

NEWSLINE

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LEADING THE WAY

With staff tending to our parks and gardens, campgrounds, cemeteries and swimming pool, Steven Johnston has his work cut out in his new role as Parks and Reserves Manager. Lucky then, that he comes with a wealth of leadership experience having managed teams for the Army, Police, Department of Conservation (on the Chatham Islands), Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Health (in aged care).

Steve, as he likes to be called, is new to the area of Parks and Reserves. "I've learnt over the years that the first thing to do is to learn the job," he says, adding that his supervisor Grant Martin has been at Council for 30 years. "You couldn't ask for a better way into a manager's role."

Steve and his wife (who he met on the Chathams) have lived in the district for three years having moved from Hokitika where they lived off-grid and Steve managed a team of more than 100 support workers and nurses for Te Whatu Ora West Coast. When he is not at work, Steve has two passions which he describes as yin and yang. One is the peaceful pastime of fly fishing – he has fished all our rivers and streams. The other is the adrenalin-infused sport of motocross – he even has a training course at home.



Steve Johnston

NATURAL HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS

Nearly 50 people attended a Civil Defence meeting at the Waimate Event Centre on Wednesday 12 March to hear about natural hazards in our district. Oliver Hermans, part of Environment Canterbury's (ECan) Natural Hazards team based at Timaru, talked about the various types of flooding risks that exist within the district and their potential impacts.

Helen Jack, senior natural hazards scientist at ECan, spoke about Waimate's earthquake and tsunami hazards. Both presentations were followed by a lively question-and-answer session. The audience included elected members and representatives from Waimate Police, Timaru FENZ, ECan, Te Runanga o Waihao, Fonterra, Grey Power, the Department of Conservation, and local Civil Defence community response groups.

One of the major takeaways is that there is a 75% chance of the Alpine Fault rupturing within the next 50 years. Modelling shows Waimate District can expect about three minutes of magnitude 4-5 shaking. Some other parts of the South Island will be very badly affected, and these are the communities that help will flow to first. Supply lines (food, power, etc) will also be disrupted. There's no way of knowing exactly how this earthquake would impact us, but this is a good opportunity to think about preparedness – your own personal readiness, that of your neighbours, friends, and extended family, and the communities of Waimate District.

Ann Dennison from Bushtown said: "Really good session. I forwarded information to all our volunteers and committee." Jeannie Hogarth said: "The weather was dreadful, but the discussions were riveting. Helen Jack was inspiring, and I learnt so much from her presentation."

For more information go to getready.govt.nz



Helen Jack and Oliver Hermans

GET READY
.govt.nz

SUPER GRAN'S FRIDAY TALES

There's something truly magical about grandmothers reading to their grandchildren. The warmth and love they share creates a special bond, and the stories they tell often become cherished memories.

Every Friday the library comes alive with the delightful stories read by Super Gran, Pauline Habershon! She loves volunteering her time to read to the local children. "I so enjoy being Super Gran at the Library reading stories to the children. They are a delight. I love how their faces light up when I'm sharing stories with them, and I feel very fortunate to have this privilege," says Pauline.

Recently, St Patricks' School visited the library during one of these special storytime sessions. "The students loved listening to such entertaining stories and particularly enjoyed the singing! We will definitely be back for another session with Super Gran," says Karen Rivett, a teacher from St Patricks' School.

So, come along and enjoy our new extended whānau/family room at the Waimate District Library. Bring your children, grandchildren, and their friends to hear Super Gran's wonderful storytelling every Friday from 10:30 to 11:30 am. It's a fantastic way to spend a morning and inspire children to gain a love for reading!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW CITIZENS

Tuesday 11 March was a special day for 26 people from our district who received their citizenship certificates from Mayor Craig Rowley in a ceremony at the Waimate Event Centre. Twelve countries were represented: Columbia, England, Fiji, Netherlands, Palestine, Philippines, Russia, Syria, Turkey, Uruguay, USA and Wales.

The Mayor spoke about the significance of citizenship and his delight at the diversity within the community. Then the process of each person reciting the Oath of Citizenship and receiving their certificate took place.

Many recipients spoke of their happiness to be part of our district. Christopher Madder from England said receiving his certificate was "the icing on the cake". Majed Mohamed, who received his citizenship along with four members of his family, explained they had escaped the war in his home country of Syria. He thanked New Zealand, saying his children could now have a bright future.

To welcome the new citizens, students from Glenavy School performed two waiata before leading everyone in the National Anthem. To complete the ceremony, a presentation by the Department of Internal Affairs was played, featuring addresses by the Governor-General and the Minister of Internal Affairs. Refreshments were served for a relaxed mix and mingle, and the assembly moved outside into the sunshine for photographs.



L-R: Lovelyn Paterson; Timothy Kinivuai; Vivian Sabijon; Ian Abuyabor; Stephen Hardy; Marie Abuyabor; Ranin Hardy; Zachariah Cabreana; Louise Abuyabor; Ian Abuyabor; Mayor Craig Rowley; Olesia Cherepanova; Andrei Cherepanova; Diana Cherepanova; Majed Mohamed; Mariya Mohamed; Rayhana Mohamed; Amily Dougouz (with their two youngest children in the front); Ana Fontona Muzikantas; Pablo Linares Fontes; Suhaib Mohamed; James De Lor; Alejo Linares Fontes; Christopher Madder; Walter Raigoso Hernandez; Hannah De Lor and Kaitlyn De Lor.