

Waitaki LINK

NEWS FROM WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
MAY 2021

MAY we interest you in reading the LINK THIS MONTH?

Welcome to the Link for May. The leaves are falling here in Waitaki and things are starting to feel wintery.

We've got warm hearts though, with a pink ribbon morning tea coming up in Waihemo where we also have a new Councillor ready to do some heavy lifting. Check out the timetable of drop-in sessions being held throughout the district for our Long Term Plan consultation. If you can't make one, pick up a copy of the document from libraries or council offices, or jump online and make a submission there. Don't miss your chance to tell us what you think.



Mane MAN

Meet Jim Thomson - Councillor for Waihemo.

Brand new Councillor Jim Thomson might be a large bloke, bearing more than a passing resemblance to the Clydesdales he breeds, but carpets need not fear his cloppers. "I'll just go round the back and take my boots off," he says, "I'm more afraid of Mrs Thomson than I am of anything else."

The Thomsons have 181 hectares just outside Palmerston, farming sheep and beef. "Unfortunately, I can't hide as many Clydesdales as I'd like," he says. He's keeping it to 10 for now, bred under the Waihemo stud. This is a pretty big space to hide a Clydesdale in though, the wide expanse criss-crossed by the river's course over eons. Carrying a load of hay over, the horses rush to see him, high stepping, the ponies kicking a can-can.

Clydesdales are the workhorses of New Zealand, they cleared this country and broke it in. A 'Scottish heavy horse' is designed to pull large loads: they are an irresistible force looking for an immovable object. Jim too is a bit of a plough. Honest, forthright, "I'll probably offend more people than I intend to," he warns, but his heart's in the right place.

"If you don't agree with how your telco does things, you can change companies... when you have a run-in with Council there's nowhere else to go... the thing is to improve the way things are done so people don't leave with a bad taste in their mouths." A lengthy political career isn't a life goal. "I don't care if I don't get re-elected. At the moment I'm the new boy, my job is to listen and learn, but my personality type is to see what needs doing and get it done."

Jim loves Waihemo. "It's real New Zealand", he says. And real is exactly what you can expect from him.

PALMERSTON in the PINK

A Pink Ribbon Morning Tea will be held on 14 May from 10am at the Waihemo Lodge in Palmerston.

Featuring raffle prizes and 150 pink bags for sale at \$10 each, it's a fabulous fundraiser for cancer research. People are encouraged to dress in pink, and the venue will be pinked out. Special guest speaker is Zelig Alan, Breast Cancer Survivor.



100 women 100 possibilities...

Infinite possibilities: panel discussion

Come listen to Rhiannon Thomas, Phoebe Wang, Sasha Morriss and Madhri Kumari talk about the pop-up touring exhibition Infinite Possibilities. This exhibition is about 100 women working and participating in STEM areas around Otago and Southland, the panel will discuss what it all means to them.

1:00pm, Sunday 30 May
Forrester Gallery - Free entry

Cheque it OUT!

We're phasing out cheque payments at Council.

As New Zealand banks continue to phase out the use of cheques, Waitaki District Council will no longer be processing incoming or outgoing cheques after 28 May 2021. Council's cut-off date will allow time to make sure all cheques received are processed ahead of the banks' deadlines.

We are working to ensure the elimination of cheques as a payment option does not impact access to any of the services we provide.

If you currently make any payments to Waitaki District Council by cheque, you will need to start using other forms of payment. Other payment options include:

- Direct debit payments (fortnightly, monthly, or quarterly)
- Electronic payment via internet banking
- Automatic payment via your bank
- Phone banking / bill pay
- Credit / debit card (credit card fees apply)
- Cash or Eftpos.

If you are unsure of how to proceed, the first thing to do is to contact your bank and let them know you are going to need some assistance.

Waitaki District Libraries are also running a 'Stepping Up' programme which includes digital literacy classes that can offer support during the transition period as cheques are being phased out. If you wish to enquire about this service, please contact the libraries directly on 03 433 0850.

For further information regarding anything else, please contact our Customer Liaison Team on 03 433 0300.

A20 enhancement PROJECT

Contributions from Alps 2 Ocean Ultra and Network Waitaki helped secure funding from MBIE in 2020 for trail-wide improvements to the Alp 2 Ocean Cycle Trail.

This project, soon to be completed, will see signage and barriers installed at road crossings as well as safety barriers at key locations.



SEEDS OF LIFE — THE BONE ART OF BRUCE MAHALSKI

Forrester Gallery Exhibition: 10 April - 13 June

Bruce Mahalski is a Dunedin artist and founder and curator of the Dunedin Museum of Natural Mystery. He is known for his illustration, street murals, and sculpture incorporating animal bones.



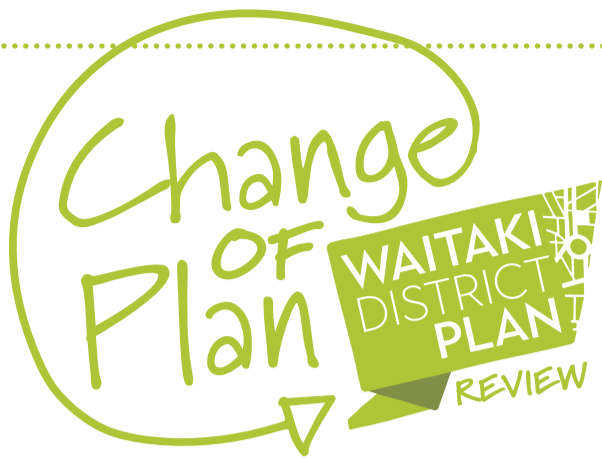
www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI

The Plans! The Plans!



DISTRICT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

We have completed sending out landowner engagement letters about Significant Natural Areas, Outstanding and Significant Natural Features, Outstanding Natural Landscapes, and Wāhi Tūpuna to newly-affected landowners in the district.

If you have received a letter from us, you have until 21 May to get your feedback to us – please note, this is not a formal round of submissions, it is just starting a two-way conversation with landowners about the values on their property.

We've also held several public meetings regarding Natural and Coastal Hazards and the Kakanui Spatial Plan.

All of Waitaki will be notified when the Draft plan goes out and at that point we will start welcoming feedback from the wider public.

WHAT? MORE CONSULTATIONS?

Are you in the building industry, a property developer, lawyer or just looking to build?

Changes to Council's policy on Development Contributions and Financial Contributions policy may affect you! We think these changes will make things fairer - but what do YOU think? Tell us before 12 noon, 21 May.

Some key changes to the 2021 Policy on Development Contributions and Financial Contributions are:

- Removal of 50% remission on roading development contributions for residential developments.
- A new model to incentivise residential developments of two or more units on a single site, of less than 80m² per unit.
- Council may seek to recover all reasonable costs incurred in debt recovery proceedings and interest on the outstanding development contributions.
- Council may require a fee for considering a request for reconsideration.
- Council will require a deposit prior to responding to an objection to development contributions.

...BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE

Our Revenue and Financing Policy is also under review (just when you thought it couldn't get more exciting)!

Council is consulting on a number of changes to the funding mix and rating tools used to fund some of the activities it undertakes. Although the overall impact of the proposed changes are minor, it will have a larger impact on some ratepayers.

Tell us if you think we've got it right before 12 noon, 21 May.



(We really just want you to get in touch)

Getting BACK TO THE FUTURE
LONG TERM PLAN
Waitaki 2021-2031

DROP-IN SESSIONS

There's still time to come along to one of our remaining community drop-in sessions and talk to Waitaki's Councillors, Mayor and Council Officers about the changes you want made.

How do you want YOUR money spent over the next ten years?

DON'T MISS OUT ON HAVING YOUR SAY ON WAITAKI'S FUTURE

Consultation on Waitaki's Long Term Plan is open now and closes 21 May 2021.

Our Consultation Document is available on our website, and from Council offices and libraries. If you would like a copy mailed to you - give us a call today on 03 433 0300.

You can make a submission on any topic you care about, not just those in the Consultation Document.

Do it online using the form on our website or email us your submission: consult@waitaki.govt.nz or

Write your submission and post it back or drop it to Council offices.

Make sure you include your contact details.



scan this QR code with your phone to go straight to our online feedback form

- Ōamaru North End New World (Free BBQ!)**
Sat, 8 May: 10am - 12 pm
- Kurow Info Centre**
Sun, 9 May: 1 - 2.30pm
- Ōmārama Community Centre**
Mon, 10 May: 1 - 2.30pm
- Otematata Lakes Centre**
Mon, 10 May: 5 - 6pm
- Ōamaru Farmers Market**
Sun, 16 May: 10am - 1pm

MAY 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

CONSULTATION CLOSES

21 MAY - WHAT A DAY!

Be sure to have your say... on all our current consultations by 12 noon, Friday 21 May.

All details and ways to submit can be found on the 'Consultation' page of our website and hard copies are available at Council Offices and Waitaki District Libraries.

21 May is also the day that we're asking landowners that we've contacted as part of the District Plan Review to get back to us by, with any feedback on changes to map layers on their property and questions they might have.

