

Civil Defence Community Response reaching thousands



The Selwyn Civil Defence team has been working to contact and help thousands of residents during the Level 4 Alert period.

The Council-led team has been at work since 24 March, when an emergency operations centre was established providing Selwyn-based support to people through welfare assistance, information and helping keep people safe.

Staff have been operating an urgent welfare helpline, delivering food parcels, looking after people in Selwyn campgrounds and coordinating supply to foodbanks. The team has also been supporting the Ministry of Social Development, calling 1500 Cantabrians who are over 70, living alone and do not have access to the internet to check on them, Council Civil Defence Manager Al Lawn says.

"Staff have been amazing, they have called people up and helped them know that someone cares."

The effort on the ground has been led by 33 Community Response Teams. Around 180 volunteers based across Selwyn who have been organising efforts to keep people connected and safe in their communities.

The team also filled in delivering Meals on Wheels for the Red Cross and delivered leaflets with key information and contact details to access support to over 2000 to people who are elderly or isolated across the district.

"They're locals, who know locals and find local solutions to support each other using the links they already have and they've been fantastic."

We may be at home, but we're not alone. For tips on getting through together check out the Getting Through Together campaign at allright.org.nz.

- Urgent welfare – 0800 24 24 11
Assistance for emergency food, household goods/services or other welfare-type requests
- Accommodation – 0508 754 163
- Financial support including WINZ – 0800 779 997
- Essential business enquiries – 0800 22 66 57 or essential@mbie.govt.nz

Chief Executive reappointed for three-year term

Council Chief Executive David Ward has been reappointed to the position for a further three-year term.

The appointment was confirmed by the Council on Wednesday after a three-month recruitment process managed by independent firm Brannigans, which saw more than 70 candidates apply for the role, from New Zealand and overseas.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the Council was impressed with the quality of candidates putting themselves forward for the position and thanks them for applying.

"We are pleased to announce the best person for the next three years of Selwyn District Council has been appointed. David has successfully guided our organisation through a period of unprecedented change and growth over the past seven years and we look forward to continuing in that spirit."

"We have confidence in David and like the continuity that this appointment brings – especially as we move into a period of uncertainty with the district facing a long-term process of community and economic recovery from the impacts of Covid-19 which will require the council to work and act in new ways."

Mr Ward has volunteered a 15% pay cut for the next 12 months as the district's recovery program is formulated and implemented.

Mr Ward says he was delighted to be reappointed and thanks the Council for showing faith in his leadership. "I am looking forward to maintaining the strong momentum of the last few years, as we look ahead to delivering a wide range of projects for the Selwyn community."

"The Council will have a key role to play in the district's recovery over the coming months and I'm pleased we're in a very sound position to lead and support that process."

Council facilities and services

All Council facilities are currently closed under COVID-19 Level 4 restrictions.

For any changes and updates see selwyn.govt.nz/covid19.

Standing together for Anzac Day

Traditional Anzac Day commemorations will not be able to be held this Saturday (25 April) because of the COVID-19 alert.

This is the first time since services began in 1916 that New Zealanders are not able to gather nationwide to mark Anzac Day.

Instead, we're encouraged to find other ways to remember and honour those who served and are serving New Zealand in conflict and peacekeeping.

At 6am on Saturday the RSA and Defence Force encourage people to stand for a moment at their letterbox, driveway, front door, lounge or other appropriate location, but staying within their bubbles and keeping social distance.

'Stand at Dawn – apart, but together as one' is the national message this year.

RNZ National will broadcast traditional Anzac Service elements at the same time, including the National Anthem, Last Post and Reveille. Full details are at www.rsa.org.nz

Find out about other activities and resources to mark Anzac Day at mch.govt.nz/anzac-day.

Rolleston Residents Association is planning an online service at 11am. If you have photos that could be shared as part of the service or would like more information email Michelle Jones on chair.rolleston.rai@selwyn.govt.nz



Wellbeing challenge hits home

With no recreation centres or facilities open during lockdown, it's harder to find motivation for fitness and wellbeing.

To fill this gap, the Council's sports and recreation team created the Two-Week Lockdown Wellbeing Challenge.

While it was no replacement for pump, spin or aquafit class, daily activities all came with their own unique test, whether it was baking a healthy snack, exercising to the letters of your name, or learning something new.

Senior District Sports and Recreation co-ordinator Linda Miratana said the idea came from the five ways of wellbeing: "connect, give, be active, keep learning and take notice."

It was a great opportunity to offer people simple ways to boost wellbeing, resilience and mental health, she says.

The challenge ran on Facebook from 10-23 April and attracted over 100 people, from around Selwyn and as far as Melbourne.

Lincoln resident Becks Mason missed going to the Lincoln Event Centre for pump and spin classes, but says the challenge turned into a fun and motivating family time when her whole family got involved.

Her favourite task was exercises to the letters in your name, which proved to be a challenge for her daughter Georgia.

"The longer names had a harder time. There was quite a bit of banter and she's going, it's not fair!" Becks laughs.

Fellow participant Jo Weston says it was a good balance of activities that anyone could get a sense of achievement by doing.

She enjoyed the connect challenge; playing scrabble with her husband, dusting off her calligraphy book to learn something new and baking healthy snacks.



Senior District Sports and Recreation co-ordinator Linda Miratana

Meetings

Council meeting
Wednesday 22 April 2pm
Wednesday 29 April 2pm

Council meetings will be streamed live on facebook.com/SelwynDistrictCouncil

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

School work, cards and cooking in a bubble

Part of our ongoing series on how Selwyn residents are spending their days in isolation. We hope it will inspire you with some ideas.

For Rolleston College student and Selwyn Youth Council deputy chairperson Chloe Duff, school's changed, but the Youth Council is still active with ideas to support young people.

A 'normal' day at school now involves getting up at 9am to eat breakfast and start work from home. The timetable has changed from six classes to three, but there's still plenty that needs to be done.

"There's always some school work to do so I love being able to get on with it. I don't like the situation we are in but it's keeping people safe so I am happy we are doing it."

After lunch she loves being more involved on the farm and with things she normally wouldn't have time for, such as cooking up a storm in the kitchen.

"I love baking it's a huge passion, so trying new recipes and new foods are heaps of fun."

Chloe is a part of the project team for BOOST Bubble, an online initiative run by Selwyn Youth Council, posting daily content of positive messages and fun activities and competitions.

She says she loves the initiative and has already made biscuits from a recipe posted.

"It's about creating joy and showing young people that we are all in the same boat."

If you want to participate in BOOST Bubble keep an eye out on Facebook.com/SelwynYouth and instagram.com/selwyn_youth and use the hashtag #boostbubble to share what you are doing.

If you or your organisation have interesting content to share on social media for Selwyn young people aged between 12 and 24 years old, please get in touch by emailing youth.council@selwyn.govt.nz



Learn to get your driver's licence online

Looking at getting your driver's licence this year – now you can learn and get ready to be a great driver all online.

The New Zealand Transport Agency and ACC have created an interactive learning tool for learner and restricted drivers, and learner driver coaches. Drive.govt.nz is a free website that steps you through the road code and the essential skills to make you a great driver.

The website helps you work your way through the road code and skill units such as basics of the road, speed limits and road signs. You can also track your progress on your customised dashboard to see what you've covered and what you should look at next. Test questions will check your progress to ensure you are on the right path and a section on tricky test questions is one to test your parent's knowledge out on.

The website is a great way to learn to be safe and independent, says Council School Road Safety Coordinator Stephanie Hautler,

"In a rural district like Selwyn having a driver's license is a key step in having independence. We have a high level of young drivers compared to more urban areas who have access to public transport. Drive.govt.nz aims to make our learner and restricted drivers, great drivers".

Community capacity building resource available online

Did you know Sport Canterbury provides online development opportunities which introduce coaches to a number of valuable tools no matter their chosen sport or level of coaching? The SportStart Coach programme covers topics including: getting started in coaching, creating a safe coaching environment and thriving under pressure.

It's one of a group of online capacity building initiatives supporting community groups, volunteering organisations and sports groups, available to access through the Council website under the community section.

Here's the plan ...have your say



Consultation opens this week on our Draft Annual Plan for 2020/21.

Our key proposals are set out in the consultation document – Here's the plan ... have your say – which is now available online at selwyn.govt.nz/annualplan20.

The document includes six key issues that we are seeking the community's feedback on, plus information on the range of projects and developments planned for the coming 12 months. It also outlines the impact on rates from these proposals. Here are some key things you should know ...

Covid-19 changes things

This plan was mostly developed over the past six months – before the impact of Covid-19 became clear. We know that the world is changing dramatically and we are living in uncertain times. We're very aware that the pandemic is having a disruptive effect on the Selwyn community and economy.

As a result, it's right for us to take another look at our plans and proposals. Our focus will change and some of the projects we previously saw as priorities will now be less important. We'd like feedback on how our priorities might change.

Times will be tough for some

We also know that as the Selwyn economy is affected by the pandemic, many households and businesses may be facing difficulties. Because of this the Council wants to hear the community's views on what level of rates increase is acceptable.

The annual plan originally proposed an average 3.5% rate increase, in line with the 2018–2028 Long Term Plan, but the Council will now seek feedback on options to reduce this. Options include a rates freeze, with 2020/21 rates held at the same level as the current year, or an increase somewhere between 0% and 3.5%, depending on savings that can be identified.

We'll provide help for those facing hardship

As people are struggling it's important for us to do what we can to help. In addition to reviewing rates and savings we're developing a package of rates assistance measures to help people and businesses facing payment challenges. This may include reduced penalties for late payment, and an option for extended payments. Other options including rates postponement may also be explored in the future. More information on the assistance, criteria and how to apply will be available soon.

We need to plan for recovery

At the same time the Council will have an important part to play in the district's recovery. That means we need rates income to continue providing the essential services, facilities and infrastructure our communities rely on every day. It's also important that we continue with planned infrastructure, water, roading and facilities projects that our growing district needs – and which will provide vital jobs and boost economic activity over the coming months.

We want your feedback and ideas

The consultation process gives you the chance to tell us what you like in our Draft Annual Plan, things we might do differently – and where our priorities might need to change, especially in these challenging times. We invite new ideas and new thinking, and ask that you consider how you see Selwyn developing over the next 30 years, but with immediate focus on 2020/21.

Covid-19 restrictions mean we can't run the sort of consultation programme we usually do – information and consultation options are mostly available online. At this stage we also don't know what form public hearings will take. We'll provide updates if things change.



It's all online

You can find out more at our YourSay Selwyn site www.selwyn.govt.nz/annualplan20

- Details on our consultation proposals
- Information on planned projects – district wide and local
- Information on costs and rates impacts
- Online copies of the consultation document
- Online submission form
- Online survey
- Supporting documentation

Key dates

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| · 22 April | Consultation opens |
| · 22 May | Consultation closes, 5pm |
| · 2–3 June | Public hearings (if possible under COVID-19 restrictions) |
| · 11–12 June | Council deliberations |
| · 24 June | Council formally adopts Annual Plan |

Also check out next week's Selwyn Times for more detailed information and examples.