

MAYOR'S COLUMN



Mayor Craig Rowley

Rotary Club of Waimate do some fine work in our community and last week they launched a new project which Council is very proud to be part of.

They have commissioned a covered trailer (see below) that has been partially sponsored by Council and is being made available to the community and it's thanks to local businesses that have helped make this a reality. As well as Rotary undertaking the lions share of fundraising, businesses such as Stowell Motors and Colourprint have also contributed with the construction and signwriting of the trailer. This is a great example of co-operation that the whole community can benefit from.



ANNUAL PLAN 2019/20



It has been 12 months since we adopted the 2018-28 Long Term Plan, signalling plans to grow the local economy and upgrade essential infrastructure. That work is well underway and as we start the next financial year (1 July 2019) completing planned projects will help achieve our goals.

Water treatment upgrades and addressing our deteriorating roads will continue to be a focus. Upgrading and improving our water supplies is a very big challenge with numerous upgrades scheduled to take

place over the next 10 years (the life of the Long Term Plan). This year we'll be concentrating on three supplies – Lower Waihao, Waikakahi and Waimate.

We also have other planned projects, some smaller than others, but necessary nonetheless.

On top of all that, there's the work we do to keep our district humming along. It often goes unnoticed but without it, we wouldn't have the services and facilities people expect.

Of course, we're conscious of costs and appreciate most of the money to pay for this comes from rates. A year ago we predicted an average rates increase of 5.7%. That's been recalculated and we're now looking at an average increase of 5.48%.

The next 12 months is proving to be another busy year ahead and we're looking forward to the challenges and opportunities we've identified.

REASON TO CELEBRATE



Millions of dollars are spent on essential infrastructure. Investing this amount of money is a serious business and it's equally important that staff are qualified and trained to manage these complex systems.

On that basis, we have reason to celebrate two recent accolades.

Roading Technician, Shelley

Wilson, recently graduated with a New Zealand Diploma in Civil Engineering from the Western Institute of Technology at Taranaki (WITT).

Shelley is a highly respected member of the Roding Team who has excelled in her professional career, gaining this qualification whilst juggling a busy role and family life. Working in an often male-dominated sector, she has learned a great deal on-the-job as well as through her academic studies. Shelley's aptitude and formal education complement each other as she continues to cement her role, bringing insights, skills and knowledge that in turn result in accomplishments for the wider community.

Dion Glenie, Utilities Supervisor, has proven to be a natural leader and, like Shelley, has the respect of his team and all his colleagues. His ability to not only learn new skills himself, but encourage his team, have been formally recognised with an award.

At the recent prestigious Water Industry Operators Group (WIOG) conference, Dion won the Mentor of the Year award. Over 300 industry experts and representatives witnessed Dion being given the award, acknowledging the mentoring Dion has given his team – Malcolm McLennan, Matt Devlin and Scott Buckingham – as they've studied for the National Certificate in Water Treatment (Level 4). For his efforts, Dion's prize is a trip to the Australian equivalent of the WIOG conference and a week-long tour of water treatment plants in South Australia (all expenses included).

THANKS!



Mayor Craig Rowley accepts a \$1,000 donation from Phil Herriott, President of the Deep South Patriots Defence Force Motorcycle Club for the Ted d'Auvergne Sculpture Project.

The Fundraising Committee has raised just over \$35,000 for the sculpture, and is well on their way towards their target of \$50,000. Committee members will be selling \$5 tickets for a Monster Raffle outside Waimate New World on 11 June and 5 July. Tickets are also available from the Waihao Forks Hotel and Loot Jewellers. Donations can be made at BNZ Waimate and the 'Ted's Bottle – Sculpture' Give-A-Little page.

FROST PLUGS

Winter is fast approaching so if you're connected to a rural water scheme, now is a good time to ensure you have sufficient insulation around your water pipes, including your restrictor.

Even with insulation, it's still possible that your frost plug might pop out from the restrictor when it's really cold. You can get frost plugs from Council (it might pay to have some on hand before this happens) and if you're unsure how to fit a new plug check out a helpful video at waimatedc.govt.nz.



ELECTIONS AT WAIMATE LIBRARY

From Monday 10 June to Friday 12 July you can choose your favourite animal by voting at our special polling booth!

Your local candidates are Cupcake the Cat, Wilbur the Worm and Dexter the Dog. Find out more about the candidates at the Waimate District Library. See you there!

Vote for me!

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