



A dancing dream comes true

Assistant librarian and former teacher Jade Bell with her ex-students Bradley Ward, Matt Bool and Noah Yates and one of their dancing sculptures in Brookside Park

The dreams of a class of children at Rolleston School to make their community beautiful is coming true through a huge community effort.

Three statues of dancing children have been installed at Rolleston’s Brookside Park – the first of 21 statues to be installed around Rolleston as an eight-year dream is realised.

It all started in 2012 with an art project by a group of Year 2 students at Rolleston School, then teacher and now Selwyn Community Library Assistant Jade Bell says.

“We used the idea of dancing in a circle, to explore observational drawing skills, the students then used their drawings to design and create sculptures of dancing figures made out of wire. While working through this process the students decided that they wanted to do something to bring some beauty to their community. At that stage, what they were seeing was a lot of building sites.”

After eight years hard work a huge community effort has finally seen the statues in place.

The Rolleston Men’s Shed came on board, offering to build the statues for free. Businesses around the town have sponsored the materials for each statue, and the combined efforts of landscapers Morgan and Pollard and engineering firm Lumen will see the sculptures professionally installed at no cost.

Jade has also worked with the Council and the local Reserve Committee, which is providing locations for the sculptures.

“Initially the plan was to have a circle, but we’ve got 21 statues each representing one of the children, so we’ve identified a series of sites. The plan is, eventually we will create a trail for them and people will be able to visit them using the Township Trails Selwyn App.”

Bradley Ward, who designed the red sculpture installed at Brookside Park this week, says he felt very proud of the sculpture and that something he made was going to be in the park near his house for many years.

The experience was made more memorable by seeing his sculpture with two made by his friends, Noah and Matt. He is looking forward to seeing the sculptures everyday on his way to and from school.

Join a world of food, dance and games

Food, dance and games from Aotearoa to Scotland and everywhere in between will be a part of this year’s CultureFest.

Expressions of interest to be a part of the popular annual festival in Lincoln on Sunday 18 October, close this Friday 28 August—with food, games and dance already in the planning.

People will have an opportunity to try out traditional Māori games and learn belly dancing, while the team behind the Hororātā Highland Games says it will be ‘bringing the Scottishness’.

Highland Games Event Manager Cindy Driscoll says this will be the third year that volunteers from the games will take part in CultureFest and they’re excited to be involved.

In the past they have brought a tugging rig, taught highland dance and helped people trace their Scottish lineage, she says.

The team is planning a hands-on set of activities that people can get involved in that could range from games, to dance depending on the volunteers available, she says.

“It’s a really fun festival. It’s really cool to see all the cultures showcased from across the world. Selwyn has a lot of multi-cultural aspects and people and it’s good to see that all in one place.”

Any individual, club or group interested in performing on stage or being a stallholder at CultureFest, or running a workshop, during the week of 18-24 October can find a form at selwyn.govt.nz/culturefest.

Expressions of interest close on Friday 28 August at 5pm.



Economy remains strong despite COVID

The district’s economy is showing positive signs despite the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic.

New figures from analysts Infometrics show Selwyn was one of only 11 districts where gross domestic product (GDP) grew over the past year, up 1.3% over the year to June 2020. Across Canterbury GDP fell by 2.3% and by 2.1% nationally. Consumer spending was also up by 3%.

House sales rose by 8% and house prices by 2%, backing the record number of building consent applications the Council has received since the Level 4 lockdown. Infometrics data shows residential building consents issued increased by 45.2% during the year, compared with the same period a year ago. The number of consents increased nationally by 8.1% over the same period.

Tourism spending was down by 7.6%, though the drop was significantly less than the 12% fall across Canterbury and nationally.

The figures show the impacts of the Level 4 Lockdown, as GDP declined by 11% in the district during April, May and June and consumer spending fell by 9.7%.

The number of people receiving Jobseeker support rose over the year by 41.9% with 860 people receiving the Jobseeker Support and 124 people receiving COVID Income Relief Payment in the district. This was up from 421 people receiving Jobseeker Support in June 2019.

However, the unemployment rate in Selwyn remained unchanged from the same time last year, at 2.3%, and almost half the national unemployment rate of 4.1%.

Mayor Sam Broughton says the figures give some comfort, but the full impacts of the pandemic show the need for caution.

“Selwyn is well placed, based on our strong community and diversified economy and the figures back that up. However they also show signs that many of our households and businesses are hard-pressed and we face challenging times ahead. Our Council is continuing to support local New Zealand businesses, and we will all need to keep supporting each other as things continue to change over the coming months.”

Selwyn libraries supporting mask making

With people encouraged to wear masks at COVID-19 Alert Level 2, the Selwyn Libraries are helping out.

Each of the four libraries has a sewing machine, which is being made available for people to make their own masks. The libraries are supplying patterns and thread at each library for people who bring their own fabric to make a mask. Patterns are available at each library and through the libraries’ Facebook page for people with their own machines to make masks at home.

Picking up mask patterns has proved very popular with library users, District Arts Culture and Life-long Learning Coordinator Mat Logan says.

The libraries are always on the lookout for ways to support the community and help people build skills. Past sewing and craft initiatives at the libraries have proved very popular and masks filled an immediate need, he says.

“With the advice for people to wear facemasks we can provide the opportunity to people and the plans to make them quickly and cheaply at home.”

It also gives people the chance to help others by making masks for whanau and friends, Mat says.

Anyone wanting a mask pattern can collect one from the libraries or visit [Facebook.com/SelwynLibraries](https://www.facebook.com/SelwynLibraries) to find a download link.



Council Group Manager Community Services and Facilities Denise Kidd models a face mask made using the Selwyn Libraries’ machine and pattern

Notices

DARFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE SURVEY

We're keen to hear from the Malvern Community on what services they want to see offered at Darfield Recreation and Community Centre. Darfield Recreation and Community Centre has a range of rooms and spaces available including a hall, large meeting rooms and kitchen facilities. Let us know what you'd like to see at the centre by taking the quick survey at selwyn.govt.nz/darfieldsurvey.

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.*

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD

Council*
Wed 26 August 1pm
Rolleston HQ Offices

Audit & Risk Subcommittee*
Wed 2 September 9.30am
Rolleston HQ Offices

Council*
Wed 9 September 1pm
Rolleston HQ Offices
**Livestreamed on Council website and YouTube channel*

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Doyleston Community Committee
Wed 2 September 7.30pm
Osborne Park

Glentunnel Community Centre Committee – Triennial Elections
Tue 15 September 7.30pm
Glentunnel Community Centre
Residents of Coalgate, Glentunnel and Whitecliffs are

invited to attend. New committee members are most welcome.

Glentunnel Township Committee
Mon 31 August 7.30pm
Glentunnel Community Centre

Greendale Recreation Reserve Management Committee
Tue 1 September 8pm
Greendale Pavilion

Leeston Community Committee
Mon 7 September 7.30pm
Leeston Library

Leeston Park Committee
Mon 31 August 7.30pm
Leeston Park Pavilion
Tawera Memorial Hall Committee
Wed 2 September 7pm
Tawera Memorial Hall

Leeston flood protection takes next steps

The next stage of the Leeston flood bypass works has been confirmed to start soon, with both stages 3 and 4 planned to progress this summer.

The project to construct the bypass began in 2014 to address long-term flooding issues with the Leeston Creek and is due to be completed in 2023.

Stages one and two of the four stage project have already been completed and work on stage three of the project, to replace the High Street culverts and connect the new culverts to the Volckman Road drain is due to begin on site in October. The contract for this work has been awarded to SICON Ltd.

Detailed design work for stage four, connecting the Leeston creek with the flood bypass channel is under way and the Council is making progress to begin construction in February 2021.

Further work and refinements to the overall bypass have been identified and will be considered in the future.

Child restraint clinics back in August

Selwyn Carseat Champions are back running their regular monthly clinics under Level 2. The Selwyn Carseat Champions are a group of passionate local volunteers who are trained Child Restraint Technicians specialising in the installation and fitting of child restraints.

At the clinics members of the team will assist you with fitting your child into their car seat and getting the car seat correctly installed into your car.

The next clinic will be held on Saturday 29 August from 9am in the carpark of the Selwyn District Council offices in Rolleston. To book a time at the clinic, or ask for advice contact a technician on facebook.com/selwyncarseats or email roadsafety@selwyn.govt.nz.



On the roads

Trents Road has reopened heading south-east away from Springs Road, but traffic management remains in place while minor pipework is completed.



JOIN US TO PLANT A NATIVE TREE

Are you new to Selwyn or have you been here a while? Everyone is welcome to join us in a community activity to contribute to putting down roots in Selwyn. Spades and gloves will be provided or bring your own.

Sunday 6 September
9.30am to 12pm
Chamberlains Ford Recreation Reserve
Old Bridge Road, Leeston

Register at selwyn.govt.nz/events/registration by Monday 1 September.

A restoration planting initiative by Selwyn District Council.



Selwyn Events

THURSDAY
27
AUGUST

Nutrition for Healthy Eating
Lincoln Library, 6–8pm
Nutritionist Pip Meads from Pure and Simple Nutrition will offer practical tips for improving nutrition, and opportunities for participants to ask questions. Topics covered in Healthy Eating include: What does a balanced meal look like? What is healthy eating? Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz.

FRIDAY
28
AUGUST

Splash Time
Selwyn Aquatic Centre, 8am–8pm
A great way to introduce your baby to the water. The 45-minute sessions by a qualified instructor cover the importance of water experiences in child development, safety and a taster of parent/child swim classes. Suitable for 4 months to 3 years. Bookings essential. Email: swimschool@selwyn.govt.nz

FRIDAY
28
AUGUST

Rhymetime wiggles and giggles
Lincoln Library, 9.30–10am
Stories, songs, rhymes and bubbles make up our Rhymetime sessions, designed to assist with early language development and to have fun. Aimed at 1–3 years. Free, weekly sessions, term time only.

SATURDAY
29
AUGUST

Discovery Time
Leeston Library, 11am–12pm
Come along to our weekly sessions with fun activities and experiments. Each month will focus on either science, technology, engineering, art or maths. You will learn how to grow crystals, make slime, construct marshmallow bridges, and more. No booking required.

MONDAY
31
AUGUST

Darfield Ukulele Group Performance
Darfield Library, 11–11.30am
Join us for a performance by the Darfield Ukulele Group. Listen to some popular songs played on ukulele while you browse for books, or sit down and enjoy the show.

TUESDAY
1
SEPTEMBER

Coding Club
Rolleston Library, 3.30–4.30pm
Join our weekly Coding Club sessions for some hands-on coding and problem solving fun. Aimed at people aged 9–13 years.

For information on listing a community event visit 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

0800 SELWYN

www.selwyn.govt.nz
SelwynDistrictCouncil

