

A long wait to celebrate together with new Kiwis came to an end last week.

The first citizenship ceremony in a year was held in the Council chambers on Wednesday. The ceremony saw 28 New Zealanders from 12 different countries ranging from Saudi Arabia to Colombia, Canada and the United Kingdom take the oath or affirmation to officially become Kiwi.

Citizenship ceremonies were paused nationwide in March last year due to the Covid-19 global pandemic, with the Department of Internal Affairs giving the go-ahead for ceremonies to return this month.

In the meantime, new citizens have received their citizenship by mail, but it was good to be able to come together again and mark the event, Mayor Sam Broughton says.

"One of our strengths in Selwyn is our diversity and the way that we have built a community that embraces new people. The citizenship ceremonies are a special time for new citizens to celebrate the day, but also for us to welcome them and what they bring to Selwyn."

The ceremony opened with a moving moment as Khalid Alsulaiman walked to the front of the room and read his affirmation, despite still being in recovery from surgery for a brain tumour that had affected his speech and ability to walk. Dr Alsulaiman came to New Zealand from Saudi Arabia to complete a PhD at Lincoln University, where he went on to teach.

The new citizens shared stories of how they came to Aotearoa from falling in love with the country while on holiday here, to moving for work or studies.

Christchurch Multi-cultural Council President, Surinder Tandon also attended as part of the district and the Multi-cultural Council's work to help new arrivals feel welcome and settle here.

Southbridge bus service needs you

The 87 Southbridge – City trial bus service needs more regular use if it is to continue.

The trial bus service, run by Environment Canterbury, is for residents commuting to Christchurch city from Leeston, Doyleston, Irwell and Springston. It operates as an express service, running city-bound in the morning, and then City-Southbridge in the afternoon.

In a 2019 Southbridge/Leeston community survey of 200 people, almost all respondents supported the service. Currently, the service has around 28 boardings in total per day, mainly school children, with an extra 15 boardings per day on average needed to sustain the service, Environment Canterbury General Manager Public Transport Stewart Gibbon said.

With appropriate community support, the trial service has potential to provide a valuable, sustainable transport option for people working in the city. But, to keep the service viable, customer numbers need to increase, he said.

"Because there is a targeted rate for Leeston and Southbridge to cover this service, we need to make a call about continuation prior to Environment Canterbury's Long-Term Plan being finalised."

"Children are the main users of the service and we are aware that those students may rely on the service to get to and from school, but the service needs to be sustainable to justify a community charge through rates to continue it."





Hororātā flood protection advances

Flood protection works have taken a big step forward around Hororātā with two major projects coming to completion.

Work to clear Happy Jacks Creek, north of the township, finished last week, with 900 cubic metres of material removed to clear the creek channel. The cleared channel now has more capacity to take water in heavy rain events and help water flow faster through the creek and away from the township.

Hundreds of willows are also being cleared from 1.5 kilometres of the Hororātā River and Cordys Stream to the south-west of Hororātā this week

The joint project with Environment Canterbury has taken three weeks and should be finished this week, clearing the channel and remove obstructions from the river and stream.

The work is part of ongoing flood protection work around Hororātā since 2019, including improvements to drainage in the township. The next stage of flood protection work will be to open a drainage channel to the south of Bealey Road, which the Council is aiming to progress this autumn.

Other major stormwater projects in the district include the completion of stage three of the Leeston stormwater flood bypass, which was connected in December. The Council is working on the final processes to allow construction of stage four, connecting the Leeston creek with the flood bypass channel.

Further work and refinements will be considered in the future on the Leeston stormwater flood bypass. Council is also carrying out investigations to identify options for other flooding hotspots around the district.



Happy Jacks Creek before debris cleaning this year



Happy Jacks Creek after clearing



On the Roads

Pavement repairs are taking place on Walkers Road, Wards Road and Leaches Road. Traffic management is in place for these works.



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

DOG MICROCHIPPING

This free monthly service is available on Friday 19

- March at the following places:
 Rolleston Council Offices 9–9.30am
- Lincoln Library 10.15-10.45am Leeston Library 11.30am–12pm Darfield Library 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 contract Tracey Wheeler on 0800 SELWYN

MALVERN WATER RACE SCHEME WATER OUTAGE

Due to culvert replacement work, there will be a planned water race outage on the Malvern scheme in the Coalgate, Darfield and Greendale areas until Saturday 20 March.

For a full map of the area affected visit selwyn. govt.nz/publicnotices

Meetings

Public Forums: Council, Community Board and local committees 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 Committee meetings: To list or make changes to meeting details, email meeting.changes@ selwyn.govt.nz or phone 0800 SELWYN (735 996) by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

Extraordinary Council Meeting * Wednesday 17 March 11am Rolleston Council Offices

Malvern Community Board Monday 22 March 4pm Darfield Library

Council Meeting *

Wednesday 24 March 1pm Rolleston Council Offices *Livestreamed on the Council website and YouTube channel

DISTRICT COMMITTEE **MEETINGS**

Coalgate Township Committee Tuesday 23 March 7.30pm

Coalgate Fire Station **Glentunnel Community**

Monday 29 March 7.30pm Glentunnel Community Centre

Hororata Citizens Committee Tuesday 23 March 7.30pm Hororata Hall

Leeston Park Committee Monday 29 March 7.30pm Leeston Park Pavilion

Rolleston Residents Assn Inc. Monday 22 March 7pm

Rolleston Community Centre **Springston Committees**

Wednesday 17 March 7.30pm Errol Tweedy Pavilion, Springston Reserve

Looking after your home

For most of us our home is our biggest single investment, so it makes sense to protect it by carrying out regular maintenance. Our building team provides seasonal advice to help you keep on top of maintaining your home.

Autumn

Autumn is a beautiful season, as the leaves on the trees change colours and the days start to shorten.

This is a great time to have a tidy up around your property and prune trees and shrubs, collect up leaves and turn them into compost. While you're picking up leaves don't forget to clean out your spouting, which gets filled up with leaves and other wind-blown debris at this time of year. This will ensure you are ready for the rain that inevitably comes with winter and won't have overflowing gutters due to blockages. And if you don't want to do this job each year, consider fitting leaf guards to your spouting.

Also check that driveway sumps and drainage channels are clear of leaves and other blockages.

Selwyn on the way with new water safety plans

Selwyn has become one of the first places in the country to receive a tick for safety of drinking water under new stricter legislation.

The Council's water safety plan for the Hororata water supply has been signed off by the Canterbury District Health Board, making it among the first in the country to be approved under the new system.

All Councils are required to regularly submit water safety plans, demonstrating that they have identified and are managing risks to keeping drinking water safe, but these requirements have become stricter under new legislation brought in since the Havelock North e-coli water contamination in 2016.

Selwyn has 27 water schemes which each require a water safety plan. Having its first plan approved is a significant step in demonstrating how the new system will operate, but a lot of work remains to get the remaining safety plans approved, particularly for non-chlorinated water supplies where requirements are much stricter. The Council is working with the District Health Board on the remaining water safety plans.

Work on the water safety plans runs alongside the Council's infrastructure work building and upgrading pump stations and water treatment plants, to increase capacity and improve water quality and safety over the past three years. Including a \$23 million district-wide programme of 59 capital works projects over the past three years.

Active Autumn is comina soon with a chance to win great prizes

Our annual fun school challenge to get kids walking, wheeling and being active on their way to school is returning for term two. Contact: roadsafety@selwyn.govt.nz to get your school involved.



Selwyn Events

WEDNESDAY

Workbridge Clinic

Rolleston Library, 1–3pm

Workbridge specialises in helping employers connect with job seekers with disabilities or health conditions. Drop-in for one-on-one support with an experienced Workbridge consultant. Free, fortnightly on a Wednesday. Bookings not required.

THURSDAY

MARCH

Children's Book Club

Leeston Library, 3.30–4.30pm Share your latest reading adventures, see the new books that have arrived at the library, participate in an activity and have a snack. For those aged 5–11 years.

THURSDAY

MARCH

Lincoln Picnic in the Park Lincoln Domain, 5-7pm

Enjoy a summer's evening at the park with the family, music, a free sausage sizzle, face painting and more.

SATURDAY

MARCH

Easter Craft Roadshow Darfield Recreation and

Community Centre, 10-11.30am Pop down to your local community centre for some Easter crafting fun! Bookings essential selwyn.govt.nz/events.

SUNDAY

Lincoln Basketball Jam

Flemington Playground, 1-4pm

Jump into a 3X3 basketball game.

No registration required. Come with a team, join one, or just cheer one on. Or enjoy one of our other games, music and prizes. Don't miss a special appearance from the Canterbury Rams players.

MONDAY

MARCH

Hui Mātua

An informal drop-in session for people looking to connect with other caregivers, access parents education opportunities or learn about community supports. Hosted by Birthright – a not-for-profit organisation specialising in working with families, including one or two-parent families, blended families, mātua whāngai and grandparents. Free. Bookings not required.

For information on listing a community event visit

