



Community Services Manager's Report – September 2005

Information Centre

Special Packs

Six potential residents' and eight new residents' packs were given out in August.

2006 Waimate Calendar

The calendars are now on sale at the Information Centre.

Waimate Strip Maps

We are currently working on a reprint of these popular maps. Advertising space is sold out and now waiting for final proof from printer.

Accommodation Clearfiles

Information Officer Phillipa Anderson has completed the annual update of the accommodation clearfiles which contain information on attractions and activities in the district.

Tourism Newsletter

Contributed to the content and distributed to local operators the quarterly tourism newsletter covering the Central South Island region.

NZ Motor Cross Championships

The South Canterbury Motorcycle Club hosted this national event at Kapua on 10 & 11 September. Staff at the Information Centre actively assisted the organisers with contacts for accommodation, food vendors and marshals.

Otago Daily Times

We approached the editor of the Otago Daily Times with a request to include Waimate's location on their daily weather map. I am pleased to report our request was successful.

2005 VIN Conference

Information Officer Donette Fargher attended the annual Visitor Information Network conference held 4 – 6 September in the Bay of Islands.

Speakers: Peter Kenyon – recognising opportunities, Mark Hadlow – Passion

Workshops: Technology – The future
Building your profile – regional perspective
Selling our product – closing the sale
Working with Local Government – maximise the relationship

Comment from Donette:

"This would be the best conference I have attended. Inspirational speakers and workshops touching on ideas that I wish to implement from our office, for example, posters to be placed on the inside of toilets saying..."Don't just sit there! Do something while you're here in Waimate", then giving some suggestions on attractions and activities."

Tourism Get-together

The final tourism get-together for the year is to be held on Thursday 22 September at the Old School Café, Ikawai. Guest speaker, Alison Lewin from Oamaru will talk on the Waitaki Heritage Alive initiative, and collective marketing. Historically we have good attendance at these functions and according to bookings to date this one will be no exception.

Economic Development Strategy

I recently meet with Dan Olykan from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise to discuss planning for an economic development strategy. It was agreed that council should firstly undertake a business audit to find out more about our local businesses, their characteristics, labour needs, business development, issues etc. Currently I am gathering information from other districts who have conducted similar surveys.

Focus Groups

We are about to embark on the second round of focus group meetings which aim to address some of the issues that people highlighted in the initial meetings. Included on the agenda items are updates on Council activities, for example progress on the recreation plan. We have initiated a heads-up section where an organization is invited to speak to the group about their activities.

The next focus group meetings are scheduled for:

- Social – Wednesday 14 September 2005
- Cultural – Wednesday 28 September 2005
- Economic – Wednesday 19 October 2005

Meetings

- 1) Strawberry Fare committee meeting – 3 August
- 2) Special Social Services sub group meeting – youth/community worker – 4 August
- 3) Social Services committee meeting – 11 August
- 4) Local Government Zone 5 meeting – 25 August
- 5) Pro-Ject Waimate special meeting – 22 August
- 6) Christchurch & Canterbury Marketing meeting – 1 September
- 7) New Zealand Trade & Enterprise – 1 September

Library

DVD's

To keep up with demand Mavis recently purchased over 100 new DVD's, which are proving to be very popular. This is the first DVD purchase for the library and will in the future replace videos.

Activities

July

Waihaorunga School visited the library 7 July

St Patrick's school (2 classes) visited the library 28 July

August

Author workshop by Sandy McKay on 10 August attended by 20 children from Waituna Creek School.

Waihaorunga School visited the library on 19 August

John Street Kindergarten visited on the 25 August and 30 August

A documentary on local author Ken Catran was filmed in the Library on 27 August.

Display & Demonstrations

July

Floral art display by winning artist L Bailey

"Hot Tips for Parents"

August

Waituna Creek school pottery display 08 August – 14 August

Ken Catran display 19 August – 10 September

Makikihi school's 3D sculptures display – 26 August – 30 August

Carolyn Johns
Community Services Manager – 12 September 2005