

MAYOR SAM'S NEWS

ISSUE 6 – AUTUMN 2022

— KIA ORA —

Over 90% of residents say Selwyn is 'a great place to live'. Perhaps that's why more New Zealanders than ever are choosing our awesome district to plant new businesses or raise their whānau. I'm heartened that over three quarters of us say we feel a sense of belonging and community. As we continue to grow, I want to ensure we celebrate the long held traditions of our district, the shows and markets as well as embrace the new Selwyn in all our diversity. I enjoy leading a Council that is making sure that our facilities and services are keeping in step with this growth, from new skate parks in our townships to getting our Selwyn health hub fully operational, and working with businesses to link young people into employment.

Mayor Sam



Catching up with the Darfield butchers, one of our 'Start-up Business' award winners from the Selwyn awards

Kickstarting Selwyn businesses

Every time a new business opens in Selwyn it brings job opportunities to our community and contributes to the local economy. At the last count it was calculated that our Selwyn economy grew almost 2.3 % more than the average district's economy in New Zealand. New businesses also enrich our lives by bringing services closer to our doorstep and by providing something new, interesting or useful to our communities. Getting a new business off the ground doesn't happen by accident. We have a team here at the Council who work hard with individuals, our partners at the Ministry of Social Development, the Canterbury Employers Chamber of Commerce and ChristchurchNZ, to give new businesses the kickstart they need to get their ideas up and running.

Recently I've met with several new businesses to Selwyn, like Christchurch RV Centre. Their story is similar to many other new businesses – they say that Selwyn offers a real opportunity to succeed, a solid and growing customer base and is a great place to set up shop. This month we have been running our Learn Earn and Grow seminars, offering tips and advice to budding entrepreneurs. If you have a business idea and want to know what help is out there get in contact with one of our amazing community, economic and business advisors.



Taking part in one of our work place exposure experiences in partnership with Southern Wood nursery.

A step on the employment ladder

Our population in Selwyn is comparatively very young, with 22% of us under 15. That's about 16,000 young people. I'd like every one of them to think that Selwyn is the place where they can live their best lives. It's my job to lead a Council that creates opportunities to help our young people realise their full potential, and all this month we've been doing just that. We've teamed up with various organisations to run a series of events to help young people find support in employment, education and training. Sadly our planned Employ-Ability Expo linking employers with job seekers of all ages has had to be postponed to later in the year. In May we kick off the third of our Council's six-week Trailblazer Internships, giving 10 young people some real work experience in Council roles from sports co-ordination to event planning. If you are quick you can still submit your application to be a Trailblazer before the closing date of 31 March.

I love seeing how the opportunities we create boost the confidence of our young people and stimulate interest and enthusiasm in areas they might not have considered was something they could do. Together we are all able to contribute and support our children as they grow through their childhood and teenage years with our outstanding schools, and loving neighbourhoods and families.



One of our 'Starting a business' workshops this month.



Community news

I'm always pleased when hard work pays off. This month we've made headway on two important community issues. I know that road safety on the main street through Lincoln has been a concern for the community. We'd planned to fix this with an upgrade in 2027 which would cost \$6 million, and were looking for funding to try and bring the work forward. Initially we fell outside the application criteria for Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's funding as part of their "Streets for People" initiative. However we pressed our case and eventually they accepted our application. We'll find out in July if our bid has been successful. If we are we would be in a position to start the work next year.

In Hororata councillors and staff have been working hard with the community to agree a way forward for the new community facility. I'm pleased that our Council has agreed to support the excellent local work to undertake a feasibility study on the possibility of creating a community hub by upgrading the existing community hall and the site. This is a change from the the original plan from last year and would result in the community hall and surrounding land reverting to community ownership. Subject to final confirmation the council would also contribute \$1 million to the project. Go Hororata!

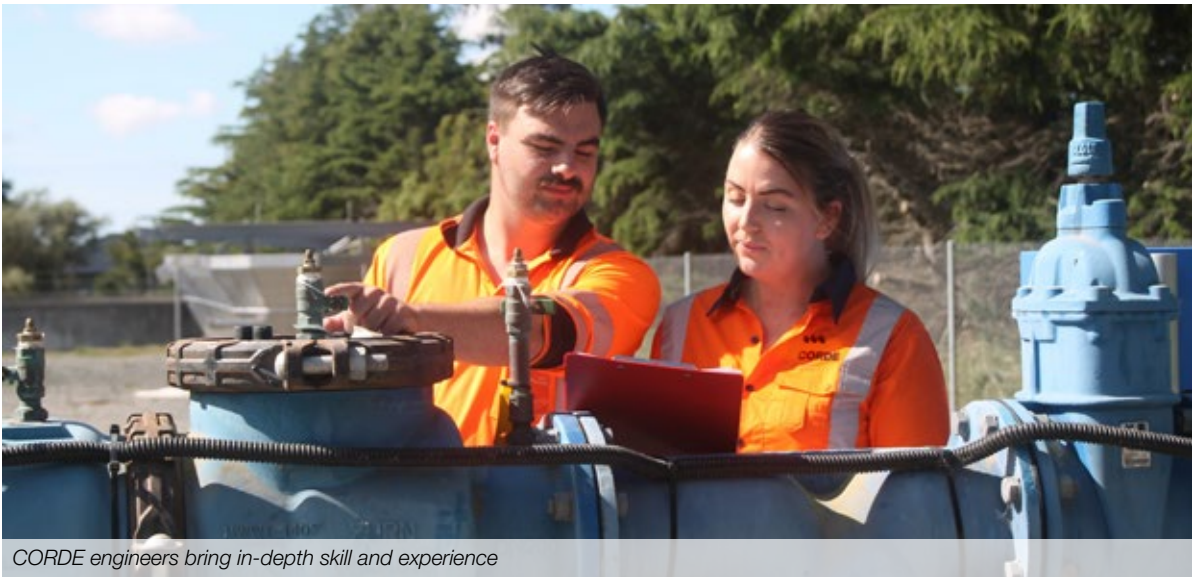
CORDE – new brand for Council-owned Company

I'm delighted to announce the rebrand of our Council-owned infrastructure maintenance and construction companies. SICON, Blakely Construction and Blakely Three Waters have become CORDE. This awesome new company weaves together three critical areas of expertise. A construction arm, running industry leading projects across the South Island; a specialist three-waters team, helping ensure the quality of our community water infrastructure; and a talented maintenance division with strong long-term contracts across the Canterbury region.

You may have already seen their white vehicles emblazoned with striking new CORDE branding around the district. The name relates to the three

divisions now becoming united, and symbolises collective strength – a cord of three strands is not easily broken. Check their video on YouTube explaining how CORDE brand came about: <https://youtu.be/r2dFAMemLv0>

As a company CORDE is built on the key values of trust and the deep connection to their teams who have the protection of our place (kaitiakitanga) at their core. I'm confident that CORDE's new structure will grow with our district, and their work will strengthen our communities today and for future generations. As CORDE is 100% owned by our Council, their profits come back to us and help keep the cost of our rates and services down.



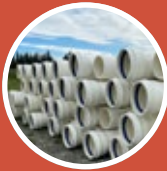
CORDE engineers bring in-depth skill and experience



SELWYN STATS



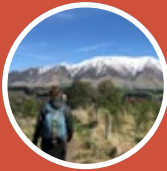
3,000 people signed up for this term's learn-to-swim classes



19km of the 25km Darfield and Kirwee to Rolleston waste water pipe laid



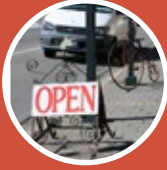
33.7% average property price increase from 2018-2021



33 featured hikes and walking tracks on Selwyn.nz



73,000 people now call Selwyn Waikirikiri home.



546 listings on our online Selwyn Business Directory

CORDE®

Trusted
Connections

— MENTORING —

As part of the Mayors Task Force for Jobs I have joined the Tuia programme which is a project to develop the leadership capacity of young Maori in communities throughout New Zealand. As part of this programme I have the privilege to mentor a young person, on a one-to-one basis, to encourage and enhance their leadership skills. The programme also provides me with the opportunity to gain a deeper insight into inter-generational issues, cultural values and experiences. I'm delighted that our new Tuia representative, Te Puawai Perenara-O'Connell is on board with the programme and look forward to working with her over the coming year.

FROM TUIA MENTEE TE PUAWAI PERENARA- O'CONNELL

Kō Te Puawai
Perenara-O'Connell
tōku ingoa,
Nō Taumutu tōku
Papa Kāinga.



I am extremely privileged to be the 2022 Tuia representative for Selwyn District. Having the opportunity to be mentored by Mayor Sam is incredible, he is an inspiration to work with through my marae, and so being able to have one-on-one mentoring is extremely beneficial for my own development and learning. During these times it is incredibly testing and so just being able to connect with someone who can share their experiences and is open to hearing about my passions is important. I look forward to my year learning from the Mayor and getting to know Selwyn.

News in Brief



New Youth Council

Our new Youth Council has come together for the first time this month, and it's great that we have widened the age range, with the youngest member being 12 years old. The Youth Councillors help our Council and staff bring a youth perspective to our decision making.



Biodiversity

We've just received close to \$800,000 Government boost to restore the 81 hectare Tārerekautuku/Yarrs Lagoon – a significant wetland close to Lincoln. This will create new employment opportunities and revitalise this natural asset.



Swim safe

Learning to swim is important for safety and for staying active. I'm delighted our swim programme has expanded into the Darfield pool, and that the former main pool in our Aquatic Centre is now dedicated to teaching our residents this lifesaving skill.



Springfield flooding

Springfield was the hardest hit in the flooding last year, with a number of families displaced from their homes. A door-to-door assessment of every house in Springfield, combined with a specialist flooding study is helping us to plan possible future flood protection options for discussion with township residents.



Springs reserve

The first bike tracks and buildings are taking shape in the new park at the Springs reserve. The wooden tracks are coming along as part of the first 10-hectare section of the park. Look out for the sports fields and a dog park to follow.



Civil Defence

So good to see a great response to our recent civil defence recruitment drive. All our new volunteers will now be trained up to national standards and be ready to help you the next time we face an emergency in the district. Thank you for volunteering!

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.

