

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND RECREATION COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, 215 HIGH STREET, RANGIORA, ON TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2025, AT 1PM.

PRESENT

Councillors B Cairns (Chairperson), R Brine, N Mealings, P Redmond and Mayor Gordon (left 2:33pm).

IN ATTENDANCE

Deputy Mayor Atkinson and Councillor T Fulton.

J Millward (Chief Executive), C Brown (General Manager Community and Recreation), G MacLeod (Greenspace manager), T Sturley (Community Team Manager), L Sole (District Libraries Manager), M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager), G Stephens (Design and Planning Team Leader), W Howe (Community Development Team Leader Vibrant Communities), A Huang (Greenspace Landscape Planner), A Claasens (Community Development facilitator), M Foster (Community Development Facilitator – Arts Strategy Implementation), L Mealings (Graduate policy Analyst), L Tilley Youth Development Facilitator and C Fowler-Jenkins (Governance Support Officer).

There were five members of the public present.

1 APOLOGIES

Moved: Councillor Cairns

Seconded: Councillor Redmond

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives and sustains** an apology for absence from Councillor A Blackie.

CARRIED

2 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts declared.

3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

3.1 Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee held on 26 August 2025

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Confirms** the circulated Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee, held on 26 August 2025, as a true and accurate record.

CARRIED

3.2 Matters arising (From Minutes)

There were no matters arising.

4 DEPUTATIONS

4.1 Age Friendly Waimakariri Advisory Group – Norman West and John Mather

N West noted that this was his third report to the Committee as the Chairperson of the Waimakariri Age-friendly Advisory Group (Advisory Group). He titled his first report "Going Forward," and the second focused on reporting the results of work the Advisory Group had done to gather information about how Age-friendly Waimakariri was. His third report was titled "Realities and Opportunities." The reality was the 'Grey Wave', the number of people in the Waimakariri District over 65 years exceeded the number of those under 15 years of age. This significant "tipping point" for our ageing population was likely to be reached across New Zealand within the next two or three years. However, the 2023 census showed that the Waimakariri District had already reached it in 2019 or 2020.

N West believed that it showed great foresight and a propitious development on the part of the Council to establish an Age-friendly focus, given the demographic trends in the community. The opportunities for the Council include leadership and exemplars that this community could provide for other areas of New Zealand as they moved towards having a greater proportion of older people than younger people. He acknowledged the support the Advisory Group had received from the Council, especially the support of the Council's Community Development Facilitator, M Pugh.

N West advised that the Advisory Group emphasised documents developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO), which identified key themes that, if implemented, would enable change to ensure more age-friendly communities. In 2024, it reported on work it had undertaken via a questionnaire to assess access to age-friendly facilities/initiatives in the Waimakariri District. He noted that, based on the information gathered, it appeared that the older citizens of the Waimakariri District were predominantly women and often faced significant disadvantages. N West observed that the results, however, reinforced a popularly held view that the Waimakariri District was an excellent place for older people. But he did acknowledge that the questionnaire and consultation had some limitations and that the Advisory Group were conscious that "Age-friendly" needed to encompass and apply to all older people in the community. The Advisory Group focused its efforts and work in 2025 on raising awareness of the demographic reality within the community, as well as fostering an understanding of the issues facing older people in the community.

Councillor Fulton noticed the reference to older women facing significant disadvantages. He inquired whether there were specific services or actions the Council needed to review to address these disadvantages. N West noted that one of the areas of concern was the availability of transport. The fact that Oxford had no public transport that facilitated access to health services in Christchurch was a significant issue.

Mayor Gordon noted that the Council had recently agreed to provide some debt funding to assist with the development of an extended-hours medical facility in Rangiora. N West believed that an extended-hours medical facility in Rangiora would benefit the ageing population.

Mayor Gordon queried whether registering as patients at medical facilities was still a challenge. J Mather noted he represented GreyPower, and it had not been an issue that had been raised recently.

Councillor Brine asked how many people would be able to reside at Somerset Rangiora once it has been completed. J Mather was unsure, noting that the Retirement Villages served a need for certain retirees and were popular; however, they did not suit disadvantaged people, who could not afford to access them.

Councillor Mealings questioned whether the Advisory Group's research had indicated that rural people were more disadvantaged. J Mather noted that not necessarily. They worked with Mary Sparrow, who had been a mentor to them and had provided them with guidance on what to focus on in the Waimakariri District.

Councillor Cairns asked if there was an Action Plan to address the issues identified in the survey. J. Mather noted that the Action Plan was developed when the Advisory Group was initially established.

5 REPORTS

5.1 Options for Natural Burials in Waimakariri District – A Huang (Greenspace Landscape Planner)

A Huang took the report as read.

Councillor Cairns noted that there was only one natural burial site being proposed in the Waimakariri District. He inquired if staff had considered that most of the district's population lived in Rangiora and the eastern side of the district. G Stephens noted that, based on the assessment criteria, the sites on the east side of the district had been discounted. Regarding Rangiora, staff were aware that there was a provision for natural burial at Dixons Road Cemetery in the future.

Councillor Cairns asked whether other councils had identified any pitfalls with natural burials. A Huang noted that the feedback received had been predominantly positive.

Councillor Fulton observed that there had been discussion about the Tippings Road Cemetery in Cust being in a floodplain. He questioned whether the suitability of the soil and hydrology would be further investigated. G Stephens advised that staff would examine the individual sites and draft a master plan.

Councillor Fulton enquired how the community would be engaged about the proposed natural burials. G Stephens noted that, once completed, staff would submit a detailed design to the Committee for feedback. At which time the level of public consultation required would be discussed, noting that the Council were not changing use of the land.

Councillor Mealings sought confirmation that there were three existing cemeteries where natural burials could take place, and that the Dixons and Factory Roads Cemeteries were not on the table until the Rangiora capacity was filled. G Stephens confirmed that staff had only looked at land that was currently designated for cemetery provision.

Councillor Redmond questioned the reliability of the data from the survey commissioned by Natural Burials New Zealand. A Huang noted the study was done in 2002/03, which was relatively early. Yet, it was the most updated data the staff could source. If the Committee required more recent numbers, staff could conduct a new survey to determine the current demand.

Responding to Councillor Redmond's question, G Stephens confirmed that the Council's Cemetery Policy would need to be updated to make provision for natural burials.

Councillor Redmond further inquired if Funeral Directors were involved in a natural burial. G. Stephens noted that they were still in effect, as people had to abide by the cemetery rules and regulations. It had to be done officially and properly; it was just a different method of interment.

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 25082816228.
- (b) **Approves** staff undertaking further investigation and design work on the existing cemeteries identified below, including more detailed capital and operational cost analysis to enable the future potential provision of natural burials within the Waimakariri District:
 - i. Cust-West Eyreton Cemetery
 - ii. Cust Anglican Cemetery
 - iii. Oxford Public Cemetery
- (c) **Notes** that once this investigation is complete, staff will submit a report to the Community and Recreation Committee outlining the outcomes for their consideration/approval and, if required, to the Council as part of the Draft Annual Plan for 2026/27. This would identify any associated costs with the provision of natural burial space.
- (d) **Notes** that 13% of New Zealanders indicated that they would choose a natural burial, and an additional 18% say they probably would. This could translate to around 67 people per year potentially choosing a natural burial in our district, although not all of these would necessarily be in Council-managed cemeteries.
- (e) **Notes** that there was a total of 72 burials and 154 ash interments in Council Cemeteries for the past financial year. These figures are lower than the total deaths in 2024 (522) due to burials in other areas, non-Council cemeteries, or cremations without interment.
- (f) **Notes** that at a time closer to when additional capacity is required, the provision of natural burials would be included in the design process for the Dixons and Factory Roads cemeteries.

CARRIED

Councillor Cairns noted that a member of the community had requested the Council to consider natural burials. He commented that people were now considering various options of interment, such as natural burials. He therefore supported the motion.

Mayor Gordon supported the motion as it requested further investigation. There seemed to be an increase in the request for natural burials, so he thought getting ahead of the demand was sensible. He expressed a concern that the cost of burials was getting exorbitant for families. So, as long as it was hygienic and met health guidelines, then he did not have a problem with natural burials. He was fully supportive of the staff investigating this; ultimately, it was a choice for people.

Councillor Redmond commented that he was in favour of choice; he just wondered how much natural burial practices would align with the Council's Cemetery Policy. Hence, the policy would need to be updated to provide people with the option of natural burials.

In his right of reply, Councillor Cairns noted that the control of Funeral Directors over burials seemed extremely prescriptive. Natural burials allowed for greater flexibility in how people wanted to be interned.

5.2 **Advertising Boards at Kendal Park** – G MacLeod (Greenspace Manager)

G MacLeod took the report as read, noting that the Waimakariri United Football Club (the Club) had been proactively investigating ways to generate sustainable revenue and reduce reliance on external funding partners. This was not inconsistent with some other clubs in the Waimakariri District.

Councillor Cairns asked if the Council was currently receiving revenue from the advertising signage at Kendal Park. G MacLeod noted that while the signage was presently in place at the turf, it was not being proactively managed as a revenue stream.

Councillor Cairns questioned whether the Council had earmarked the revenue from the advertising signage to offset the costs of artificial turf at Kendal Park. G MacLeod explained that it was to a certain extent; however, the Council had made provision on the 2024/34 Long Term Plan for the renewal of the artificial turf.

Councillor Redmond sought confirmation that the Council was not currently receiving any advertising revenue. G MacLeod confirmed that Council was not receiving advertising revenue for the signage at Kendal Park, and the fences were kept there to protect the mesh behind.

Councillor Fulton requested additional information on how the Club operated. G MacLeod explained that the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) governed New Zealand football at a high level. Football clubs had to pay professional affiliation fees to FIFA to become a licensed club. The Club was trying to retain talent and prevent players from being lost to clubs in Christchurch, thereby providing people with the opportunity to stay and play locally.

Councillor Fulton questioned whether the Council was subsidising the operation of the Club. G MacLeod stated that the Council did not consider a sports club a revenue-generating stream; instead, it considered the best outcome for the community. If the Club were generating revenue, it would not have to charge higher subscription fees for its members. It should also reduce the Club's reliance on the Council for debt waiver or funding to support the activities they are undertaking.

Councillor Redmond asked how long the Club would be entitled to collect the revenue for advertising signage at Kendal Park. G MacLeod noted that if the Committee could place a timeframe on the proposal, however, the original proposal was for three years.

Moved: Councillor Redmond Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250909170808.
- (b) **Approves** that the Waimakariri United Football Club manages and collects revenue from advertising around the artificial turf at Kendal Park.
- (c) **Notes** that a report would be presented to the Council if revenue collected from the advertising around the artificial turf at Kendal Park exceeds \$10,000.
- (d) **Notes** that advertising signage is to be applied only to the wire fencing surrounding the turf.
- (e) **Notes** that Waimakariri United Football Club must obtain approval for each sign from the Council's Greenspace Manager, who will confirm materials, dimensions, and review all content prior to printing and installation.

- (f) **Notes** that any offer for an overall naming sponsor for the artificial turf at Kendal Park is to be submitted to the Council for consideration.
- (g) **Notes** that all signage contracts will continue to be administered through the Council's Greenspace Team, with all associated revenue directed to the Waimakariri United Football Club.
- (h) **Notes** that the setting of prices for the signs should be at the discretion of the Waimakariri United Football Club, which would be collecting the revenue.
- (i) **Notes** that the arrangement with the Waimakariri United Football Club would be reviewed after three years.

CARRIED

Councillor Redmond commented that as the Council were not collecting the revenue, the Club could go out and secure sponsorship, thereby receiving the proceeds. He, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Mealings also supported the motion, noting that football was a unique sport in New Zealand because it was governed by FIFA, and the subs were ridiculously expensive. The Council was not managing the advertising at Kendal Park as a revenue stream. The funds that could be raised from advertising could make a difference for the Club. The Council's potential interests were protected, as a report would be submitted to the Council if the revenue exceeded \$10,000.

Mayor Gordon reported that he and Councillor Cairns had recently met with the Club, and they were in a precarious financial situation, doing their best to survive. Although the Club had a large membership, the fees paid to the national body were crippling. The Club's current management was also dealing with some questionable decisions inherited from past management. The Club would ideally have preferred a loan from the Council to get them through their present difficulties; however, it was made clear that it was unlikely to curry favour at present. Mayor Gordon, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Cairns noted that football was played year-round and had a growing number of women players. The Club was currently in a financial crisis, and he thought that the revenue from the advertising signage at Kendal Park would provide the Club with an opportunity to generate funding. Councillor Cairns

Councillor Fulton suggested that there should be periodic checks to ensure the business plans of sports clubs that use Council facilities were oriented towards grassroots community sport.

5.3 Approval of the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan for Public Consultation – A Claasens (Community Development Facilitator)

A Claasens spoke to the report, noting it sought Committee approval to release the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan for public consultation. The plan aimed to ensure that migrants and newcomers were effectively empowered and supported to be a part of their new community. She noted that the Waimakariri District was now one of 35 welcoming community districts nationwide. She acknowledged the Welcoming Waimakariri Group that was established in May 2025. The group had worked voluntarily with staff to develop the plan into the iteration that was attached to the report. This was a foundational plan with clear goals and actionable steps that provided a guiding framework; it was a living document designed to evolve.

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250902164299.
- (b) **Approves** the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan (Trim 250903167029) for public consultation, to occur between mid-October and early November 2025.
- (c) **Nominates** the Community Team Manager to approve any minor edits to the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan as required prior to public consultation commencing.
- (d) **Notes** that the development of the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan has been informed by the attached Stocktake Report, which was a collation of research and survey results that informed the development of the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan. The Community and Recreation Committee approved the Stocktake report at its May 2025 meeting.
- (e) **Notes** that the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan was developed by the internal Project Control Group and the community representative Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group.
- (f) **Notes** with appreciation the contribution of the community members of the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group.
- (g) **Notes** that the Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group members developed and agreed on the mission statement of: "To foster a connected and inclusive Waimakariri, where everyone feels welcomed, safe, valued, informed and empowered to participate fully in their communities".
- (h) **Notes** that this mission statement aligns with one of the strategic priorities in the Long-Term Plan 2024-2034: Enhance community wellbeing, safety, inclusivity and connectedness, and to the Community Development Strategy 2025-2035 goals: "Safe and Healthy, Welcome and Included, Informed and Empowered, Engaged and Connected".
- (i) **Notes** that the Council Portfolio holder for Community Development and Wellbeing has participated in both the Project Control Group and Welcoming Waimakariri Working Group.
- (j) **Notes** following public consultation, any amendments will be considered by staff before the draft Welcoming Waimakariri Plan is reported to the Community and Recreation Community to adopt early in the new Council term.
- (k) **Circulates** this report to Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon supported the motion and commended the staff for their efforts in making people feel welcome in the Waimakariri District. The entire concept of the plan, along with the funding provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), was designed to achieve the objectives set by the Council. He appreciated that the Council's Community Development Team engaged with people at Citizenship Ceremonies, ensuring they felt welcome and connected. The plan would come back to the Committee for endorsement after the consultation.

Councillor Cairns congratulated staff, and especially A Claasens, for the work they had done and thanked them. He also supported the motion.

Councillor Mealings commented that the drafting of the Welcoming Waimakariri Plan had been a thorough process. She respected how the Council's definition of a newcomer could encompass someone who came from Finland or someone from the other side of the Waimakariri River; she appreciated the inclusivity of it. She looked forward to seeing the outcome of the consultation.

Councillor Redmond also supported the motion, stating that it was an excellent report. The plan's mission statement was excellent and aligned with the Council's 2024/34 Long Term Plan and strategic priorities.

5.4 **Proposed Changes to Council Art Management Processes** – M Foster (Community Development Facilitator – Arts Strategy Implementation)

M Foster spoke to the report, noting that during a recent review of the structure and processes of the three art groups closely interconnected with Council-operated facilities and spaces, it became apparent that some of the processes were not functioning as well as they could. There was an unnecessary burden of paperwork and project management on volunteer trustees. It was, therefore, proposed to dissolve the Art Collection Trust and to create an Arts Acquisition sub-committee within the Waimakariri Community Arts Council. This sub-committee would take over the acquisition and curation functions previously held by the Art Collection Trust, for what will subsequently be Council-owned art. M. Foster noted that there could be potential for further streamlining in the future, but she thought this was a significant first step toward a more structured and manageable approach. It was essential that the Council continued to strengthen and support the arts sector in the Waimakariri District.

Councillor Cairns sought clarification on whether the Waimakariri Arts Collection Trust was a charity. M. Foster noted that it was a charitable trust, and part of their deed was to transfer the assets to the Council.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Mayor Gordon

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250902164044.
- (b) **Notes** the intention of the Waimakariri Art Collection Trust to dissolve.
- (c) **Approves** staff working alongside the current members of the Waimakariri Arts Collection Trust to dissolve the trust, noting that as per the Trust Deed, all art and financial assets of the Trust would, in that case, revert to Council ownership.
- (d) **Notes** that Council will ring-fence the financial assets of the Arts Collection Trust for ongoing art Acquisition.
- (e) **Notes** the intention to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Waimakariri Community Arts Council regarding the ongoing acquisition and curation of art for display in Council facilities.
- (f) **Notes** the planned changes to the management process for Waimakariri Public Arts Trust and Public Art installations.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings commented that the proposal seemed to be sensible. There appeared to be an expectation that volunteers would manage projects, which was not what people were coming on board for. The Council would be better equipped to project manage, allowing the volunteers to focus their expertise on art.

Mayor Gordon supported the motion, noting that the Waimakariri District had an impressive art collection, indicating that the Trust had served its purpose. He believed that it was essential to support the creative parts of the community, as the Waimakariri District had a very active arts community. Mayor Gordon acknowledged Councillor Blackie for his work in the space.

Councillor Cairns noted that it was a pragmatic approach, and he therefore supported the motion.

In her right of reply, Councillor Mealings commented that this Trust had served its purpose and had done it well.

5.5 **Analysis of Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Responses** – L Mealings (Graduate Policy Analyst) and L Tilley (Youth Development Facilitator)

L Mealings provided an update on the progress of the Youth Action Plan Project, specifically regarding the analysis of survey responses. She noted an error in the analysis attachment regarding gender, as it had reported hearing from 629 females and 420 males.

L Tilley noted that staff hosted an event to share the early engagement data with youth workers across the Waimakariri District. They wanted to do this early in the process because they recognised how impactful this data would be for those working with young people. Thirty people attended the event, and many more expressed an interest in receiving the dataset. Staff also received positive feedback from attendees.

Moved: Mayor Gordon

Seconded: Councillor Brine

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250815151165.
- (b) **Receives** the Youth Action Plan Early Engagement Analysis Document (Trim 250822155814).
- (c) **Notes** that the analysis contained in Trim 250822155814 will directly inform the development of a draft Youth Action Plan.
- (d) **Notes** that Trim 250618110933 contains the survey questions that local young people answered to inform the analysis contained in this report.
- (e) **Notes** that staff will now proceed with the development of a draft Youth Action Plan, in line with the project timeline indicated previously to the Committee.
- (f) **Circulates** this report and attachments to Community Boards for information.

CARRIED

Mayor Gordon noted the key part now would be what the Council did with the collected data. He observed that he was initially involved in the development of a Youth Development Strategy, which was based on the Oxford model because it was a proven and successful model. The Youth Development Strategy would ensure that the Council remained in touch with the young people in the district. Mayor Gordon thought staff could be very proud of the effort that had gone into the Youth Action Plan Project and the number

of young people who had engaged in the process. He commended the work that the Council did with the social studies group from Rangiora High School, which was a good way for the Council to understand the issues affecting that age group. Mayor Gordon expressed concern about the mental health statistics raised on several occasions. He was pleased that the data had been sent to the Minister of Youth Development, and he hoped it would contribute more broadly to the work they were doing.

Councillor Brine thoroughly enjoyed reading the report. He commended the fact that 51.4% of young people considered sports and physical activity to be essential. What was concerning in that data was the loss of 21 to 24-year-olds from the sport. Councillor Brine supported the motion.

Councillor Mealings had been fortunate to see young people in action through the Youth Council and the Rangiora High School social studies class. She noted that staff had truly gone above and beyond to ensure that every voice was heard. She knew that the young people whom the staff engaged with valued that, but it did not happen very often. It was a precious opportunity for the Waimakariri District to take this data and productively make the district a better place for young people. Councillor Mealings believed that the Council was a trailblazer in this area and, therefore, supported the motion.

Councillor Cairns acknowledged the staff working behind the scenes who assisted with this process. He found that when he read the information gathered, it reiterated that the interactions with the social studies group from Rangiora High School were significant. He hoped that Kaiapoi High School also had a group that could come and talk to the Council.

5.6 **Aquatics September Update – M Greenwood (Aquatics Manager)**

C. Brown spoke to the report, noting the 2.2% increase in attendance numbers, which resulted in approximately 500 additional customers. Staff were tracking artificial intelligence (AI) in other councils, such as the AI-powered drowning detection technology at some Selwyn Aquatic Centres. However, given the expense of these systems, consideration must be given to whether a similar investment in staffing could yield comparable benefits

Councillor Redmond questioned how the drowning detection technology worked. C Brown explained that AI analyses motion patterns in the pools to detect signs of distress, such as prolonged stillness, sinking, or erratic movement. Lifeguards wore a watch, and the AI would notify lifeguards, via this watch, if it detected signs of distress. It was still up to the lifeguards to rescue the person in distress. The system costs approximately \$100,000 per pool.

Councillor Cairns noted that staff did an internal customer survey every six months. He asked if the survey also covered removing barriers such as costs. C. Brown pointed out that the survey primarily focused on the quality of service the Council was providing.

Moved: Councillor Brine

Seconded: Councillor Mealings

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250826157342.
- (b) **Notes** customer attendance of 23,898 customers for August 2025. This represents an increase of 500 customers (or 2.2%) compared to August 2024.
- (c) **Notes** that of the 272,000 patrons who visited the Council's Aquatic facilities over the past year, only 0.1% required any notable health and safety-related staff intervention.

- (d) **Notes** that while the number of incidents was low for all three sites, the Dudley Aquatic Facility's use of modern design features helps contribute to a lower overall result.
- (e) **Notes** that while Artificial Intelligence (AI) is not currently available at Council facilities, it has a growing presence within the industry as a support system for better outcomes and safer environments.
- (f) **Circulates** this report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

5.7 **Libraries Update to September 2025 – L Sole (District Libraries Manager)**

L Sole highlighted the Public Libraries New Zealand (PLNZ) National Data Collection results, which were conducted annually and provided a good way of assessing Waimakariri's performance nationally. The key learnings from the previous financial year were that there were 383,959 individual in-person visits across the three Waimakariri libraries. This was slightly down from the record volumes of the prior year (394,198), but the shortfall could be attributed to the closure at Rangiora for refit in March, which resulted in a reduction of around 10,000 visits. This was a significant result, reflecting continued community growth and demand for library services and spaces. In terms of physical items issued, 466,000 books were loaned out. He acknowledged the staff and the 80 volunteers across the three libraries, ensuring that people received the resources they needed.

L Sole noted that the Council's physical collection was very much at capacity, so there would not be much growth until the extension of the Rangiora Library. There had been a significant increase in digital lending, with a 40,000-loan increase. He reported that the Robotics Club triumphed at the Aquabots Regional Competition. He advised that eight kapa haka groups from around the Waimakariri District would perform in the library spaces to celebrate Māori Language Week.

Councillor Cairns inquired why the Waimakariri Libraries' events page on the Council website did not mention the kapa haka performances. He asked if the Waimakariri Libraries' events page was linked to the Visit Waimakariri website. L Sole explained that the events featured on the page were the annual set programmes, and the kapa haka performances were a special event that libraries were hosting. It was advertised through the Waimakariri Libraries' monthly newsletter and shared on the Council's Facebook page.

Responding to Councillor Cairns' question, L Sole advised that the Waimakariri Libraries' Robotics Club were very talented, and they have qualified for the National Aquabots competition on 30 November 2025. The team had set up a Givealittle page, and the Rangiora Library would be hosting an event, which would contribute to their costs.

Councillor Redmond questioned whether the growing statistics were due to the Waimakariri District's population growth. L Sole noted that staff had done a considerable amount of work to broaden the Waimakariri Libraries' offerings. They were increasingly seeing more nontraditional library users engaging, which may be partly driven by growth.

Moved: Councillor Mealings

Seconded: Councillor Brine

THAT the Community and Recreation Committee:

- (a) **Receives** Report No. 250904167410.
- (b) **Notes** the community benefits of the below initiatives, particularly 383,959 individual in-person visits across the three libraries in 2024/2025, which reflects increasing community demand for library spaces, resources and services in the Waimakariri District.

- (c) **Circulates** the report to the Community Boards for their information.

CARRIED

Councillor Mealings thanked staff for an excellent report, commenting that the Waimakariri Libraries were underrated for all the work they did.

Councillor Cairns commended the Waimakariri Libraries staff, noting that it was impressive that 1,100 people visited the libraries every day.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Nil.

7 PORTFOLIO UPDATES

7.1 Greenspace (Parks, Reserves and Sports Grounds) – Councillor Al Blackie.

Councillor Blackie was not present to provide an update.

7.2 Community Facilities (including Aquatic Centres, Multi-use Sports Stadium, Libraries/Service Centres, Town Halls and Museums) – Councillor Robbie Brine.

- The tender for the solar panels at the MainPower Stadium had been sent to market. It was a two-envelope process. He hoped the job would be completed by the end of the calendar year.
- The evaluation of the Pegasus Community Centre tenders was completed and would be submitted to the Council in September 2025. The prices seemed to be favourable at this stage, but it was a ten-month build.
- The croquet club was operational at the Kaiapoi Community Hub. However, the official opening was scheduled for 3 October 2025. The Kaiapoi Menzshed was still raising funds for their relocation.
- He was working with the group from the Southbrook Sports Club to progress the Club's rebuild to the next stage of their project planning. The Club was considering engaging with the broader community regarding expectations.
- The car park on the old Rangiora police station site finished with access to the Rangiora Town Hall. There was a three-hour limit.

Councillor Cairns asked if the Southbrook Sports Club was considering changing some of the parameters or their expectations. Councillor Brine noted that, realistically, the Club would not be able to raise the sum of money required for what the Council identified as the ideal.

7.3 Community Development and Wellbeing – Councillor Brent Cairns.

- Community Wellbeing was holding its Annual General Meeting on 22 October 2025.
- The RSA Passchendaele Commemoration Event would be held on 12 October 2025.
- The Kaiapoi Menzshed fundraiser would kick off next week. They had their Teddy Bear Hunt, where participants search for bears in local businesses, and an event was being held at the Kaiapoi Club, where the Bear prizes would be handed out. The bears had been provided by Re-Purpose Pals.
- Rangiora Promotions' next event was their Quiz night on 20 September 2025.
- The Older Persons Expo would be hosted on 8 October 2025.

- A model yacht event would be hosted at Pegasus Lake, with sailors from many countries coming to the Waimakariri District.
- The National Dog Show would be hosted from 25 to 28 September 2025 at MainPower Stadium.
- Very successful Welcoming the Birds event hosted in Waikuku – around 250 people attended.
- Newcomer Emergency Expo was an excellent idea. However, despite extensive advertising, only a few people attended.
- New Zealand Motor Caravan Association custodian discussion resulted in him wanting the town and district to be motorhome-friendly.
- A new art gallery opened above Coffee Culture in Rangiora.
- An education hub has been set up in Rangiora. The Hope Trust collaborated with EcoEducate, offering back-to-basics education sessions.
- NOAIA in Tuahiwi, who educated young people in areas such as agriculture, building, etc, had entered into a land purchase agreement that would see them extend that educational offering to adults.
- Boccia was coming to the district, and courts were being marked out at MainPower Stadium.

7.4 **Waimakariri Arts and Culture – Councillor Al Blackie.**

Councillor Blackie was not present to provide an update.

8 **QUESTIONS**

Nil

9 **URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS**

Nil

NEXT MEETING

This was the final meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee for the 2022-25 electoral term.

The new Council would be sworn into office in late October 2025, with Council and Committee meetings resuming from mid-November 2025. Further information would be advertised and listed on the Council's website

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 2:56PM.

CONFIRMED

Erin H. Lavin

Chairperson

J. Williams

Chief Executive

2 October 2025

Date