

# NEWSLINE

7 MARCH 2024



**Waimate**  
District Council

## MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Good news from Wellington this month with the announcement that the Three Waters legislation has been repealed.

Ever since the reforms were first proposed, the Waimate District Council has been steadfast in its opposition to them. I am relieved that our advocacy alongside other members of the Communities 4 Local Democracy has led to the new government repealing the reforms and restoring local ownership of local assets.

This will allow us to best utilise the immense local knowledge we have within our district without being dictated to by Wellington.

Council is also exploring options to collaborate with our neighbours in Timaru and Mackenzie to see if there are any resources we can use together to save money.

On another note, there have been a couple of opportunities recently to celebrate the efforts of some local volunteers.

As well as the Civic Awards ceremony (which you can read more about below), I was lucky enough to attend a presentation for Ryan Manson and Tony Smith for 25 years of service to the Waimate Volunteer Fire Brigade. These are two of the people who get up at all hours of the day and night to help people when they most need it – 25 years is a great effort guys, well done.

Until next time, take care.

## WAIMATE'S UNSUNG HEROES THANKED

This year's Waimate District Civic Award Function once again recognised some of the key contributors to the district's various volunteer organisations. Gael Grigg, Lorraine Morgan, Paula Page and Rob Smith were this year's Individual Civic Award recipients, with the Youth Civic Award going to Patrick Partleton and this year's Group/Organisation being the Waimate Historical Society's fundraiser - Bookarama. The ceremony was held at the Event Centre last month.

Mayor Craig Rowley described this year's recipients as being the unsung heroes in the field of community service, and it was important to thank and recognise them. "Your contribution to the life of the Waimate District does not go unnoticed," he said in his speech.

"Volunteering is alive and well in the Waimate District and I know there are still plenty of very worthy recipients in all our categories.

These Awards have been held for the past 15 years, recognising 59 adults, 10 young people and nine group/organisations for outstanding community service. Mayor Craig said that the work that they do in the community was one of the reasons the Waimate District was such a great place to live, and that they provided an energy and diversity that builds a thriving community.

Gail Grigg's nomination highlighted her extensive volunteering and community contributions – particularly with young people and families.

Lorraine Morgan was recognised for her work which included being a founding member of Waimate Cancer Companions, a rapidly growing group which supports people undergoing treatment for cancer.

Paula Page was recognised for her involvement in several local events, and long-term contributions to the Connect Church Uniform Room – which offers a low-cost option for families who would otherwise struggle with the cost of school uniforms.

Rob Smith was awarded for his involvement in an extensive number of community organisations. He has chaired Waimate2gether for five years, during which time the group has completed \$1.7m worth of projects.

The youth award was given to Patrick Partleton. At the age of only 17, he has already marked up extensive voluntary service with Waimate organisations as a Venturer Scout and volunteers once a week at the Red Cross Charity Shop.

The Bookarama was represented by Raewyn Francis and Lynn Chave. The book sale has raised more than \$244,500 for the Waimate Museum and Archives since it was started in 2001.



Left to right: Patrick Partleton, Rob Smith, Lynn Chave, Mayor Craig Rowley, Gael Grigg, Lorraine Morgan, Raewyn Francis, Paula Page

Waimate District

# Climate Resilience Strategy

What's all the fuss about?

Should we be concerned?

Is climate change a thing?

What are we planning and why?

## Transport Action Plan Workshop

Tuesday 2 April | 6pm  
Waimate Event Centre, Paul Street, Waimate

## COUNCIL MEETINGS

### Tuesday 12 March

9:30am Audit and Risk Committee Meeting

2:00pm Open Workshop

### Tuesday 26 March

9:30am Ordinary Council Meeting (commencing with Public Forum)

Meetings are held at the Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate.

Agendas are available on [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz) at least two days prior to a meeting.

To receive a Microsoft Teams link, or to arrange to speak at the Public Forum, please contact the Committee Secretary on [karalyn@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:karalyn@waimatedc.govt.nz) or 03 689 0038.







## SCHOOL RECEIVES MTFJ FUNDED PRACTICAL TRAINING EQUIPMENT

Ag and Trade students at Waimate High School will save some time cleaning mud off their school shoes after receiving a donation from the Waimate District Council's Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme.

The school was presented with \$6,800 of PPE by Mayor Craig Rowley and programme co-ordinator Lisa Dobson.

The equipment included work boots, gumboots, work socks, hi vis vests and safety glasses, to be used in practical lessons.

Mayor Craig Rowley said Council, through the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs programme, was grateful for the relationship with Waimate High School.

Last year, the taskforce was involved with 11 school leavers gaining local employment at the end of the school year, along with supporting the students with employment preparation, mentoring, driver licences and lessons and external training.

"We are in full support of the High School's agricultural programmes which provide practical skills and training to better prepare students for the workforce," Mayor Rowley said.

"We have seen in the past 12 months an increase in school leavers ready and able to make the most of opportunities, through learned practical skills."

Waimate High School principal Jo Hunnikin said the donation was another example of the positive relationship enjoyed by the taskforce and school.

"We must provide pathways for both students who are moving onto tertiary education but also those that are transitioning straight into full time work," she said.

"There seems to be a huge shortage of skilled workers which makes practical experience and workplace experience even more relevant."

"Providing opportunities at a local level has a benefit for everyone."



## NEWROOFING FOR COMMUNITY HOUSING

The Council's community housing units on Kennedy Crescent will be a lot cosier this winter thanks to a re-roofing project which has already started.

Local contractor Brad Keen Building Ltd has been engaged by the Council to replace and insulate the roofs of the 1960s buildings. The community houses are made up of nine buildings encompassing 27 individual units.

The \$270,036 project will extend their lifespan and make them more energy efficient. \$218,992 of this is paid for as part of the Government's Three Waters Better Off Funding, with a secondary budget to make up the difference in 2024/25.

The Council-owned properties are managed by LJ Hooker and residents have been notified of the project.

Residents and visitors are advised to be mindful of the work and take care around the site. It is expected to be finished by the end of June.

## CREATIVE NZ COMMUNITIES GRANT



Council invites applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the Creative NZ Communities Grant.

If you have an idea for a project that might support community involvement in the arts, engage young people in the arts or create cultural diversity in the arts – be sure to apply and tell us more.

Application forms and information are available from the Waimate Event Centre and at [waimatedc.govt.nz](http://waimatedc.govt.nz) – all enquiries can be made to the Grants Administrator on 03 689 7771.

All applications must be received by **12pm on Friday 22 March 2024** and sent to Grants Administrator, PO Box 122, Waimate 7960, emailed to [info@waimatedc.govt.nz](mailto:info@waimatedc.govt.nz), or delivered to the Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street, Waimate.

To learn more, visit [waimatedc.govt.nz/community/grants](http://waimatedc.govt.nz/community/grants)

## LIBRARY AND COUNCIL CHAMBERS CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

The Waimate District Library extension and Council Chambers refurbishment is underway, and a scaled-down version of the library is now operating out of the Waimate Event Centre.

The project is currently scheduled to be completed in November this year and is being led by Rushton Architects and Hayden Tait Building Limited.

To accommodate the construction, the library has been closed and a pop-up library is operating out of the Waimate Event Centre, 15 Paul Street. During the extension, the library is offering longer standard loan periods of six weeks, with the option of extending.

Some books will be in long-term storage and unavailable, although there is still a wide selection for loan. Key services such as internet and Justice of the Peace visits will continue to be available. Mayor Craig Rowley said it was important that the district's residents had continued access to a library, as it formed an important part of the social and cultural fabric of Waimate.

Mayor Craig said it was a good reminder of the online services the library has available free of charge. These include digital publications on PressReader, E-books, streaming service Beamafilm, and a home delivery service is available for people unable to physically access the library.

Council acknowledges there will be some disruption to library users and appreciates their patience and understanding. Extending the library will allow larger groups to be accommodated and provide dedicated learning areas. Council meetings will be held in the Waimate Event Centre when the chambers are unable to be used.

## ROADING SEASON

Good weather and longer daylight hours have made for a successful resealing programme from Council's roading team.

A total of 29.8km of roading (26.8km rural and 3km urban) was resealed in the past month.

As well as this, some streets with a higher flow of stormwater have seen deeper kerb and channel installed. This will allow for better vehicle access and greater flooding resistance.

The next major project is to establish footpaths in the western end of town, on King Street, Edinburgh Street and Princes Street. This is due to start this month.

