



Work to desludge the Waimate oxidation ponds (also referred to as sewage ponds) is now underway, with the process set to improve the long term life and performance of the ponds.

The desludging project aims to remove in excess of 500 tonnes of sludge from the base of the two ponds, a cleaning process that hasn't taken place since their construction some 20 years ago.

The project, which once complete will add a further 30 to 40 years of capacity to the McNamara Road site, was first identified last year, following a sludge survey carried out by independent contractors.

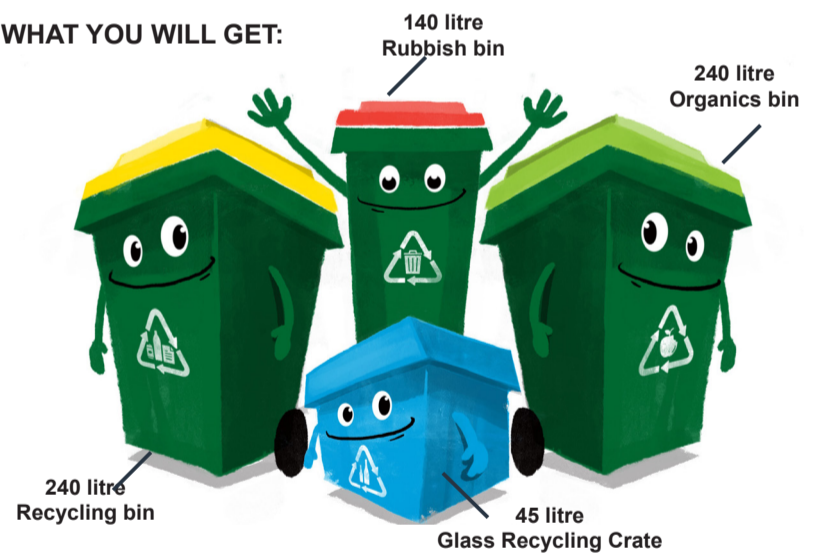
Work is scheduled to be complete by early April 2021.

NEW KERBSIDE COLLECTION SERVICE

Following public consultation in June 2020, the decision was made to revamp the rubbish and recycling service within the Waimate District. The new service will see the two-bin system scrapped in favour of multiple bins for rubbish, recycling, organics and a glass crate.

Here's a quick run-down of what the new service means for you.

WHAT YOU WILL GET:



WHEN DOES THE NEW SERVICE START?

Your new kerbside rubbish and recycling service officially commences on 1 July 2021. The new bins and crate will allow for glass, mixed recycling and organics to be collected as separate streams for recycling.

Your new bins and crate will be delivered throughout June, along with an Introductory Handbook, detailing everything you need to know about what goes in each bin.

KEY BENEFITS OF NEW SERVICE

South Canterbury is on a waste minimisation journey, with all three Councils (Mackenzie, Timaru and Waimate) working together for a greener tomorrow.

The new and improved kerbside rubbish and recycling service will make it easier for you to recycle more and send less to landfill - a win-win for the environment and the Waimate District.

IS THERE ANYTHING I SHOULD BE DOING NOW?

The short answer is, no. Keep using your current bins until the new service gets underway, ensuring your red bin and recycling crate are placed out on the normal collection days.