

NEWSLINE

FEBRUARY 2022



MAYOR'S COLUMN



Given we are now in February, it may be a little late to say Happy New Year, but as this is our first Newsline back in 2022, welcome back.

I trust you found time to enjoy a well-deserved break, be that spending time with family or friends or idling around the home catching up on those odd jobs.

It's certainly been a bumper season up at the Waimate Lakes Camping Area, with families from all pockets of the country soaking in the rays and enjoying lakeside fun in some of New Zealand's finest backdrops. If you've been up there recently, I'm sure you would have made plenty of memories and made the most of your holiday.

As we look ahead, there's plenty on the calendar this year. Not least of all the local body elections in October. While this may feel a long way off, time will fly and now is a great time to think about standing.

If you care about your community, have ideas on how we can make the Waimate District even better than it is now and want to make a difference, you could be the perfect candidate to run for Council. If you would like some further insight, please feel free to attend an upcoming meeting or speak with myself or a fellow councillor to learn more.

Meanwhile, it's back to business and as we navigate life at the red light setting on the COVID-19 Protection Framework, many of you are probably trying to get your head around the do's and do not's at the various colour lights. From a Council perspective, it's almost business as usual - albeit some limits on capacity may apply at some of our facilities.

A My Vaccine Pass is required for entry at Council's Main Office on Queen Street, the Waimate Event Centre, Library and the Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool. Please continue to wear a mask and scan the QR code to help track your movement.

While vaccine passes are not required for the Waimate Lakes Camping Area or Council's campgrounds, you will need a My Vaccine Pass for the cabins at Victoria Park. This decision is in line with the accommodation sector and due to being an internal building, we see this as an important way to protect our visitors from any spread of COVID-19.

Thanks for playing your part Waimate District . . . we're all in this together.

ARE YOU PREPARED?



For a while now, discussions around Being Prepared has had the idea that emergencies come in large packages (e.g: widespread floods, storms, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes) and more recently COVID-19. But for many of us, these events seem so infrequent they do not seem real and are therefore, often forgotten about until its too late.

So in your family, or household, what are the important things you need to plan for? Maybe no power, no internet, no cellphones - or perhaps no heat for grandma and grandpa! What can you do? It's simple, make a plan that works for you and be sure everyone in your family is on board. Go to www.happens.co.nz and check out the handy range of resources available.

Have you got your two week emergency kit ready to grab and go?

Your go bag should include bottled water, non-perishable foods, a flashlight, portable cellphone charger, spare keys for your home and vehicle, a first aid kit, gloves, a change of clothing and a notepad, pen and markers. In addition, you may wish to include a change of footwear, copies of important documents, petty cash and supplies for your pets.

For COVID-19 information and guidelines around self-isolation and what to do if you or your household contacts get COVID, visit Council's website, waimatedc.govt.nz. to learn more.

CROUCHES BRIDGE SET TO OPEN THIS MONTH



After several months of construction, Crouches Bridge is just a matter of weeks away from reopening to traffic.

With the old timber bridge coming to the end of its serviceable life, plans were in place to replace the structure with a new bridge – comprising two 16 metre spans. The new bridge, which is set to open later this month, has an increased flood capacity and can accommodate most vehicle types.

Work on the bridge, which is located on Youngs Road, has included demolishing and removing the former bridge, drilling piles, placing the concrete and steel, constructing a precast wing wall, pier columns and abutments and installing the deck beam units, among other tasks.

To conclude the build, the coming weeks will see the approaches sealed and the bridge deemed safe and signed off for use.

Commenting on the replacement, Council's Roading Manager Rob Moffat said the project had gone according to schedule and expected the bridge to open by the end of February.

"We've done several replacement bridges throughout the Waimate District in previous years, but this is the most significant rebuild in 30 years. The contractors have done a fantastic job and we're really pleased with the result," Moffat said.

Construction first began in October 2021, with all road users travelling the detour route spanning Hook School Road, Dauvergnés Road and Lower Hook Road.

The former bridge was first built in the 1920s and was prone to blockage by debris during flooding. The replacement bridge structure cost approximately \$600,000, partially subsidised by Waka Kotahi New Zealand Transport Agency.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES NOW OPEN

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

1. Community Grant – provides funding to assist with local community projects.
2. Heritage & Recreational Track Grants

Eligible Heritage 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.

Eligible Recreational Track projects include track signage, GIS mapping, development of new recreational tracks, improvement and/or maintenance of existing tracks.

Application forms and information are available from the Waimate Event Centre and at waimatedc.govt.nz - all enquiries can be made to the Grants Administrator on 03 689 7771.

All applications must be received by midday Tuesday 1 March 2022 and sent to Grants Administrator, PO Box 122, Waimate 7960, emailed to info@waimatedc.govt.nz, or delivered to the Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate.

