



Council supports schools to champion local wildlife

Concern for the treatment of tuna longfin eels has inspired school students to design and install an informative new sign at Lincoln's Liffey Springs Reserve.

Eleven environment student leaders from Springston School and 11 from Ararira Springs School worked with the Council and EnviroSchools to research, design, and install the sign on the bank of the Ararira L II River.

The dual-sided display features information from Springston students on the eels' life cycle, growth, and diet on one side. On the other side there is information on the river from the Ararira students. Council biodiversity staff and EnviroSchools guided the learning, while the Council's design team brought the students' plans to life. The project was Council-funded.

Council Senior Biodiversity Specialist Denise Ford said she was thrilled by the students' eagerness to protect the tuna.

"It's great to see students taking action to celebrate our waterways and protect the special wildlife in their local area. This has been a fantastic collaboration between Council, the schools, and EnviroSchools," she said.

Former Springston student Shylo Hobbs, now 14 and at Lincoln High School, said the idea came after hearing of eels being mistreated at the popular reserve.

"We wanted to protect the eels and thought the best way was to teach people about them. Now it's cool to see the sign in real life."

EnviroSchools Waitaha Canterbury advisor Matt Stanford praised the students' leadership.

"They love the tuna and the awa and wanted people to value them too. This was absolutely student-led, with strong support from Council to make it happen," he said.

The sign was unveiled on 7 August, more than 18 months after the idea was first conceived.

Library users loving expanded service

Selwyn library users are loving the expanded digital collection available through a new partnership with Christchurch City Council.

Usage has nearly tripled after the introduction of the new AWA services on 1 July, which sees the two councils operating a shared digital library collection

AWA offers more than 100,000 eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines through the existing Libby library reading app, which users can access on their mobile devices or Kobo eReaders (Kindles aren't compatible).

One month in, borrowing is booming, with 755 new Selwyn Libraries users signing up to the digital collection, compared to 103 in July last year. The number of Selwyn users accessing the service and the number of total check outs almost tripled

with 1469 people accessing the service over July compared to 578 last year, while 9650 titles were downloaded this year compared to 3395 in July 2024.

The numbers are a great start to the trial, showing how valued it is, Council Head of Arts Culture and Lifelong Learning Trina Schuster says.

"We're always looking for new ways to improve our services to the Selwyn community and it's fantastic to see people embracing these services."

Accessing the new digital collection is free and easy for Selwyn Libraries members.

Visit selwynlibraries.co.nz/libby for more information.



Sunday 24 August, 9am-1pm
West Melton Community and Recreation Centre

selwyn.govt.nz/petexpo

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Council and Community Board Meetings

Malvern Community Board Meeting

Monday 25 August, 3.30pm
West Melton Community Centre

Councillor Briefing

Wednesday 27 August, 9am,
Council Chambers

All livestreamed on the Council's website and YouTube channel.



Events

Finances for boards and community organisations

Wednesday 27 August, 10am-12pm
Te Ara Ātea

Bookings required at selwyn.govt.nz/events

FREE

Northbound: Four Seasons of Solitude on Te Araroa

Thursday 28 August, 7-8.30pm
Te Ara Ātea

All ages welcome.

Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events

FREE

Dads Rock – Father's Day Craft

Friday 29 August, 3.30-4.30pm
Rolleston Community Centre

All ages welcome, \$5 per person.

Bookings required at selwyn.govt.nz/events