Economic confidence, continuing growth and community development are key themes in the Council’s latest Annual Report, just released.

The 2017/18 report notes that with a population estimated at over 60,000 Selwyn is now the third-largest territorial authority in the South Island – and our economy is growing at double the national average.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the Council is continuing to play a central role in providing the essential services, infrastructure and facilities to support a growing community.

“We’re pleased to be contributing to Selwyn’s success,” he says. “Our results for the year outline the investment we are making to support our communities and make sure we are well placed to accommodate the growth that we expect will continue for some time.”

During 2017/18 the Council achieved 88% of its performance targets for the year – a 2% increase on the previous year.

Building activity has remained strong with 2,458 building consents issued during the year, reflecting the ongoing development of new residential subdivisions.

Major new community facilities this year included the opening of the Dunsandel and Tai Tapu Community Centres, with West Melton opening shortly, while earthquake strengthening was completed at Ladbrooks and Springfield halls. Progress was made on the planned Rolleston town centre with initial concept designs released.

Work continued to develop Foster Park as an important sport and recreation hub, including the completion of a new playground and additional sports fields, and extending the footpath network.

Major road projects included intersection upgrades at two busy Rolleston locations, Masefield Drive/Rolleston Drive and Jones Road/Hoskyns Road. Both projects included installation of traffic lights, footpaths and other infrastructure.

Across the district, this year the Council completed rescaling on 77.1 kilometres of roads, repaired 5,273 potholes and maintained over 1,000 kilometres of sealed roads.

A major upgrade to the Pines Wastewater Treatment Plant included a new bio-reactor and upgrades to the sludge solar drying hall and UV treatment system.

New community initiatives launched this year included the Show Me Selwyn bus tours and Everything Selwyn website, both aimed at supporting newcomers to the district. The Council also delivered an expanded Summer in Selwyn event programme, and helped celebrate our growing diversity through events like CultureFest.

Overall the Council’s financial position remains sound. Expenditure for the year was $100.6 million compared with budget of $99 million. Revenue for the year was $146 million compared with budget of $128.6 million. Population and housing growth resulted in higher than anticipated rates, while vested assets are a non-cash item and are also not available to reduce rates.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the Council is continuing to play a central role in providing the essential services, infrastructure and facilities to support a growing community.

“Road safety starts at home but children can be a bit rusty after a few weeks off so keep a close eye out for them,” she says.

“If it’s the right time to refresh your kids on the kerb drill, to watch out for sneaky driveways and to check they are wearing their helmets and hi viz,”

If your children walk or bike to school independently take them on practice bike rides or walks to school while the roads are quiet.

“Find a safe route that minimises the amount of road crossing they have to do, the shortest route may not always be the safest,”

The kerb drill:
1. Stop one step back from the kerb.
2. Look and listen for traffic coming from all directions.
3. If there is traffic coming, wait until it has passed and then look and listen for traffic again.
4. If there is no traffic coming, walk quickly straight across the road.
5. While crossing, lock and listen for traffic, wherever it may come from.

Plenty of opportunities from Sister Cities expedition

Mayor Sam Broughton has identified a number of parallels between Selwyn and our sister cities, during his recent trip to China and Japan.

Mayor Broughton, Deputy Mayor Malcolm Lyall and Councillor Bob Mugford and Malvern Community Board member Karen Meares took part in the 20-day trip to China and Japan.

The trip was part of the Sister Cities Programme, aiming to promote cultural understanding, co-operation and economic development.

Mayor Broughton says while in the Gansu Province, the delegation saw a number of industries local Selwyn businesses could potentially form relationships with.

“We saw in Gansu Province was an area that farmed grain and livestock, as well as producing wine.

“It was fascinating to see so many parallels between some of our key export earners and what one of our sister cities produces,”

Mayor Broughton says.

With the identification of potential links Mayor Broughton will now be investigating how to take advantage of the similarities, and look for ways that local businesses can develop relationships with firms in Gansu.

Mayor Broughton and the rest of the delegation were amazed at the hospitality offered to them during their trip to China and Japan, and will be looking to reciprocate when hosting trips in the future.
Starting this year, the Youth Council have decided to conduct their own annual youth survey to help understand the needs of the Selwyn community.

Each year Selwyn District Council conducts a residents’ survey to better understand the needs of the Selwyn community. Learning, working and playing in Selwyn.

The survey is open until Wednesday 31 October for any young person living in Selwyn between the ages of 13–24.

Complete the survey by Wednesday 24 October and you’ll be in the draw for an early bird $50 Prezzy Card.

Go to the Selwyn Youth Council’s Facebook page for more information and a link to the survey.

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