

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Welcome everyone to the first edition of Newsline for 2025!

I hope all of you had a relaxing time over the holidays and enjoyed the beautiful landscapes our district has to offer. As we look forward to a new year, and all that it may bring, there are plenty of challenges and even more opportunities for us to navigate through as a district.

This year is going to be monumental for councils across the country with Government reforms and legislative changes being rolled out. Council is currently developing its Long Term Plan 2025-2034. In due course, a consultation document outlining our priorities and options

for how we navigate the challenges we face over the next nine years will be available for public feedback. I encourage everyone to have their say, whether you agree with our proposals, or think we need to reprioritise; make a submission and help map the future of our district.

It seems like yesterday when this Council was elected, and we are now months away from another local government election. Being an elected member gives you the ability to shape your district and the opportunity to execute your vision for the district. I encourage community members to stand for local elections and don't let the lack of local government experience deter you. Everyone starts somewhere. If you're passionate and want change, be the change you want to see in your district. Check out waimatedc.govt.nz/elections for more information.

Council's priority for this year is to work on Government's Local Water Done Well requirements and finding a sustainable solution for our three waters infrastructure and delivery. My expectation is not only that we do it in a timely manner but also get it right. We will keep you informed as we make progress and are committed to consulting with the public on any proposed solution.

Until next time, take care.

2025 RESIDENTS' SATISFACTION SURVEY

In the coming week, residents throughout the Waimate District will be randomly selected from the Electoral Roll to take part in the 2025 Residents' Satisfaction Survey. The survey is completely independent, carried out by Key Research, and any personal or identifiable information collected will remain anonymous to Council. Only residents that receive a letter in their mailbox can complete the survey.

The survey covers topics such as:

- Council communications, distribution and scope of information, district promotion
- Community engagement, services and facilities, parks and reserves
- Three waters, roading and footpaths, waste management, emergency management
- Value for money/rates, image, reputation and overall feedback

If you receive a letter, please refer to the instructions enclosed and **complete the survey by Sunday 23 March 2025.**

WRONGLY DISPOSED BATTERY STARTS FIRE

During a kerbside collection run a couple of weeks ago, a fire started in the back of the mixed recycling collection truck. The potential cause of the fire has been identified as a lithium battery. This is a timely reminder that batteries are hazardous waste that cannot be placed in any of your kerbside wheelie bins.

You can recycle your batteries at recycling stations at New World Waimate and the Resource Recovery Park (RRP). Batteries accepted are:

- Alkaline, Drycell & Zinc batteries (flashlights, radios, remote controls, smoke detectors, LED penlights, etc)
- Li-ion batteries (laptops, cameras, cellphones, tools, etc)
- Button Cell batteries (watches, hearing aids, calculators, bathroom scales, games, toys, electronic jewellery, key fobs, musical greeting cards)
- Other – (NiCd, NiMH, gel cell, Cr123 camera batteries)
- Car batteries are accepted at no cost at the RRP.

While transporting the batteries to one of the battery recycling stations, we suggest you place them in a non-flammable container (e.g. glass, metal or ceramic) to minimise fire risk.

For more information on battery recycling, please see the Rubbish and Recycling section of the Waimate District Council website.

WHEELIE BIN GADGETS



WHEELIE BIN TOW HITCH

For some residents, there is nothing worse than having to drag large, often heavy, bins down lengthy driveways, or transport their wheelie bins to the collection route every week. The most efficient way to do this is by using a wheelie bin tow hitch to transport the bins behind your vehicle.

Council is pleased to offer residents the opportunity to purchase a wheelie bin tow hitch.

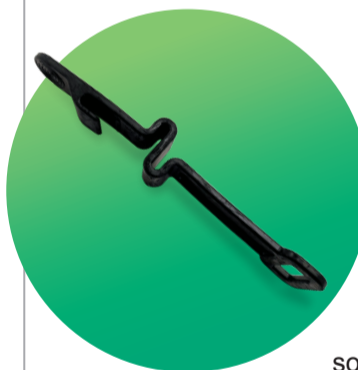
How does the wheelie bin tow hitch work?

With the wheelie bin tow hitch, residents can safely secure the lid of the bin closed while transporting it slowly behind the vehicle to and from the collection point. Essentially, the vehicle does all the manual work and ensures minimal stress on your body. Attaching the wheelie bin tow hitch is very straight forward. Simply hook the strap around the towbar and slide the hitch over the bin handle. That's it! In a matter of seconds, your bin is attached and you're ready to go!

Once you've reached your destination, simply stand the bin upright and store the tow hitch in your vehicle until you need it again.

Where can I purchase this item?

Wheelie bin tow hitches are available to purchase from Council's main office at 125 Queen Street, Waimate for \$18.00 each.



WHEELIE BIN LID LATCH

It is frustrating to lug heavy bins around, and more so having to pick rubbish and recycling up from around your neighbourhood following strong winds, often knocking bins over before the collection truck has had time to reach them.

Council is pleased to offer residents a solution – the wheelie bin lid latch.

How does the wheelie bin lid latch work?

The latch is designed to keep the lid of your rubbish or recycling bin safely closed and avoid any of the contents spilling in strong winds. One end of the latch is secured through the handle of the bin and the other end hooks under the lip on the side of the bin.

1. Wet the latch with water – this makes installation much easier
2. Place the latch on the bin through the bin lid handle with the buckle facing upwards and the curved end with the hook facing downwards
3. Take the curved lower end of the latch and thread it through the buckle at the top end of the latch that's on the bin lid
4. Secure the hook to the lip on the side of the bin
5. When the bin is lifted and tipped into the collection truck, the weight of your rubbish or recycling will force the latch to unhook, and the contents of the bin will be emptied. For the weight of your bin contents to force the latch open, your bin needs to be at least half full.

Where can I purchase this item?

Wheelie bin lid latches are available to purchase from Council's main office at 125 Queen Street, Waimate for \$12.00 each.

For more information, please contact Council.