



Celebrating the world in Selwyn

A festival of flavours, sounds and sights from the many cultures that make up the Waikirikiri Selwyn community will be celebrated at CultureFest on Sunday 14 September.

The popular annual celebration will be held at the Lincoln Event Centre, with crowds of over 5,000 people expected to gather at the popular free-entry family event to enjoy tastes from over 30 food vendors, and exciting cultural performances from over 20 performing groups hailing from all corners of the globe as well as market stalls and traditional crafts and games lounge.

Presly McRae from the Canterbury Solomon Islands Association says this will be the group's third year performing at CultureFest. The group of 10 will be performing three dances that represent different cultures across the island nation. The dances will include a shield dance — a particular favourite of his, using traditional hunting weapons and shields.

Performing at CultureFest helps bring the community closer and stay in touch with their ancestral culture, especially for their children who have grown up in New Zealand, Presly says.

"CultureFest is a good way to showcase our culture to others. It's very important. We're far away from our home; we don't really have that many other Solomon Islands people here, so it keeps our children involved in the culture, to know their roots, where their ancestors are from and what these dances are about."

It is also a fun day to enjoy the other performances and food and interact with other cultures, he says.

The celebrations will continue for two weeks following the main CultureFest event with the return of the community events series featuring screening of cinema from around the world, dance nights, women and girls pool nights, and more. For more information, visit selwyn.govt.nz/culturefest

Youth Zone leaping into the future

We're leaping into the future for young people in Selwyn with the opening of the new Foster Park Youth Zone.

The fences are down and the final work is being completed on the youth zone, which offers a much-needed additional place for young people in Selwyn to get active and have fun, including Selwyn's first parkour area, a 3x3 basketball court and a pump track.

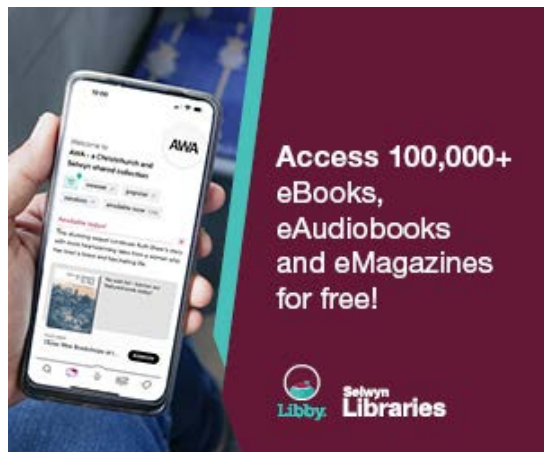
An official opening of the Youth Zone will be held on 20 September, with parkour demonstrations, 3x3 pick up basketball and a DJ adding to the atmosphere.

The youth zone is part of the Master Plan for Foster Park, which was recognised as the Active Park/ Sportsground of the Year, at the Recreation Aotearoa Awards 2024.

Council Executive Director Community Services and Facilities Denise Kidd says that the new Youth Zone completes the Foster Park central area and meets the needs identified by young people in Selwyn through the Council's Piki Amokura Selwyn Youth Strategy adopted last year. The strategy includes a key pillar of making sure that 'Waikirikiri Selwyn is a fun place for me to grow up'.

"The main thing young people told us is that they wanted access to fun sports and spaces for a wide range of different recreation activities including more park and playground spaces.

"We know that people who enjoy growing up here are people who will stay and drawing more activities boosts our economy and our community. The Youth Zone brings all of these, in our premier park and near our largest high school and it's been great to see it already being really well used."



Council and Community Board Meetings

Councillor Briefing

Wednesday 10 September, 9am,
Council Chamber

Council Meeting

Wednesday 17 September, 1pm,
Council Chambers

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



The ReUse shop is now open!

Selwyn's latest sustainable shopping experience

Find us at Pines Resource Recovery Park,
183 Burnham School Road, Rolleston.
Open Wednesday to Sunday, 9am–4.30pm.



Events

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

Super Mini Gym

5 September, 9.30–11am
Selwyn Sports Centre

Join in on a superhero-themed mini gym class!
1–5 years, \$5.50 per person

Drop-in.

Young Driver Course

Saturday 6 September, 9am–2pm
Airforce Museum, Wigram

Prepare your young driver for years of better, safer driving.
\$132 per person, including entry for one parent/guardian

Bookings required at selwyn.govt.nz/events