

Journeys through stars and story for Matariki

Journeys through the stars and stories will be at the heart of Matariki celebrations in Selwyn.

Matariki is the traditional Māori new year celebration, observed in July, when the constellation of Matariki rises in the dawn sky. It is a time for whānau to come together, to remember those who have passed away in the last year and to celebrate the dawn of a new mahinga kai (food and natural resource) season. With the kūmara recently harvested it was also a time of feasting, celebrating and wānanga (learning).

For Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, the local people of Taumutu, the kūmara harvest is even more significant as Taumutu is the southernmost point where kūmara was grown in Aotearoa New Zealand. This year Matariki will be marked on 13 July, but celebrations will be held surrounding that date.

To mark Matariki in Selwyn there will be a special visit from Manu, a digital guide who will take people on a walk through the maramataka or the Māori lunar calendar. Using a smartphone app 'The Journeys of Manu' will see virtual guide Manu tell the story of the maramataka as people walk along a path with way points in Foster Park and along the Liffey in Lincoln. The Journeys of Manu app can be downloaded from arajourneys.com/journeys-of-manu-maramataka.

The Journeys of Manu will be available from Monday 6 to Sunday 19 July.

The Council will also provide a star guide, put together by volunteers from the West Melton Observatory, so children and parents can study the night sky and learn about the constellations, planets and moons. This will be available from Council facilities.

Selwyn libraries will hold story times at the libraries from Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 July. There will also be a star hunt quiz with prizes available at each of the Selwyn Libraries and the Council recreation centres, and an online kite-making tutorial.

A message from the Mayor

As we reach a new milestone in New Zealand from the impacts of COVID-19, Mayor Sam Broughton has shared a message reflecting on the past months.

We did it – and when I say we, I mean Team Selwyn.

No part of our community was untouched by the effects of COVID-19 and every one of us played our part in getting through the most extraordinary three months in New Zealand's modern history.

From the outset our Council stuck to a simple plan—keep essential services going, respond to immediate needs and look out for the vulnerable.

While we were busy keeping on top of these basics, our community pulled out all the stops. I was humbled by the countless acts of kindness, ingenuity and compassion shown in Level 3 and 4. A great example was local vegetable farmer Allen Lim inviting volunteers to pick excess stock for food banks. He has now offered a section of his property where he will grow vegetables exclusively for foodbanks on an ongoing basis.

Reflecting the gargantuan community effort, our Community Response Teams mail dropped information on support services to over 1500 isolated members of our community, and our welfare team called 3000 vulnerable people across Canterbury to see if there was anything they needed. Much needed food parcels were delivered and we manned a 24/7 help line.

As we all become more reliant in the internet our library staff called their over-70s members to check in on them and offer support with online services. We are all 'Zoom experts' now.

As a Council we rapidly adapted, setting up online tools and other ways to keep services going. We learnt many lessons from this experience that help us deliver a better service to you. I urge you to do the same.

As we pick up the pieces, it is evident that there is still much hardship to come. The impact on our households and businesses is still not fully understood. We will continue to do all we can to support those in need. You can do your bit by supporting local, that's what I'll be doing for the foreseeable future.



Selwyn rates increase cut to 1.6% average

The Council has signalled it expects to cut its rates increase from an average 3.5% to around 1.6% for the 2020/21 year, starting from 1 July 2020.

The Council completed deliberations on its draft Annual Plan last week and indicated it had identified net savings of \$1.7 million, which will be used to reduce the level of the rates increase.

The draft Annual Plan, developed prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, initially proposed an average rates increase of 3.5%. A revised plan was issued for consultation in April, and the Council asked for community feedback on options for reducing the rates increase.

Savings identified during the consultation process include deferring a number of new building projects, streamlining some planning work, and removing township and ward discretionary funds from the coming year's budgets.

Refurbishment work at the Council's Rolleston offices will also be deferred, and catering at Council meetings will be stopped. There will be no increase in staffing numbers this year, other than those required for new facilities currently under construction. There will also be no funding for staff salary increases. Council chief executive David Ward had already confirmed he will take a 15% salary reduction for the coming 12 months.

Most requests for unbudgeted new funding in the coming year will not be accommodated at this stage, and several projects will be reconsidered under the Long-Term Plan process next year.

The expected 1.6% rates increase is an average across the district. The actual increase will vary according to different property types and the services provided. The range of increases is expected to vary between 1.4% for urban residential properties (around \$1 a week) and 3.2% for some larger rural properties. The Council has also put in place a rates assistance package to help people affected by COVID-19, including an extended rates payment period and reduced penalty fees.

The final plan, including confirmed budget and rates proposals, will be considered by the Council for adoption on Wednesday 24 June.

Demolition of Lincoln building begins

Work will begin next week on the demolition of the Lincoln Chinese Takeaway building on Gerald Street.

The building at 5 Gerald Street is being removed as the first step in opening up the retail area and transforming the street appeal for the Lincoln Town Centre upgrade.

The work was due to take place at the end of March, but had to be delayed due to the Alert Level 4 lockdown. Work to prepare the building for demolition is due to begin on Thursday 25 June is expected to be completed by Friday 7 August.

The demolition will also allow further developments in this area to occur more easily during the Lincoln Town Centre upgrade, which is scheduled to start in 2023, and allow any developments to remain in keeping with the rest of the town centre design.

A traffic management plan will be in place for the duration of the demolition works. Car parks directly in front of the building will also be closed during the work for safety reasons and for use by the contractors. Pedestrian access to the adjacent businesses will be maintained.

A specialist team will safely remove asbestos from the building during July before the demolition itself starts on 27 July. New Zealand has strict laws for safe removal and this team will be working to the Worksafe New Zealand Code of Practice for the management and removal of asbestos and a site specific safety plan.



Councillor Grant Miller and Council Group Manager Property Douglas Marshall outside the Gerald Street property ahead of demolition.

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

Notices

SPORT NEW ZEALAND
RURAL TRAVEL FUND

Sport New Zealand Rural Travel Funding is available for Selwyn sport teams who need to travel to local competition games and are comprised of members aged 5-19 years (school competitions

in school time are not eligible). This funding round is for winter sports only. For further information and application forms go to selwyn.govt.nz/services/funding/sport-nz-rural-travel-fund or contact Stuart Westoby, 03 347 2708, stuart.westoby@selwyn.govt.nz

Applications for this funding round close Friday 26 June 2020

ALCOHOL NOTICES

ADLEC Ventures Limited has applied for an on licence. Objections are open until 29 June. For more information go to selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices.

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 or phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.*

**These meetings will also be livestreamed via the Council website and YouTube Channel.*

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD

Malvern Community Board
Mon 22 June 4pm
Darfield Library

Council*

Wed 24 June 1pm
Rolleston Council Offices

Audit & Risk Subcommittee*

Wed 1 July 9.30am
Rolleston Council Offices

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Coalgate Township Committee

Tue 23 June 7.30pm
Coalgate Fire Station

Darfield Township Committee

Thu 18 June 7.30pm
Darfield Library

Doyleston Community Committee

Wed 1 July 7.30pm
Osborne Park

Glentunnel Township Committee

Mon 29 June 7.30pm
Glentunnel Community Centre

Killinchy Community Centre Committee

Mon 22 June 7.30pm

Leeston Park Committee

Mon 29 June 7.30pm
Leeston Park Pavilion

Rolleston Residents' Association

Mon 22 June 7pm
Rolleston Community Centre

Sheffield-Waddington Community Committee

Thu 18 June 7.30pm
Sheffield Community Hall

Springston Committees - Community, Hall & Reserve

Wed 17 June 7.30pm
Errol Tweedy Pavilion,
Springston Reserve

Tawera Memorial Hall Committee

Wed 1 July 7pm
Tawera Memorial Hall

West Melton Residents' Association

Wed 17 June 7.30pm
West Melton Community and Recreation Centre

KidsFest coming soon

KidsFest is back for the winter holidays and bookings have opened at selwyn.govt.nz/kidsfest.

Events will be run at Selwyn Libraries and Selwyn Aquatic Centre and across the district, from giant inflatables at Selwyn Aquatic Centre to dancing it up at Discomania.

Families are encouraged to get in quick to register their children for their preferred activities, with perennial favourites such as the high ropes challenge always booking out quickly. This year sees the return of the always popular Hip Hop classes, with classes available in West Melton and Lincoln. While the Discomanias will be held allowing children from 3-13 years old to get their wiggle on in Leeston, West Melton and Lincoln.



Helping others follow in her footsteps

Continuing our series celebrating the Faces of Selwyn. Visit selwyn.govt.nz/facesofselwyn for the full story.

Sheetal Sharma always loved everything about New Zealand. She worked as an education consultant in India promoting study options in New Zealand until she convinced herself and her husband to study there too.

"He was planning for higher studies in the US, but I convinced him to come to New Zealand because of the Kiwi lifestyle and friendly people.

"I just want to live a life in a country where you are close to nature, because I come from a busy city with lots of traffic and people. The total population of New Zealand is the total population of my city."

The pair arrived in Invercargill in 2012 and worked in Wellington and Auckland, before moving to Christchurch in 2017.

Arriving in Christchurch, Sheetal was pregnant with her first child and they went searching for their first family home. After a visit to friends in Rolleston the couple decided it was the place to be.

Fortunately, the property next door was for sale and they snatched it up.

Sheetal works full time with international students at Lincoln University, helping them to settle into the new country and supporting their academic needs.

"I understand the challenges of new migrants and I really like to help them. It doesn't matter if they come from India, China or any other country; I feel that they have the same challenges in settling in, the language barrier or the cultural shock, or homesickness – which is why I took up this job."

Growing up in Hyderabad, in southern India, she lived with her extended family and her husband under the same roof and had lots of domestic help that took care of needs around the house. Listening, reading and watching the news helped her to adapt, she says.

By attending many cultural activities, visiting the temple for prayers and cooking biryani rice Sheetal stays connected to her culture.

She spends most of her free time with her three-year-old daughter Arnika who loves feeding the ducks at the pond near their home.



How do I?

How do I book an AA appointment?

AA at the Council's Rolleston HQ have introduced an online booking system for driver licensing to alleviate disruptions caused by increased customer volumes.

Customers now need to book an appointment for a driver licensing application through the online booking portal on the council website by visiting selwyn.govt.nz/bookaa.

Customers can book a timeslot up to seven days ahead for slots that are not already booked. They just need to click on the empty slots on the booking portal.

Customers will need to bring all relevant documentation to their appointment. If you are unsure what you need to bring, please visit the NZTA website or phone us on 0800 SELWYN (735 996).

Bookings via the online booking portal are only required for driver licensing. Other transactions are running as usual and do not require prior booking.



On the roads

Tennyson Street is closed from 43 Tennyson Street to Markham Way due to the Rolleston Town Centre infrastructure upgrade. Due to the Lowes Road and Tennyson Street intersection upgrade, Lowes Road is one way on both sides of the intersection, with lanes open for traffic heading away from the intersection, but

not towards it. A stop/go system and speed restrictions are also in place on Tennyson Street.

Leeston Road and Old Bridge Road intersection is being upgraded. Traffic management is in place.

Trents Road is closed heading south east away from Springs Road while upgrades are made to the sewer system.

Leeston Road and Brookside Irwell Road intersection is being upgraded. The intersection is closed to traffic looking to exit Brookside Irwell Road and a stop/go system is in place for traffic looking to turn from Leeston Road into Brookside Irwell Road.

LOVE SELWYN BUSINESS

Are you a business owner?

Register your business today – it's free!

- Build your google rankings
- Free to advertise in the situations vacant page
- Free Love Selwyn business decal to display
- Support local business to business – collaborate with other Selwyn businesses
- Council promotes the directory

To register visit selwyn.govt.nz/businessdirectory or email business.directory@selwyn.govt.nz



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

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

0800 SELWYN

www.selwyn.govt.nz

SelwynDistrictCouncil

