



Media release
Friday 4 March 2016

Help plan Rolleston's anniversary

Rolleston residents and businesspeople are being invited to help plan celebrations for the town's 150th anniversary celebrations later this year.

A public meeting is being held at Selwyn District Council on Tuesday 15 March to form an organising committee which will oversee the planning and running of events to mark the anniversary.

Selwyn Central Community Board chair, Councillor Jeff Bland, says the committee will play a key role in ensuring that a range of appropriate celebration events take place.

"This is an exciting milestone for Rolleston," he says. "It's grown tremendously over the decades, especially in recent years, and it's important that we mark the town's history and development in suitable style."

"We're looking for a committee of interested people from Rolleston to take the lead in developing ideas and events and planning the programme."

"This public meeting is open to anyone from the Rolleston community and business sector who is interested in contributing. We aim to put together a committee, elect office bearers and start regular meetings as quickly as possible."

Councillor Bland says anniversary events are likely to begin in October. A number of ideas have already been floated, he says, including projects capitalising on the town's railway theme, along with displays of historic photographs and the history of local street names and locations.

Rolleston was founded as a settlement when the railway terminus was opened in October 1866, and it served as a major railway junction from around 1880 to 1980.

The town remained relatively small for much of its early history, reaching a population of 1,000 in the 1990s. Today the population is estimated at 13,500.

Rolleston was named after William Rolleston, who served as the last Superintendent of Canterbury from 1868-76.

The public meeting to form an organising committee will be held on Tuesday 15 March, at 7pm at Selwyn District Council (2 Norman Kirk Drive, Rolleston).

Ends

Photo attached: *Rolleston railway station around 1909, with WF locomotive.*

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