



Community Services Manager's Report – February 2008

Information Centre

Waimate Promotional Packs

- Total potential residents packs distributed for December/January – 11. The total number of potential residents packs distributed over the last 12 months is 80.
- Total new resident packs distributed for December/January – 17. The total number of new resident packs distributed over the last 12 months is 87. The majority of our new residents have relocated from various places around the South Island, however approximately one sixth came from the North Island and the same again from overseas.

Bus & Commission Sales

The number of commission sales, in particular bus bookings has increased. Over the December/January period a total of \$2,012.50 was banked. The total for the last 12 months was \$7,118.50.

Souvenir Sales

The busiest time for souvenir sales is the December/January period with a recorded total of \$7,853. The total for the last 12 months was \$20,512.

Christmas Hours

I wish to acknowledge Bobbie Laurie & Pat Robinson for their dedication and voluntary work at the Information Centre over a busy Christmas time. As well as opening the Centre on weekends they made themselves available on statutory days (with the exception of Christmas & Boxing days).

New Volunteer

In my December report I advised Councillors that we were attempting to recruit volunteers to cover the weekend shifts at the Information Centre. We are pleased to welcome David Holmes to our team. David is currently undergoing regular training sessions and will shortly be included on the weekend roster.

Membership

Accounts for membership at the Information Centre have been processed, with the membership year commencing November we have 21 members, of which 5 are located out of the district.

Waimate Christmas Lights Spectacular

A total of 17 entries were received for this competition, down on previous years. The open section received 6 entries and 11 in the small display section. Judges were Meridian Energy representative Brian Elwood and Councilor Peter Foley. Winners in the open section were a group of Elizabeth street residents who were awarded \$300, and the small display section was won by Casey Dennison from Hughes Street. People choice was awarded to S Thomassen of Belt Street. It is noted that on judging night traditionally hundreds of cars are out and about admiring the lights, however it was reported that significantly less were seen with year.

South Canterbury Busking Festival

This, the 15th annual South Canterbury Busking Festival drew crowds of equal or greater than previous years. The hot sunny day brought crowds from around the region to enjoy the myriad of wacky entertainers. We were struggling to secure acts after some pulled out to perform at Nelson's extended festival and one in Auckland, but it all fell into place at the last minute. Food stall sites were booked out and we were pleased with the variety of other sites. Seventeen out of the sixty three site holders, were from the Waimate district, plus two local promotional sites which we offered at no charge.

Waimate Tee- Shirts

We have available for sale three new tee-shirt designs promoting Waimate. Initial sales have gone well with one design requiring a re-order. Two of these popular designs are shown below:



Library

Events and Displays

During December the library had a Christmas display, enhanced by the addition of a 6ft decorated Christmas tree donated by Margaret Frazer. With summer the popular season for weddings the library displayed their Wedding books and for school holidays the new DVD selection.

The feature for January was the book sale with several deleted books moving out the door.

Firsts

January was a month of surprises and changes.

- As a start to their digital collection the library scanned their first book. The booklet about Dr Margaret Cruickshank was printed around 1923. This now enables members access to the book without risking damage.
- Highest monthly cash collection – The monthly cash collected was \$2,127, an increase of \$525 on the previous record set in September 2007. Contributing factors are the sale of deleted books and record rental figures.
- Circulation Up – Total circulation for the month of January has shown growth over the past three years. This differs from expectations as a warm summer generally indicates slower library activity.

Reshuffle of the Large Print Books

Firstly, the older and less popular books were taken off the shelves, and the remainder were relabeled and given new spine markings to simplify the layout of the collection. The deleted books were included in the book sale. Recent publicity highlighted the new large print collection and the books are proving popular with members.

Proposed Fee Change

In the fees and charges proposal for 2008/09 I have suggested that Council allow people from outside the District the opportunity to use the Waimate District Library without paying an extra fee. They would still pay rental fees and any other charges required.

This proposal would be beneficial for people who live outside the district and work in Waimate, and it could reduce the likelihood of people using their friend's library card. The same concept is being discussed in other areas nationwide and I have been in contact with the manager of the Waitaki Library who is proposing the same concept for their district.

Carolyn Johns
Community Services Manager – 11 February 2007

Waimate Calendar of Events – www.waimate.org.nz

February	Waimate Market	Saturday mornings, 9-12 noon. Waimate Knitwear, Studholme Street
17	Museum Open Day & Opening of Douglas School	1.30pm - Unveiling of plaque in honour of the late Murray Gardener. 1.45pm - Opening of Douglas School followed by open day of Museum.
22-23	Waimate Autumn Flower Show	Knox Centennial Hall, Shearman St. 1pm – 4pm.
29	Woodcraft Expo	Official Opening and prize giving
March 08	Waimate Market	Saturday mornings, 9-12 noon. Waimate Knitwear, Studholme Street
1	Country Music Charity Concert	Regent Theatre 7pm. \$10 entry
1-2	Waimate Woodcraft Expo	A celebration of woodcraft at the Waimate Stadium. \$5 entry under 15 free.
1-2	March Hare Motorcycle Rally	Waimate Show grounds
8	Promenade In The Park	Seddon Square, Queen St, Waimate. 11am start.
15	Centennial School Fair	Centennial School Grounds 4pm – 7pm
15	Playcentre Garage Sale	Waimate Playcentre, 6 Belt St, 9am – 12 noon.
29	Knottingley Park Relay	Knottingley Park. Walkers, joggers and running teams of 5.