Hundreds get on board Selwyn Link

Over 500 people made use of the free Selwyn Link bus trial over two days in the April school holidays.

The nine-stop bus service was offered to the community by the Selwyn Youth Council, with buses traveling from Southbridge to Darfield and Darfield to Southbridge, via Rolleston.

The bus service was designed with the aim of reducing isolation in the community, and providing better access to services and activities.

Paige Sullivan, Selwyn Youth Council Chairperson says the service was well received by the community.

“It was great to see all age groups taking advantage of the service, with kids off to spend their pocket money in Rolleston, young people heading into Christchurch and the elderly enjoying a day trip getting out and about across the district.”

The route was designed after the Youth Council consulted with students from Ellesmere College and Darfield High School about what they would like in a bus service in terms of timings and stop locations.

Members of the Youth Council collected feedback about the service on board the buses with a short passenger survey. They will present their findings to the Selwyn District Council at their June meeting, and to Environment Canterbury later this year.

Submissions invited on the Council’s Draft Gambling Venue Policy

The Council’s Gambling Venue Policy sets out if and where non-casino gaming machines or “pokie machines” can be located in the district and also provides restrictions on the number of machines at the venues.

Since the current policy was adopted in March 2015 the population of the district has increased from 49,500 to approximately 60,000 and there have been more restaurants and bars established to service this increased population.

The Council’s existing policy has a cap of 107 machines.

The proposed draft policy includes:

- a cap of 120 machines
- limits new venues to a maximum of 5 machines
- venues that are operating less than 5 machines to have a maximum of 5 machines.

These provisions seek to strike a balance between community benefit (funding and entertainment) and the harm caused by problem gambling.

The consultation period runs from Monday 28 May – Friday 29 June.

The proposed Policy, submission forms and a statement of proposal are available at all Council service centres and libraries and on the Council’s website yoursay.selwyn.govt.nz from Monday 28 May.

You can make your submission online or by emailing submissions@selwyn.govt.nz.

Written submissions can be addressed to: The Regulatory Manager, Selwyn District Council, Reviewed Gambling Venue Policy 2018, PO Box 90, Rolleston.

Update on District Plan Review

Selwyn District Council has been preparing a range of topics for initial public consultation as part of its District Plan Review.

At its May meeting the Council’s District Plan Committee received the latest round of reports on a number of different topics, indicating a preferred option on draft changes to the current Plan, which will form the starting point for engaging with the wider community.

“While the recent public attention has been on the Long-Term Plan for the district, the Council has also been engaging with stakeholders and partners on a range of topics which are under review,” says Tim Harris, the Council’s Environmental Services Manager.

“We’re looking at all the rules and policies in the current District Plan – which sets out how our district’s resources need to be managed – and consulting with our partners and stakeholders over what changes, if any, need to be made in the next Plan.

An initial public consultation on a range of matters and draft changes will take place later this year.

For more information on the District Plan Review and opportunities to provide feedback visit the Council’s engagement hub Your Say Selwyn at www.selwyn.govt.nz/yoursay.

Selwyn District Council announces first artist residency

Selwyn District Council is pleased to announce that respected Ngāi Tahu artist, Emma Riha Kitson, has been appointed as the first of four artists in residence in Selwyn.

The Canterbury-born artist and designer is inspired by native New Zealand flora and fauna and Te Ao Māori. Using printmaking methods that whānau can use at home, Emma will explore the intersection of traditional Māori stories and use of bunting to decorate special occasions.

Matariki ki tua o ngā whetū, ‘Matariki of endless possibilities’ uses contemporary Ngā Toi Māori to interpret and celebrate the story of Matariki.

Installed: Artists in Residence is a series of four artist residencies in collaboration with Selwyn District Libraries and the Selwyn arts community, and produced by Council’s Arts, Culture and Heritage Selwyn service.

All are welcome to visit Emma at the Darfield Library and learn about the printmaking process. Emma will be available at the library Monday 11 June to Friday 15 June, between 11am and 5pm.

An evening presentation will be held on Tuesday 12 June from 7–8pm. This will involve learning the skills to make prints at home without a printing press, using recycled and budget materials.

She will also host a Whānau DIY Matariki Bunting workshop, with two sessions on Saturday 16 June, 10am and 1.30pm for all ages and skill levels. Bookings are required for these workshops. Register at selwynlibraries.co.nz.

The remaining artist residencies will be offered at Rolleston (Youth), Lincoln (Literature) and Leeston (Digital Art) libraries, in October 2018, February 2019, and April 2019 respectively.

On the roads this week

Digout repairs and sealing patches will be occurring on Waimakariri Gorge Road. Drainage works will occur on Pig Saddle Road and Lyndon Road. Please stop on request at these sites. Footpath reconstruction will be carried out in Arthur’s Pass and Rakaia Huts.
Drive to the conditions this winter

Selwyn District Council and Police are reminding motorists of the dangers of winter driving as the wintry months approach.

Weather conditions such as fog, rain, icy roads, sun strike and snow pose challenges for even the most skilled drivers. Reduced visibility and traction on the roads can lead to road crashes.

Senior Sergeant Pete Stills of the New Zealand Police says there are inherent risks in winter driving, but motorists can act to improve road safety.

“Make sure you have sufficient tread depth on your tires and that your brakes are in warrant of fitness condition,” says Sergeant Stills. “Ensure your wiper blades are in good condition and can clear your windscreen easily. Drive with your lights on, and watch your following distances and speed on curves and through bends.

“Be mindful of wet and shaded roads where ice can form. Bridges are risky due to being very cold through having no ground immediately below them,” he says.

Crash statistics from Selwyn show that between 2013 and 2017 there were two as many accidents in the morning peak period of 6-9am in the winter months (June, July and August) as in the summer months (December, January and February).

The Council’s road contractors will be monitoring local roads for ice and laying grit when needed throughout winter. Motorists still need to drive carefully and reduce their speed when driving on grit.