



Annual art festival kicks off in Selwyn

An impressive array of artworks, art history and creativity will be celebrated in Selwyn from 4 November, as part of the district’s annual Art Series.

The Series will feature exhibition tours, workshops, art history presentations, and a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into maintaining Lincoln University’s enviable collection of New Zealand artworks.

The Series will begin with a tour of Pahū exhibition on Friday 4 November at Te Ara Ātea, where the works of New Zealand artists Judy Darragh, Janna van Hasselt, Turumeke Harrington, Miranda Parkes and Clara Wells are on display.

Exhibition curator Chloe Cull says the tours are an opportunity for people to learn more about the incredible artworks which were made especially for Te Ara Ātea.

“Clara Wells’ projection ‘The Search and the Return’ in particular is quite appealing to visitors as they love the moving elements. It’s quite extraordinary at different times of the day when you see the colours coming through.”

The Series will feature an insightful art history talk on Springfield-born writer, Rewi Alley, by University of Canterbury Associate Professor, Richard Bullen focussing on Rewi’s special relationship with Selwyn’s Sister City, Shandan County, and his Chinese art collection.

Two hands-on workshops will be hosted on how to make your own flip book animation, and the joys of still life watercolour painting.

Aspiring artists will have the chance to learn the best ways of writing about their work for funding proposals, and how to receive feedback or engage with criticism, thanks to curator and arts advisor Jamie Hanton.

“I’d really encourage local artists to attend Jamie’s presentation. You’ll learn some tips and tricks for talking and writing about your work, and have an opportunity to engage with others in the Selwyn arts community,” Chloe says.

To end the Series, bespoke shoemaker Louise Ayling will visit Te Ara Ātea on 8 December to share how she has combined shoemaking and photography to create powerful pieces.

Bookings are essential for many of the Selwyn Art Series events. To learn more and to book, visit selwyn.govt.nz/events.

Spring building maintenance tips – smoke alarms

A home is usually the biggest single investment most people make. So it makes sense to protect that investment by carrying out regular maintenance to keep it in good condition. Our building team provide some seasonal advice throughout the year to help you keep on top of maintaining your home.

As the days heat up it’s a good time to make sure things don’t get too hot in your home over spring and summer by testing your smoke alarms to ensure they are still working.

Like most devices, smoke alarms don’t last forever, so if you find they are not working, or the batteries have run out, buy replacements and get them fitted without delay – your life could depend on it. Always make sure you buy good quality smoke alarms with a test button so you can regularly check that they are still functioning to protect your family.

Retrofitted smoke alarms are often installed in locations that are not compliant and can lead to false alarms, so if your fitting new detectors here’s some simple rules to follow:

- Ensure they are either located in all bedrooms or within three metres of bedroom doors so that they can be heard at the bed head.
- They are best installed flat on the ceiling at the highest point and at least 300mm away from wall/ceiling junctions.
- If you have a two-storey house, ensure you have an alarm located at the top of the stairwell.
- Don’t install detectors in the kitchen or next to log burners where they will regularly trigger false alarms.
- If your smoke alarms are hard wired into your security system, follow the security system manual instructions on how to test them – this is usually easily done with a magnet.

Springfield turns out for Rewi Alley's 125th anniversary

Springfield’s Rewi Alley Memorial Park was abuzz with activity on Friday 21 October, as Malvern community came together with special guests to celebrate the 125th anniversary of Rewi’s birth in Springfield.

Members of the Malvern Community Board, Springfield Township Committee, Sister City Committee, and students and principals from Springfield School and Darfield High School were joined by the Chinese Ambassador to New Zealand Wang Xiaolong and Chinese Consul General Madame He Ying to unveil a new plaque at the memorial park.

Alley, born in 1897, remains one of China’s best-known and loved foreigners, setting up cooperatives and schools in the country. He is also the reason for Selwyn’s Sister City relationship with Shandan in northwest China.

Sister Cities Committee Chair, Allison Rosanowski says the day was a great opportunity to remember Rewi’s contributions.

“It was a moving celebration and it was wonderful to have young people involved, given the legacy Rewi started.”

“He spent many years in China, working first in the fire brigade and then as a factory inspector in Shanghai where he witnessed child labour and became concerned about the plight of young children working in factories,” she says.

“Rewi would go on to establish the Shandan Bailie School, which is now a large vocational college.”

The Chinese Ambassador spoke of Rewi’s time in China, and explained that the primary focus of the celebration was to share the Rewi Alley legacy with young people. He then unveiled the new memorial plaque with the assistance of Springfield School and Darfield High School students. The plaque was made in China and donated by the Christchurch Chinese Consulate.

Members of Rewi’s family, as well as the artist who sculpted the Springfield statue, Lu Boa and her husband also attended the ceremony.

“I’d really like to acknowledge the Springfield community who for 25 years now have kept the legacy of Rewi Alley alive,” Allison says.

Following the ceremony, the guests travelled to Amberley where Rewi spent time as a child.



Transforming drains into streams

An ambitious project to transform drains across the district into thriving streams is making an impact in Selwyn.

Work started in 2013 by Living Water, a partnership between Department of Conservation (DOC) and Fonterra, to improve the ecology and management of drains in the Ararira/LII river catchment, has grown into a partnership with councils and mana whenua to improve drainage, water quality and biodiversity, and restoring mahinga kai.

There are about 76kms of council drains and a similar length of private drains in the Ararira/LII catchment. These drains were built from the mid 1800, to drain the wetlands around Te Waihora to enable farming and land settlement.

These drains have mainly been managed through diggers digging out built up sediment. However, the drains are some of the only remaining habitats for indigenous freshwater biodiversity in Canterbury, and this process has often meant a trade off with indigenous biodiversity, ecosystem health or Māori cultural practice.

In 2020, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Living Water partners, the Council and Te Taumutu Rūnanga to apply what’s been learnt from the Living Water project to the wider catchment.

The group formed a working party in 2021 with the LII Drainage Committee and Environment Canterbury to co-design a plan for managing the whole catchment to meet biodiversity outcomes, restore mahinga kai, improve water quality and continue to provide land drainage.

The plan could help the river catchment and wider drainage in the district and become a national example, Selwyn District Council Group Manger Infrastructure and Property Murray Washington says.

“It’s a really positive and innovative partnership getting all these partners round the table to make something that’s great for Selwyn, for farming, for water quality, for biodiversity and transforming these drains into new streams.” For more information visit livingwater.net.nz.



Selwyn still the most popular place to live in the country

Selwyn continues to be the fastest growing place in the country, with more new residents in Selwyn in the past year than anywhere else in New Zealand.

The latest population estimates from Statistics New Zealand show Waikirikir Selwyn's population grew by 3,600 new residents to 79,300, which was the largest total number of new residents of anywhere in the country. Selwyn also had the biggest proportional growth at 4.5%.

In the surrounding Council areas Waimakariri grew by 1,300 people (1.9%), Ashburton by 200 (0.6%) and Christchurch City's population fell by 700 people (-0.2%) in the year to June 2022.

Selwyn's population growth was backed by a continuing strong economy. The most recent figures from economic analysts Infometrics showing Selwyn's economy grew by 6.2% in the year to June against a national average of 0.9%.

Selwyn's economy was supported by strong dairy payouts, along with the ongoing housing boom, strong consumer spending and tourism bouncing back from the impacts of the pandemic with tourism spending growing by 10.7% in the year to June.

Mayor Sam Broughton says Selwyn is benefiting from a combination of great natural attractions, good planning and a strong community.

"When people are looking for an awesome place to bring up their whanau or grow a business Waikirikir Selwyn ticks all the boxes.

"Since the pandemic we've seen people all around the world reassessing what lifestyle they want. Here in Aotearoa, people have been moving away from the big cities and in Selwyn they're seeing a beautiful region, with a young, welcoming population, great social amenities, a balance of rural and urban lifestyle, and a good economy.

"The challenge for us now is meeting the natural growing pains that come with increasing population. We're working hard to keep those things that make Selwyn attractive, to protect what we have while embracing the change."

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 0800 SELWYN (735996) by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

Council Meeting*
Wednesday 23 November 1pm
Rolleston Council Offices
Malvern Community Board
Monday 28 November 4.30pm, Darfield Library
* Livestreamed on the Council YouTube channel

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Lincoln Community Trust - AGM
Wednesday 23 November 7.30pm
Rata Room, Lincoln Community Care
Springston Community Committee
Wednesday 16 November 7.30pm
Errol Tweedy Pavilion, Springston Reserve

On the Roads

A stop/go is in place for repairs to Waimakariri Gorge Road between Woodlands Road and the Waimakariri Gorge Bridge. Please be prepared for delays of up to 30 minutes. Stop/go controls are also in place for repairs on Telegraph Road between SH1 and Two Chain Road, Marshs Road between SH1 and Meadowlands Road, Selwyn Lake Road, Leeston Road, Lincoln Tai Tapu Road, and Tancreds Road.

East Maddisons Road is closed between Lemonwood Drive and 570 East Maddisons Road until 4 November, while the subdivision owners carry out works to install a sewer main. A detour is in place.

Broadlands Drive will be closed from Goulds Road to Springston Rolleston Road 5pm-10pm Saturday 5 November for the Rolleston Fireworks Display (or Sunday 6 November if the fireworks are postponed). A detour will be in place.

Our roadworkers work hard for Selwyn. Please take care around work sites and follow site signage and treat people with kindness to help everyone get home safe. Follow the QR code with this story for a map of these works, or view our road closures map at selwyn.govt.nz/roadclosures.



Creative Communities Scheme

Now open
Current funding round closes 25 November

Funding is available for community-based arts activities in Selwyn through the Creative Communities Scheme. The scheme is a partnership between Creative New Zealand and Selwyn District Council for the delivery of the scheme in Selwyn.

The aim of the fund is to increase participation in the arts at a community level, increase the range and diversity of arts and enable young people.

For more information visit selwyn.govt.nz/creativecommunities or email creativenz@selwyn.govt.nz



Event Guide

Thursday 3 November

Virtual Reality Drop-in Sessions All Selwyn Libraries

The library has some awesome tech to check out! Kayak with the penguins in Antarctica, fly to the international space station and experience zero gravity, complete our Beat Saber challenge, or even tour Anne Frank's house. Available for ages 13+. Leeston: 2-4pm; Darfield: 3.30-4.30pm; Lincoln: 3.30-5.30pm; and Te Ara Ātea: 3.30-4.30pm.

Thursday 3 November

Children's Book Club Darfield and Rolleston libraries 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 ages 5-11 years. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Thursday 3 November

Little Potters West Melton Community and Recreation Centre, 3.30-4.30pm

Decorate a terracotta pot with unique fabrics and paint before planting seedlings in it to take home! All materials provided. Suitable for ages seven and over. \$5 per person. Bookings required at selwyn.govt.nz/events.

Saturday 5 November

How Healthy is our Water? Lincoln Library, 10.30-11.30am

The quality of the water in our waterways, and in our drinking water, is of increasing concern in the community, with potential contamination arising from a variety of sources. The presentation will discuss the key quality parameters for water, and demonstrate the testing techniques used for assessing these. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Saturday 5, Saturday 12 November

Flip Book Animation Te Ara Ātea, Saturday 5 November, 1-2.30pm Lincoln Library, Saturday 12 November, 1-2.30pm

In this workshop with Pahū! artist Clara Wells, you will learn how to make your own flip-book animation. From design to finished product you will make a simple animated sequence and learn the skills to make your own flip-books at home. 8+ years. Free, bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events

Friday 11 November

A Merry Macramé Sheffield Community Centre, 7-8.30pm

Spend some time creating a sweet little macramé Christmas decoration for yourself or as a gift. Suitable for years 13 and over. \$5.00 per person. Bookings required at selwyn.govt.nz/events.

FOR MORE COUNCIL EVENTS VISIT
SELWYN.GOV.T.NZ/EVENTS