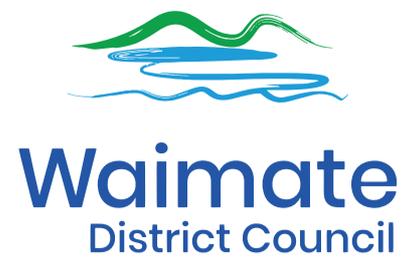


NEWSLINE

13 MARCH 2025



MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Hello and welcome to another edition of Newsline.

With February behind us, like many of you, Council is back into the full swing of things and looking ahead to what will be another busy year. It will certainly be challenging but myself, your elected members and Council staff will do everything to ensure the best outcomes for the district while keeping you informed.

At the Council workshop on 4 March, we hosted the Chairperson for Environment Canterbury (ECan) along with other elected members and discussed a raft of issues.

We discussed the issue of nitrates within the Lower Waihao water scheme and the St Andrews landfill remediation. Council will work with ECan and other stakeholders to find affordable and sustainable solutions for both problems.

Council stressed the importance of wallaby eradication programmes not only within containment areas but also surrounding regions. We expect continued momentum on the Wilding Conifer Control Programme.

Until next time, take care.

COUNCIL REVIEWS REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL GROUPS

The Mayor and elected members are appointed to several external groups and organisations in addition to usual Council-related activities. These appointments generally act as liaisons between the approved organisations/groups and Council to ensure robust communication, a working relationship and help with the periodic review of Council's involvement to ensure that elected members' time and effort are used effectively.

At a recent meeting, Council removed representation from the Elephant Hill Drainage Committee, Lower Waihao Rural Water Committee, Sport Canterbury Spaces & Places Plan Governance Group, Pareora Catchment Committee, St Andrews Recreation Reserve Committee, Waihao-Wainono River Rating Liaison Group and Climate Change Steering Group either because the groups are no longer operational or are not believed to require Council representation.

Council discussed the Waimate Total Mobility Group, agreeing to remove Council's representative but noted its importance. Council will continue to lobby to ensure funding for the group.

Council has approached Waimate2gether offering the group Council representation, and agreed that Council representatives would be considered if requested from Waimate District's Hall Committees and Catchment Groups. For the rest of the current term, Councillor Peter Collins will be on the Waimate Community Anzac Group and Councillor Colin Pankhurst on the Waitaki Lakes Shorelines Authorities Committee to better align with ward territories.

At the meeting Mayor Rowley was tasked to enquire into the continuation of the Climate Change Planning Reference Group, administered by Environment Canterbury, now that the Climate Change Partnership Plan has been developed, to ensure the Waimate District is kept involved and informed.

CREATIVE NZ COMMUNITIES GRANT

Council invites applications for financial assistance from clubs, groups and organisations within the Waimate District for the Creative NZ Communities Grant.

If you have an idea for a project that might support community involvement in the arts, engage young people in the arts or create cultural diversity in the arts – be sure to apply and tell us more.

Application forms are available on the Council website – all enquiries can be made to the Grants Administrator on 03 689 7771.

All applications must be received by **12pm on Monday 24 March 2025**.

To learn more, visit waimatedc.govt.nz/community/grants



LONG-STANDING COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE RESIGNS FROM COMMITTEE

At the January Council Meeting, Council formally acknowledged the resignation of Bill Wright, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils' joint representative on the Downlands Joint Standing Committee.

The Committee, comprising of up to eight members, is made up of Timaru, Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils representatives to ensure the ongoing effective governance of the Downlands Water Scheme. Both Waimate and Mackenzie Districts appoint an elected member each and may jointly appoint another member. Bill filled the jointly appointed role for Waimate and Mackenzie District Councils for ten years.

Although Bill was not able to attend the meeting, Council acknowledged his service, backed up by a letter of appreciation from the Mayor. Council will begin consultation with Mackenzie District Council on finding a suitable replacement for the Committee.

Danielle Woods was nominated for a scholarship by the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) and Waimate District Council to attend Outward Bound's 21-day Mind Body Soul course in January 2025.



AN ADVENTURE I'LL NEVER FORGET

Danielle Woods

Outward Bound was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences of my life. From day one, I knew I'd have to push myself to succeed. Early morning PT sessions, daily 3km runs, and long days of uphill tramping challenged me both physically and mentally. I suffered from self-doubt, but with the endless support from my instructors and peers, every big challenge started to appear smaller, and we all got through it together.

We were put into watches on day one, and I had to share a cabin with 12 strangers. It took a while to feel comfortable around them, but eventually, they felt like a second family.

On day two, we had to practice flipping and saving each other in kayaks for our 2-day white-water kayaking trip. One of my biggest fears is kayaks and being upside down in the water. I had to flip over and wait for two others to save me. I was almost certain that I wouldn't participate, but then thought "when else am I ever going to have the chance to do this?", and just did it.

We did many amazing things like white-water kayaking, tramps, high-ropes, rock climbing, sailing, waka ama and 2-night solo camping. Despite my fear of heights, I gave both the high-ropes and rock climbing a go and managed to get all the way to the top and enjoy the breathtaking views. Sailing was another challenging experience. We spent three days and two nights on board the boat, rowing in flat conditions or battling strong winds. The day ended with sailing next to a pod of Hector Dolphins and watching the sun set.

My personal highlight was the solo, where we spent two nights alone in the bush. It was the perfect time to reset, reflect on the past two weeks, and relax. At night, every little sound kept me up for hours.

Despite the challenges, every moment was worth it. I built resilience, gained confidence, and formed incredible, lifelong friendships. The experience taught me what I'm truly capable of, and I'll carry those lessons forever. To anyone considering Outward Bound—go for it! You don't need to be super fit or sporty; just be open to the challenge. The memories, personal growth, and sense of achievement make it an experience like no other.



Danielle (front: third from the right) with the Hillary Watch



You can contact our Employment Coordinator, Lisa Dobson at lisa.dobson@waimatedc.govt.nz to find out more about the MTFJ programme and opportunities.

