

MAYOR SAM'S NEWS

ISSUE 8 – SUMMER 2023

— KIA ORA —

Welcome to the new year. Selwyn is a district where we have countless places to gather and experience friendship and family. Our natural environment offers so much to explore and as a community we have complemented this with some great built locations. Darfield pool has had an amazing stage one makeover, the new Youth Space in Rolleston is a roaring success and just outside Prebbleton, Kakaha Park is open for business. There are more details about all these inside this edition.

Mayor Sam



Opening day of the Youth Space in Rolleston

Youth Space

We asked young people from across Selwyn what they wanted to see in the Rolleston town centre. They told us they wanted a place to hang out with their friends that they could call their own and do the things they loved. So, we build just that. Last month we opened the 'Youth Space' with a huge party just a stone's throw from Te Ara Ātea. Top of the wish list was an awesome skate park, basketball and netball hoops and areas to sit and chill. We partnered with skateboarder David North of Nelsons Creek Skateboards to design a snake run, flow bowl and a massive pool bowl which has been a drawcard for skaters from all over the region. But the Youth Space is more than just fun; it is a place where our rangatahi youth can feel safe, connect with their friends and keep active.



Kakaha Park

We have some incredible open spaces in Selwyn and the latest addition is set to be the best yet. The first stage of Kakaha Park is now open between Prebbleton and Lincoln. Cyclists are already enjoying all levels of jumps, a snake run and rolling boardwalk style tracks. Dog owners are making the most of one of the biggest dog parks in the district which includes a separate area for smaller dogs. Now the first stage has been completed, the park has provided three full-size and one half-size lit playing fields. There is also a mini playground, car parking and toilets. The next two phases will be developed to include an additional recreation space featuring large areas of native planting. There'll also be a bespoke changing room, more car parking, off-road bike trails and a water way opening in 2023.



A great place to catch up with friends or study



One of the many quiet spaces

Kakaha is the Māori word for *astelia fragrans* or bush lily, a native flax-like plant used for weaving. There is evidence of the presence of kakaha on the Canterbury Plains long before European settlement, so the name reflects the park's location and the connection with *mahika kai* (food gathering) sites in our region.

Happy birthday Te Ara Ātea

Last month Te Ara Ātea celebrated its one-year anniversary, and what a year it has been. Almost immediately numbers flowing through the doors ramped up and are now sitting at an average of about 600 people a day. In the past twelve months people from all over the district have travelled to take part in one of the 900 workshops and programmes hosted in the facility. We've held art exhibitions, live music and performances, and run classes from digital art to candle making. Te Ara Ātea also offers many valuable drop-in opportunities with JP clinics and even a free tech service if you're struggling with your device. And it's not just our community who love Te Ara Ātea; it's won regional and national awards for architecture as well as the Local Government New Zealand Award for Cultural Wellbeing Excellence. Whether you're looking for a quiet reflective spot with a book and a coffee, to learn more about our culture and heritage or to get creative, Te Ara Ātea has it all.



Cyclist on one of many new tracks in Kakaha Park between Prebbleton and Lincoln



Signing the relationship agreement with Te Taumutu Rūnanga

Deepening our relations

Our Council acknowledges Te Taumutu Rūnanga as representative of the people of Ngāi Te Ruahikihiki, mana whenua, who hold whakapapa connections to Selwyn. We also recognize Te Ngāi Tūāhuriri Rūnanga as representative of the people of Ngāi Tūāhuriri, also mana whenua, whose rohe extends through Selwyn.

We have a long history of working with Te Taumutu Rūnanga and the fruits of that partnership are evident in so much of what is great about our district. Recent examples of this are culturally relevant citizenship ceremonies and Te Ara Ātea. The partnership with the Rūnanga also helps with environmental protection work with Environment Canterbury and development of the regulations that protect our natural resources.

Until recently the work we have done together has been ad hoc and relied on goodwill and interpersonal connections, however recently we formalised the partnership to enable both organisations to determine better ways of working together. The signed relationship agreement commits us to working together to deliver the best possible community and environmental outcomes for Selwyn. It will mean we work together from the start of projects. We will have richer discussions and look for ways of growing our understanding of Selwyn's heritage as we make decisions about our future.

INTRODUCING OUR THREE NEW COUNCILLORS

Hello, like many Cantabrians I fell in love with, and, felt like I had 'come home' when I settled here a decade ago. My family had migrated from England to Lyttleton on the ship 'Cressy' in 1850 and settled locally. I enjoy many hobbies, horse riding, gardening, arts and crafts, and love history, 'old things', environmental topics and farm life. Communities are the heart of what makes Selwyn great, let's keep them beating stronger.



Elizabeth Mundt—Ellesmere Ward

You can't beat living in the country, I reside in Russell's Flat with my husband, daughter, two dogs plus an arrangement of farm animals. Most of my time is spent enjoying the outdoors - and what a wonderful place to do that. I would like to thank the people of Malvern for their support in my election to Council - with so much change approaching, I hope to communicate and support you all well.



Lydia Gliddon—Malvern Ward

Kia ora. Becoming a Councillor has been like jumping onto a moving train. However, I'm joining a brilliant team of Councillors who have been great helping me get my feet under the table. I've already started making links with our amazing businesses leaders and I am looking forward to connecting with our community groups, volunteer organisations and first responders very soon.



Phil Dean—Rolleston Ward



News in Brief



Roading repairs

Council roading teams have now completed 95 per cent of repairs after heavy rainfall caused significant damage to the local roading network during winter last year. The work has included fixing four bridges, 220km of roads, and more than 3315 potholes.



Reid's Pit

Selwyn has a brand-new recreational reserve at Reid's Pit, on the corner of Weedons and Selwyn roads. The new reserve is as big as six football pitches and features two walking/running tracks and four bike-only tracks.



Darfield Pool redevelopment

The first stage of the \$2.4 million Darfield pool redevelopment is complete, with new changing rooms and the exterior painting completed. Stand by for the next stage which will see a new three-metre hydro slide, splash pad and family area later this year.



Summer in Selwyn brochure

Our 'Summer in Selwyn' brochure listing over 60 fun packed activities for all ages is out now. To get your copy, pop to your local library, Te Ara Ātea or our main Council offices and pick one up. All your summer favorites are back, and more.



Lowest employment rates

We've got some of the lowest employment rates in the country at 2.8 per cent, and our economy is outstripping the rest of Aotearoa. It was no surprise that we were awarded a best practice commendation at the Economic Development New Zealand awards.



New businesses

Businesses are popping up everywhere. Non-residential construction rocketed up 137 per cent last year compared to 2021. It's great to have new businesses setting up and investing, which in turn creates new job opportunities in Selwyn.

SELWYN STATS



290 Civil Defence volunteers



1000+ at Youth Space opening



79,300 latest official population statistics



16,400 registered dogs



\$839,589 average house price (Sep 22)



594 metres, length of Cave Stream in Castle Hill



If you have any questions or feedback please contact me at **mayor@selwyn.govt.nz**

or on Facebook at **[facebook.com/samforselwyn](https://www.facebook.com/samforselwyn)**.

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