

Selwyn businesses open local to you



A growing number of Selwyn businesses are now operating safely under Alert Level 3 conditions and we're encouraging people to take advantage of the great service local to you.

The 'Selwyn Open' campaign launched by the Council aims to help Selwyn residents find the large number of businesses that are open and local to you.

A list of businesses that are open and ready to provide everything from groceries, to takeaways and flowers is now available on the Council website at selwyn.govt.nz/selwynopen.

As we limit travel to help stop the spread of COVID-19 it is a good time to learn about the great businesses that are there to support us through this pandemic and into the future.

The list shows some of the wide range of businesses across Selwyn that provide quality goods, excellent service and competitive prices right on our doorstep. These businesses are often times at the heart of our community sponsoring sports teams and supporting local events and charities.

Selwyn open aims to support these businesses as they restart and help our communities restart.

Manu Rangimoekau from Suburban Eatery says the business has seen a surge in takeaways being ordered from their Leeston based restaurant and café.

He is glad the Council is doing something to drive residents to buy local, because this is critical for the survival of the many diverse Selwyn industries.

"If we can't get the support from the locals, then we can't buy from our local suppliers and it's a complete domino effect. It doesn't just affect our front doors, it affects the guys around the corner growing the lettuce."

Phillippa Boa from The Lincoln Pantry said the support businesses have received from locals and the Council since opening for contactless deliveries on Thursday has been great.

"We're a small community of small business owners and we need that support to flow all around and keep the economy going"

Major projects back under way across Selwyn

Major infrastructure and building works are swinging back into action in Selwyn following the move to Alert Level 3.

Roading upgrades, cycleways and water upgrades are among the projects restarting across the district, alongside \$60 million of large building projects.

Work has restarted, or is due to start soon on the Selwyn Aquatic Centre extension, the Selwyn Health Hub, Foster Park Indoor Courts, Rolleston Rugby Football Club, car parking and landscaping at the Dynes Road end of Foster Park, Te Ara Ātea and the Rolleston Town Centre infrastructure upgrade on Tennyson Street.

This means Tennyson Street is closed to traffic the length of Rolleston Park and the Markham Way temporary extension is reopened.

Council roading projects across the district including rural intersection upgrades and the Leeston to Doyleston cycleway will be restarting, along with the Reconnect Project making major upgrades at the Pines Resource Recovery Park.

The upgrade of the intersection of Tennyson Street and Lowes Road will also restart, meaning Lowes Road will be closed to traffic travelling towards the intersection.

The New Zealand Transport Agency has also advised that work is back under way on the for the CSM2 Southern Motorway work. This means for up to four weeks, Jones Road will be closed at the intersection with Weedons Ross Road to all traffic. This work is taking place while traffic volumes in the area are lower due to the Level 3 COVID-19 restrictions and is needed to be completed before winter sets in.

The northbound and southbound off-ramps at the Weedons Interchange remain open along with the east west bridge. Hoskyns Road remains left in/left out.

Work will also restart on the \$23 million of upgrades to the district's water services of 59 projects to build and upgrade pump stations, increase capacity and improve water quality.



Pines Resource Recovery Park re-opens with booking system

The Pines Resource Recovery Park in Rolleston has reopened under Level 3 using a booking system and with some changes in place to operate safely.

The new online booking system allows Pines to be open to the public, while still complying with Government Alert Level 3 requirements, Council Solid Waste Manager Andrew Boyd says.

"We recognise that during the lockdown, residents have been busy in their gardens and garages and are itching to get rid of their rubbish, recycling and garden waste. We think customers will be glad to see some familiar services restart – albeit in a slightly different form."

To ensure safe distancing spaces will be available for five vehicles in each 30-minute time slot and only Paywave contactless payment will be available, or those with accounts already set up.

The online booking system is available through the Council website selwyn.govt.nz/bookpines, and Mr Boyd says people without internet access can call 0800 SELWYN (0800 735 996) and Council customer services staff will be able to arrange a booking.

Customers will receive a specific booking reference number that must be presented at the gate to allow entry. Site staff will be strictly managing access at the gate to ensure we can safely operate the site in compliance with Alert Level 3 requirements and people without a reference booking number will not be allowed entry.



How do I?

Apply for the rates extension

Selwyn ratepayers who may be facing financial difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for a payment extension.

You can extend payment out to 30 June 2021, provided you agree to a payment plan with the Council. This extension is available for the final instalment of rates for the 2019/20 financial year and rates for the 2020/21 financial year.

Payments can be made by direct debit weekly, fortnightly or monthly and will need to be a minimum of \$10 per week.

To apply for the rates extension visit selwyn.govt.nz/rates and fill out the form under the rates payment extension section.

To complete your request you will need your Valuation Number, which can be found on your rates invoice, or by contacting us on 0800 SELWYN (735 996)

An easy way to pay your rates is by direct debit. You can set up a direct debit by filling out the Direct Debit Authority form at selwyn.govt.nz/rates.

If you are considering cancelling or stopping an existing direct debit arrangement that you have with the Council, please contact us first.

If you cancel the direct debit authority directly with your bank there is a nine-month security stand down period before it can be reinstated. This is because the Council is authorised to set up the direct debit arrangement directly, rather than you having to set it up with your bank.

Council Call

Selwyn District Council
Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
Ph 0800 SELWYN (735 996)

Rolleston Library
Rolleston Drive, Rolleston
Ph 347 2880

Darfield Library & Service Centre
1 South Terrace, Darfield
Ph 318 8338 or 347 2780

Stories from our households to yours

Continuing our series on how Selwyn residents are spending their days in isolation. We hope it will inspire you with some ideas. This week, Weedons Primary School teacher April Fitzjohn shares about her lockdown diary, inspiring pupils and spending lots of time in her garden.

When lockdown was first mooted, I thought, "Great, I'll spend more time in the garden." The first day was sunny and all went according to plan; then we had four wet days on the trot...

I remember because on the second day of lockdown I decided to keep a daily diary. The diary logs my gardening, books read, new recipes tried, other news and all the 'funnies' circulating the internet. Undoubtedly, we'll look back one day and wonder if this really happened.

My day starts about 7.30am feeding my chickens and kunekune pig, watering plants and walking Murphy, our dog. Over breakfast, I catch up on news and emails.

As my school's enviro teacher, I try to post outdoor challenges and ideas every few days.

One project has been harvesting vegetables and wondering what to do with nasturtium leaves. After several tests and trials I found a recipe for nasturtium pesto and I now have oodles of it in my freezer.

Another has been working on a seven foot high 'hugelkultur' [a type of raised garden bed] — an excellent place to plant potatoes or pumpkins.

I should do some weeding but there's always something more appealing to do, chat to the fantails, cuddle the lamb and give the pig a good belly scratch!

Every few days we take Murphy to a local track for a walk and enjoy the view of the Southern Alps — we are lucky living in New Zealand.

Zoom has become a way to socialise — Saturday nights are games with friends and no one knows if you have your pyjama bottoms on! And on weekday nights, thank heavens for Netflix!



Kids enjoy environment lockdown challenge

Inspired by Mrs Fitzjohn's weekly ideas 19 of her pupils have been getting their hands dirty completing a range of outdoor challenges over lockdown.

Some have been helping their parents with watering, weeding, moving plants and trimming bushes and hedges. Others have been making beeswax wraps to use instead of plastic wrap and eco bricks made from stuffing bottles with used soft plastic waste.

Planting is also popular for families like the Smolenski family, Lachie, Jonty and Ruby.

"We replanted strawberries, planted parsley and daffodils, did weeding, trimmed trees, put lots of pea straw down and even did renovations on our tree hut," Lachie said.

The Tresize brothers have also been busy, establishing a bird and bee friendly garden, mowing the lawn and becoming self-sufficient sourcing food from their garden.

"Mum let us choose our own fruit tree each to care for from a plant nursery. I chose a red apple and Cooper chose a green apple tree. We also grow our own veggies from seeds," Nic Tresize said.

By doing these activities, Mrs Fitzjohn says students have earned 'ticks' towards an 'Enviro badge' normally gained during enviro club meetings.

"It's been fantastic seeing so many Weedons students and their siblings doing a multitude of outdoors and environmental activities during the lovely lockdown weather!"

Children taking part in Mrs Fitzjohn's environmental lockdown challenge. From left Lachie, Jonty and Ruby Smolenski weeding. Kase, Connor and Hunter Barnes planting carrots and Nic Tresize digging.



Change in fire seasons for Selwyn

Fire and Emergency New Zealand has moved Selwyn to open fire season.

Principal Rural Fire Officer Bruce Janes says while the fire seasons are changing, Fire and Emergency NZ is asking people to think twice before lighting an open-air fire.

"While we know essential industries like farmers will still need to light fires as part of their land management, we would appreciate if people would hold off lighting non-essential fires for a couple more weeks while we remain under COVID-19 Alert Level 3.

"Now is the time to be more vigilant than ever to avoid an upturn in the spread of the virus."

Bruce Janes says even if a fire is permitted and under control, the smoke often generates a 111 call from the public, meaning firefighters need to leave their bubble to deal with an avoidable fire.

"We know that weather conditions have been good and that burning is an easy way to dispose of waste, but we would prefer Cantabrians hold off a few more weeks or take it to the Council refuse station."

Finding yourself an essential worker

Selwyn Youth Council member, Ben Dodson, 22, shares his lockdown experience in Selwyn as a graduate and essential worker.

Friday 24 April was supposed to be graduation day for my Bachelor of Agribusiness and Food Marketing degree, however with the pandemic this was cancelled.

I felt this degree would open many options, particularly in New Zealand's large agri-food industry. But when Covid hit, returning to my high school job at the supermarket seemed like a logical choice.

I've been working in the produce department, helping keep the store stocked. With the huge upswing in demand a regular day's order has almost doubled to around 500 crates — that's 5000kg of produce. As an experienced 'essential worker' it feels as though there is an increased responsibility to keep things going, resulting in some exhausted evenings. Initially, there was uncertainty about how the store would run in lockdown, but the management team has effectively implemented PPE and other strategies to keep everyone safe. The 'essential worker' tag feels a bit hollow, however I am glad to have been working rather than sitting at home.

Working in a familiar environment with friends has helped me through this lockdown period, along with a cheeky bit of Football Manager and Fifa20 to disappear into for a couple of hours.

My advice to other graduates feeling anxious is to keep applying, keep positive — eventually an opportunity will arise. This generation from Selwyn has been through a lot in their youth, between earthquakes, a shooting and now a pandemic, we're tough and will adapt to whatever the post-Covid world will look like.

Notices

MALVERN WATER RACE DISRUPTIONS

Council contractors will be doing repairs to the Waimakariri Water Race Intake Tunnel from Tuesday 12 May 2020. This work will require shutting flows from this intake and the work is expected to be completed on Wednesday 3 June.

While the other scheme intakes will still be operational, it is expected that there will be widespread disruptions to the Malvern water race scheme for the month of April.

This work is necessary to ensure the intake is safe and to keep the water race scheme operating.

Please be prepared that there may be no supply of stock water via the water race to your property for this works period.

CREATIVE COMMUNITIES FUNDING AVAILABLE

Applications are open for Creative Communities funding. Funding is available to groups or individuals with community-based creative projects that promote arts or culture in Selwyn. The aim of the scheme is to increase participation in the arts at a local level, and increase the range and diversity of arts available to communities.

Applications for this funding round close at 5pm, Friday 15 May. Visit selwyn.govt.nz/artsfunding for more information and to apply.

Meetings

Council meeting

Wednesday 13 May 2pm

Council meetings will be streamed live on [facebook.com/SelwynDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SelwynDistrictCouncil)