

Waitaki LINK

NEWS FROM WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
AUGUST 2021

Is it REALLY AUGUST? Or are JULYING TO ME?

It's here! The last month of winter and there's terrible puns, penguins, sea gulls, community funding, canoes in the pool, and a small deck.

To the RESCUE!

A conservation success story you've probably never heard of is happening right now in Waitaki.

Penguin Rescue have been operating at Kātiki Point for 20 years. Initially consisting of just Rosalie - now, together with Lindsey, Robbie, Jan, Margie and Elaine this small group have put in 6,000 hours this breeding season alone and receive little in the way of funding. Yet they are achieving where others have failed, preventing the extinction of the rarest penguin in the world.

Waitaki District Council's Biodiversity Advisor Gareth Boyt is working with Penguin Rescue to support their application to the Council's Biodiversity Fund for more resources. Yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho find themselves up against it in today's world. They evolved in a paradise free of predators and possess quirky traits, such as standing in one spot for three weeks moulting and not eating. Vulnerable to stress, human disturbance, dog attack, feral cats, ferrets, stoats and disease - this penguin is dying out everywhere, but not here. Read more about this amazing programme in the news section of our website.



CANOES in the POOL

Ōamaru to again host Secondary Schools Canoe Polo Championships.

Schools from all over the South Island will converge on Ōamaru in August to compete at the 2021 Secondary Schools South Island Canoe Polo Championships. Last year's tournament attracted over 3,000 visits to the Aquatic Centre and this year that number will increase, bringing significant economic benefit to Ōamaru and surrounding districts. As in previous years the main pool will be used from 1pm Friday 13 August to 4pm Sunday 15 August, however the children's pool and spa pool will remain open. It's great fun to come and watch - spectators are free of charge.



GET YOUR \$SHARE

We've got money for community groups and arts projects.

Another round of funding is opening for community groups and creative types. Applications for Community Group Grants open 16 August and close 10 September, and the Creative Community Scheme Grant opens 23 August - closing 17 September 2021. These grants are available to groups with creative projects that will enhance the cultural landscape of Waitaki or community group projects that need some funding help.

Applications are also invited from charitable and not-for-profit organisations for the Donald & Nellye Malcom Trust Grant which is open now and closes 31 August 2021.

YOU GO GULL!

Ōamaru building owners are reminded they need to put measures in place to stop nesting gulls this month.

Red-billed gulls are a bit special. They seem abundant but actually they're in decline nationally (numbers are 50% down over the last 25 years). Like the kākāpo, takahē and kiwi, they are a protected species. Maximum penalties for disturbing wildlife are up to 2 years in prison or a \$100,000 fine, or both.

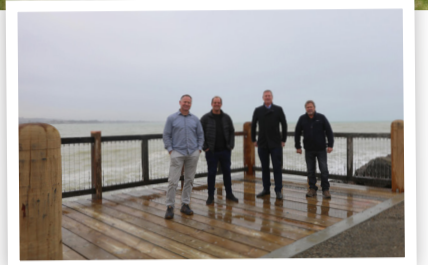
Once the gulls have laid eggs, there isn't much you can do. Regular roof checks and gutter cleans to remove material *before* it becomes a nest is the best way to break the cycle and stop a colony forming on your roof. Visit our website for more information.



JUST LOOK at our DECK

A new observation deck on Holmes wharf is now open, built using timber recycled from the wharf renovations.

It's a lovely spot to watch the waves.



WRRT building the future

Tetra Pak, in partnership with the Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust, are launching New Zealand's first paper-based food package community collection initiative.

The pilot will turn used Tetra Pak cartons into low-carbon building materials. It is hoped this will be the first of many national resource recovery initiatives aimed at encouraging more Kiwis to recycle their used Tetra Pak cartons. The Waitaki Resource Recovery Trust are providing a bin at the Chelmer Street Recovery Park for the community to dispose of (washed) cartons which are then sorted before they are flattened, baled, and sent north to SaveBOARD in Te Rapa (near Hamilton).

SaveBOARD will use these cartons, as well as feedstock from other sources to create low-carbon building materials from everyday packaging waste. The used cartons are turned into high-performance building materials that can themselves be recycled.



WHAT'S ON IN WAITAKI?

Take a look at the new Waitaki Events page on the Council website: www.waitaki.govt.nz/Events.

Check in for information on exhibitions at the Forrester Gallery, performances at the Opera House, talks at the Library and Council run community events. Now we're asking *you* to let us know about any public events that you're running in Waitaki, so we can help you get the word out. If your event meets our criteria, we'll list it on our page for free and add it to our events calendar.

You can also subscribe to the page so you'll be notified when new events are added!

Running an Event? Let us know! Use our 'List your event' form on the Events page of our website: www.waitaki.govt.nz/district/events



www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI