

NEWSLINE

24 OCTOBER 2024



Waimate
District Council

LAKES CAMPING TRIALS NEW ONLINE SERVICE

A new electronic system "Penny" is being trialled at Fisherman's Bend Campground to address the issue of guests staying and not paying, which was the top concern in a camper's satisfaction survey completed earlier this year. The system will monitor vehicles entering and exiting the site and alert the camping supervisor if an unregistered vehicle overstays without paying. This trial aims to ensure that all visitors adhere to the payment system and contribute to maintaining the site.

Parks and Reserves Manager Alison Banks thanked everyone who had taken part in the survey, which had highlighted the need to address the issue. "If there are people camping without paying, it forces the costs up for those who are purchasing tickets. We are a lot more affordable compared to other campsites, making sure everyone is paying their fair share will keep it that way," she said.

If the trial proves successful, there are plans to expand the camera monitoring and booking system to other major camping sites next year. Penny is free to use, and users will be able to purchase both season and casual camping passes through their account.

Campers at Fisherman's Bend are encouraged to support the trial by signing up for Penny, even if they have already purchased their season ticket. There is no cost to sign up to Penny. To prepare, campers should download the Penny App on their phone, tablet, or computer by searching for it on Google Play, the Apple Store or go to www.go-penny.com. Free key cards are available for pickup at the Council Office, the Camp Office, or Kurow Garage.

The community's support in trialling this new system is greatly appreciated.



FUTURE OF DOG AND AGILITY PARK SECURED

The Dog and Agility Park will remain as long as it is being sufficiently used, thanks to an arrangement between Council and the Southern Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Association.

At the Ordinary Council Meeting on 15 October, Council agreed to pay \$2,000 plus GST per year to the association to provide and maintain the Dog and Agility Park for public use. The money will come from the Subdivision Recreation Contributions Reserve and will not have an impact on rates or dog registration fees.

The area was set up at the Waimate A&P Showgrounds on the Hakataramea Highway to be used for the principal purpose of dog exercise, training and agility in 2017. Under the Dog Control Act 1996, territorial authorities are required to undertake, promote, and encourage the development of services and programmes that promote responsible dog ownership and the welfare of dogs.

The arrangement is a cost-effective solution that provides a safe and secure area for dog training, socialisation, and exercise close to town.

The agreement will be reviewed annually.

CITIZENSHIP

DID YOU KNOW

The Mayor is responsible for conducting citizenship ceremonies for residents of the Waimate District on behalf of the Government. These ceremonies mark the final step in becoming a New Zealand citizen, following eligibility assessment under the NZ Citizenship Act 1977 and approval by the Minister of Internal Affairs.

Waimate District Council has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) to conduct the ceremonies. Held every few months, the ceremonies include new citizens taking an oath or affirmation of allegiance to the King. The Mayor delivers a welcome speech, followed by a video from the DIA featuring the Governor-General, Dame Cindy Kiro, and the Minister of Internal Affairs, Brooke van Velden. The National Anthem is also sung, often by a local school group.

Ceremonies take place at the Event Centre or the local marae, Te Runanga o Waihao. As the ceremonies are generally smaller than at bigger centres, new citizens are invited to share their stories about why they moved to New Zealand and chose Waimate. Many praise the district's friendliness and beauty, with some being recent arrivals and others having lived in Waimate for years.

New Zealand citizenship grants the right to live, work, access government services, hold a passport, and participate in civic life, such as standing for office or serving on juries. Mayor Rowley said that as migrants integrate into the community, they enrich it by sharing their cultures and experiences, adding vibrancy and diversity.



Pictured after the most recent Citizenship Ceremony held at the Waimate Event Centre on 15 October are (from left) the Bucane family Maria, Jose, Louis, Hilda and Cesar from the Philippines, Mayor Craig Rowley, and Nuni and Guillermo from Argentina.

LATEST ROUND OF CREATIVE GRANTS



Successful applicants for the latest round of the Creative Communities Scheme funding have been announced for the Waimate District. Funded by Creative New Zealand and delivered in partnership with Council, the grants go towards local arts and culture projects. A total of \$9,517.10 of funding was given to four groups:

- The Waimate Theatre Company was given \$7,000 towards sound and lighting costs of Frozen Junior for four shows between 1-3 November.
- The Waimate Scottish Country Dance Club was given \$957.10 towards a Ceilidh (traditional Scottish dance evening) held in honour of the club's 65th anniversary on 21 November.
- Bushtown Waimate was given \$1,000 to go towards an interactive Paverpol (garden art) workshop at the annual Steam Up event next March.
- The Waimate Savage and Entertainment Club was given \$560 to create a community singing book with an updated collection of more than 100 songs. This will allow the audience to join in on the group's community visits and singalongs.

Council receives applications on a six-monthly basis, typically in March and September each year. Each funding round is advertised when it becomes available.

OPENING DAY

NORMAN KIRK MEMORIAL Swimming Pool

TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER

The Norman Kirk Memorial Swimming Pool will open for the summer season on Tuesday 29 October. In the lead up to the season, five trainee lifeguards have joined our team of six qualified lifeguards.

Parks and Reserves Manager Alison Banks said the new lifeguards, who are expected to be fully qualified by Christmas, will enhance the team and futureproof operations. "By bringing them onboard early we allow them to gain valuable experience under the supervision of our seasoned professionals. This proactive approach ensures our team remains robust and capable of maintaining a safe environment for all pool users," she said.

During the winter, the pool was relined with a PVC membrane. The \$213,000 upgrade will stop water leaking and help maintain the water temperature. This will lessen the annual operating costs by reducing the heating requirements and extend the life of the pool by 20 years.

The pool is well used by the local swimming club, aqua aerobics classes, schools and both casual and more serious swimmers.

For the opening hours, classes and more information go to Council's website or contact the pool directly on 03 689 6336.



Lifeguards training for the upcoming season



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