



## Virtual Reality at the Libraries

A visit to the international space station, kayaking with penguins in Antarctica, or a tour of the Anne Frank house, have all become reality at Selwyn Libraries.

The libraries are showcasing new virtual reality experiences with drop-in sessions for people to try their new virtual reality headsets.

Selwyn Libraries’ Digital Futures Coordinator Mark Lawrence says the virtual reality experience is about learning, and a lot of fun.

“It’s something we have been planning for a long time. It’s to do with different learning styles and wellbeing, giving people a bit of fun. People come into libraries, but books might not be how they learn. Sometimes when they’re in an experience, it’s a different world, it’s a new way of learning and we’re all about life-long learning.”

Virtual reality has benefits for people who are not neuro-typical and require different sensory experiences to suit their learning style, which makes the libraries more accessible for all, Mark says. The first drop-in session at Lincoln Library last week showed the experiences had a wow factor for everyone, he says.

“It’s difficult to describe—you have got to try it. When people are in an experience we cast what they’re experiencing to a big screen so everyone can see what’s going on. Everyone who sees it is blown away and asks to have a go.”

The experiences will change from time to time during the year as libraries staff see new options or people recommend them, he says, but those available this term include an energetic beat-saber experience where people select music, and smash boxes and dodge obstacles to the beat, a 3D painting experience and swimming with manatees, among others.

Sessions are available at each library and are regularly taken to communities with the Libraries’ Edge Connector Vehicle.

The drop-in sessions will be happening during school term time at:

- Lincoln Library – Thursdays, 3.30–5.30pm
- Rolleston Library – Mondays 3.30–5.30pm
- Leeston Library – Wednesdays 2–4pm
- Darfield Library – Thursdays 3.30–5.30pm

## Aquatic centre expansion takes next steps

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre expansion took another step with the installation of the pool filter for the new 10-lane, 25-metre pool.

The five tonne Natare vacuum sand filter was installed by crane last week. The state-of-the-art filter will be filled with up to eight tonnes of sand. Its design means it takes up less space, requires less construction work than other filter systems, is cheaper to maintain, saves water and is easier to access and repair.

Aquatic Facilities Manager James Richmond says the basic structure of the pool is now in place with the walls of the pool also nearing completion.

The construction team will now install the pipe work to connect up the filtration system, and preparing to start work on the building which will surround the pool. Construction is on track for the new pool to open at the end of the year, he says.

The new pool will more than double the current lane capacity at the aquatic centre and accommodate increasing demand from aquafitness, casual swimming, learn to swim and other deep water activities.

There will also be additional changing rooms, including five new family changing rooms, along with extra foyer and administration space and the option for a possible café in the future.



## Home is Homebush

Continuing our series celebrating the Faces of Selwyn. Visit [selwyn.govt.nz/facesofselwyn](http://selwyn.govt.nz/facesofselwyn) for the full story.

Tucked away on the Homebush farm, near Darfield, Louise Deans holds the history of one of the earliest European settlers in Canterbury.

The Deans brothers, William and John, arrived in Wellington in 1840 and settled in Canterbury a few years later. They established Homebush in 1850, which they passed through the family—including Originals All Black Bob Deans—until it was offered to Jim and his wife Louise in 1976.

After six years working in London and Bahrain they decided to return and it did not take long for Homebush to feel like home.

Louise raised four children in Selwyn, where they would often swim in the river and have a picnic tea.

“Living in the Middle East, all I longed for was clear running water. It was that that brought me home.”

Louise fought for the right for rural women to work—helping run stepping out and leadership programmes and working on the National Suffrage Trust. She gained three theology degrees from Otago University and became a District Councillor in 1990, working hard for funding to establish the district’s libraries.

In 2010, the September earthquake destroyed the Homebush house—rated a Category I historic home by the then New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

It took about four years to rebuild a house that kept its Category I rating and during the process Jim passed away.

Today, Louise keeps busy with her 13 grandchildren, singing with the Selwyn community choir and maintaining the Homebush stables.

The new house is built to withstand a 9 magnitude earthquake, which Louise hopes will help it endure in the family for the next 200 years.



## Use water wisely – avoid restrictions

We’re encouraging people to think about their water use and save water so we can keep enjoying a reliable service and avoid restrictions. Consider not watering between 6–9am, or 4–9pm and avoiding watering in the middle of the day if it’s hot or windy.



Roots inspired band The Algal Bloom perform at the first Month of Sundays on the Lincoln Green. A wide range of Canterbury bands will be performing on the green every Sunday in February for people to enjoy some local music, garden games, face painting and a picnic as part of the Council’s Summer in Selwyn events.



Notices

EDGE CONNECTOR OUT AND ABOUT

Look out for Selwyn Libraries' Edge Connector Vehicle around the district over the next week. Browse a selection of items available to borrow, download our new app and see the full range of eResources you can subscribe to. The vehicle can be kitted out with different resources at different locations, such as our new technology kits, a 3D printer and sewing machines.

- Thu 6 Feb, 10am–2pm, Malvern Community Fun Day, Darfield Domain
- Fri 7 Feb, 9.30–11.30am, Rakaia Huts Community Room and 1.30–3pm, Southbridge Hall
- Mon 10 Feb, 10am–12pm, Glenroy Hall
- Thu 13 Feb, 10am–12pm, Hororata Fire Station

- Sat 15 Feb, 10am–12pm, West Melton Shopping Centre
  - Wed 19 Feb, 10am–12pm, Dunsandel Community Rooms and 1.30–3.30pm, The Hub, Burnham
- DOG MICROCHIPPING**

This free monthly service is available on Friday 14 February at the following places:

- Rolleston 9–9.30am
- Lincoln 10.15–10.45am
- Leeston 11.30am–12pm
- Darfield 12.45–1.15pm

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. Please note:

- All clinics last for half an hour.
- The Rolleston venue is in Norman Kirk Drive. All others are libraries.
- Microchipping will not take place if wet.

If you have any questions regarding microchipping, please contact Tracey Wheeler on 347 2800 or 318 8338.

ALCOHOL NOTICES

Country Lane Group has applied for the renewal of an on licence. Objections are open until 21 February. For more information go to [selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices](http://selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices).

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING

Need funding for your project? Creative Communities Selwyn can help. Funding is available to groups or individuals with community-based creative projects that promote arts or culture in Selwyn. Applications for this funding round close at 5pm, Friday 29 February. Visit [selwyn.govt.nz/artsfunding](http://selwyn.govt.nz/artsfunding) for more information and to apply.

Meetings

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 notify Therese Davel or Bernadette Ryan if you wish to speak at the Council meeting at least five days before the meeting.*

Township, Hall and Reserve Committees: *To list or make changes to meeting details, email [meeting.changes@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:meeting.changes@selwyn.govt.nz) or phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.*

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD

**Audit & Risk Subcommittee**  
Wed 5 Feb 9.30am  
Rolleston Council building

**Council**  
Wed 12 Feb 1pm  
Rolleston Council building

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

**Arthur's Pass Association Inc**  
Tue 11 Feb 6.30pm  
Yaldhurst Tavern

**Coalgate Township Committee – Public Meeting**  
Tue 11 Feb 7.30pm  
Coalgate Bowling Club, Coaltrack Road, Coalgate

**Dunsandel Community Committee**  
Mon 17 Feb 7.30pm  
Dunsandel Community Centre

**Hororata Reserve Management Committee**  
Wed 12 Feb 7.30pm  
Hororata Hall

**Kirwee Community Committee**  
Mon 17 Feb 7.30pm  
Kirwee Community Hall, A&P Showgrounds

**Kirwee Recreation Reserve Management Committee**  
Mon 10 Feb 7.30pm  
Sports Pavilion, Kirwee Recreation Centre

**Little Rakaia Huts Advisory Committee**  
Mon 17 Feb 7pm  
Community Rooms, Rakaia Huts Camping Ground

**Sheffield/Waddington Community Committee**  
Thu 20 Feb 7.30pm  
Sheffield Community Hall

**Springston Community Committee & Springston Recreation Reserve Committee**  
Triennial meeting  
Wed 19 Feb 7.30pm  
Errol Tweedy Pavilion, Springston Reserve

*Elections for the combined Community and Reserves Committee, the Springston Hall Committee, and the Springston Associated Sports Committee. The later will involve a short general meeting to make a constitutional amendment for the Charities Commission.*

**Waihora Park Reserve Committee –**  
Tue 11 Feb 7pm  
Waihora Bowling Club

**Weedons Reserve Committee**  
Mon 10 Feb 7.30pm  
Weedons Reserve Pavilion

**Weedons Residents' Association**  
Tue 11 Feb 7.30pm  
Weedons Reserve Pavilion

**Whitecliffs Township & Domain Committee**  
Mon 10 Feb 7.30pm  
Glentunnel Hall

Call 0800 SELWYN for Council services

Did you know we have a free 0800 number you can use to contact us? It's 0800 SELWYN (735 996).

Selwyn is a large district with more than 65,000 people spread over 6,420 hectares, from the Alps to the coast – so we're making it easy for people to contact us, no matter where they live.

The 0800 SELWYN number will connect you to our customer services team who will be able to help with any enquiries about Council services or information. It's free to call from anywhere in New Zealand.

You can also contact our customer service team by email on [contactus@selwyn.govt.nz](mailto:contactus@selwyn.govt.nz) or via our website at [selwyn.govt.nz/contact-us](http://selwyn.govt.nz/contact-us).

Another easy way to report an issue is using the Snap Send Solve smartphone app – find out more at [selwyn.govt.nz/snapsendsolve](http://selwyn.govt.nz/snapsendsolve).



On the roads this week

Pavement seal repairs are taking place on Wards Road. Traffic management will be in place. Speed restrictions will be in place on Springs Road between Birchs Road and Trents Road from Monday 10 February due to maintenance work on the water system.

Tennyson Street between Markham Way and Moore Street is one-way, open to southbound traffic only. Footpath construction will be taking place on Durrell Way in Rolleston. The footpath will be closed during construction.

NZTA has advised that Hoskyns Road is left in and left out only at Main South Road. The Weedons Interchange is now fully open and Berketts Road is open for left turn in (southbound) traffic only from Main South Road.

Selwyn Events

THURSDAY

6

FEBRUARY

Waitangi Community Fun Day

Darfield Domain, 10am–2pm

A fun-filled community event with activities and entertainment for the whole whānau. Bring a picnic or enjoy the food stalls available. Hosted by the Two Rivers Community Trust.

SUNDAY

9

FEBRUARY

A Month of Sundays

The Lincoln Green (behind the library), 1–3pm

Relax, unwind and recharge on your Sunday afternoon with live local music, face painting and garden games every Sunday in February. Bring a picnic and enjoy. This week's line-up is Kori Reardon, Moonflower and 16 Sundays Band.

THURSDAY

13

FEBRUARY

Kids' Writing Workshop

Darfield Library, 3.30–5pm

An entertaining workshop helping children build their creativity. Covering the basics of creating a plot, dialogue, characters and more. Recommended for children 8+. Bookings essential at [selwynlibraries.co.nz](http://selwynlibraries.co.nz)

THURSDAY

13

FEBRUARY

Burnham Picnic in the Park

Freyberg Domain, 5–7pm

The latest in the popular picnics in the park. Enjoy a summer's evening at the park with the family, with live music a free sausage sizzle, Pedalmania, face painting and more.

UNTIL

16

FEBRUARY

Exhibition: 'Uninhibited'

Down by the Liffey Gallery, Lincoln, selected hours  
Wednesday to Sunday

The Liffey Gallery's first exhibition of the year, featuring the lively art-making of Jil Cowan, Nicky Loe and Jean Rogers - a colourful fusion of photos, paint and clay.

UNTIL

27

FEBRUARY

Colour Comes Together

Te Huanui Gallery, Darfield, 10am–4pm Tuesday–Sunday

Showcasing the works of local artists Lorraine Jacobs, Del Lowe and Jan Mitchell alongside Halswell Pottery's Gaye Morton and Linda Pringle, with a range of style and mediums to suit all.

For information on listing a community event visit [www.selwyn.govt.nz/councilcall](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/councilcall)

Leeston Library & Service Centre  
19 Messines Street, Leeston  
Ph 347 2871

Lincoln Library & Service Centre  
Gerald Street, Lincoln  
Ph 347 2876

(03) 347 2800  
Darfield call free 318 8338  
[www.selwyn.govt.nz](http://www.selwyn.govt.nz)  
f SelwynDistrictCouncil

