

NEWSLINE

SEPTEMBER 2022



YOUR CHANCE TO MEET THE CANDIDATES

With nominations for the 2022 Local Body Elections now closed, the Waimate District Council has received a total of 15 nominations for Ward Councillors and two nominations for the Mayoralty.

Of those nominations, two of the four wards received the minimum number, meaning the candidates for the Hakataramea-Waihaorunga Ward and the Pareora-Otaio-Makikihi Ward will be elected unopposed. These candidates are incumbent Councillors Colin Pankhurst, Sandy McAlwee and Tom O'Connor.

The Waimate Ward has a total of 10 candidates vying for four vacancies, while the Lower Waihao Ward has two candidates vying for one vacancy.

Meanwhile, Waimate businessman Rick Stevens will contest the district's Mayoralty, standing against three-term incumbent Craig Rowley. Stevens has also been nominated as a Councillor for the Waimate Ward, along with John Begg, Jonathan Bird, Peter Collins, Julie Dee, Sarah Huggins, Peter Paterson, Tom Williams, Sharyn Cain and Fabia Fox.

Departing Councillors, stepping down at the completion of this term, include Miriam Morton, Sheila Paul and David Owen – all of whom have not sought re-election.

To meet the candidates, be sure to head along to the Waimate Event Centre on Thursday 22 September from 7.30pm. All written questions can be addressed to robin.david.owen@gmail.com, or delivered to the Event Centre in a sealed envelope prior to midday on Wednesday 21 September.

Voting packs will start arriving at your household from 16 September, with voting closing at midday on Saturday 8 October 2022.



LAKES CAMPING SEASON GETS UNDERWAY THIS MONTH



Saturday 17 September marks the official opening of the 2022/23 Waimate Lakes Camping season, an occasion eagerly anticipated on the calendar of many. Following on from last season, there will be no set-up day – instead the gates will open at 8am and the campgrounds will operate on a first in, first-served basis (no site reservations permitted).

Season tickets can now be purchased at Council's main office (125 Queen Street, Waimate) and will be available at Kurow Autos and the camping ground headquarters during the season itself. Casual concession tickets are also available at the registration booths on site at the respective campgrounds. 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.

We wish you all a happy camping experience during your stay.

PUBLIC MEETING TO ADDRESS NITRATE ISSUES



SATURDAY 10 SEPTEMBER, GLENNAVY HALL, 1.30PM

Early August, Council advised the detection of increased nitrate levels in the water supply of the Lower Waihao Rural Water Scheme (including residents in the Waikakahi East area). For those who may have missed this alert, elevated nitrate levels have the potential to cause health issues, particularly higher risk to pregnant woman and infants under six months of age. Please note, the usual method of boiling water does not remove nitrates.

Council are working closely with Taumata Arowai and Environment Canterbury to resolve this issue at the earliest opportunity, but there are a number of factors to consider and this will take time. To address the increased nitrate levels, Council are committed to building a denitrification plant – purposely designed to remove nitrate at the water source. However, this is not a short term fix and will take many months to finalise design, obtain consents and build.

Therefore, until nitrate concentrations return to compliant levels, it is strongly advised to access safe drinking water from the following three locations:

- Glenavy Hall, SH 1, Glenavy
- Morven Hall, MacLean Street, Morven
- Victoria Park potable water tap on Hillary Street, Waimate

WHAT ABOUT MY PETS?

During this nitrate advisory, we recommend household pets be given the potable drinking water. While cats and dogs can handle a higher level of nitrates than most people, it's advisable to err on the side of caution when providing their water intake. If you have any further queries or issues relating to animals, please speak with your local vet.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

We acknowledge this news will come as a shock to scheme users, and we want you all to have an opportunity to better understand the situation at hand. Therefore, we will be hosting a public meeting at the Glenavy Hall on Saturday 10 September from 1.30pm.

At this meeting, we will have representatives from Council, Environment Canterbury and a remote address from the Canterbury Chief Medical Officer of Health Matthew Reid. This will be an open workshop forum for you to ask any questions, establish the facts and get further detail on the short to medium term landscape looking ahead.

We sincerely appreciate the inconvenience caused and are doing everything we can to restore safe drinking water through the scheme in the coming months.

TWO-MINUTE AGENDA

23 August 2022

BETTER OFF FUNDING

As part of the Government's Three Waters Reform proposals, councils are now being offered Tranche 1 of the \$2 billion Better Off Funding Package. Overall, Waimate District Council has been allocated \$9.68 million, with \$2.42 million available in Tranche 1. Applications for the funding are due on 30 September, however Council has sought an extension from the Department of Internal Affairs (through to the end of November), to make a decision and carry out consultation with the community and stakeholders on whether or not to accept the funding and the potential projects to be included.

KUROW BOAT RAMP FUNDING REQUEST

Council has approved a funding request of \$7,800 to help remodel and extend the boat ramp at the northern end of Kurow Island. The ramp has been described as "not fit for purpose" and according to local police, poses added risk to weekend boat users. Council acknowledged the ramp was widely used by Waimate residents and understood the economic benefits of helping to bring people into the district for recreational purposes. Waitaki District Council were also approached for funding, while Meridian Energy has supported the project to the tune of \$40,000.

RECREATIONAL TRACK GRANT

In another funding decision, Council has granted \$10,000 to the Whitehorse MTB Riders Group, accepting a grants application as part of the Council's bi-annual Recreational Track Grant. A key part of the project will see the existing dual direction DDT1 trail converted to individual ascending and descending trails. Work is expected to get underway in the coming months.

For all meeting minutes and agendas, visit waimatedc.govt.nz

