

NEWSLINE

FEBRUARY 2023



MAYOR'S COLUMN



As a new year rolls over, we are back and it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Newsline. Newsline will feature in The Timaru Courier throughout the year, brought to you on the first Thursday of every month.

With January already behind us, many of you will be back into the full swing of things and looking ahead to what will be another busy year. It will certainly be a challenging year for local government, but with that, myself and your elected councillors will be doing everything we can to both push for the best outcomes for the Waimate District and keep you informed along the way.

Mayor Craig Rowley

As the warmer weather arrives, I hope you have had a chance to enjoy a summer holiday break, whether that's enjoying time in the Waimate Lakes Camping Area, or venturing further afield – whatever it might have been, it's great to see visitors and locals alike out and about taking in the sights.

Speaking of locals, how good is it to see our very own homegrown country lass Kaylee Bell mixing it with some of the biggest names in international showbiz? For those of you who haven't heard, Kaylee had a fantastic run on the Voice Australia and has since gone on to open for Ed Sheeran on his New Zealand tour – quite an amazing achievement for a girl from small town beginnings, we wish her well.

In the meantime, our thoughts are with Auckland as they navigate through the aftermath of the major flooding, with yet another example of how deadly mother nature can be.

Until next time, take care.

COUNCIL INTRODUCES A SINKING LID APPROACH

Following public consultation, Council have opted to make some changes to the district's Gambling and TAB Venues Policy. The revised policy introduces a cap of 16 gaming machines (down from 20) and adopts a sinking lid approach on the number of class 4 gaming machines. This means the new policy will not allow for any new class 4 or TAB venues to be established within the district.

Essentially, this will result in a natural attrition in the number of venues and machines over time, but does not affect existing venues or current community grant funding in the short term – with the decline occurring over a period of time.

The revised policy can now be viewed on Council's website, and is available at Council's main office (125 Queen Street) on request.

ALL-YEAR ROUND TOILET ACCESS

In conjunction with the Government's Tourism Infrastructure Fund, Council has established a new dry vault toilet (unpowered and waterless) in Te Akatarawa Reserve within the Waimate Lakes Camping Area.

The toilet provides access year-round, particularly catering for the influx of visitors using the Alps2Ocean Cycle Trail. The new toilet will also help to meet the demand of increasing camping numbers during the season, including freedom campers.



MEET STEVE



Steve Robertson

If you have spent time up at the Waimate Lakes Camping Area in recent months, you may have noticed a changing of the guard as camp supervisor. Before Christmas, Council bid farewell to Jordan and Ema Soole, who have chosen to move on and take up a role further south.

Therefore, we welcome Steve Robertson as the new camp supervisor, basing himself at the campground headquarters at Waitangi.

Based in Oamaru, Steve brings with him vast experience in hospitality management – having previously managed hotels, restaurants, and night clubs. His talents extend to the music decks, having spent some time working as a DJ and sound technician for the likes of New Zealand music icons Tiki Taane and Shapeshifters.

Several weeks into his new role, Steve says he has enjoyed working with people and has relished the opportunity to work outdoors. "There's so much potential for this area and the camping sites we have up here. I have really enjoyed the role so far, have met so many wonderful people at our camp sites and have been well supported and welcomed by Council's Parks and Reserves Team."

Steve will navigate through the last few months of the camping season, before returning in August this year to take on his first full season.

GRANTS OPPORTUNITY AVAILABLE

Council invite applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the Heritage and Recreational Track Grants.

Heritage Grant

Eligible 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.

Recreational Track Grant

Eligible projects include track signage, GIS mapping, development of new recreational tracks, improvement and/or maintenance of existing tracks. Please note, the accountability form for previous funding must be completed.

Enquiries and completed applications to:
Grants Administrator, PO Box 122, Waimate, 7960
or Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate.

For all other enquiries, phone 03 689 7771 or email info@waimatedc.govt.nz

Applications close Friday 24 February at midday. Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

RECYCLE CLOTHING RESPONSIBLY

Council's Waste Management Officer Michael Macbeda is encouraging the public to use Waimate's new clothing bins for their intended purpose, to ensure the service remains in the district.

After several months of negotiating, Council was able to secure the reintroduction of the clothing bins to the township, situating them at Gorge Road. However, within just a matter of months, Council's compliance team have had to deal with unwanted dumping at the site, with some users dropping items outside of the bins.

"As a Council, we've worked hard to re-establish a recycling facility like this within the district, so we want to do everything we can to ensure they are being used with respect and for their purpose. Anything dropped outside of the bins will be treated as rubbish and may result in infringement action." Macbeda said.

The four clothing bins, which have recently been introduced at the site, are provided by a third party, and all users should ensure that deposits meet the criteria, as shown on the respective messaging. Council is investigating the installation of cameras at the site to monitor the afterhours activity and ensure those who stretch the rules are held to account.

"Unfortunately, continued misuse may result in the removal of the bins and essentially, loss of service.

"None of us want that, so we're asking everyone to use the bins for their intended purpose, and recycle responsibly."

For more information, visit waimatedc.govt.nz

