School’s back, take care on crossings

Selwyn District Council is asking drivers to stay alert for children as schools return during the coming week. Over 9,500 Selwyn children will be travelling to school from Monday 29 January, up from 8,000 in 2017.

Many of these young people will be getting off and on school buses, in and out of cars and walking, biking and scooting to and from school.

Council School Road Safety Coordinator Stephanie Hautler reminds drivers that the only time drivers must stop for pedestrians is on a pedestrian (zebra) crossing, at a school road patrol or keep crossing when the stop lollipops are out, and when pedestrians have a green man at traffic signals.

A crossing point is an area that has been deemed by Council as the best place for pedestrians to cross the road. It may have kerb buildouts to shorten the crossing distance and some may have a pedestrian refuge in the middle of the road to cross the road in stages.

Pedestrians need to stop, look and listen before crossing the road at a cross point and just like any other section of road, vehicles have the right of way.

“I often see drivers stopping to let children cross at cross points. Although drivers may think it’s courteous stopping in the lane, it’s incredibly dangerous and setting our children up for failure. Children may develop an expectation that all vehicles will stop for them,” says Mrs Hautler.

Road safety educational resources for parents and children are available from Selwyn District Council. Email stephanie.hautler@selwyn.govt.nz or phone 347 2705.

On the roads this week

Stabilised seal repairs will be occurring on Kerrs Road, Alesbury Road, Telegraph Road and Leaches Road. Vegetation trimming and drainage works will occur on Waimakariri Gorge Road. A road reconstruction will be carried out on Southbridge Leeston Road. Reseals will be carried out on Rockwood Road and Roleringe Road. Please stop on request at these sites.

Footpath reconstructions will be carried out on Cathcart Crescent. This footpath will be closed during these works.

Water sense over Waitangi Weekend

Formal water restrictions have not been introduced in Selwyn this summer, however, residents are encouraged to continue using their water sense. Council thanks residents for their cooperation in reducing water use during peak usage times (6–9am and 4–8pm), particularly over the Christmas and New Year period.

The Waitangi Day break is another period where very high levels of water demand can occur, caused by people returning from the long weekend irrigating their lawns. This can lead to a decrease in household water pressure and put stress on the water network. The Council asks residents to consider not irrigating lawns or changing lawn irrigation timing to help keep the water networks stable on their return from the long weekend. If demand for water increases over summer, water restrictions may need to be introduced, requiring households to avoid watering lawns at specific times.

Council services on Waitangi Day

Rubbish and recycling collection will occur as normal on Tuesday 6 February. Bin collection times can vary from week to week so please have your bins out by 7.30am (or 7am on State Highway 1). The Pines Resource Recovery Park is open from 10am–4pm.

Selwyn District Libraries and Service Centres, Rolleston Community Centre and Lincoln Event Centre are closed on Waitangi Day. The Selwyn Aquatic Centre is open from 8am–8pm, Southbridge, Shefield and Darfield Pools will be open from 1–7pm.

District Plan Review launches with heritage focus

A major review of the Selwyn District Plan is now under way, with an initial focus on identifying heritage items that might be added to the Plan.

The Council wants to hear from the community about whether any additional items of cultural and historic value, such as historic buildings, places or monuments, should be added to the new District Plan.

More than 120 heritage items are currently listed in the District Plan.

“We want to know whether there are any other assets that people want to see protected for the district’s current and future generations,” says Environmental Services Manager Tim Harris.

The public consultation on heritage items is the first stage of public engagement on the review of the current District Plan.

“A district plan is essentially a ‘rule book’ which sets district-wide rules for sustainably managing our natural and physical resources,” Mr Harris says. “So it’s important that people get involved in the review and have a say about what can and cannot be done on land.

“We hope to gather feedback from our ratepayers and stakeholders this year on a wide range of topics. This will help ensure we end up with a Plan that reflects our communities’ needs and expectations.”

The proposed District plan is scheduled to be notified in 2020. Residents can keep up to date with the District Plan Review, and find out about when and how they can have a say during the review, through the Council’s dedicated website at www.selwyndistrictplan.co.nz.

“To make it as easy as possible for people to share their views and comments, we’ll be offering a range of ways that people can interact with the review and contribute through drop-in sessions and online platforms as well as formal submission processes,” Mr Harris says.

Nominations for new heritage items close at 5pm on Monday 5 March 2018.

Intersection upgrade to begin

A major project to install traffic lights at the Masefield Drive/ Rolleston Drive intersection in Rolleston will begin this Thursday.

The works include cycle lanes and footpaths (both separate and shared), as well as storm water work and road resurfacing.

This is a major project in the Rolleston Town Centre Master Plan which will improve safety while providing for increased vehicle, cycle and pedestrian traffic through this busy intersection. It also provides for traffic associated with the Christchurch Southern Motorway.

Although both Rolleston Drive and Masefield Drive will remain open at all times, there will be some disruption to traffic during the construction period, with temporary lower speed limits and other restrictions such as lane shifts and stop/go controls.

- Construction will occur from 7am-6pm, Monday to Sunday and overnight from 6pm–8am, Sunday to Thursday.
- No-parking cones will be in place. The area is to be kept clear to allow enough space for traffic lanes and the work site.
- All works are subject to weather and on-site conditions.
- The bus stop in front of Countdown may need to be closed at times. A temporary bus stop will be available in front of 51 Rolleston Drive during these times.

Opus International Consultants Ltd have designed the new intersection layout, with Fulton Hogan Ltd awarded the construction contract. The total project cost, including design, construction and other work, is approximately $1.4 million.

The upgrade is planned to be completed in June 2018. For more information go to www.selwyn.govt.nz.

Council Call

Selwyn District Council
Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
Ph 347 2800 or 318 8338

Rolleston Library
Rolleston Drive, Rolleston
Ph 347 2880

Darfield Library & Service Centre
1 South Terrace, Darfield
Ph 318 8338 or 347 2780
The Council’s rollout of water meters across the district’s water supply is continuing in February, with many households to be installed in Selwyn and Waddington.

Around 90% of Council supply households across the district are already on water meters, and this project will complete installations at around 120 households, starting this week.

Metering has been shown to reduce water consumption as it links water use to charging – so households that use less water benefit from lower charges, while those using more pay higher charges.

Households with average water use will find their total charge remains similar to what they currently pay. Households can help avoid incurring extra charges by monitoring their water use - see www.selwyn.govt.nz/watermetering for more information and tips on how to read your water meter.