



Media release

Monday 30 June 2014

Isabella provides a warm welcome at Dog Park

Selwyn dogs and their owners can expect to see a friendly new face at the Rolleston Dog Park.

Isabella Howe will be taking up her role as a volunteer Junior Dog Park Ranger at the Rolleston Dog Park for two weeks as part of the High Flyers extension program at Weedons School. The 11 year-old will be at the off-leash park during the school holidays to welcome people and share some of the key things she learnt at a Dog Smart Course which is run in schools around the district by the Council's Animal Control Team.

"It's exciting to have this opportunity because I love being with animals and enjoy bringing our family dog Ollie down to the dog park after school," says Isabella. "I'm looking forward to sharing ideas with other people too, like how to approach a dog and to remember that if it's on its own, leave it alone," she adds.

Selwyn District Council's Animal Control Team Leader Steve Clarke says it will be a great opportunity for the team to have extra presence at the dog park at such a busy time. "This will be the first time we have had a Junior Dog Park Ranger and we are confident Isabella will enjoy spending her holidays down at the park interacting with the dogs and their owners," says Mr Clarke.

Isabella's role will include meeting and greeting people and their dogs as they come into the dog park, ensuring people are using doggie-bags to clean up after their dogs and handing out lollipops to children. She will be easily recognised in her bright yellow Junior Dog Park Ranger vest and accreditation lanyard.

Mr Clarke says the Animal Control Team will be close by if any members of the public have any dog related questions or problems and Isabella will be supervised by her mother Emma at all times.

"It's also important to remember that July is an important time for dogs in Selwyn as people need to ensure their dogs are registered and details are up to date," says Mr Clarke. "Last year we re-registered one hundred percent of dogs in Selwyn that needed to be registered. This is a great achievement as it helps ensure that when dogs are lost they can be easily returned to their owners," says Mr Clarke.

Dog owners will be receiving a letter or email soon to remind them to re-register their dogs. If your contact details have changed or you have moved, please let Council know. For more information on the registering and re-registering process, or to find out more about Dog Smart education courses, visit www.selwyn.govt.nz/dogs or call 03 347 2800 or 03 318 8338.

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Photo attached: Isabella Howe and her dog Ollie at Rolleston Dog Park, where she will be helping people over the school holidays.

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