



It's time to have the prep talk

The impact of the latest adverse events like Cyclone Gabrielle, have reminded us all that emergencies can happen at any time, anywhere, often with little to no warning. Have you had the talk about getting prepared?

It is important to make plans so you know what to do when an emergency happens. The good news is there are easy steps we can take now to get ready, starting with a simple prep talk with your whānau.

Before Cyclone Gabrielle hit the North Island last month research showed only around one third of New Zealanders had taken steps to get ready for a disaster event.

To get you started and guide you, the Selwyn Emergency Management Team has produced a booklet of tips to help residents prepare. You can download the 'Are you Ready?' booklet at selwyn.govt.nz/areyouready or pick up a copy at one of our libraries or the Rolleston Council offices.

Council Emergency Management Officer Jason Flewellen says it's important for people to be able to look after themselves for a number of days after an emergency, or when normal services are disrupted.

"You get to decide now how comfortable you'll be during an event. It just takes a short time to make sure you have the four top tips sorted — make a plan, store some water and other basics, get to know your neighbours and sign up to Selwyn Gets Ready at selwyn.getsready.net to receive emergency alerts. Just those four things will go a huge way to helping you get through.

"Interruption to services like power and water can happen at any time for any number of reasons. Disruptions could last just a few hours due to a mechanical breakdown, or a number of weeks following a large event like an Alpine Fault rupture. We're all responsible for looking after ourselves and our families to ensure we're prepared."

TOP FOUR WAYS TO PREPARE

☐ RIGHT NOW

Sign up for emergency alerts from Selwyn Gets Ready.

☐ TONIGHT

Complete the simple Emergency Plan for your household.

☐ THIS WEEKEND

Store some water – the more you can store the better.

☐ NEXT WEEKEND

Get to know your neighbours, they may be your first source of support.

Re
DISCOVER

Waste and Sustainability Education Centre
Open Day

Sunday 2 April
10am–2pm, Pines Resource Recovery Park

selwyn.govt.nz/rediscoverhub

FREE
EVENT

Bringing the community to dinner

Laughter, new friendships and “enough food to feed an army”. That was the takeaway from the district’s ‘Dinners of Selwyn’ event held on 21 March.

Forty people spanning 15 different nationalities attended the potluck dinner at the Lincoln Event Centre, in celebration of Unity Week.

Council Community and Economic Development Advisor, Kirstin Dingwall-Okoye says the event was a wonderful occasion to meet new people and share cultural experiences with one another.

“There was a really diverse mix of people around the tables. Some had only been in Selwyn for a few weeks, while others were long-time residents wanting to meet new people. We’d supplied conversation-starter cards to help break the ice, but there was really no need; the room was full of chatter and laughter.”

Attendees heralded from places all over the world including Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Pakistan, Ghana, India and France. Each person brought their favourite dish to share amongst the group as a way to celebrate the district’s diversity and bring communities together.

“There was everything from homemade chicken pie, prawn fried rice, dumplings and potstickers. Dessert was just as scrumptious, with sticky date pudding, lemon meringue pie and lemon semolina cake. There was so much food, we could have fed an army,” Kirstin says.

Dinners of Selwyn was held during Unity Week, an initiative started by the Sakinah Trust which was established following the 2019 Christchurch mosque shootings. Members of the trust also attended the potluck dinner to share the kaupapa of Unity Week.

“Thank you to everyone who came along and made the night such a success, especially the student army volunteers from the Lincoln University Students’ Association who helped host the event,” Kirstin adds.



Council staff member earns Prime Minister’s Award

A Selwyn District Council staff member has this month been recognised for her contribution to the country’s COVID-19 response.

Sanku Vyakaranam, a senior business analyst at the Council, has received the Prime Minister’s Award for her service during the pandemic in 2020 and 2021, when she worked at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, helping families who were stuck overseas to reconnect with their loved ones.

Sanku was presented the award on 6 March, and says she is humbled by the recognition.

“It has been a pleasure to serve the country during the pandemic, and I feel blessed that I could help families in need and support the COVID-19 response team.”

In her role as an emergency allocation analyst, Sanku was tasked with reviewing applications for emergency spaces in managed isolation facilities. She was able to help hundreds of people reunite with their families in New Zealand.

“The whole thing was unprecedented. I got to work in a hardworking team in what was a stressful, high-pressure environment.”

In addition to helping reconnect families, Sanku used her data analyst skills to provide daily reporting to senior leadership. This information was important for Government officials in their decision-making during the response.

Since then, Sanku joined Council, supporting the organisation to enhance its digital products and services.



Council Call

SELWYN DISTRICT COUNCIL
Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston
Ph 0800 SELWYN (735 996)

TE ARA ĀTEA
56 Tennyson Street, Rolleston
Ph 347 2880

DARFIELD LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE
1 South Terrace, Darfield
Ph 318 8338 or 347 2780

Finding a place as Kiwi

Newcomers and long-term residents took a new step together, officially becoming Kiwi, at the Council's latest citizenship ceremony.

The ceremony in Tai Tapu last week saw 96 people receive their New Zealand citizenship — the latest of 806 people from 61 different countries who have got their citizenship in Selwyn in the past year.

Te Taumutu Rūnanga Chair Liz Brown welcomed the new citizens and led karakia and a waiata, and Lt Commander Caitlin Wiseman RNZNR spoke about her role representing the New Zealand Defence Force at the event.



Selwyn's newest Kiwi came from 18 different countries from Chile to Germany, Vietnam and beyond, and were welcomed with a gift of a native kōwhai to mark the moment. After taking the oath some of the new citizens were invited to share their stories about becoming Kiwi, with those ranging from people who had been in Aotearoa for 40 years to those just starting a new life on these shores.

They were among people from every continent who became New Zealand citizens in Selwyn over the past 12 months. While the majority of the new citizens came from the United Kingdom (172 new citizens), South Africa (159 new citizens), India (133) and The Philippines (88), others came from all corners of the globe. In total over the past year, new citizens came from 61 different countries ranging from Jamaica to Oman, Serbia, Zimbabwe, Samoa, Fiji and Uruguay.

Council Easter opening hours

All Council facilities except the Selwyn Aquatic Centre will be closed Friday 7 and Monday 10 April. The closed facilities include Council's Rolleston offices, all Selwyn Libraries and the Selwyn Sports Centre.

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre is open 8am–8pm Friday and Monday 10 April.

Opening hours are as normal for Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 April.

Rubbish collections

There will be some changes to refuse collections Collections scheduled for Friday 7 will move to Saturday 8 April and collections scheduled for Tuesday 25 April will move to the prior Saturday 22 April.

All other collections will be carried out as normal. Pines Resource Recovery Park will be closed on Friday 7 April. All other days it is open normal hours: 9am–4.30pm.

Notices

ALCOHOL NOTICES

The Classy Tart Enterprises Limited (Longshot Distillery, Rolleston) has applied for the renewal of its off licence. Objections to this application are open until 17 April.

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 29 March 9am
Rolleston HQ Offices

Planning & Climate Change Committee*
Wednesday 5 April 10am
Rolleston HQ Offices

Transport & Infrastructure Committee*
Wednesday 29 March 1pm
Rolleston HQ Offices

Finance & Performance Committee*
Wednesday 5 April 1pm
Rolleston HQ Offices

Extraordinary Council Meeting to adopt Draft Annual Plan*
Wednesday 29 March 3.30pm
Rolleston HQ Offices

* Livestreamed on the Council website and YouTube channel



On the roads

Temporary traffic lights are in place on Whitecliffs Road from SH77 to Cass Street. Stop/go systems are in place for repairs on Bealey Road from Substation Road to Cordys Road, Blakes Road from Norris Street to Shands Road, Gerald Street from Maurice Street to Ellesmere Junction Road and Telegraph Road from Grange Road to Charing Cross. Priority Give Way controls are in place on Old South Road from Hororata Dunsandel Road to Wrights Road.



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.

Event Guide

Wednesday 29 March

Women's Networking Group

Te Ara Ātea, 9.15–10.30am

Make new connections and develop your social skills in a place where you can gain inspiration, support and empowerment from other women within the community. Each month, a local professional speaks briefly about their journey and there is an opportunity to network and get to know each other. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Wednesday 29 March

Genealogy Group

Te Ara Ātea, 1–2.30pm

Whether you are new to searching family history or you are an experienced researcher looking for other like-minded people, come along to our monthly drop-in Genealogy Group sessions, facilitated by the Selwyn Central Historical and Genealogical Group. Each month there is a lesson you can partake in, or come and work on your family tree. Free. Bookings required at selwynlibraries.co.nz/events.

Friday 31 March

Device Drop-In Fridays

Lincoln, Darfield & Leeston Libraries

Our weekly device drop-in sessions are informal support groups to help familiarise yourself with your digital device. Whether it's a tablet or mobile phone, someone will be able to help you with the basics. Lincoln Library: 10am–12pm, Darfield Library: 1.30–3.30pm, and Leeston Library: 1–4pm.

Friday 31 March

Children's Book and Board Games Club

Leeston Library, 3.30–4.30pm

Head along to Leeston Library every Friday afternoon to share your latest reading adventures, play board games and enjoy some fun crafts. Free. Bookings not required.

Monday 3 April

Easter Mini Gym Party

Selwyn Sports Centre, 10–11.30am

Bring your preschooler along for a fun celebration with activities, treats and more. \$5 per child. Drop-in.

Monday 3 April

English Learners Club

Lincoln Library, 1.30–2.30pm

Improve your everyday English language skills and confidence at our weekly coffee club. Sessions are focused in the needs of the learners, whether you're looking to learn or socialise. Suitable for 18+. Free. Bookings not required.

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

LEESTON LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE
19 Messines Street, Leeston
Ph 347 2871

LINCOLN LIBRARY & SERVICE CENTRE
Gerald Street, Lincoln
Ph 347 2876

0800 SELWYN
SELWYN.GOV.T.NZ
f SELWYNDISTRICTCOUNCIL

