

NEWSLINE

4 APRIL 2024



MAYOR'S COLUMN



I hope everybody enjoyed their Easter weekend and made the most of the longer daylight hours while they lasted.

We are already one quarter of the way through the year, and it has not slowed down.

At our Council meeting on 26 March, Council deferred the adoption of the 2024-34 Long Term Plan by 12 months and will instead produce an 'enhanced' 2024/25 Annual Plan. The option to delay the Long Term Plan was presented as a solution by the Minister of Local Government, Hon Simeon Brown, as a result of the Government repealing the Three Waters Reform legislation. The delay will allow councils to consider the new legislation expected in mid-2024 and December 2024, and ensure relevant and timely information relating to three waters (water supply, sewerage and stormwater) is incorporated into the 9-year Long Term Plan (2025-34). Community feedback on the draft Annual Plan will be sought later this month.

Mayor Craig Rowley

One highlight from last month was when Council had the chance to speak directly with Waitaki MP Miles Anderson when he joined us at an Open Workshop. This gave us the chance to ask questions about the direction Government will take on several key issues.

We covered topics such as three waters, the Long Term Plan cycle, Crown irrigation, audit costs, connectivity, South Island roading and land use changes. We will continue to advocate for our district, and having these opportunities to express our concerns directly can only be a good thing.

Coming up at the end of the month is Anzac Day, something which I really look forward to.

There are several ceremonies throughout the day, and I would encourage you all to put one in the calendar. As well as paying respects and remembering those who served, there are plenty of opportunities to socialise and enjoy our freedoms – the reasons that these brave men and women went to war.

Until next time, take care.

LIBRARY AND PUBLIC TOILET PROJECTS PROGRESSING WELL

The Library extension and Council Chambers refurbishment project is making good progress, with foundations and concrete wall panels in place. Framing for the extension has begun.

Work has also begun on a new toilet block next to Seddon Square. Both projects are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The new toilet block will comprise six cubicles, which includes an accessible toilet, baby-changing facilities and a storage cupboard.

The project began with the relocation of the Nurses' Monument to the corner of Hillary Street and Queen Street, closer to the old hospital site. Additionally, some hedges have been removed next to the car park and Seddon Square, and the ground levelled and re-grassed.

The total construction time to build the Exeloo toilet block is estimated to be 20 weeks. Once ready, it will be transported to Waimate for installation.

"We are committed to providing high-quality public facilities within the district. This investment will better meet the needs of a growing town, accommodating for the high-profile events held within the area and the increasing number of visitors annually," Mayor Craig Rowley said, reflecting on the exciting projects underway in the Waimate District.

The new toilet block is a replacement for the two existing toilets on Queen Street. One of the old toilets will be repurposed and relocated at the Waimate Lawn Cemetery.

In the coming months, Council will reach out to residents for ideas to utilise and beautify the empty space once the old toilets have been removed.



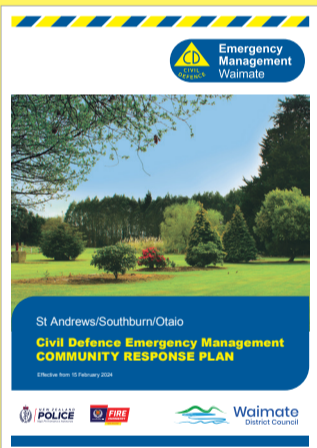
ST ANDREWS CIVIL DEFENCE PLAN UPDATED

Forearmed is forewarned.

Council has updated the Community Response Plan for the St Andrews township and inland areas, including Otaio, Southburn and the Pareora Huts.

The plan is one of several Community Response Plans being reviewed and/or created by Council this year. These break down the specific risk profiles of different areas within the district, and outline a plan and structure should we face a large-scale civil defence emergency.

The St Andrews, Southburn and Otaio Plan was developed with the help of the community. It was presented by Council's Emergency Management Officer Ann Hume and Councillor Tom O'Connor at a well-attended public meeting at the St Andrews Hall on 28 February. At that meeting, Emergency



Management Officer Phill Mackay gave a presentation on AF8 (alpine fault magnitude 8 earthquake).

Local Councillor Tom O'Connor is the lead Civil Defence Emergency Management Community Representative for the area, with Bern Sommerfeld as the Alternative Representative.

To view the document, go to Council's website.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FOR REPRESENTATION REVIEW

A survey will soon be sent out to homes for feedback on Council's representation arrangements.

Representation arrangements are the number of elected members on council and the way in which they are elected. This is to make sure residents have fair and effective representation at local elections.

All local councils are required to carry out a representation review at least every six years.

The district is currently represented by a mayor and eight councillors. The councillors are elected from: Waimate Ward (four representatives), Pareora-Otaio-Makikihi Ward (two representatives), Hakataramea-Waihaorunga Ward (one representative) and the Lower Waihao Ward (one representative). This approximately equates to one representative per 1,050 people.

It will seek feedback on how many councillors there should be, and whether they are elected by ward, across the district (at large), or a mix.

Mayor Craig Rowley said Council decided to send the survey out to every home because it was important everyone had the opportunity to consider whether the current arrangements should be changed. "We are legally bound to conduct a review every six years and it is a good opportunity to make sure the system is working for everyone."

"We have a diverse district over a huge area, and we want to make sure everyone is represented within it."

This review is in preparation for the 2025 and 2028 local elections.

The survey will also be available on Council's website.



POOL RELINED FOR LONGEVITY

A PVC lining for the Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool will extend the lifespan of the pool and allow for more efficient heating. The pool was closed in early March to allow for the \$213,000 project, which is taking place now.

The PVC membrane will 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 annual operating costs by reducing the heating requirements and extend the life of the pool by 20 years.

The project needed 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. It will prevent water loss, be earthquake resistant and is easy to repair.

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.

Mayor Craig Rowley said the pool had a special place in the hearts of Waimate's residents. "It's not just a pool, it's a gathering spot, a place for families, friends, and neighbours to come together. This will ensure its longevity and enhance the experience for swimmers."

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. It is due to be completed at the end of the month.



NEW TOILETS FOR GLENAVY REST AREA

The Waimate District Council is excited to announce the construction of a modern public toilet facility at the Glenavy rest area. The \$192,000 project is made possible through the Government's Three Waters Better Off Funding.

The Glenavy rest area, nestled amidst the scenic beauty of the Waitaki River and newly developed Recreation Reserve, serves as a vital stopover for travellers and tourists. Recognising its importance, the Waimate District Council aims to enhance the overall visitor experience.

The new Exeloo amenity will feature two cubicles, both of which are accessible facilities. Local contractors have been engaged to prepare the foundations, install, and connect the facility, with completion expected by early July 2024. The existing water system and septic tank will be re-used, making the build more environmentally friendly.

The new building will be located beside the current toilet block, which will be demolished once the new facility is operational.

Mayor Craig Rowley said the rest area was very well frequented by travellers on State Highway 1. "It would have to be one of the most picturesque settings for a public toilet in the country, and will blend seamlessly with the natural landscape," he said.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE STRATEGY WORKSHOPS BEGIN



You have heard from the experts – now have your say.

Following the two information evenings last month, several workshops are scheduled this year to develop the district's Climate Resilience Strategy.

The workshops all have a different theme, the first of which, transport, was held on Tuesday this week at the Waimate Event Centre. Attendees talked about the issues and opportunities for transport in the district, and brainstormed ideas of what the future might look like. The transport survey which was collected last month provided data and ideas for the group to discuss.

There will be further surveys and workshops held between May and December for water management, land use, carbon sequestration, waste management, education, and leadership.

The workshop format is 'mix and mingle,' meaning questions and ideas will be spread throughout the room and offer the chance to engage and discuss them with other community members. The feedback will inform the district's Climate Resilience Strategy for Council to consider next year.

To keep up to date and engage with the Climate Resilience Strategy, go to waimatedc.govt.nz/climate.

Council Community Meeting Hakataramea-Waihaorunga Ward



Thursday 18 April 2024, 6pm
Waihao Forks Hotel

An opportunity for residents to engage and talk to your Mayor and Councillors.

Come and discuss what's on your mind.

Residents are invited to forward agenda items to Cr Colin Pankhurst on 027 689 2244 or by emailing colin.pankhurst@waimatedc.govt.nz

Waimate District Anzac Day Services

Thursday 25 April 2024

6am – Hakataramea Dawn Service
Hakataramea Cenotaph, Hakataramea Township

7am – Waimate Dawn Service
Victoria Park Memorial Gates

8am – Southburn Service
Southburn War Memorial

8.45am – St Andrews Service
St Andrews War Memorial

10.30am – Waimate Civic Service
Waimate Event Centre
and parade to War Memorial Clock Tower

Members of the public are asked to be seated inside the Waimate Event Centre by 10.20am.

Returned Personnel (wearing medals) are invited to assemble outside the Waimate Event Centre at 10.25am.

There will be a parade to the Memorial Clock after the service for the laying of wreaths.

All members of the public wearing family medals on the right chest are welcome to march with the returned services personnel.

2pm – Ted's Bottle Service (Waihao Forks)
Waihao Forks Hotel



In association with the
Waimate Community Anzac Group