

Significant wetland to be restored with new funding



The Council is welcoming a huge boost from the Government to restore one of the most significant wetlands in Canterbury.

A four and a half year project to restore the 81 hectare Tārekautuku/Yarrs Lagoon has received \$796,980 in funding from the Ministry of the Environment's Freshwater Improvement Fund. This funding is part of the Government's Jobs for Nature programme.

Tārekautuku, near Lincoln, is one of the largest freshwater wetlands in lowland Canterbury. It is a significant part of the ecology of the Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere catchment, with the Ararira/LII River flowing through it to the lake. Historically, Tārekautuku was a key mahika kai site for Ngāi Tahu.

It is also a significant area of native biodiversity, supporting a range of indigenous wetland plants including locally uncommon species; and a habitat for native birds, lizards and invertebrates.

The project will focus on the removal of willows and weeds, predator trapping and native plantings.

New jobs will be funded to be part of the project revitalising this natural asset, Selwyn District Council Environmental & Regulatory Services Group Manager Tim Harris says.

"This will bring back a taonga for Waikirikiri Selwyn, but it's huge for the whole region. The wetland helps improve the water quality flowing into Te Waihora, and the project will restore a habitat that's now rare on the lowland Canterbury Plains. We're creating an oasis for native plants and animal life, and giving life back to a significant mahinga kai. There's also considerable potential to allow for recreational usage in the future – including walking, kayaking, boating and bird watching."

This project is being carried out in partnership with the Tārekautuku Yarrs Lagoon Landcare Group, Department of Conservation, Living Water (partnership between Fonterra and DOC) and Environment Canterbury, and is supported by Te Taumutu Rūnanga.

The project is also supported by the Te Waihora Co-Governance (a joint partnership between Ngai Tahu, Environment Canterbury, Selwyn District Council, Christchurch City Council and the Department of Conservation). This partnership seeks the restoration of 3,500ha of wetlands around Te Waihora and the lake itself.

For more information on the Tārekautuku wetland project visit selwyn.govt.nz/Tarekautuku.

Plans for flood protection in Springfield

A door to door assessment of every house in Springfield will help the Council to plan future flood protection for Springfield.

The Springfield township was hardest hit in the flooding event in late May last year, which saw 200 people across Selwyn displaced from their homes.

Around 380ml of water fell on the Springfield area and The Bishops Gully channel (the Upper Kowai water race) overflowed in several locations in the township.

Since the flooding the Council has been working with residents who were displaced or had homes flooded, and to repair the flood damage around Springfield and across Selwyn.

It has also started work to prepare for possible future events, working with environmental and engineering firm Tonkin and Taylor Ltd to develop a digital model of the May flood event in Springfield.

The model is now being refined with precise detail, as surveyors began going door to door in the township last week surveying the floor levels of every property. This will be among the detail refined in the model, to ensure it is as accurate as possible.

With the May event mapped and the ground accurately laid out, different flood mitigation options can be identified and worked through.

The Council and Tonkin and Taylor will assess costs and benefits and the estimated timeframes for implementing possible options, with a view to presenting options to the community probably in April.



Celebration of Mahika Kai is unveiled at Te Ara Ātea

A significant new artwork for the district has been unveiled outside Te Ara Ātea.

Te Hekenga, a bronze sculpture celebrating mahika kai (food resources or natural resources), was unveiled in the western courtyard of Te Ara Ātea in Rolleston at a blessing on Saturday. The sculpture expresses the mauri or life essence of tuna, symbolically representing a poutuna, parent and a punua tuna (freshwater eels), a young child.

It was originally sculpted in clay by Kāi Tahu, Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Kahu artist Piri Cowie.

Inspired by the narratives of the kaitiaki guardian Tūterakiwhanoa, Te Hekenga recognises the significance of water and the abundance of mahika kai, found in this region. The name refers to the annual eel migration from our southern shores to the sub-tropic waters near Tonga, to spawn. Once hatched, the larvae float back on the sea currents to Aotearoa.

Having the opportunity to bring her passion for tuna to life in this work, has been an honour for artist Piri Cowie.

"The central theme for Te Hekenga is mahika kai. Tuna or hao are a taoka species, a delicacy highly valued within Ngāi Tahu. Our traditions speaks of tuna originating from the realms of the atua gods. There are a multitude of names recorded that describe and define tuna. This demonstrates how precious these taoka are to us. Te Hekenga brings with it layers of meaning and symbolism. It celebrates the guardians of waterways and the source of our sustenance. He koha tēnei, he taoka tuku iho nō mua rā anō, hei paika mō te iwi – a gift passed down through the generations for the wellbeing of our people."

The unveiling is a special next step for the Rolleston Town Centre, Council Group Manager Community Services and Facilities Denise Kidd says.

"When we had the vision for this space, we wanted it to be somewhere that celebrated Selwyn, including through taoka that reflected our unique story as Waikirikiri Selwyn. We're very grateful to Piri Cowie for her the hardwork and care she has put into capturing all that in a beautiful piece of art."



Do you live in one area and pay rates on a property in another?

Local authority elections are coming up in October 2022. To be able to vote – and have your say on what happens in your local community – you need to be enrolled.

If you live in Selwyn and you're registered on the general Parliamentary electoral roll, you'll automatically be enrolled to vote in local council elections as a Residential Elector. You'll receive voting documents in September so that you can vote by post.

You may also be eligible to enrol as a non-resident Ratepayer Elector in a council district, if you live in one council district but also pay rates on a property in a different district. You can only enrol, or be nominated to enrol, once in any council district, no matter how many properties you own in that district.

If you think you may be eligible to enrol, or nominate someone as a Ratepayer Elector, you can get an Enrolment Form for Ratepayer Electors from the council. The form is available on the Council website at selwyn.govt.nz/elections. Or contact us on 0800 SELWYN (0800 735 996) and we'll send you one.

For more information on voting, phone toll free 0800 LG VOTE (0800 54 8683)



Notices

**REPRESENTATION
REVIEW HEARING**

Selwyn District Council notified its Final Proposal for the 2022 Electoral Representation Review on 10 November 2021. One

appeal against the proposal was received. The Local Government Commission will hold a hearing to consider the appeal on Tuesday 1 March 2022, starting at 9am. Under current COVID-19 settings

the hearing will be held via videoconference. Members of the public can watch the hearing online at the Local Government Commission's YouTube channel: [lgc.govt.nz/representation-reviews](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgCgovt.nz/representation-reviews)

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 changes@selwyn.govt.nz or phone 347 2800 or 318 8338 by 9am Wednesday the week before publication.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

Council Meeting*
Wednesday 23 February 1pm via Zoom Central
Plains Water (CPW) Joint Working Committee
Friday 25 February 2pm to be held via Zoom
Malvern Community Board Monday 28 February
4pm Darfield Recreation Centre

* *Livestreamed on the Council website and YouTube channel*

DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Glentunnel Community Committee
Monday 28 February 7.30pm Glentunnel Community Centre
Kimberley Reserve & Hall Committee
Tuesday 8 March 7.30pm Kimberley Hall



On the Roads

Tennyson Street is one-way northbound between Bronte Way and the Rolleston Police Station. Rolleston Drive is one-way westbound between Masfield Drive and Othello Drive for the upgrade of the Rolleston Drive Tennyson Street intersection.

Weedons Ross Road is one-way southbound from Kingsdowne Drive to Johnsons Road as part of the seal widening of the road.

Aylesbury Road between SH1 and Two Chain Road is reduced to one-way only as part of the Darfield Kirwee Wastewater Pipeline Project. Traffic will be able to enter from SH1 and move north past the one-way site. The one-way system will be in place until late April.

Aylesbury Road between Wards Road and Miles Road also remains closed as pipeline project works continue. For updates on the project visit selwyn.govt.nz/darfieldkirweewastewater.

Repairs are taking place to Benmore Bridge, between SH73 and Benmore Road and on Telegraph Road from Essendon Road to Bealey Road.

Pre-seal repairs are taking place on Hororata Dunsandel Road between Mcwhas Road and Burgess Road, Bealey Road between Warrens Road and Lambs Road and Coaltrack Road between Beattys Road and James Street.

Soakholes are being constructed on Jowers Road between SH73 and Curraghs Road, Boundary Road between Waterholes Road and Shands Road and Robinsons Road between Waterholes Road and Bellam Road.

Traffic management is in place for these works. Please take care around work sites and follow site signage. Follow the QR code with this story for a map of these works, or view our road closures map at selwyn.govt.nz/roadclosures.



Learn to swim programme expands to new pools

More children than ever are learning to swim and stay safe in the water as the Council programmes expand to new pools.

A record 3000 people were signed up for the first term of the Council's Learn to Swim programme.

The lessons have been boosted by the programme expanding to Darfield for the first time, with 41 pupils signed up for the first programme in term 4 last year and a similar turnout for term 1 2022.

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre expansion has also provided additional space, allowing space for recreational swimmers, while allowing the former main pool to be to be a dedicated learn to swim pool during lesson times.

Council Active Selwyn Manager James Richmond says it is encouraging to see the continued growth of the programme.

"Learning to swim is a very important skill for fun, safety and staying active. Learn to Swim is one of the most popular programmes we provide and it was great to see how it has been embraced in Darfield. It's also good to see the extra space and the enhanced experience for all users of the Selwyn Aquatic Centre, including being able to grow learn to swim, helping keep our young people safe, active and having fun."



DRIVE

Start the licence journey

drive.govt.nz



Event Guide

RED SETTING PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE. VACCINE PASSES REQUIRED FOR THOSE OVER 12 YEARS AND THREE MONTHS OLD FOR ALL FACILITIES AND FOR BOOKED OR TICKETED EVENTS. CAPACITY LIMITS ARE IN PLACE.

Thursday 24 February

Skate Jam and Picnic in the Park

Leeston Park, 3.30–5.30pm and 5–7pm

A great way to introduce young people to skating with free gear hire, prizes, music and coaching from Cheapskates Skate Skool. All before our popular annual community picnic with music, kids entertainment, a free sausage sizzle, face painting and more. Bookings required. Book at selwyn.govt.nz/events.

Thursday 24 February

Worm Farm Workshop

Darfield Library, 6.30–8pm

Want to learn a new and fun way to compost? Join John Feeney from the BHU organic farm in Lincoln as he shares the benefits of worm farms. Enjoy a practical demonstration with a working worm farm and learn about what worm farms produce, how to feed them and the basics of keeping your worms alive and productive. Suitable for 18+ years. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.com/events.

Friday 25 February

Heart Foundation – Heart Health Check

Lincoln Library, 1.30–4pm

Start the year with a free Heart Check. A Heart Foundation Heart Health Advocate will walk you through the My Heart Check online tool – a short 1:1 conversation with people aged 30-75 who do not have a diagnosed heart condition, including your blood pressure and looking at other key factors. The My Heart Check tool then gives specific information on areas which could support heart health and reduce the risk of a heart event. For those outside the age group or with a heart condition the conversation can focus on any support or resources the Heart Foundation can provide. Register at selwynlibraries.com/events and drop in any time during the session.

Friday 25 February

Social Dodgeball

Selwyn Sports Centre, 6–8pm

Some Friday night fun for ages 13+ years. Grab your mates and head on down to the Selwyn Sports Centre to dodge them, hit them and catch them out! Teams of seven – come as a team or join a team on the night. Book online to register your interest. \$30 per team for each session, or \$5 per person. Book required at selwyn.govt.nz/events.

Saturday 26 February

Star Wars Quiz

Te Ara Ātea, 1–3pm

Are you a Jedi Master? Test your Star Wars knowledge with friends or family and join our special guests from a galaxy far, far away for a photo. Koha of a non-perishable item per person for a Selwyn Foodbank. Bookings required selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Monday 28 February

West Melton Community and Recreation Centre, 12–2pm

We are bringing the library to you with the Edge Connector Vehicle. Choose some new reading material, and try out painting rock labels for your vegetable garden. Children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent. Free. Bookings not required.

FOR INFORMATION ON LISTING A COMMUNITY EVENT
VISIT SELWYN.GOV.T.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
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