

# Message from the Mayor

Waimate 2020

## Warm Greetings Residents



It is with pleasure I present this message in a district where we are seeing values of properties increase like never before and a very positive mood prevailing in many other aspects of our daily lives. Waimate District had a great year of celebrations and events during the past year. The anniversary of 150 years of European settlement being the pinnacle of those enjoyed by residents and visitors to the district.

Last year was the first attempt by Council to put together the Long Term Community Plan. It was a commendable effort reflecting ideas put forward by a community panel, staff and public submissions.

This year's LTCCP will see Council come much closer to a plan that is hoped will see our district through the next ten years, giving residents a clear direction of social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being in the future.

Council staff added Influencing Agencies and Organisations (IAOs) to the plan this year, a title that does take a bit to get your head around. Maybe 'Partnering Organisations' might be a little clearer. Something of a surprise is that there are one hundred of these partnering organisations, some of which we know so little as to what they provide and which our community may not be fully utilising to their best advantage. With these organisations written into the LTCCP, the community will now be able to be more aware of what is available.

Otaio Makikihi Rural Water Scheme has seen a new supplementary main installed which has allowed new subscribers and existing consumers to increase their units of water to their desired allocation. The Waikakahi Rural Water Scheme is to be upgraded, with staff and committee members of this scheme working through issues to achieve this.

While there is growth in our district and town, Council must seize this opportunity to provide infrastructure that will enhance this growth. Parts of the town of Waimate are growing faster than others and need Council to give some clear direction of areas where services will be provided and the associated costs. A calculated gamble may have to be taken by Council as to where the most growth will take place.

The recent Queen Street property purchase by Council of Dawsons Emporium building was seen as an opportunity that may fill Council's future needs for library expansion and other community development. Council will be consulting with the community before the final outcome is reached on how it will best be utilised.

The north end of Queen Street upgrade of footpaths has definitely enhanced this end of Waimate and while it was at considerable cost, it did come in under budget.

Recycling of the District's waste is due to start in July, which has taken a lot longer to commence than I envisaged. While there will be no cost savings immediately, long term as disposal costs of rubbish increase, I believe this is where the savings will be.

Council has just finished logging one hundred hectares of forestry from Council's forestry estate, which contains thirteen hundred hectares. Whilst the market has been very depressed, Council will still get close to the expected income that was budgeted.

Five years will lapse before Council will log any more of its forestry, so let's hope in the meantime the exchange rate and the markets improve.

While Council makes the rates, Central Government seem to be making the rules and regulations by which Council has to work, which is shifting the cost to the rate payer of our district. The howls of protest are getting louder from most councils. But I wonder is the government prepared to listen?

The importance of a Civil Defence Plan has been highlighted by the recent tsunami in Asia. Council will need your support and help to complete this plan over the coming months, so that we are as prepared as we can be in the event of any emergency.

A Sport and Recreation Plan is being formulated to help with future funding and finding community needs. This plan will also help with decisions around the upgrading of the Waimate Stadium.

With the Long Term Council Community Plan comprising several volumes, Council has endeavoured to place each of its activities in separate sections, making it easier to find the information people may require.

Thank you to the councillors and staff for their input into this Plan.

John Coles JP

Mayor of Waimate District