



Nau mai haere mai to our new Council Chief Executive, Sharon Mason

On Monday 24 July, Council staff gave a warm Waikirikiri Selwyn welcome to their new Chief Executive Sharon Mason.

Sharon, who originally hails from Northern Ireland has enjoyed a diverse range of leadership roles, including CEO of Buller District Council, CEO of Clutha Health First and Executive Director Provider Services, Hawkes Bay DHB.

She shared how excited she is to meet staff, the community and continue to build on Selwyn being a great place to live, work and play.

She is also looking forward to working with our Rūnanga partners; Te Taumutu and Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri.

“It is a privilege to take the role as Chief Executive at Selwyn District Council.

It’s been a pleasurable first few days. I’ve been out and about visiting some local cafes, but I am eager to explore more places across the district. I am looking forward to getting to know the community and understand it’s rich diverseness.”

Transalpine tunnel celebrates 100 years

One of New Zealand’s most impressive railway tunnels, located in the Southern Alps, will this week celebrate a significant birthday, marking 100 years since it opened.

The Ōtira Tunnel, which connects Arthur’s Pass with Ōtira, officially opened on 4 August 1923. At the time of its construction, it was the longest tunnel in the British Empire, measuring 8,529m in length.

The tunnel is celebrated for its engineering excellence and role in connecting the South Island’s east and west coasts. It is reported that when construction at each end of the tunnel finally met in 1918, the centre lines were less than 30mm apart: an impressive achievement at the time.

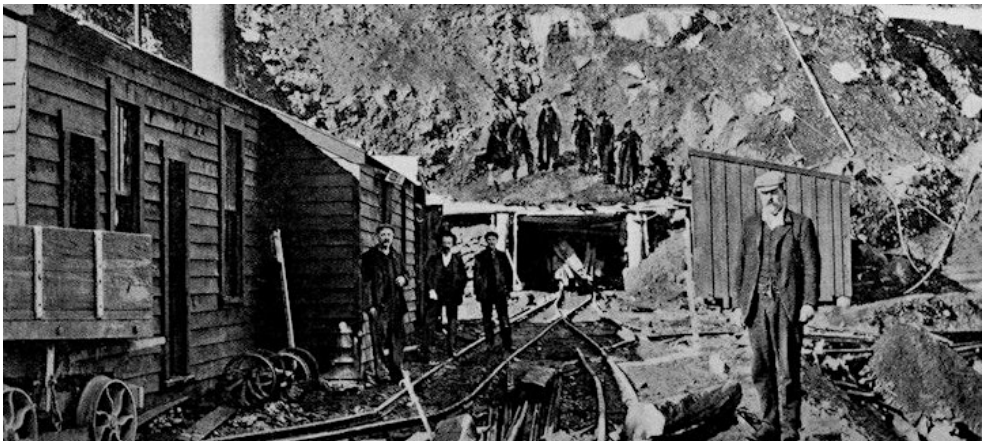
The tunnel remains in use today, with the TranzApline train climbing through the tunnel several days a week.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the tunnel’s opening, a special event will be held at Ōtira on 4 August, with more than 500 people expected to attend.

The day will feature history displays, guided walking tours, a cake and ribbon cutting, as well as a plaque and panel unveiling. Selwyn Libraries staff will also be on hand delivering children’s programmes, recording oral histories, and digitising historic photos and documents.

Interesting historical facts

- According to Engineering NZ Te Ao Rangahau, although expected to take five years to complete, the Ōtira Tunnel actually took 15 years.
- When the tunnel opened in 1923, it marked the completion of the Midland railway, which had started almost 40 years prior.



Council accepting late dog registrations

Owners who forgot to register their dogs with the Council by 31 July are being encouraged to pay their registration as soon as possible to avoid infringements.

All dogs aged three months and over in the district must be registered with the Council every year, with the annual dog registration month taking place in July.

Those who paid before 1 August were eligible for a discounted fee of \$45, but anyone who didn’t register on time must now pay the regular \$60 fee for their dog.

Council’s Head of Regulatory Susan Atherton says she was pleased to see so many owners registering on time.

“Thank you to everyone who paid their dog rego this July. Registering your pets and working dogs with us is an important part of being a responsible owner, and we appreciate all those who made sure to pay on time, either online or in person at one of our facilities.”

“If you missed the 31 July deadline, it’s important that you pay your dog registration as soon as you can. We’ll soon begin sending out reminders to those owners, and you may be issued an infringement if you wait too long.”

Owners can pay their dog registration online at selwyn.govt.nz/dogregistration.



Scholarships to help rangitahi thrive in study

Support for Selwyn young people to thrive in further study is available again.

Tertiary Scholarship applications are now open for secondary students in Selwyn to apply for scholarships to support them into tertiary studies in 2024.

Each year the Council awards scholarships to year 12 or 13 students studying in the district, with funding going towards further education for these rangitahi at a tertiary institute — often helping to pave the way for their future.

Students are encouraged to apply for the scholarship if they have achieved academic, sporting, cultural or art successes at school, in clubs or organisations, and if they have overcome any hardships or barriers. The scholarships provide payment towards course fees and costs associated with the purchase of books or equipment required for the study or training.

Last year, five tertiary scholarships were awarded to young people at Darfield High School, Lincoln High School, Rolleston College and Ellesmere College.

Scholarship recipient Jonathan Morris, who is in his first year studying Ecology and Conservation at Lincoln University says the scholarship is a great help and encouraged people to apply.

“The Tertiary Scholarship fund allowed me to focus on achieving high marks rather than worrying about earning money to afford text books and lab coats. The scholarship takes the pressure off and allows you to focus on university study, your hobbies, and your social life.”

Applications for the scholarships close on 30 September 2023.

Apply at selwyn.govt.nz/tertiaryscholarships.



Apply now for a Tertiary Scholarship and get a head start on your 2024 tertiary fees!

For more details, and to apply visit selwyn.govt.nz/tertiaryscholarships

Notices

ALCOHOL NOTICES

JEZS Family Limited (Liquorland Tennyson Street, Rolleston) has applied to renew its off licence. Objections to this application are open until 14 August. **The Bridge Prebbleton Limited** has applied for an on licence. **Broken River Ski Club** has applied to renew its off licence. Objections to these applications are open until 17 August. For more information visit selwyn.govt.nz/alcoholnotices.

Clean up continues after heavy rain

The clean up is continuing after the heavy rain and flooding over the weekend and start of last week.

Civil Defence volunteers and staff, along with our roading and water teams were active across the time of the flooding and our welfare team is still working to support those affected, while our water and roads team are hard at work with the clean up.

Water updates

People on the Hororātā water supply are reminded that a boil water notice remains in place. Please keep boiling your water. A tanker with clean drinking water is available at 23 Hororata Road, outside the Hororātā Domain. The river is slowly clearing and we will keep working to get clean water into the supply.

Sign up to receive water notices by email and text message at selwyn.govt.nz/waternotices.



Road updates

Our roading crews have started repairs and we are working hard to make sure roads are safe, but some repairs will take time. All fords remain closed and there are a number of other road closures while repairs are carried out. Please remember to check our road closures map at selwyn.govt.nz/roadclosures.

Please be careful with berms as well as these are still very wet and very soft at the moment, so if you do need to pull off the road please look for a hard standing area to safely pull over.

Flooding causes potholes, and when water gets under the road the damage isn't always visible. Travelling at high speeds can increase the damage to the roads and to you if anything goes wrong. The best thing you can do to stay safe and help get the roads repaired is report any potholes or damage via Snap Send Solve (selwyn.govt.nz/snapsendsolve) and slow down.

Thank you to the staff and volunteers who helped across the weekend and to the many Selwyn residents who helped each other and supported our teams.

Meetings

Public Forums: Council and Malvern Community Board 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, by emailing meeting.changes@selwyn.govt.nz.

COUNCIL & COMMUNITY BOARD MEETINGS

Community Services Committee* Wednesday 9 August 9am Council Rolleston Offices	Council Meeting* Wednesday 16 August 1pm Council Rolleston Offices
Transport & Infrastructure Committee* Wednesday 9 August 1pm Council Rolleston Offices	Planning & Climate Change Committee* Wednesday 23 August 9am Council Rolleston Offices
Selwyn Waihora Zone Committee Monday 14 August 4pm-6pm Tai Tapu Community Centre	Finance & Performance Committee* Wednesday 23 August 1pm Council Rolleston Offices
Representation Review Committee Tuesday 15 August 4pm-6pm Council Rolleston Offices	Malvern Community Board Monday 28 August 4.30pm Tawera Hall, Springfield

**Livestreamed on the Council YouTube channel*

Flood repairs are taking place around the district. The following roads are closed for flood repairs and maintenance: Adams Road from the Dip Road intersection; Malvern Hills Road from Auchenflower Road to Waianiwaniwa Road and Zig Zag Road from SH77 to Lake Coleridge Road. Flood repairs are also taking place around Leeston, Rolleston and Sheffield, with speed restrictions in place around road works. Please take care around these areas and slow down.

Springs Road is one way from Tancred's Road to Boundary Road from 7am-4pm for maintenance. Stop/Go controls are in place for maintenance on Trices Road from Sabys Road to Ellesmere Road and one Bealey Road from Cotons Road to Hawkins Road. Temporary speed limits are in place for maintenance on Aylesbury Road from SH73 to Wards Road; Norwood Road from Thomsons Road to Burnham School Road and Old West Coast Road from Minchins Road to Tramway Road.

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

Event Guide

Saturday 5 August

The Art of Bonsai – Intermediate
Lincoln Library, 11.30–3.30pm

Tony Bywater from the Christchurch Bonsai Society will share the essential steps to grow your own bonsai tree. This intermediate workshop is suitable for those who have had some prior introduction to the art of bonsai. The workshop covers the annual cycle of care including encouraging growth, pruning and developing branches and foliage pads. Bring one or more of your trees for advice and assistance, or if your previous bonsai have not survived, Tony can supply you with a new tree. Suitable for people aged 13+. \$40 per person (\$20 for Selwyn Libraries members). Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Sunday 6 August

Selwyn Artistic Swimming Have-a-Go
Selwyn Aquatic Centre, 2.30–4.30pm
Saturday 10am-3.30pm

In celebration of the various women's sporting World Cups happening this year, the Selwyn Artistic Team will be hosting a 'have a go' session for any kids wanting to try a new sport. You must be a competent swimmer and be confident out of your depth. Having done either dance or gymnastics is helpful, but not required. Bring your enthusiasm and a positive attitude. Suitable for ages 7-15. Free. Bookings essential at selwyn.govt.nz/events.

Tuesday 8 August

Stepping Up – Digital Essentials
Leeston Library, 11am-12pm (for four weeks)

Designed for the complete novice, this four-week programme will give you an introduction to the digital world. It covers computer basics and online essentials, as well as options for connecting to the internet. Chromebooks are provided at each session. Suitable for 18+ years. Every Tuesday from 8-29 August. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Tuesday 15 August

Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Music Trails
Lincoln Library, 10.30-11.15am

Join the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra (CSO) for a day of activities starting with an interactive music performance filled with singing, dance, storytelling and music designed for kids aged 2-6 and their whānau. A relaxed, lunchtime concert (open to the general public) will follow. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Tuesday 15 August

Christchurch Symphony Orchestra Interactive Workshop
Leeston Library, 3.30-4.15pm

Head over to Leeston Library for an after-school jam session suitable for all ages — no experience necessary! Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

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