

NEWSLINE

21 NOVEMBER 2024



COUNCIL PRACTISES EMERGENCY RESPONSE

We can't predict earthquakes, but we can prepare for them.

Waimate District Council prepared by joining an national, multi-agency exercise called Pandora, on Thursday 7 November. The exercise was based on an AF8 scenario - a magnitude 8 or higher earthquake along the alpine fault. The alpine fault runs most of the length of the South Island roughly along the Southern Alps.

With a 75 per cent chance of an alpine fault rupture in the next 50 years, and an 80 per cent chance it will be a magnitude 8+ event, preparation is critical. The aftermath will require a coordinated multi-agency and community response, so the better prepared we are beforehand, the easier it will be to support each other during the recovery.

During the Pandora exercise Council staff deployed into their Civil Defence roles and responded to simulated events arising from the rupture of the alpine fault. "Exercising is a core part of readiness, helping us to identify gaps and issues," Canterbury Regional Emergency Management Team Leader Phill Mackay said.

"We're able to integrate the learnings we identify into our plans and procedures post-exercise. This improves our ability to not only respond to, but also recover from emergencies."

Here in Canterbury, we are not strangers to emergencies, and we know they come in many different forms and are unpredictable. Now is a great time to get your whanau together and plan to be ready for an emergency.

Practising your plan with your family, friends, and community helps everyone understand what they can do to support each other in an emergency event.

For advice and ideas on where to start with your plan, go to www.getready.govt.nz/prepared/household/make-a-plan

GET READY

SEASONAL CHANGE FOR GARDENS

Keep an eye out this month as Parks and Reserves staff update the seasonal plant displays throughout the town. These popular features can be found in prominent areas like the hanging baskets on Queen Street and the flower gardens in Victoria Park.

Council staff have also taken this opportunity to introduce fresh potting mix to the beds, making transplanting easier and reducing maintenance needs.

Additionally, the aged pergola made of rusted railway iron on the eastern side of Victoria Park has been replaced with a new macrocarpa structure, which will soon be lined with box hedging and fragrant flowers.



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know our Mayor undertakes many different roles and responsibilities in addition to chairing meetings, and leading our team of eight elected members?

- Our Mayor receives many invitations to attend local, regional and sometimes national events and celebrations, and does his best to attend them personally, often performing official duties such as delivering a speech or making a presentation.
- He attends various formal events such as Anzac and Armistice Day, Seafarer's services, award ceremonies, school events and gives regular updates to local groups.
- He also attends out-of-the-district meetings, such as the Canterbury Mayoral Forum, and Local Government New Zealand meetings where he works diligently to influence important legislation affecting our district.
- Occasionally, our Mayor celebrates important civic or state events such as the King's Coronation last year, and leads fundraisers for special events. He might host visiting dignitaries such as the Prime Minister, Governor-General, or other Government ministers.
- Each year he recognises a handful of our district's volunteers at the annual Waimate District Civic Awards. Sometimes he may get involved in the occasional special cause, such as leading the team that fundraised for the Ted d'Auvergne sculpture at the Waihao Forks.
- From time to time, Mayoral duties also involve visiting our local centenarians, sending out congratulatory letters for special celebrations, events or achievements, providing letters of support for funding or residency applications, conducting citizenship ceremonies, and acting as a Justice of the Peace when required.

So that's a whole lot of work, aside from the daily emails and correspondence, regular meetings with the Chief Executive, and chairing Council meetings and workshops, where decisions are made on behalf of Waimate ratepayers and residents.

To contact the Office of the Mayor please email MayorCraigRowley@waimatedc.govt.nz

→ Rates reminder

The second instalment for the 2024/25 financial year is due on 29 November 2024.

Please ensure payment is made by the due date to avoid late payment penalties. Late payment penalties will not apply if an arrangement has been agreed.

Call us on 03 689 0000 or email rates@waimatedc.govt.nz if you would like to discuss a payment plan - we're here to help.

Did you know you can now use your credit card to pay your rates on the Council website? All you need to do is click on the 'Pay Online' button, select 'Rates', enter the valuation number and the amount you wish to pay, and click 'Pay Now'.

Of course, you can continue with the other payment options if you prefer - cash, EFTPOS and direct debit.

MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS DRIVING SUCCESS



The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs team attended the Southern Canterbury A&P Show in Waimate earlier this month to showcase local employment opportunities, connect with employers, and promote its driver licensing program.

Employment Coordinator Lisa Dobson shared that since July, 13 people have directly gained employment through the programme, and many others are being assisted with training, upskilling, and work readiness.

Lisa acknowledged that it's currently a tough environment for job seekers. "Before Christmas, the job market typically slows down, and it is also a challenging economic climate for businesses," Lisa noted.

"We are grateful to our local businesses that do their best to provide opportunities and employ locals. It is often challenging to look for work, but it pays to be proactive and not be afraid to ask employers directly about upcoming vacancies."

Along with connecting job seekers to employment, the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs also assists with training and job readiness.

A significant part of this effort includes helping people attain their driver licences. In August, Driver Licence Programme Coordinator Deborah Kibble began providing lessons locally. Since then, she has conducted 82 lessons, with more than 40 learner drivers currently registered in the programme.

Jobseekers and employers can contact Lisa by emailing lisa.dobson@waimatedc.govt.nz



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