



Media Release

Wednesday 26 October 2016

Don't let fireworks start a fire

With Guy Fawkes Night coming up, Selwyn residents are being reminded to be safe and considerate if using fireworks.

There are two public fireworks displays being held in Selwyn on Saturday 5 November.

"Public displays are a great way to enjoy fireworks without the risk of injury or fire and we encourage people to go along to these events," says Selwyn Principal Rural Fire Officer Douglas Marshall.

The Rolleston display will be held at Foster Park for the first time, from 5pm onwards. The event is organised by the Rolleston Residents Association and Rolleston Reserve Committee and will include a variety of games and rides, as well as stalls and food. Entry is \$5 per person or \$10 for a family. No dogs or alcohol are permitted at the event. Parking at \$5 per car is available at Clearview School on Broadlands Drive and near the Broadlands Drive/ Springston Rolleston Road intersection opposite Rolleston College. If wet, the event may be postponed to Sunday 6 November.

The Selwyn Aquatic Centre will close at 4pm on Saturday 5 November to allow for the set-up of the Rolleston Fireworks. Broadlands Drive will also be closed between Goulds and Springston Rolleston Roads from 4-10.30pm on 5 November (or alternative fireworks date of 6 November). If the fireworks are postponed until Sunday 6 November, the Aquatic Centre will also close at 4pm on 6 November.

The Motukarara Fireworks display is being held at the Waihora Domain. The evening will include live music, rides, food, and fireworks. Gates open at 5.30pm, and entry is \$5 per person, or \$20 per car (cash only).

"Volunteer Fire Brigades are normally very busy around Guy Fawkes, so please follow all safety precaution to avoid starting fires. If you are planning to use fireworks at home please be careful to keep them away from hedges, shrubs, or long grass," says Mr Marshall.

Please follow these guidelines to reduce the risk of fireworks starting a fire:

- Don't light fireworks in hot or windy conditions
- Follow handling instructions with care
- Only ignite fireworks in open spaces, away from buildings and anything flammable
- Have a supply of water nearby, like a hose or bucket
- If a firework fails to ignite, don't try to relight it as it may cause injury
- Do not drink and use fireworks, and keep children a safe distance away.
- Keep animals safe: household pets may be frightened by the noise; be aware that horses and cows may be spooked and should be secured
- Be courteous: let your neighbours know if you are planning to use fireworks; and don't let off fireworks at unreasonable times

“Sky Lanterns, also known as Chinese Lanterns, are a significant risk if they are allowed to fly away. You should only use these lanterns if they are secured to prevent them floating away,” says Mr Marshall.

If you see a fire call 111 to report it.

Ends

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