

# NEWSLINE

15 FEBRUARY 2024



**Waimate**  
District Council

## MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Welcome to 2024 and the first edition of Newsline for the year. I hope you all managed to have some time to recharge over the summer.

As we get back into work, the main focus for Council is drafting the district's Long Term Plan 2024-34. This document will guide our decision-making for the next 10 years and affects the whole district. We will be holding workshops on this, and a document will go out for consultation, so be sure to make your voice heard and make a submission.

Another project I am excited about is giving the war memorials in our district some TLC. Over the break, I was able to head out with members of the RSA and Waimate Anzac Group on a trip to examine the memorials around our district. It was interesting to see some of the names listed on them; many still have family locally. Most are in reasonable condition, but as they are getting on in age it is good to bring them all up to standard. We will be using money left over from the construction fund of the Ted D'Auvergne statue at the Waihao Forks Hotel for the project.

Until next time, take care.



## SPEED LIMIT CHANGES AWAIT GOVERNMENT APPROVAL

Creating safer roads is behind Council's finalised Interim Speed Management Plan, which was approved at the Ordinary Council Meeting in December of last year.

A draft document went out for public consultation in October containing the proposed changes which were made up of three focus areas. Thirty-nine submissions were received.

In the approved plan, roads around most of the schools in the district were reduced to 30km/h. Not included were – St Patrick's School, which is far enough off the road, Waituna Creek School, which already has a variable speed limit and Waihao Downs School, which is on State Highway 82. Eighty-two percent of submitters agreed to support lowering speed limits around schools.

The second focus area involved reducing speeds of five roads in recreational and industrial areas – Limestone Hills Road, Cooneys Road, Centewood Park Road and a section of Parkers Bush Road are all proposed to be 40km/h, and a section of Mill Road will be reduced to 60km/h. Of the submissions, 52% were in favour of these changes.

The third focus area was the Central Business Area, with the streets around Queen Street between Rugby Street and the Council main office reduced to 30km/h. Queen Street itself is part of State Highway 82 and is administered by the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi. Fifty-seven percent of submissions were in favour of the changes.

Council decided that a slight increase in travel times was worth the increased safety benefits reducing speeds would have.

It considered the implementation of variable speed limits but decided it would be more confusing to people and it was better to have consistent speed limits.

The proposed speed limits have been sent to the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi and are awaiting approval ahead of any changes.

## BE MINDFUL OF WATER USAGE

With warm temperatures and below average rainfall this season, residents on the Waimate Urban Water Supply are asked to continue to look at their water needs and usage.

During hot and dry spells, Council has noticed an increase in water usage as gardens and lawns dry out. Council wants you to enjoy summer activities and asks you to be mindful of water usage. This can be as simple as checking to see if your taps, toilet cisterns and hoses are not leaking or left running overnight.

Best practice for watering the garden is to water at cooler times of the day and target certain plants and areas rather than soaking your entire garden.

For more water conservation tips, please see the LAWA website.

We also encourage you to understand your water usage by reading your water meter at the boundary. Our website contains a guide on how to read your water meter and check for leaks. If you do find a leak on your property, please ensure it is repaired as soon as possible.

If you notice a water leak in the footpath or road, or any other Waimate District Council water lines, please report this to Council immediately.

Responsible water practices help minimise wastage, or the chance of water shortages in the supply, and means that Council can continue to sustainably supply water to your property over the summer.

## KERBSIDE RUBBISH AND RECYCLING CHANGES

From 1 February 2024, the Government has standardised what materials can be collected from households in their kerbside rubbish and recycling bins across New Zealand.

The only items able to be recycled from home will be plastic bottles, clear meat trays, and containers with numbers 1, 2 and 5 in the triangle, food and drink tins and cans, paper and cardboard, and glass bottles and jars.

Glossy paper and cardboard, aluminium trays and foil, and aerosol cans will now need to go in the red rubbish bin. All lids, soft plastics and drink cartons continue to go in the red bin.

The green organics bin will no longer accept any paper or cardboard, tea bags, animal waste, shredded paper, serviettes, paper towels, tissues or compostable packaging. These need to go in the red rubbish bin, apart from clean paper and cardboard, which can be recycled.

Collecting the same materials through kerbside collections will make it easier for everyone to put items in the correct bin, no matter where they are in New Zealand.

For an extended list of which items go in which bin, **go to Council's website.**





## NEW CITIZENS OFFICIALLY WELCOMED

In December the Waimate District officially welcomed several migrants to the area by presenting them with their New Zealand citizenship.

In a ceremony at the Waihao Marae, the new citizens spoke about their journeys here and what becoming a fully-fledged New Zealander meant to them. Many of them are already long-term residents in Waimate and remarked how special it was to be presented their citizenship locally.

Back row from left: Willie Battiss, Tony Hewlett, Beverley Battiss  
 Second row from left: Natcha Tawbunyuen, Lilach Grieve, Mayor Craig Rowley, Maria Battiss and Inese Kviese  
 Front row from left: Dexter, Lara and Irina Navarro, Beatrice Pinnell-Bienz, Lea Battiss and Daniel Brown



## SWIMMING POOL UPGRADE

It's time to use up your 2023/24 season tickets as the Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool will be closing earlier to allow for a planned upgrade.

This year's closing date will be 3 March, instead of the normal time at the end of March. Concession tickets and season passes issued for 2023/24 will no longer be valid past this date.

The \$213,000 project will upgrade the pool with a PVC membrane to stop water leaking and help maintain the water temperature. It will be completed as part of Council's 2023/24 Annual Plan. This will lessen the annual operating costs by reducing the heating requirements and extend the life of the pool by 20 years.

The project needs to be done in the warmer months because it needs a high amount of sunlight hours and heat to properly set.

In 2022, Council staff investigated the use and cost of installing a membrane compared to sandblasting and repainting the pool. It was found that the PVC membrane offered a more durable and cost-effective solution. The PVC membrane is virtually indestructible, requires minimal maintenance, can be installed over any structurally sound shell without any prep-work, and will last decades.

Built in 1978, the outdoor facility is a 33.3 metre long, six lane heated pool, with a toddler's pool, BBQ area and ample seating and shade, which is enjoyed by locals and visitors to the district.

The upgrade will ensure that there are ongoing job opportunities, as well as a facility that will be enjoyed, for many more years to come.

## GREEN WASTE SHELTER

Council has installed a new green waste wall at the Resource Recovery Park to contain green waste and shelter it from strong winds. It has also eased the loading process.

The wall was built using the Waste Levy Fund from the Ministry for the Environment.



## HERITAGE AND RECREATIONAL TRACK GRANTS

Waimate District 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 enquiries email [info@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:info@waimatedc.govt.nz) or phone 03 689 7771.

**Applications close at 12pm on Friday 23 February 2024.**

Late or incomplete applications cannot be accepted.

## Waimate District Library Refurbishment project

## The Library is closed

**A pop-up library will open  
on Tuesday 20 February at  
the Waimate Event Centre,  
15 Paul Street**

Opening hours remain the same

**Please hold on to any  
borrowed books and return  
to the pop-up library  
during opening hours**

