



The new community space at Queen Street

COMMUNITY MEETING SPACE TAKING SHAPE IN WAIMATE

They say the grass isn't always greener on the other side, unless that is, you are standing on Waimate's Queen Street.

That's because of the new public meeting space that has been created, a collaborative approach and community initiative between Waimate District Council, Rooney Earthmoving Limited and other adjoining landowners.

The project, which is located between the Waimate Police Station and the former Cameron's building (now Style 358), will feature a range of removable elements such as seating, gardens, shrubs and LED lighting.

Since the demolition of the vacant buildings in August this year, keen-eyed onlookers will have already seen the recently planted grass seed take hold in the last few weeks, with development taking shape and plans for the space coming to fruition. The meeting space has used a range of materials and created an opportunity to repurpose former streetlights and a surplus of Council's trees, flowers and grass seed. The meeting space also features seating made from the former wooden beams recovered during the building's demolition phase, repurposed by a local joiner at no charge.

In addition, Council has purchased a drinking fountain (\$1,207) and extended the existing hanging basket watering system (\$431.15) to help reduce the time staff would normally be required on site. This system is operated remotely and is both set and monitored by Council's parks and reserves team.

As part of the initiative, Council has invested \$60,000 from the Economic Development Unit, utilising funds from both the sale of the Gorge Road property and the Alpine Energy dividend. While it is envisaged the space will remain available and open to the public for at least three years, the decision to rebuild lies directly with the landowner.

The community meeting space is expected to be open late November.

CLOTHING BINS

With the recent introduction of four new clothing bins, Waimate residents are being encouraged to recycle unwanted clothing and fabrics in a bid to reduce waste to landfill.

As part of the 'Zero Waste Drive' campaign, the bins have been put in place at 6 Gorge Road in Waimate and will be emptied on a regular basis.

Did you know, the fashion and textile industry has the fourth largest negative impact on the environment after housing, transport and food? According to the 2017 waste audit for the Waimate District, 5.5% or almost 50 tonnes of all landfill waste from our kerbside collection was textile waste.

Council's Waste Management Officer Michael Macbeda strongly urges residents to take advantage of the service and encourage friends, family and work colleagues to do the same.

"The need to reduce this waste is a problem for all of us, and that has motivated Council to facilitate the reintroduction of fabric recycling in this district," he said.

"We can all do our bit, and then a little bit more... it's up to all of us to help push change."

Items accepted include clothing, shoes, towels, sheets and linen. Please do not dispose of any breakables, electronics, plastic toys, synthetic material, used underwear or household rubbish.



Michael Macbeda

COUNCIL DECLINE THREE WATERS BETTER OFF FUNDING

At an Extraordinary Meeting on 8 November 2022, Council chose to decline Tranche 1 of the Government's Three Waters better off funding in a split decision, 5-4.

Following healthy debate, Mayor Craig Rowley gave each councillor the opportunity to present their final views on the tabled report. Cr Sharyn Cain, Cr Sandy McAlwee, Cr John Begg and Cr Rick Stevens voiced their clear opposition to the Three Waters Reform, however voted in favour of the better off funding, while Mayor Rowley, Cr Tom O'Connor, Cr Colin Pankhurst, Cr Lisa Small and Cr Peter Collins were firmly against Council accepting the funding.

As part of the Tranche 1 funding (\$500 million for approved projects), Council's total share is \$9.68 million with the funding distributed in two tranches. Tranche 1, has a value of up to \$2.42 million, while the remainder of the funding (\$7.26 million) via Tranche 2 would be available for projects that commenced from 1 July 2024, should the reform proceed. In closing, Mayor Rowley said "we have been opposed to the current reform from day one, and when a community overwhelmingly supports holding onto a position about such an important issue, it was important for the Council to listen".

BATTERY RECYCLING

Did you know, batteries are hazardous waste that cannot be placed in any of your kerbside rubbish bins? In fact, not only are batteries harmful to the environment and pose health risks, they can cause a fire in the bin, the rubbish truck or even the compactor itself.

So to help avoid any of this, Council has teamed up with Envirowaste and New World Waimate to offer safe battery recycling options to the community.

Battery recycling stations have now been introduced at the Waimate Resource Recovery Park (RRP) and New World Waimate. Four types of household batteries (please check the appropriate label on each of the four compartments to ensure you are recycling the correct battery) are accepted. Car batteries are also still being accepted at no cost at the RRP.

For more information on battery recycling and battery types, visit Council's website and go to Battery Recycling Stations under Rubbish and Recycling.



Battery recycling station at New World Waimate

CHISHOLM SHARES STORY

In a free public talk, television host and personality Matt Chisholm has shared his story and mental health journey with Waimate residents in a bid to spark more conversation around mental health and resilience in rural communities.

Hosted by the Waimate District Council, more than 200 people enjoyed An Evening with Matt Chisholm, held at the Waimate Regent Theatre last week (9 November).

Chisholm is best known as the host of reality television offerings such as Survivor New Zealand and Celebrity Treasure Island, while to others he might be remembered as a former host of TVNZ's Sunday programme. Following his days in front of the camera, Chisholm has also become a pivotal figure in helping to raise awareness of mental health, putting his own troubles and tribulations in the public arena and sharing personal experiences in the hope of helping others.

During his visit to Waimate, Chisholm spoke with Council staff to address general wellbeing and enjoyed some brief sight-seeing between talks, including a trip up to the White Horse Monument.

