

# NEWSLINE

7 DECEMBER 2023

## MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

An early Merry Christmas Waimate District!

Just like that we are looking down the barrel of a new year, although there is plenty to get through in December.

With the Waimate Christmas Parade, Strawberry Fare and Christmas in the Square all happening this month, I think Santa may be spending more time here than the North Pole.

We are also making sure Santa gets around everyone. The Mayoress's Christmas Child Initiative is closing soon but we are still accepting donations up until 12pm December 8. All the presents donated go to children within the district and we want to again make sure no child misses out on waking up to presents on Christmas morning.

On another local matter, it is pleasing to see people make the most of the regional banking hub on Queen Street. The hub is one of several being trialled throughout New Zealand to test community and customer demand for multi-bank services in towns that do not have bank branches. It is worth bearing in mind that if the service is not used it may discontinue and we will be back to going out of town or sitting on hold for a few hours to get anything done. Like everything, it is use it or lose it!

Make sure to enjoy the festive season safely and make the most of spending time with friends and family. Many of us will be making the annual migration up to the Waitaki Lakes and a special thanks goes to the Parks and Reserves team for having it looking so good.

See you all next year!

## DOG RULES UPDATED

Creating consistency and clarity in the rules has driven Council's decision to amend the Dog Control Bylaw following public consultation on the matter.

At the Ordinary Council meeting on 21 November, Council approved the Dog Control Bylaw with amendments.

In total, six reserves had amendments made to their use regarding dogs:

- Knottingley Park and Arboretum is dog-friendly apart from the cricket pitch and children's playground. Dogs need to be leashed in the campground.
- Boland Park and Seddon Square are completely dog-free.
- Dogs are allowed in Victoria Park except for the playground, sports courts, bowling green and velodrome. Dogs are required to be leashed in the campground.
- The Glenavy Recreation Reserve is dog-friendly apart from the pocket park and adventure play areas, which require dogs to be leashed.
- Dogs are prohibited in the St Andrews Recreation Reserve apart from the campground, where they are required to be leashed.

Of the 25 submissions received, more than half were supportive of the proposed change in every question that was consulted on.

During Council's discussion, particular consideration was given to Seddon Square and Boland Park. The presence of dogs at the weekend market represented a significant factor in many of the submissions received. Council recognises the importance of promoting a welcoming and inclusive environment for all community members, including those with canine companions. The decision for these areas to function as dog restricted zones was made with the overall wellbeing and safety of park users in mind.

Concerns regarding hygiene, potential damage to sports facilities, and ensuring a secure environment for both athletes and spectators played a significant role in the decision to restrict dogs from the Victoria Park Velodrome and sports fields.

The definition of menacing dogs was also amended, bringing it in line with the Dog Control Act 1996. This allows Council discretion in relation to neutering dogs labelled menacing, rather than this being an automatic requirement under the previous bylaw.

The animal management team can now consider factors such as age, demeanour, whether the dog's behaviour has been learned and whether neutering will alter the behaviour.

Visit Council's website to read the amended Dog Control Bylaw.



From Left to Right: Parks and Reserves Manager Alison Banks, Cemetery Sexton Myles Knightly, Aaron Hall, Raquel Shaw, Hamish McDonald, Scott Tiffen, Assests Group Manager Dan Mitchell, Parks and Reserves Supervisor Grant Martin.



## GREEN FLAG FOR CEMETERY

**What does the Waimate Cemetery have in common with London's Hyde Park?**

They have both been awarded the Green Flag Award - an international standard which recognises and rewards parks and green spaces that provide high-quality and innovative recreational experiences.

The award was the culmination of an extensive application process and inspection of the site by Green Flag judges. Criteria included how well the park was managed, planned for, and presented. The judges commented that it was evident the site is managed by a passionate and committed team who go the extra mile and take pride in the place they are responsible for.

"Changing attitudes are seeing cemeteries being used for recreational activities instead of being places that people avoid," the judges' report said.

"Most commonly, people visit cemeteries to walk and enjoy the peaceful environment. Increasing interest in genealogy and the history in the cemeteries is another drawcard. The Waimate Cemetery is full of history and has become a destination for those looking for family members or those interested in history. Stories told by the headstones trace the early settlement of Waimate, the scourge of tuberculosis, influenza and scarlet fever are reflected on inscriptions."

Council Parks and Reserves Manager Alison Banks said the Green Flag Award is testament to the hard work, commitment and dedication of Council's Sexton and Gardener, Myles Knightly and the Parks and Reserves team. "This is such a good benchmark for our team to work towards to ensure we retain our quality mark," she said.

"The cemetery is a place of reflection, remembrance, and tranquility, that is full in history and the Waimate District Council is committed to ensuring that it remains a place of beauty and serenity for generations to come." It was also important to acknowledge the local Scout group and its leaders who support the preparation for ANZAC Day and working bees to pick up the litter blown into the hedge line, Alison said.

Waimate is one of the smallest councils and very few cemeteries have been awarded a Green Flag.

The Old Cemetery was established in 1871 and is the resting place of New Zealand's first woman Doctor Margaret Cruikshank. The Lawn Cemetery is where New Zealand's 29th Prime Minister, Norman Kirk, is buried and where the Waimate Services Cemetery is located.

# Climate Change MATTERS.

# Your view about it MATTERS.

→ [waimatedc.govt.nz/climate](http://waimatedc.govt.nz/climate)



## RESIDENTS INPUT SOUGHT FOR CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The Waimate District Council is asking its residents to help create its climate change strategy.

As the first step in the public engagement process for the strategy, a survey has been issued to quantify the sentiment around climate change in the district, allowing for a fit-for-purpose strategy.

It was important to have public input and an understanding of how the public viewed the issue, Climate Change Officer Andrew Oliver said. "We want to create a strategy which works for us locally, it's for the people by the people," Andrew said.

Once the survey is collated, the next step is for a series of public workshops starting with a forum in March 2024.

As part of the initial presentation, Council will present a summary of the science behind climate change and why it matters. It is planned some key stakeholders in the district will be invited to present their climate change vision. Further workshops will be planned throughout the year, further shaping the final strategy for Council's consideration.

The strategy will cover the four wellbeings as defined under the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Act 2019: environmental, economic, social and cultural.

The survey is now live on the Council's website until 14 December.

## GREENER FUTURE FOR GLENNAVY

The Glenavy Recreation Reserve Management Plan has been approved by Council following public consultation on the area.

The future of the 4.2 hectare area will now be managed by the newly formed Friends of Glenavy Reserve, made up of Glenavy residents, Glenavy School and Council. The group is the successor of the now dissolved Glenavy Reserve Community Planning Group and will have more of an input into day-to-day management of the area.

The redevelopment plan was broken into two stages. Stage one was successfully finished with reinstated walking tracks, a loop track connecting them and a new bike park among other things. The increase in recreational activity within the reserve necessitated a reserve management plan as mandated by the Reserves Act 1977.

The second stage was the consultation process and the creation of an action plan outlining the aims and objectives of the reserve.

Council received 15 submissions, which were largely focused on horses and what types of plants would be established.

Council decided while the tracks and native plants are fresh, horses will not be allowed on the walking trails, although this will be reviewed as required under the act.

A planting plan will be created to guide what type of vegetation is added. More than 2,200 natives have already been planted and there are plans for more.



Glenavy School meet Mayor

The Friends of Glenavy Reserve will assist with the work in conjunction with the Parks and Reserves team.

Glenavy school pupils made a presentation on what recreation areas they would like to see and their ideas will be incorporated into the development of the reserve.



## STUART DUNCAN REAPPOINTED TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE ROLE

Waimate District Council has reappointed its Chief Executive Stuart Duncan for another five-year fixed term.

Stuart had completed the maximum term of employment permitted under the Local Government Act of seven years (five years with two-year extension). The role was required to be re-advertised this year.

Mayor Craig Rowley said it was a thorough process which involved a recruitment agency providing an executive search. Starting in the position in 2017, Stuart has been a massive asset, respected leader, and strong advocate for Council and our district, the Mayor said. "We were delighted with the calibre of applicants for the position, and would like to thank each of them for showing interest in working with our Council and community."

Stuart Duncan said he was pleased and honoured to be remaining in the job. "I have never been shy about saying how lucky I am to live in Waimate, work for this Council, and have the awesome staff here. The next five years will be challenging and exciting, and I'm very much looking forward to it."



The Waimate District Council and several Council facilities will be subject to holiday hours from Saturday 23 December 2023 to Friday 5 January 2024.

Go to [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz) for a full rundown of hours for the main office, Waimate Event Centre, Waimate District Library, Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool, Resource Recovery Park and kerbside rubbish and recycling.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Council's Annual Report for 2022/23 has been adopted by Council and the full report and summary documents are available to read on Council's website.

At the Extraordinary Council meeting on 31 October during which the report was adopted, Mayor Craig Rowley acknowledged the amount of work it took from staff to prepare the document. "We thank those who have contributed to all the achievements throughout the year – elected members, staff, agencies, contractors, local businesses, volunteers and, of course, the community," the Mayor said.

The report reflects how well Council has managed projects, services and financial performance against the intentions of the second year of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan. It also celebrates some of the key achievements.

Like the rest of New Zealand, inflationary pressures, supply issues and staff shortages provided challenges for Council. Despite this, a surplus of \$0.642 million was recorded compared to a forecast deficit of \$1.373 million. This was largely due to the recognition of vested assets and carbon credits, and increased water, sewer and subdivision contributions. With the delay in capital expenditure due to deferral of projects, interest costs were less than anticipated.

Some of the key highlights included:

- The 'Zero Waste Drive' saw five tonnes of textile diverted from landfill.
- Unpowered and waterless toilets were installed at the Waimate Lakes camping area and Waihao Box.
- The Glenavy Reserve Community Planning Group was formed and the redevelopment of the recreation reserve began.
- A new community green space was developed on Queen Street.
- An international grade 18-hole disc golf course was developed at Knottingley Park and Arboretum.
- The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs placed 52 people in full-time roles as well as nine part-time and eight casual roles.
- The District's Otai water supply was voted the tastiest tap water in the country by the Water Industry Operations Group.