

NEWSLINE

24 APRIL 2025

BIG EASY TRACK UPGRADE

Walking and biking enthusiasts can look forward to an upgraded track on the lower bush section of The Big Easy as the Whitehorse Mountain Bike Riders have been awarded a Recreational Track Grant from Council for \$10,000 excluding GST. M3 Contracting will carry out the work on approximately 550m of track.

The upgrade will provide an easier, more comfortable ascent to the White Horse Monument and improve track safety. Work will include reducing the steepness of some sections, widening narrow sections, installing drainage features, cambering corners and smoothing the trail surface.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support we receive from Council and the Recreational Track Grant," says Paul Buckley, Whitehorse Mountain Bike Riders club secretary. "This follows work M3 Contracting did last year on sections of the track that go through the ecosanctuary which exceeded our expectation. This grant will help us realise our vision to create world-class mountain biking and walking trails in Waimate."

Council has allocated \$20,000 per year for a contestable grant to support the development of new tracks and the maintenance and upgrade of existing ones. Council recognises that our recreational tracks are important for the wellbeing of residents and an attraction to visitors. Applications are invited in February and August each year, open for projects including track signage, GIS mapping and upgrade work.



POINGDESTRES BRIDGE OPEN

Anglers will be happy to know Poingdestres Bridge is now open, and they can once again access the fishing grounds after more than 10 months of closure due to weaknesses found during a routine inspection. Game hunters will also be happy they can access the southern end of Wainono Lagoon in time for the upcoming duck shooting season.

Severe decay was found in two of the piles on the seaward side of the bridge. A specialised underwater diving inspection was then completed to confirm that it was just these two piles that needed repair.

A sleeving method was used to repair the affected piles without the need for heavy equipment as there is limited access to the site.

The work was carried out by Divepro Ltd, a commercial diving company based in Dunedin. The repairs have been funded out of the current bridge maintenance budget with an estimated total cost of \$40,000.

The bridge is now open to vehicles not exceeding weights of 3000kg axles, 5000kg gross.



CENTREWOOD PARK ROAD OPEN

Centrewood Park Road is open again after recent roadworks and sealing of 700m of the steep hill section up to the White Horse Monument.

The upgrade was carried out to improve safety at the intersection with Parkers Bush Road and on the section of gravel road that was prone to corrugations and vehicle traction issues.

The cost of the works was covered by the Three Waters Better Off Funding package Council received from the Government and came in under budget.

Council would like to thank residents for their cooperation while the upgrade took place and the contractors for the great job they did.

You can now enjoy a more comfortable drive up the hill but do remember this is new seal so please drive carefully and stick to the 40kph speed limit on this road.



GYM TO RISE FROM THE ASHES

Those who have been missing their workouts at the gym and squash courts will be glad to know that remedial work is on schedule and will begin on 28 April to restore the area damaged by a fire at the Event Centre in October last year.

Timaru Construction Ltd has been awarded the contract for \$654,463 excluding GST. The extensive work, which is almost entirely covered by insurance, will include demolition, structural repairs, flooring, roofing, carpentry, ceiling installation, electrical wiring and replacement plumbing.

Work will start on the squash courts first with the aim of opening in early July while work on the gym continues. It is hoped the gym will be open by the end of September 2025.

All enquiries about memberships to the gym and the squash courts need to be directed to Waimate Gym and Waimate Squash Club.

KIA ORA AND FAREWELL

The Beatles song Hello, Goodbye comes to mind with our new district signs that welcome and farewell visitors to our stunning region. We hope locals will feel a hint of pride when they drive past. The striking illustration by local artist Bill Scott represents our mountains and rivers and the bilingual text has a distinctly Kiwi flavour.

The new signs are now up at Hakataramea and Glenavy with Pareora River and Cannington due to be installed soon. Council would like to thank everyone for their responses to the survey we ran last year for the signs. We hope we've done our region proud.

