

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

In an exciting triumph for the Waimate District, the Council have recently been successful in their proposal to receive \$250,000 in funding under the nationwide Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) initiative. Launched as a direct response to COVID-19, the initiative aims to assist rural and smaller councils in helping to bolster youth employment opportunities and find work for those who have been displaced by COVID-19.

The funding will help create jobs in a variety of sectors throughout the district and clearly identify potential opportunities. Helping to identify those job openings will be the Employment Coordinator, with the Council presently recruiting for this role on a fixed term basis.

The Employment Coordinator will work alongside local business owners to assist with recruitment, training, guidance and employment subsidies. We see this position as a close link between Council and local businesses, and as part of the initial proposal, early survey feedback has indicated many business owners will be looking for staff in the short to medium term.

To get the initial \$250,000 is excellent news and we're confident the funding is going to be a significant boost to continue growing the district in the right direction. As a result of this, there's going to be some great opportunities opening up that will push our case for additional funding down the line, and we plan to continue building on this momentum.

In other news, we're delighted to have our lakes' camping season officially open and underway, with all the early signs pointing to a bumper season. Hundreds of early bird campers took the opportunity to set their site up on set-up day late last month, though with an abundance of space and a stunning panoramic backdrop, any spot in the Waimate Lakes Camping areas is always a good place to be.

For those new to our district, please take a moment to familiarise yourselves with the campground rules, enjoy everything the area has to offer and most importantly, stay safe.

OFFSETTING CARBON EMISSIONS



Those more familiar with Council's Waimate Lakes camping grounds will see some significant changes to the landscape this year, specifically at Fisherman's Bend.

In a partnership with the Waimate District Council, the Meridian-led Forever Forests initiative will allow both parties to offset carbon emissions and bring long-term environmental and biodiversity benefits to the district at no cost to ratepayers.

Launched late last year, the programme sets out to plant more than 1.5 million seedlings around the country, with Meridian first focusing on their own land across hydro stations, wind farms and other vacant space, before looking further afield.

In recent weeks, wilding pines and poplar trees have been removed from the Fisherman's Bend Campground at Lake Aviemore, prompting minor concern among some campers.

Mayor Rowley acknowledged any initial concern, but provided assurance the change in landscape would benefit the area in the long-term.

"We understand that in these early stages it looks like there is a scar on the land, but when it comes to achieving change and environmental good, sometimes you have to take a step back and look at the bigger picture . . . and this is what it takes," he said.

"A good mix of totara and sterile radiata attenuata has been planted in the affected space, which will not only be better for the environment, but in the long-term, leave a lasting legacy for future generations."

Rowley added no other Council-owned camping areas would be subject to similar large scale projects.

TED D'AUVERGNE UNVEILING - NEW DATE SET



With COVID-19 putting stop to both previous dates, the Council and the Waimate Charitable Trust will be hoping it's a case of third time lucky early next month.

With COVID alert levels now back at Level 1, a new date has been set for Saturday 7 November 2020 at 5pm (seated by 4.45pm).

This event will mark the official unveiling for the Ted d'Auvergne Sculpture outside the Waihao Forks Hotel, with the statue commemorating all those soldiers throughout the Waimate District who served in World War II.

Ted's story is well known, a soldier who left Waimate in 1940 for World War II vowing to return to finish a beer he left at the bar of the Waihao Forks Hotel. Officially meeting his maker on 3 June 1941 in Crete, suffice to say Ted never did return and to this day, that bottle remains on display in a glass case within the hotel.

The statue is the handy-work of Akaroa-based sculptor Donald Paterson, who was commissioned to create the commemorative bronze masterpiece by the Ted d'Auvergne Sculpture Project Fundraising Committee. For further information please contact Karalyn Reid – karalyn@waimatedc.govt.nz or by phone 03 6890038.

RUBBISH COLLECTION CHANGES SET FOR 2021

Council is already working on the transition from the existing waste management contract towards the new multi-bin service. The new service, awarded to Envirowaste earlier this year, is due to start 1 July 2021. Under these new collection changes, four bins will be used, comprising 240 litre Organics Bin (weekly), 240 litre Recycle Bin (fortnightly), 140 litre Refuse Bin (fortnightly) and a 60 litre Glass Crate (weekly).

Over the next six months, Council will be communicating how the service will operate, what waste and recycle streams will be accepted and what bin to use for various items, but in the meantime, it's business as usual until the transition takes effect.

Under this new contract, we are excited about the increased level of service that we can offer and the waste minimisation outcomes that can be achieved.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE DISTRICT PLAN

The District Plan is put together every 10 years, and contains Council's objectives, policies, rules and maps for managing activities and development in the Waimate District.

The District Plan sets the framework for managing and addressing key resource management issues such as the effect of land use and subdivision, noise and traffic.

The main goal of the District Plan is to sustainably manage the natural and physical resources of the Waimate District to meet the needs of current and future generations and to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing and for their health and safety.

In summary, the rules of the District Plan set out what activities you can do as of right and what activities you'll need resource consent for. The District Plan is also subject to ongoing monitoring and review.

Later this month, Council will be seeking public feedback on a number of key issues relating to the District Plan. A survey link will be publicised through the Council Noticeboard in the Waimate Trader and featured on Council's Facebook page and website.