

Waitaki LINK

NEWS FROM WAITAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL
DECEMBER 2021

Traffic lights, Christmas lights and lights on trees - it looks like this festive season will be well lit up!

This month we bid farewell to a much-loved friend and colleague. And while we think sadly on some of the opportunities to celebrate that we've lost this year, we look forward to a brighter New Year of reuniting with friends and family from overseas, and reconnecting with the world.



WAITAKI goes ORANGE

From Friday December 3 the whole South Island will move to orange on the Government's traffic light system.

Waitaki District Council CE Alex Parmley says, "The new Covid-19 Protection framework is aimed at keeping us all as safe as possible whilst being able to get on with our lives. Council's approach has therefore been to try and keep as many of our services open and accessible as possible whilst protecting our residents and our staff".

The good news is, it's pretty much business as normal (the new normal, which means keeping each other safe by signing in, wearing a mask and keeping some distance between yourself and others) when it comes to accessing Council services and facilities. Some facilities will require vaccine passes to access but most won't, depending on which traffic light we're in. Check Council's website for up-to-date details or give us a call on 03 433 0300 if you have any questions.

There's HELP at the LIBRARY

The lovely librarians at Ōamaru Library can help set you up with your Vaccine Pass. Drop in between 10.30am-12pm on weekdays and ask at the help desk and they can print yours for you for free.

Bring along a valid form of ID (NZ documentation: passport, driver's license, or birth certificate) and an email address if possible. For other nationalities visit www.mycovidrecord.health.nz/ to find out what you need. If you don't have current ID, it's better to call the official helpline on 0800 222 478 or visit a participating pharmacy.

SPATIAL PLAN next steps

We had a great level of public engagement with the Draft Spatial Plan for Ōamaru, Kakanui and Weston - BIG thanks to everyone who came along for a chat at the drop-in sessions or sent in their feedback.

So what happens now?

We received over 500 emails, letters, comments and survey forms and are now working through all the feedback, ready to report to Elected Members early in 2022. We're not able to provide individual responses to the feedback received, but rest assured it will be given full consideration during Council deliberations, and all feedback received will be available to read on our website next year.

Once Councillors have considered the feedback, they will make decisions on any changes needed to the Spatial Plan before it's adopted. Then, the Spatial Plan will guide the policy direction for the District Plan Review and other Council Plans and strategies going forward.

When the draft District Plan is released next year there will be a chance for you to tell us what you think of how Council is looking to implement the Spatial Plan vision and outcomes, along with other planning and environmental issues such as enabling housing growth, choice and affordability, protecting what's important, responding to climate change and managing the risk of natural hazards throughout the Waitaki district.

After that round of feedback is analysed, discussed and incorporated, the proposed District Plan will be publicly notified, which is a more formal consultation process involving public submissions, hearings, decisions and appeals process if required.

A SAD FAREWELL

Council mourns the loss of Cr. Ross McRobie who passed away this week after a tough but brief battle with cancer.



Mayor for Waitaki Gary Kircher said, "Ross was a very outgoing person and an awesome Councillor for the Ahuriri Ward and the Waitaki district. I know that my fellow elected members and the many staff who knew Ross will truly miss his analytical decision-making, his energetic personality and the great banter he brought with him."

Ross McRobie confessed he was "not the kind of person who could sit down and read a book," - he would far rather be doing. The saying, 'a rising tide lifts all boats' pretty much sums up his attitude to public service. He saw his role in Council as a conduit for others; a means to help the community achieve the things it wanted. Ross was a listener and a facilitator. If there were issues, he looked for solutions while trying to be understanding, connecting people and being an advocate. We'll miss you Ross!



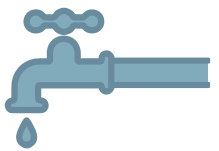
We're ALL LIT UP

With our New Year's Eve Party at the Gardens and Light up the Tree events cancelled, we've still managed a bit of festive cheer with lights switched ON!

Town Christmas trees in Kurow, Ōamaru and Palmerston are now in place, complete with brand new stars on top. Refurbished feature lighting of the Severn Street trees has also been turned on just in time for the holiday season.

Flush your TAPS

As regular as Christmas - this is your regular Plumbosolvency reminder:



Some pipes and taps (especially in older homes) allow small traces of metals to accumulate in water if left unused for several hours. We recommend you flush a mug-full of drinking water from your tap each morning before use.

Rates Rebate Clinics

Find out how to apply for a discount on your rates!

On Wednesday 8 December staff will be at Hampden Library from 10am till 12 noon and the Waihemo Service Centre from 1.30 - 3.30pm to lend a hand.

HOLIDAY HOURS & SERVICES

Council Offices in Ōamaru and Palmerston will close from 4pm, 23 December, reopening on 10 January 2022.

We'll publish a full list of hours for Council services and facilities in the Ōamaru Mail this month or you can check out our website for closing dates and after-hours contacts for the holiday season.



Don't just get ready for Christmas - Get ready for emergencies too! Sign up to the emergency alerts and community response system: www.getsready.net



www.waitaki.govt.nz



Waitaki

DISTRICT COUNCIL
TE KAUNIHERA Ā ROHE O WAITAKI