



Media Release  
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## Coffee helps bring new neighbours together

Neighbours Day was marked in Selwyn by the Selwyn Youth Council visiting new subdivisions to spread some goodwill to new residents by distributing free coffees and juice.

Five members of the Youth Council visited Rosemerryn and Liffey Springs subdivisions in Lincoln and Faringdon in Rolleston to serve free coffees and refreshments from a new coffee cart the Selwyn Youth Council has purchased.

George Steele from the Youth Council was one of the Youth Council members who took part in the day and says it was designed to encourage new residents to visit their local parks and get to know their new neighbours by chatting to them over a coffee.

88 free coffees were given away on Sunday 29 March as part of Neighbours Day and over 150 people attended gatherings. Selwyn District Council supported this event by providing coffee, milk, juice and refreshments.

Neighbours Day is celebrated across New Zealand during the last weekend in March. The day aims to bring neighbours together and it is supported by Lifewise, Inspiring Communities, The Mental Health Foundation, Neighbourhood Support NZ, Public Libraries of NZ and many local Councils.

The coffee cart was purchased by the Selwyn Youth Council with some funding from Selwyn District Council.

"We decided to purchase the coffee cart as a business venture. We wanted to develop our skills by developing a business plan setting out how we would use the cart to make our business financially viable while gaining on the job work experience," says George Steele.

"This project will provide Youth Council members with valuable experience about what running and being part of a business involves."

The Youth Council is planning to take the cart to community events in the future. Profits from the cart will be used to host activities and events for young people. The Youth Council also plans to take the cart to major fires and civil defence events to provide free refreshment for emergency service workers and volunteer fire fighters.

Selwyn Mayor Kelvin Coe says it is great to see the Youth Council being active to help build a sense of community in Selwyn.

"The Youth Council are excellent role models for others by demonstrating how entrepreneurial skills can be used to benefit our youth and the wider community."

Other Youth Council initiatives include hosting Drive in/ Dive in movies and Youth Cafes.

*Photo attached: Nicole Gulland and Emily de Rooy from the Selwyn Youth Council give away free coffee at Faringdon in Rolleston.*

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