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# Community Services Manager's Report – February 2007

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## Information Centre

### Visitor Numbers

Despite a reported decrease in visitor numbers at other centres in the region, Waimate has seen a 21% increase in December and an 18% increase in January.

### Souvenir Sales

Our increased visit numbers also reflects on increased souvenir sales with a 16% increase in December and a staggering 49% increase in January.

### Potential Residents Packs

Total packs distributed for December/January - 12

### New Residents Packs

Total packs distributed for December/January - 21

As reported recently in the Timaru Herald, the real estate sector is showing strong signs of growth, hence the good number of packs being distributed.

### Promotional Packs

Waimate Town & Country Club - 200 promotional packs for the national euchre tournament

Waimate Vintage Car Club rally – 70 sets of brochures

### Volunteers

A special thanks to our Information Centre volunteers for their work, especially over the Christmas break.

## Events

### Waimate Christmas Lights Spectacular (Sponsored by Meridian Energy)

Another successful event with 23 entries. Judging was carried out on the evening of Saturday 16 December by Tim Jackson of Meridian Energy and Clr Matt Henderson. Organiser Donette Fargher felt that this year's event was one of the better, with many cars on Christmas Eve taking in the displays which were of a higher quality overall.

Categories and prize winners were:

Open (large displays)	1 <sup>st</sup> – Creed family, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Keen family, 3 <sup>rd</sup> – King family, 4 <sup>th</sup> – P Forbes
Window or small display	1 <sup>st</sup> – Kerr family, 2 <sup>nd</sup> – C & K Meechin
Peoples Choice	1st – Creed family

## South Canterbury Busking Festival

A warm sunny day brought crowds, estimated at 5,000, to this year's South Canterbury Busking Festival on Sunday 5 February 2007 at Seddon Square. The number of stall sites, at 76 was slightly up on last year with 13 from the Waimate area.

Although securing performers was a last minute rush, the crowd appeared appreciative of the entertainment. OJ from Port FM was invited to kick-start the day with money from his hat being donated to heart children, diabetes, women's wellness, and epilepsy.

## Filming of Commercial

The filming of a Tip Top bread commercial took place in Waimate Sunday 11 & Monday 12 February. We assisted the crew from Crowley Films with the temporary road closure, props and vehicle storage, and sourcing extras for each set.

## Library

### Space

Staff continue to work on the space problem and are taking older and less used books off the catalogue and onto the sales table. Additional shelving has been ordered to display the books currently not on shelves.

### Casual Staff

The casual staff were utilized over the December/January period to allow full time staff a short break and fill in while our head librarian was off work with an injury.

### Activities

A nursery rhyme activity sheet and colouring-in page was available for children during the Christmas holidays

**Carolyn Johns**  
**Community Services Manager – 12 February 2007**