

NEWSLINE

26 SEPTEMBER 2024



OLD APPROACH LANDS NEW JOB

Although it can seem like all communication is digital these days, nothing is as effective as an in-person meeting. A great example of this was shared by Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Employment Co-ordinator Lisa Dobson, resulting in a bright young man starting a new job.

Jack, from Waimate, had been in contact with Lisa and the MTFJ throughout the year and wanted a permanent role as a panel beater. He had previous experience in the industry and had obtained his restricted driver licence through MTFJ, as well as recently completing the New Zealand Defence Force Limited Service Volunteer course.

With Lisa's help, he updated his CV, wrote a cover letter explaining his attributes, experience, and desire to secure a permanent role. The pair identified relevant businesses, and Jack set out knocking on their doors and introducing himself. Two days later, Jack started a new role with Total Automotive in Timaru and has been loving it ever since.

Lisa said there has been less job vacancies lately, but opportunities presented themselves to people who were proactive. "It is not easy to call in and introduce yourself to a workplace, but some employers will appreciate you showing initiative and it may prompt them to act on a vacancy not yet advertised or they may know someone else in their industry that is looking for a staff member. We can't just sit back and wait, well done Jack!"

If you or someone you know is seeking support in finding a job, contact lisa.dobson@waimatedc.govt.nz



CALLING WAIMATE DISTRICT'S UNSUNG HEROES



The hunt is on for Waimate District's unsung heroes with nominations open for the prestigious Mayoral-led Waimate District Annual Civic Awards.

Mayor Rowley says the 2025 event will be the 16th successive year the district's volunteers have been celebrated. Through this forum over 59 individuals, 10 young people and 9 groups/organisations have been recognised for their service to the community. Volunteering is alive and well in the district, and there's still plenty of very worthy recipients who work tirelessly, often with little thanks or recognition.

Earlier this year, Individual Civic Awards were presented to Gael Grigg, Lorraine Morgan, Paula Page and Rob Smith, with the Youth Civic Award going to Patrick Partleton, and this year's Group/Organisation being the Waimate Historical Society's fundraiser – Bookarama.

Mayor Rowley says it's great to be able to formally acknowledge and thank some of our valued volunteers.

"Over the years I've been able to recognise some incredibly generous people. It's one of the highlights for me as Mayor."

Nomination forms for 2025 are available from Council's main office, Library, Information Centre, Council's website www.waimatedc.govt.nz or by emailing karalyn@waimatedc.govt.nz, and close at **12pm on Wednesday 13 November**.

The 2025 recipients of the individual, youth and group or organisation awards will be recognised in a formal ceremony early next year.

MAYOR LOBBIES INTERCITY BUSES OVER BYPASS

Mayor Craig Rowley has met with management from Intercity Bus Lines to discuss the issue of the company's route bypassing Waimate township. Rather than the bus stop on Victoria Terrace, the bus now stops at Nosh Cafe, located at the junction of State Highways 1 and 82. Safety issues have been raised related to the new stop's 100km/h speed limit, limited parking spaces and lack of shelter.

Earlier this month, the Mayor wrote to the management of Intercity Bus Lines, expressing his concerns regarding the new route between Timaru and Oamaru.

The Mayor had received feedback from many regular users who rely on the route to access services that are only available in larger centres. Community Link Waimate has also expressed concerns. "I believe to continue to bypass the township of Waimate is of a huge disservice to the users and loyal passengers of Intercity, and I understand the number of passengers is still steady, and the service well patronised by Waimate residents," Mayor Craig said in the letter.

In a response, Intercity Bus Lines Chief Operating Officer Sam Peate said the changes were as a result of longer travel times further north which had threatened its ability to comply with driver fatigue and work time regulations. He acknowledged the impact on Waimate, and indicated Intercity would explore possible solutions.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Mayor Craig Rowley and Councillor Tom O'Connor attended the Local Government New Zealand (LGNZ) Annual General Meeting and Conference on behalf of Council in Wellington on 21-23 August 2024.

"One significant outcome was the chance to speak directly with the chief executive of Taumata Arowai, New Zealand's water services regulator, about the issues related to providing safe and reliable rural drinking water," Mayor Craig Rowley said.

"We now have a direct line of communication and are working on potential solutions for the Waimate District's water services."

Mayor Craig said the conference was a valuable opportunity to observe how other councils are addressing their challenges, and to network with peers.

BIG EASY TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDED

Council approved a \$10,000 Recreational Track Grant for the Point Bush Ecological Restoration Trust to regrade a section of the Whitehorse Big Easy trail at its Ordinary Council Meeting on 20 August. This landscaping work will make the trail comply with the New Zealand Cycle Trails Grade 2 (Easy), meaning it is suitable for most riders including beginners, occasional cyclists, and families with limited cycling experience.

The total cost of the project is \$12,000. The application stated that the work would improve the safety and accessibility of the track by reducing the gradient, repairing side slump cambers, and improving drainage and surfacing on a section of the track identified as too difficult for Grade 2 riders and walkers.

The Recreational Track Grant is for projects involving track signage, GIS mapping, development of new recreational tracks, and improvement and/or the maintenance of existing tracks.

Council will receive applications on a six-monthly basis in February and August each year with \$10,000 available for each round.

