

MAYOR SAM'S NEWS

ISSUE 7 – WINTER 2022

— KIA ORA —

As the Mayor of Selwyn I have been privileged to support local initiatives and achievements across Selwyn. A recent example of this was when Plunket opened a new playground in Darfield. The project was conceived over two years ago and was driven by local volunteers who had sought funding from the Council and then used local contractors to deliver something exceptional. Now parents and caregivers have another safe place to bring their tamariki and enjoy support from each other.

Mayor Sam



Listening to our communities

There's a lot of change in the provision of water at the moment and I talk more about Three Waters inside this newsletter. The Government has also introduced a tougher new law about drinking water which means all councils across New Zealand must chlorinate all drinking water supplies by 15 November 2022 – unless the supply receives an exemption. We are applying for exemptions for supplies that we believe are safe to remain chlorine free. This is in line with the strong feedback we have received from our communities, telling us that you want to keep chlorine out of our drinking water. The final decision isn't ours, but I wanted to give you a heads up about this important matter on the horizon. For more information on what this means for Selwyn see our Council website at selwyn.govt.nz/water-chlorination.



Mayor Sam outside Toka Hapāi Selwyn Health Hub

Awesome projects

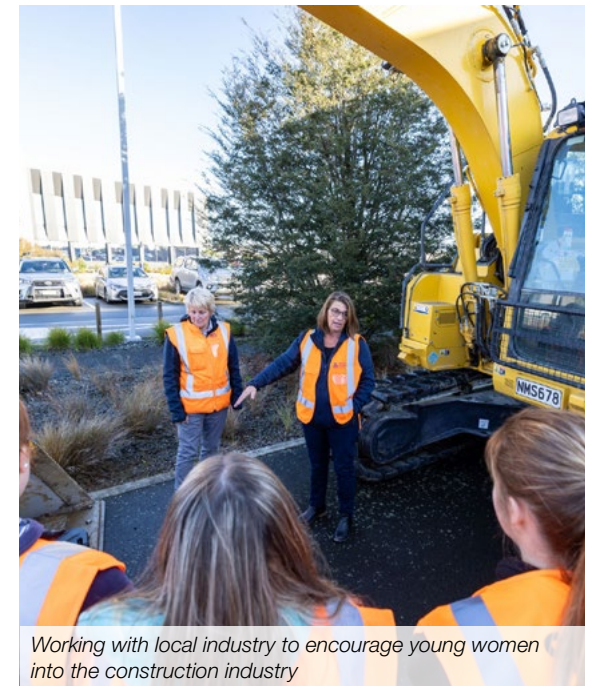
Last month I was delighted to see the completion of two more major projects. The first was the opening of the Toka Hapāi Selwyn Health Hub, which brings an improved birthing unit and specialist radiology services into the heart of our district. The second was the opening of the hockey and football artificial turfs in Foster Park next to the Selwyn Sports Centre. These represent the latest in a significant range of major initiatives completed in the last three years designed to improve the wellbeing of Selwyn Waikirikiriri. Te Ara Ātea is the awesome new cultural space, cafe and library which sits at the centre of the developing Rolleston Town Centre. The eight-court Selwyn Sports Centre is already packed with people of all ages enjoying sport and keeping active. Our Selwyn Aquatic Centre's extension has enabled many more people to enjoy the water and increased our capacity to provide swimming lessons for young and old. It's good to look back and celebrate where we have come from as we make the most of these new facilities. I am also focused on continuing to look towards the future and plan well, with our population quickly heading towards 100,000.



Inside the new birthing unit at Toka Hapāi Selwyn Health Hub

Building communities

In the last residents survey 92% said that "Selwyn is a great place to live". That is the key reason why so many whānau and businesses are choosing to relocate to Selwyn. I'm keen to develop opportunities for our communities that support business growth, develop cultural understanding and help get people of all ages into education, training or employment. This month we ran an event to help young women explore employment opportunities in the construction industry. We also saw the graduation of a group of amazing entrepreneurs hoping to bring their business ideas to life. The twelve budding business owners were on a Council course to learn the skills they need to kick start their dreams into reality. Their businesses ranged from a decluttering consultancy, a Mexican restaurant and a turf management company. As our district grows, it's important that we invest in our people as well as our infrastructure. The Council runs a range of courses helping give people a leg up. If you want to do more or have an idea you want to get off the ground jump on our website at selwyn.govt.nz and search for 'Community Capacity Building'.



Working with local industry to encourage young women into the construction industry



Three Waters – not right for Selwyn

There has been a lot of misinformation about what our Council thinks about Three Waters and I think it is important to clear that up. I do not believe that the Government's current reform package is right for our Selwyn communities.

Change for water infrastructure across New Zealand is required and has been planned for over 20 years. Here in Selwyn we already meter our supplies, charge by volume, take a multi-barrier approach to drinking water safety. All our wastewater services are fully consented and discharge to land rather than into rivers or the ocean. We have some of the newest and best water infrastructure in New Zealand as well as the cheapest drinking water. The picture across New Zealand however is very different. So much of the work of the Three Waters plan will be to

bring other places up to the standards we already meet. Some places have not had wastewater treatment consents for over a decade and some councils can't borrow any more money to fix their problems. For them this change is necessary. I also acknowledge that we are not perfect, we have too many boil water notices and we are working hard to address that.

Our Council will formally submit these points to the Government's select committee in the process to improve their proposals and I encourage you to do the same, whether for or against the changes. I will be highlighting the loss of local voice, protection for consumers, the speed of change and the fairness of the lack of reward to councils who are performing well, amongst other points.

SELWYN STATS



213 new car parks at Foster Park opened this month



67 entrants in the Selwyn Stars talent competition



16 jam packed days in this July's Kids Fest



308 fitness classes each month



16,000 Selwyn dog licenses to be renewed in July



8.8 million cubic metres of drinking water



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YOU COULD BE ON COUNCIL

From mid-September until noon 8 October you will have the chance to vote for the new Council you want to represent you for the next three years. I will be standing and I'd like to encourage you to think about putting your name forward to join the Council. As a Councillor you will be at the heart of deciding which projects we should take forward, how they should be funded and how we cooperate with neighbouring councils. You don't need to have any special training, experience or qualifications just a love for Selwyn and the ability to make informed decisions. Anyone over the age of 18 can stand for election as long as they are a New Zealand citizen and enrolled on the Selwyn electoral roll.

It's important that our Council reflects our population. I'm currently the youngest person on the Council aged 40 while half of Selwyn's population is under 35. Our Council is made up of great people who instead of sitting on the sidelines have stepped up to contribute to the often challenging yet very rewarding leadership role. Why not have a look at our website at selwyn.govt.nz/elections which has all the details about standing.



News in Brief



Changes at Kirwee Reserve

A new playground, cricket nets and other upgrades are being installed at the Kirwee Reserve as the next stage in the reserve upgrade, which started last year. Construction of the replacement playground has also begun.



First baby

The first baby was born at Selwyn's Oromairaki Maternity Unit in Toka Hapāi Selwyn Health Hub on Tuesday 31 July at 2.15 am. The first of many new Selwyn residents in this awesome state of the art facility.



Southbridge Hall

The Southbridge Hall re-opened in May with a fantastic turnout from the local community to mark the event. The hall is an important historic building for Southbridge and the district.



Selwyn's water charge

For the second year running, Selwyn had the cheapest volumetric water charge in Aotearoa in 2020/21 and among the lowest overall charges for drinking water according to the latest Water New Zealand National Performance Report.



CORDE awarded

CORDE, our Council owned civil contractor won the CCNZ Canterbury Environmental Award for the second year in a row for its work on the Wanaka Lakefront Development in competition with over 600 companies around Aotearoa.



Springfield pipeline

The new water supply pipeline to provide additional drinking water to Springfield and help address the township's ongoing water issues is well underway and on track to be completed by the end of July.

If you have any questions or feedback please contact me at mayor@selwyn.govt.nz or on Facebook at facebook.com/samforselwyn. You can also view the latest issue online at selwyn.govt.nz/mayor.

