$500 on the line at pumpkin weigh-in

Last month Mayor Sam Broughton hosted the People’s Pumpkin Party at Foster Park. Local schools, mayors and councillors have been growing pumpkins over the summer and these were all brought along for the big weigh-in.

There were around 15 pumpkins up for judging, among them some huge entries from Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel and local schools. Rolleston School’s mega pumpkin took out the top prize of $500, weighing in at a whopping 31.8kg. The next heaviest was Lincoln School’s pumpkin weighing in at 26.1kg.

Rolleston School students and teachers said the winnings would likely go towards the school’s new playground.

Mayor Sam also ran a competition for students to create an A3 poster about water and nutrient management for growing the pumpkin. A small group of students from Shepherds School won and the prize of $500 will go towards their school.

The idea for the competition came from Selwyn-Waihora Zone Committee chair Allen Lim, to help generate discussion about how things grow in Canterbury and the water and nutrients required to make things grow.

The pumpkins will now be harvested for their seeds, which will be used for the seedlings offered in next year’s competition, which organisers hoped would be bigger and better.

Drop-off days collect tonnes of recyclables

Two Community Recycling Drop-off Days in Malvern and Ellesmere have collected over 25 tonnes of garden waste for composting, along with over 6.5 tonnes of scrap metal and around 160 tyres for recycling.

The two drop-off days were held near Leeston and Darfield providing residents with an alternative drop-off point for their garden waste and some types of recyclables.

Over the two days, 190 vehicles dropped off their garden waste, scrap metal and other recyclables for a small charge. The events were managed by Council’s Contractor, Sicon Ltd. Volunteer assistance was provided by members of the Ellesmere Heritage Park, and in Malvern, the Malvern Lions Club and Hororata Golf Club helped out.

Donations have been made to those organisations in recognition of their volunteer assistance on the respective drop-off days.

Garden waste can normally be disposed of through the kerbside green organics bins in townships or at the Pines Resource Recovery Park near Rolleston. Garden waste can also be composted in your back yard. Information about home composting is available online at www.selwyn.govt.nz/rubbish under the ‘organic collection’ link.

You can also recycle your scrap metal and a range of other recyclables at the Pines Resource Recovery Park free of charge.

Council Solid Waste Manager Andrew Boyd says it was encouraging to see so many residents turn up and dispose of these materials in a way that will benefit the environment, while supporting local groups through donations.

Weedons gets sports facility upgrade

The old existing Weedons Cricket and Tennis Clubrooms are set to be demolished this week to make way for the new Weedons Community Pavilion, an inclusive facility for the tennis and cricket clubs, as well as the wider community.

Demolition should be completed within a week. Building of the new pavilion will then start onsite, with completion targeted for October this year.

The area will be fenced off during demolition and construction, however access to the tennis courts and golf course should not be affected during this time.

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Britannica Library is an award-winning online encyclopedia, with the tools to complete homework assignments, conduct research, or work on special projects at reading levels for children, teens and adults. All branches of knowledge are covered in this interactive resource.

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Get box fit at Rolleston Community Centre

Join the high intensity boxing class at Rolleston Community Centre. This workout includes skipping, agility work, core work and boxing. Partner up to get a boxer’s workout to increase your overall fitness levels while having fun.

Classes run on Wednesdays at 6–6.45pm, and cost $64 for eight weeks. There are only five spots left so get in quick! Come into the centre or phone 347 2882 to enrol.

An exciting cultural opportunity

A month long exchange, from 1–30 September, to Lanzhou, the capital of Gansu is on offer to Selwyn residents and those working in Selwyn.

Gansu Province is situated in northwest China. Selwyn District Council has a Sister City relationship with Shandan in Gansu. Rewi Alley, who was born in Springfield, established schools in Gansu, which is part of the ancient Silk Road and the 21st century Maritime Silk Road.

Fellows from Gansu’s Sister Cities use the month to learn about Chinese history, political systems and culture, Gansu tourism, technology, education, health and economic development.

The Gansu Foreign Affairs Office pays for international travel, accommodation and local transport. Delegates pay for their own food, medical care, travel insurance and a health check including a chest x-ray.

For more details and to apply contact Bernadette Ryan on Bernadette.Ryan@selwyn.govt.nz or phone 03 347 2800. Applicants must be between 22 and 50 years of age and in good health.

Applications close on Tuesday 5 June at 4pm.
Meets Public Forums: Council, Community Board and local committee meetings are open to the public. Time is available at the start of meetings for people to speak on matters of concern. Please contact Bernadette Ryan or your local committee at least three days before the meeting. Township, Hall and Reserve Committees: To list or make changes to meeting details, email meeting.charges@selwyn.govt.nz or phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD

Unless stated meetings held at Rolleston Council Building.

Council Meeting
Wed 21 May 7:30pm

Citizenship Ceremony
Wed 9 May 6:30pm

Council Water Race Subcommittees
Mon 28 May 7:30pm

Long Term Plan Hearings
Wed 23 & Thur 24 May

Malvern Community Board
Mon 28 May 4:30pm, Darfield Library and Service Centre

LOCAL COMMITTEES & ASSOCIATIONS

Coalgate Township Committee
Tue 22 May 7:30pm

On the roads this week

Digout repairs will be occurring on Waimakariri Gorge Road. A reseal will occur on Lake Road South. Please stop on request at these sites. Davis Road bridge will be under repair. Footpath reconstruction will be carried out in Arthur’s Pass and Rakaia Huts.

Intersection upgrades

Masefield Drive/Rolleston Drive

Fulton Hogan worked nights last week, completing pouring the final kerb and channel in the north east corner. They also sealed a portion of the new footpaths. This week they’ll start the road pavement construction, which is expected to take approximately three weeks (weather dependent). This work will also be completed at night, to minimise disruption to traffic during the day.

Jones Road/Hoskyns Road

Last week Isaac Construction were working on the eastern side of Jones Road, preparing to pour the new section of kerb and channel, as well as completing the final storm water works. This week the eastern side of Jones Road will be closed, as planned, to complete the pavement closure. This closure is expected to be in place for one week, before they move to the western side of the intersection.