

MEETINGS

You can speak on matters of concern during the first 15 minutes of each Council or Committee meeting. Please contact **Sue Elder** at the Rolleston office well in advance if you wish to speak.

Township, Hall and Reserve Committees, please note: If you wish to advertise your meeting please let **Lee Brehaut** know as soon as possible by faxing (03) 347 2799, e-mailing lee.brehaut@selwyn.govt.nz, or phoning 347 2964 or 318 8338.

COUNCIL

Council Meeting

- Wed 25 February, 1pm, Council Chambers, Rolleston.

Selwyn Central Community Board

- Wed 18 February, 4pm, Councillors Lunchroom, Rolleston Council Building.

Transportation & Road Safety Subcommittee

- Thu 19 February, 9.30am, Councillors Lunchroom, Rolleston Council Building.

Malvern Community Board

- Mon 23 February, 4pm, Old Darfield Service Centre.

COMMUNITY

Coalgate Township Committee

- Tue 17 February, 7.30pm, Coalgate Fire Station.

Darfield Recreation & Community Centre

- Mon 2 March, 8pm, Darfield Recreation Centre.

Darfield Township Committee

- Thu 19 February, 7.45pm, Darfield Recreation Centre.

Glentunnel Residents Association

- Mon 2 March, 7.30pm, Community Centre – Glentunnel.

Lake Coleridge Community Committee

- Fri 20 February, 8pm, Lake Coleridge Hall.

Leeston Park Association

- Mon 23 February, 8pm, Leeston Park Pavilion.

Lincoln Community Centre Management Committee

- Mon 23 February, 7.30 pm, Lincoln Community Centre – Supper Room

Little Rakaia Huts Residents Association & Advisory Committee

- Wed 25 February, 7pm, Little Rakaia Huts Community Centre.

Open meeting - Subject "Draft Conservation Plan for the Rakaia Huts."

Everyone welcome. Committee meeting to follow.

Rolleston Community Centre Committee

- Thu 26 February, 8pm, Rolleston Community Centre.

Rolleston Residents Association - Garden Prizes

- Mon 23 February, 7.30pm, Rolleston Community Centre.

The Mayor will present trophies to winners of the recent Garden Competition.

Sheffield/Waddington Community Committee

- Thu 19 February, 7.30pm, Sheffield Community Hall.

Southbridge Advisory Committee

- Tue 17 February, 7.30pm, Southbridge Fire Brigade.

Springston Recreation Reserve and Associated Sports Committee

- Wed 18 February, 8pm, Errol Tweedy Pavilion Springston Reserve.

Whitecliffs Domain, Reserve & Township Committees

- Thu 19 February, 7.30pm, 318 Whitecliffs Road.

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE

Lyndon Road, Lake Coleridge

Lyndon Road, from Harper Road through to the Great Alpine Highway/West Coast Road (SH 73), is closed until next month for the purpose of replacing the bridge. During the road closure, traffic will be requested to detour along the nearest alternative route.

Contact: **Leonie Spalding** 347 2800 or 318 8338



transport & road safety coordinator

CHOOSE YOUR JAM NOW

Or things might get sticky!

We all dream of having money for jam in the years ahead, but what sort of jam? Raspberry? Apricot? Strawberry?

Try TRAFFIC JAM! The way things are going, all our future jam money will end up being spent on new roads and higher vehicle costs. By 2026, our road traffic is forecast to grow by 27%. That means more congestion, longer travel times, more pollution – and probably more accidents and grief.

But it doesn't have to be all doom, gloom and dry toast. The Greater Christchurch councils – Christchurch, Selwyn, Waimakariri and ECan – together with the New Zealand Transport Agency have devised a cunning plan, which I'll call the Jam Plan though they've called it the Greater Christchurch Travel Demand Management Strategy, or

TDM for short (that's right, almost rhymes with tedium).

But hey, what's in a name? Fact is, this Jam Plan is really important, and may even be revolutionary. Its modest aim is to get us all cutting down on unnecessary vehicle use, thereby reducing traffic and making the most of our existing roads, cycle lanes, trails etc. That means doing things like condensing two trips into one if we can, or car pooling, or – if the options are there – walking, cycling or using public transport.

"Yeah right," I hear some of you say. "What public transport?" True, in areas that don't have access to a bus service, many have no choice but to drive. But that could change. In future, places like Leeston and possibly Darfield might get bus services. Will you be ready to support them if they do?

Another change that might reduce our need for cars would be better broadband. Working from home several times a week would then be possible for people who currently have to commute to compute. Even car pooling once or twice a week

would reduce our travel costs and the clutter on our roads.

The Jam Plan is not about stopping car use, but about using cars more wisely and economically. It's either that or Auckland-style congestion ten or twenty years from now. And it's so doable.

If each house made one less car trip per week, it would halt the projected traffic growth. Selwyn traffic would be 10,000 trips lighter each week – meaning less congestion, less road wear and tear, less fuel consumption, less pollution and a prolonged shelf life for the roads. And that would mean not having to fork out millions for more road-building in a few years' time.

Did I hear the word "sustainable"? That's what we're talking about here.

By travelling smarter, we can save ourselves lots of cost and stress further down the road – while getting the jam of our choice.

We'd like to know your thoughts about the Jam Plan. Copies of it, plus a summary document, a fact sheet and a submission form are all available at Selwyn service centres.

You can also see the documents and send us your feedback through the TDM website www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/TDM/

So come on Selwyn. Choose your jam!



DAY CLUBS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS?

Let's talk About It

Tuesday, 24 February

Are you interested in the idea of having **Social Day Clubs** for older residents in our main towns? In other places these Day Clubs are a highlight of the week for many.

The acronym **CARE** sums up what they're all about: Company, Activities, Recreation and Education.

We're holding a get-together to discuss the idea – and you're invited! But you'll have to register first so that we can inform the caterers (yes, there'll be food – and it's free).

We'll start at 10am with a cup of tea followed by some chit-chat and activities, e.g. cards, board games, indoor bowls, an exercise group. A two-course lunch will be served at noon, followed by a speaker. Then, as a group, we'll discuss questions like:

- Would this work in your town?
- What activities or speakers would you like?

We'll finish at 3pm with afternoon tea. If you are interested please contact:

Diane Chesmar on 347 2755 or 318 8338 or 027 431 3683, or

Joy Farrington on 347 2752 or 318 8338

THAT SPECIAL TREE

Do you know of a tree which should be protected? Does it have a special story or quality (history, size, shape, species, etc.)? Tell us about it!

We are reviewing our list of protected heritage trees in the Selwyn District Plan, and you can nominate any 'new' trees which you think should be added to the list.

Get a nomination form from our service centres and libraries or from our website. Your nomination(s) must be in by **Friday 6 March**.

Contact **Emma Bishop** on 347 2800 or 318 8338, or visit the website.

IT'S ALWAYS WORTH A TRY!

A young banjo learner from Lincoln

Sat down and began plunkin'-plinkin'

Till he saw with regret

He was missin' a fret

And this really set him a-thinkin'.

"I'll go and see Stuart West-o-by

He'll have some forms in Adobe.

And, if I have success,

I think I can guess,

A new fret for me it will so be!"

You, too, can apply for arts funding from this round of Creative New Zealand's Communities Scheme, by contacting **Stuart Westoby** on (03) 347 2875 or 318 8338 or fax 347 2799 or at stuart.westoby@selwyn.govt.nz

Applications close on **Friday 27 February**.



DOG MICROCHIPPING

If your dog was first registered after **30 June 2006** and is not a working dog, the law requires him or her to be microchipped.

This free monthly service is available at the following Council service centres on Friday of next week – **Friday 27 February** – at the following times:

	Lincoln	Leeston	Rolleston	Darfield
Friday 27 February	3-4pm	1-2pm	9-10am	11-12noon



Please note:

- Rolleston microchipping is at the Selwyn District Council head office in Norman Kirk Drive, off Rolleston Drive.
- Microchipping will not take place if wet.
- Working dogs and dogs registered before **1 July 2006** can be microchipped for \$20 per dog.

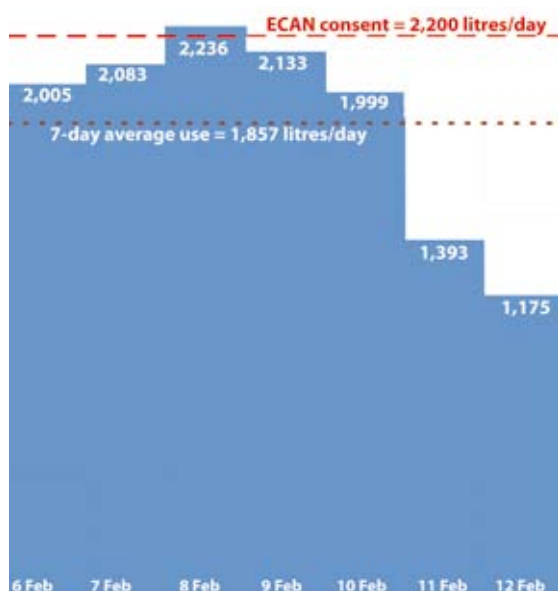
If, because of distance or dog numbers, you can't get to a clinic, you can ask for an Animal Control Officer to carry out the microchipping at your place. Contact **Tracey Wheeler** or **Eamonn Waters** on 347 2800 or 318 8338 or tracey.wheeler@selwyn.govt.nz

Darfield Water Restrictions

"Residents are to be congratulated on their ability to meet current water restrictions," says Council utilities engineer, **Kris Kaser**. "We are nine days into restrictions and have exceeded our allocation only once – on a day when temperatures exceeded 30°C." (See graph).

Water restrictions (alternate day watering) were imposed on Tuesday 3 February as the Waimakariri River fell below the 47 cumec flow level (falling to 37 cumecs as of Friday 13th). This limited Darfield's take to 2,200 litres per connection per day.

"Based on this, more severe restrictions, such as hand-held watering, seem unlikely," said Mr Kaser. "However care still needs to be taken to reduce watering when temperatures are high."



INTERNET OPTIMISATION

Tuesday 17 March, in Rolleston

How to make sure your website gets found. Topics include:

- Which search engines are important
- What the search engines look for
- The latest thinking on keywords, content and metatags
- The importance of links

INVESTMENT READY (1)

Wednesday 25 February, in Rolleston

Are you are looking for funds to develop your business?

Learn all the ins and outs with Investment Ready training.

Contact **Barbara Bately** on 347 2719 or 318 8338 or at barbara.bately@selwyn.govt.nz or **Joy Farrington** on 347 2752 or 318 8338

LEESTON FAMILY FUN DAY

Saturday 21 February
10am to 1pm

Osborne Park, Drain Road, Doyleston

This Saturday, Leeston Plunket's annual fun day will include stalls, entertainment, eels (yes, eels!), jeeps, car rides, firefighters, talent quest, vintage machinery and food. Take the whole family. Gold coin donation entry.

CORRECTION

Hororata TT Motocross Series

The correct dates for this fundraising event are:

Round 2, Sunday, March 1st
Round 3, Sunday, March 15th

All rounds at the Hororata Reserve
Spectator entry **free**

URGENT HEALTH WARNING

Toxic Algae Kills Dog in Selwyn River



The dark brown algae in this photo is toxic. Stay away from it in the water and along the shoreline. The green algae is healthy and does not pose any threat.

The toxic algae, Phormidium, is being blamed for the death of a dog this weekend in the Selwyn River at Chamberlains Ford. At least two other dogs were taken to the vet suffering seizures.

Dogs and swimmers at **Chamberlains** and **Coes Fords** should keep well away from areas of the river where dark brown/black mats are growing or forming scums (see photo). Dogs and stock should also be kept away from stagnant ponds, especially those which have bright green or red scums or have strong odours.

The algae seems to have been washed into the river by rain last week. **Extreme caution should be taken** at Coes and Chamberlains Fords until further notice here, or at the Environment Canterbury website www.ecan.govt.nz



Calling all Selwyn Artists!!!

Entries close Tuesday 3 March

Exhibitors wanted for Arts Heart's eighth Art Exhibition, to be held at Rolleston Community Centre 20/21/22 March
Enquiries re exhibiting to –

Tony Wenborn

Ph 03 318 1334
wenborn@gmail.com or

Margaret McFedries

Ph 347 8179



With Glen Walker, Libraries Manager

LATE NIGHT LIBRARY

Lincoln, Thursdays, open till 7pm

The Lincoln Library is now open until 7pm on Thursdays – for a trial period. If you like the sound of that, come on in for a browse and a borrow this Thursday evening. And let your friends and neighbours know.

Ever met an established writer?

"Words on Wheels" 2009 – writers on tour – comes to Selwyn. Come and hear New Zealand writers **Steve Braunias**, **David Geary** and **Vanda Symon** in the lovely Tai Tapu library on Tuesday 3 March at 10.30am. For further information contact **Anita**, on (03) 347 2888.

Lost in Leeston

We have a few leftovers from the Leeston Learners Pool at the Leeston Library. If any of these might be yours, please pop in to collect them:

- 2 Sunglasses
- 1 pair goggles
- 1 pair of child sandals
- 1 pair of adult sandals
- 1 pair of adult converse shoes
- 1 Tweety bird kickboard
- 1 shark hooded towel
- 2 small balls
- 1 pool toy
- 1 pair of shorts
- 1 t-shirt

Contact **Janine Miles** on 347 2820



HAVE YOU HEARD THE ONE ABOUT...

A bloke – I won't name and shame him – lit an outdoor fire last week, thinking that the temporary burst of cool weather would make it safe. He knew there was a total fire ban on but decided to flout it using his "common sense".

But someone saw the smoke and, using their own common sense, assumed that it was an accidental fire – after all, they reasoned, who would deliberately light a fire during a total fire ban? So they did the good citizen thing and rang 111.

Next minute the volunteer fire brigade turned up to douse the bloke's flames. End of story? Not quite. The fire is officially classed as a nuisance fire because it tied up staff and resources who might have been needed for a serious fire, costing not only money but lost time and inconvenience.

Which means that the bloke who lit it is now liable for a bill for the call-out costs, plus a fine for breaking the law. And it could have been worse. If his illegal fire had escaped, his insurance cover would have deserted him too.

The fact is, we have a total fire ban for a reason - to save lives and property during this very dry season. Yes, we'll have the odd wet and cool day along the way, but the ban still applies. We simply can't turn it on and off with each wind change.

The fire ban will end only when we see a long-term change in the weather conditions.

Until then, I appeal to you all to respect the ban – if not for your own sake, for the sake of our over-burdened firefighters. And please remind your friends.

