

# NEWSLINE

## SEPTEMBER 2021



### MAYOR'S COLUMN



For many, the last few weeks may seem somewhat dejavu. A sense of here we go again. Seemingly out of nowhere, COVID-19 has raised its presence in New Zealand again, this time the Delta variant sending us all into a snap lockdown.

Well done to you all for following the rules and adhering the advice of health and ministry officials. None of us want to be in lockdown for any longer than we need to, so it's this level of compliance that ensures we play our part as a district and help stop the virus in its tracks.

The lockdown and reduced levels may create an opportunity for you to look further into the Government's Three Waters Reforms. It was really pleasing to see a high community turnout attend our meeting last month, with many of you clearly showing your hand on this matter and expressing concerns with any loss of local control. As a Council, we will continue to follow this matter through and do all we can to keep ratepayers informed as developments come to hand. A great starting point is Council's website, head to [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz) and go to Three Waters Reforms.

You may or may not have seen, the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, which includes our district, formally wrote to Local Government Minister Nanaia Mahuta and asked the Government to press pause on any further reform intentions. Other areas, such as Otago and Southland, were also quick to follow suit, therefore it's clear a good number of Councils want time to consult with their communities and make the right decision on what is easily the largest shake-up in the local government sector for some three decades.

In the meantime, we're all hoping to get back to alert level 2 soon to allow the opening day of the Waimate Lakes camping season to take place. As you will read below, season tickets are now available and have already proven to be in hot demand.

Until next time, stay safe and be kind.

### BUMPER CAMPING SEASON SET TO START



#### SEASON TICKETS ON SALE NOW

With international travel restrictions still in place due to COVID-19, there's no better time to go back to basics, get out and explore your own backyard. Opening Day for the season ahead has been set as Saturday 18 September 2021. Unlike previous seasons, there is no longer a designated set-up day, therefore spaces will operate on a first-in, first served basis.

Camping is a time-honoured tradition for many Kiwi families and the Waimate District has camping grounds in some of the most spectacular places in the country. Whether it's the popular Waitangi, Te Akatarawa, Fisherman's Bend Reserve or Briar's Gully, there's plenty of space for everyone and this year is shaping up to be another bumper summer.

Along the shorelines of Lakes Aviemore and Waitaki, activities range from swimming, boating, water skiing, canoeing, picnics, tramping and fishing - with the Lakes providing an ideal place to get away from the everyday hustle and bustle, relax and enjoy.

But don't just take our word for it, grab the caravan, tent, campervan or house bus and experience it first hand this season. All campgrounds have toilets, porta-pottie stations and drinking water, and are well equipped with rubbish and recycling stations.

Grab your season ticket (\$360) at Council's Main Office, Whitehorse Motors and Kurow Autos. Casual concession tickets are also available at the registration booths on site at the respective campground during the season.

With each season ticket, you will receive an information brochure to help familiarise yourself with the rules, guidelines and expectations. Take a moment to read through this, and if you have any questions, speak to our camp supervisor on site.

Above all, stay safe, respect others and most importantly, enjoy yourselves.

### KIA ORA MIKE AND TAT, CONGRATULATIONS



Waimate District Mayor Craig Rowley is flanked by Waimate's newest citizens at last month's ceremony hosted by the Waihao Marae.

Waimate District personalities Man Why Yong (Mike) and Wei Tat Tang (Tat) have both become New Zealand citizens, following a recent service at the Waihao Marae.

Hosted by the Waihao runaka, Mayor Craig Rowley greeted Councillors, Council staff and distinguished guests, before addressing both Mike and Tat – as the two have become known in local circles.

In 2009, both Mike and Tat, along with their cousin Danny Tan, established ARTrío Café in Waimate after visiting the district and liking what they saw. The trio grew up together in Kuala Lumpur and between them hold vast experience in hospitality, and it was this experience that saw their business thrive and collect multiple awards and accolades through their years of operation.

While the cafe no longer exists, both Mike and Tat, along with Danny, have actively promoted the Waimate District on their travels, both around New Zealand and overseas in Malaysia.

"We have really appreciated the support and passion you have had for our district, congratulations to you both," Mayor Rowley acknowledged.

In taking their affirmation, Councillor Miriam Morton led the New Zealand National Anthem, before all guests enjoyed a morning tea with councillors.

The ceremony was the first held following COVID delays and impacts over the last year.

### GRANT OPPORTUNITIES NOW OPEN

Waimate District Council invite applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the Creative Communities NZ Grants.

To be eligible for funding through CCS your arts project must support at least one of the following:

**Access and participation:**  
Create opportunities for local communities to engage with, and participate in local arts activities

**Diversity:**  
Support the diverse artistic cultural traditions of local communities

**Young people:**  
Enable young people (under 18 years) to engage with, and participate in the arts

Your project must take place within the district, be completed within 12 months of funding being approved and not have started or finished before CCS funding is approved.

**Enquiries and completed applications to:**  
Grants Administrator, PO BOX 122, Waimate, 7960 or Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate. For all enquiries, phone 03 689 7771 or email [info@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:info@waimatedc.govt.nz)

**Applications close**  
**Tuesday 28 September 2021 at midday.**

