



Media release

Friday 24 October 2014

New JP clinic for Selwyn

A new Justice of the Peace drop-in clinic is starting in Selwyn to cater for the needs of the growing population.

There are currently 46 Justices of the Peace (JPs) in Selwyn, servicing a population of around 50,000.

The weekly drop-in service will be available at the Lincoln Library every Tuesday from 10am-1pm, starting on 4 November. A local JP will be on hand to witness signatures, verify copies of documents including cellphone texts and computer displayed results, take oaths and declarations, and complete affidavits.

The new initiative is being led by Lincoln JP Tony Gemmill who says there's a huge demand for JPs across all of Selwyn, especially in the areas that are experiencing significant population growth such as Lincoln and Rolleston.

"As our community grows, so do their needs," he says. "We're finding more and more people need our services but may often find it hard to track down a local JP when they need something verified or witnessed. So we are following the nationwide trend of providing easy and regular access to a local JP."

This November marks 200 years since the first Justice of the Peace for New Zealand, Thomas Kendall, was appointed in 1814.

Mr Gemmill, who has been a Justice of the Peace for the past 12 years, has recently moved to Lincoln after previously being based in Christchurch where there are five established clinics.

"Sian McDonald from the Lincoln Library expressed an interest in providing this service from the library and service centre, so after some communication with other local JPs we now have enough available to set up a weekly roster."

"We have no idea what the demand may be like, but it does present an easy and regular opportunity for the community to come along and request a service without the need to venture to the city which may have been the case before," he says.

JPs will still continue to operate from their homes and offices as they always have. To find a JP that lives near you, look in the Yellow Pages or visit www.jpfed.org.nz.

For more information on the new drop-in clinic, contact Tony Gemmill on 03 260 1242.

Ends

Photo attached: Justice of the Peace Tony Gemmill and Lincoln Librarian Sian McDonald.

For media enquiries please contact:

Allanah Jarman
Selwyn District Council
Phone 03 347 2807
Allanah.jarman@selwyn.govt.nz