

# Waitaki LINK

NEWS FROM WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OCTOBER 2021



October is a month packed full of creative ideas to entertain you and keep the kids busy these spring school holidays.

For us at Council, it's been 'water, water everywhere and quite a lot to think' about lately as we drill down into what the Government's 3 Waters reforms mean for Waitaki. We're also thinking about how we can design a plan for how Oamaru, Weston and Kakanui will develop into the future. Read more about it!



## MEET *the* MAKER

This year's Waitaki Arts Festival sees the return of Meet the Maker, your annual chance to meet some of our district's creative folk right there in their lairs - sorry, homes, studios and workspaces.

Starting as two friends mulling over the idea of an artist's open studio tour the event has grown in popularity. Running over Labour Weekend - the programme is available from the Oamaru Opera House website. Find out why Waitaki is such a great place to create and be inspired!



## Waitaki TALKS WATER

### What's the 3 Waters reform about?

After the Havelock North water contamination event where four people died, the Government is implementing new standards for drinking and wastewater in NZ.

Proposed changes to the way the country's 3 Waters (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater) services are delivered to the community will affect councils and private water suppliers across the country.

Currently the 67 councils in NZ look after drinking water, wastewater and stormwater in their areas. Waitaki has 15 water supplies connected to 12,000 properties and 8 wastewater areas servicing over 8000 properties. Government is proposing that control is removed from individual councils and transferred to 4 main entities. Water services in Waitaki would be controlled by Entity D which covers most of the South Island, servicing the needs of around 900,000 people. The Government's proposals are very complicated so we have made a series of videos to inform people in Waitaki about what these changes might mean for us, should the reforms go ahead. Head to our website or Facebook page to watch them.

Council will not be making any decisions on these proposals until the public have all the information, and we have sought your feedback.



## Planning OUR SPACES

We'll soon be asking for your feedback on the draft Spatial Plan for Oamaru, Weston and Kakanui which will directly affect this plan as it goes forward.

What's a Spatial Plan? A Spatial Plan is a strategic blueprint document that sets out where and how we should grow and develop over the next 30+ years. It identifies actions for how growth should occur in an integrated and holistic way. It outlines a vision and broad set of principles, strategic directions, and actions and will visually illustrate how Oamaru, Weston and Kakanui may develop in the future, and will help identify things like: existing and future urban areas; infrastructure needs; priority areas for investment and action; areas to protect and enhance such as heritage, cultural and natural environment; and areas subject to natural hazards.

We'll be hosting drop-in sessions at the Kakanui hall, Weston hall and in Oamaru - more on this soon so watch this space.

## ON THE HUNT for LITTLE BLUES



Get the kids on their bikes these school holidays and explore part of the Alps 2 Ocean Cycle Trail!

Download our Little Bluey Bike Trail trail map from Council's website or find it in the Oamaru Mail.

Find the 10 blue bikes hidden on the trail and crack the code. Each bike holds part of the clue - enter the letters and unscramble them to be in the draw to win!

## it's SPRING BREAK!

And our school holiday entertainment guide is out now...

...with lots of ideas for what to do in Oamaru - workshops, classes, bus tours, surfing lessons and more! Download it from Council's website, find it in the Oamaru Mail or pop into our office for a printed copy.



## WAITAKI ARTS FESTIVAL

Fresh outta lockdown, the Waitaki arts festival 15-24 October is jam packed with comedy, romance, science, street art, music and literature.

The festival has a wide range of events on offer - many free of charge - that will get you out of the house, and into a good mood! Check the Oamaru Opera House website for the full programme.

## MORE *free* WIFI

Waitaki Free Public WiFi is now available in Otematata and Hampden, with Oamaru North end (Roberts Park area) coming soon in October.

This extended network is a boon for locals, in need of some free connectivity when they're out and about, and for visitors wanting to discover all that Waitaki has to offer. Simply connect your device to the "Waitaki WiFi" hot-spot, and you're away.

## DUNTROON LOOS, *in with the* NEW!

We are planning to partially demolish the old public toilets in Duntroon, leaving only the roof, front and side walls such that the roadside artwork is preserved.

New toilets will be installed on the old pharmacy site. We've heard the community's concerns about the dangers of speeding traffic passing through Duntroon and how close vehicles come to cars parked within the shoulder so we're planning a raft of safety improvements with help from \$250K secured from Government (MBIE). Check our website for more details.

## LOCH LAIRD LIQUOR BAN

Are your kids planning some fun in the Otematata sun this Labour Weekend?

In past years, Loch Laird top paddock and the Otematata township have seen an environment where the risk of harm is just too great for our kids. This year, from Friday 22 October there will be a liquor ban at the Loch Laird camping area across the weekend. Police will be enforcing this, so parents are reminded not to drop their teenagers off with alcohol.



[www.waitaki.govt.nz](http://www.waitaki.govt.nz)



# Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL  
TE KAUNIHERA A ROHE O WAITAKI