

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## It was 20 years ago today... 🎵

*Sergeant Pepper and the Beatles may not have lasted the distance but the Waimakariri District Council commemorated its twentieth year earlier this month and it's still going strong.*

At a commemorative afternoon tea held in the Council chambers in Rangiora, councillors past and present, Kaiapoi Community Board members and Council staff gathered to swap yarns about the 'good old days', give anecdotes and recollections of what it was like 'way back when...' and pore over memorabilia from the early days of the Waimakariri District Council.

And there were a number of long stayers in the group. Current Councillor David Ayers has served five terms on the Council, Councillor Robbie Brine and ex-Councillor Linsey Burgess four terms each, Mrs Burgess also serving four terms with the Kaiapoi Community Board. Twenty-three of the current Council staff have been with the Council for all of the twenty years since its formation in 1989, two have served forty four years (with the Council and its predecessors) and a further five have thirty or more years' service.

From anecdotes of past staff and Councillors it appears that some aspects of Council are timeless – "The strong and diverse personalities of the Councillors gelled well socially, albeit

that our points of view could be quite opposite", - "I discovered that keeping rate increases to a low level is a very difficult task!" - "Strong debates on land value vs capital value rating and the relationship with ability to pay".

The Waimakariri District Council was formed from the re-organisation of a number of disparate local government bodies – the Oxford County, the southern area of Hurunui County including parts of the old Ashley County and Kowai County, Kaiapoi Borough and Rangiora District including the old Eyre County.

The first mayor of the new Waimakariri District was Trevor Inch, after whom the current library is named.

#### **Pics attached:**

Celebratory cake.jpg  
Mayor\_CE cutting the cake.jpg (l-r CE Jim Palmer, Mayor Ron Keating)  
Swapping Yarns.jpg (l-r Mayor Ron Keating, WDC staff members Shirley Farrell and Karen Friedauer and Kaiapoi Community Board member Robyn Wallace)

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