



SEARCH



DISPLAY



DOWNLOAD



VIEW



OPTIONS

FRONT PAGE

NEWS

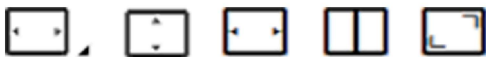
WHAT'S ON

PROPERTY TIMES

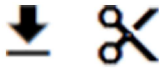


The Digital Edition is an interactive and searchable of the current and archive issues of the printed edition.

### QUICK START GUIDE



Click **Display** button to view newspaper in different screen modes: Fit to height, Fit to width, Fit two Pages, & Full screen



Click **Download** button to: save for offline & Clip page

Recent Editions

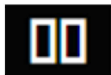
Click **Recent Editions** to browse archived editions



Click on **Zoom** button to zoom in/out



Click **Left/Right** arrow button to flip pages



**Page Thumbnails** at the top-right of the screen to browse by pages



**Table of Contents** at the top-left of the screen to browse by sections



Click an **article** to: increase and decrease the font, translate, email, print, and share article via facebook and twitter

16 VIEWS  
Oamaru Mail, July 2, 2021

## Still too many crashes on roads in our district

Half the year gone. Finally, my deepest sympathies if it is one of your loved ones who has been involved in any serious crash here in the Wairaki, or any other part of New Zealand.

Six months into the year. I thought the timing was right to give an update of what is happening on our Wairaki roads. If ever there was a time to look forward and not back, it is now. It is difficult to compare this year's figures with last year's or even those of two or three years ago, because the circumstances are just so different.

This time last year we were just coming out of lockdown and Kiwis were being encouraged to explore their own backyard. Two years ago, we had international tourists.

What is clear is we are still having too many crashes. People are receiving serious injuries or being killed in Wairaki. Since the start of the year, we have had two fatalities and nine people seriously hurt on our roads.

So, who has been involved in these crashes?  
• Nine were male compared with two females.

### Sharing the road



Jason Everett  
• Six were aged under 25 and the other five were aged over 55.  
• Five were drivers, while six were passengers.  
• Ten injuries occurred on a state highway.  
• Eight injuries occurred over a weekend, four of them during a holiday week (one at Easter and three at Queen's Birthday weekend).  
• Last year, the Road to Zero strategy was launched by the Government.

Its first target is to reduce those killed or seriously injured on New Zealand roads by 40% in the next five years.  
What does that mean?  
The reduction is based on the 2018 road statistics. In the Wairaki district, during that period we had one death and 18 people seriously injured. So, a 40% reduction on those figures comes out at just over 11.

Let's all drive safer, Wairaki.  
• Jason Everett is the Wairaki District Council's road safety co-ordinator.

We have unfortunately managed to achieve that figure already this year, not quite six months into it.

You can blame roads, weather and tourists all you want, but when it comes down to it, roads don't crash, people do. If the road is rough or flooded, slow down, drive to the circumstances and the situation you are faced with.

So, what can we do?  
Without us standing too far and having a conversation with our partner who is driving too fast, our sons and daughters who use a phone when driving, we are not going to reduce the numbers who are being killed or seriously hurt in crashes.

I'm not saying it is going to be easy. I still remember when I was a policeman. I could criticise a person's choice to be a partner (not that I would), but questioning someone's driving skills was like lighting the touch paper of a firework.

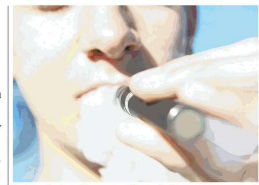
Are you brave enough to ask yourself if you take unnecessary risks when driving?  
Let's all drive safer, Wairaki.

Further, after examining the data from over 27,000 secondary school students, University of Auckland researchers last confirmed there was no youth vaping epidemic in New Zealand. To stop more minors from vaping, point of sale is where to get tough.

There are no easy answers; but it has to be considered fair and reasonable that our government devise schemes that adopt the polluter pays principle.

Jason Dean's laissez-faire "we can do whatever we want" attitude is all too familiar, and it threatens the prosperity of future generations in Wairaki. If we follow that course, our children and grandchildren will never forgive us.

Dr Lianne Winder, Oamaru



Under a cloud... Vapers are calling on the Government to get tough with outlets who break the law and sell vaping products to minors under 18.

## Vaping laws must be policed strictly

Like others, I was shocked to read about Wairaki children as young as 11 experimenting with vaping. I'm not vaping, but I am a school principal's natural concern.

I call on the Government to get really tough on the very few retailers who continue to let teenagers down. If they break the law and sell vaping products to minors under 18, it is time they faced the consequences.

I respect the government's initial focus on educating retailers about the new law, but it's time to move on to enforcement with some tough legislative sanctions available.

Concerns about marketing are fast becoming a thing of the past with its vaping advertising now prohibited and more regulations on packaging, promotion and display of vaping products taking effect on August 11.

Vape flavours will also be limited to just three in general retail outlets such as supermarkets, service stations and dairies.

While that may please parents and educators, drastically limiting popular flavours could hinder the national Smokefree Aotearoa goal.

Flavours are key to adult smokers switching to vaping - which Public Health England concludes is 95% less harmful than smoking combustible cigarettes.

Further, after examining the data from over 27,000 secondary school students, University of Auckland researchers last confirmed there was no youth vaping epidemic in New Zealand. To stop more minors from vaping, point of sale is where to get tough.

There are no easy answers; but it has to be considered fair and reasonable that our government devise schemes that adopt the polluter pays principle.

Jason Dean's laissez-faire "we can do whatever we want" attitude is all too familiar, and it threatens the prosperity of future generations in Wairaki. If we follow that course, our children and grandchildren will never forgive us.

Dr Lianne Winder, Oamaru

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Oamaru Mail welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be limited to 300 words and may be edited or abridged. Please supply your full name and contact details. Items for items will be published only where a suitable case for economy is clear.

Email: rebecca.ryan@oamarumail.co.nz  
Post: The Editor, Oamaru Mail, 52 Rattray St, Oamaru

### Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement

We have notified a new proposed Regional Policy Statement which sets the direction for future management of Otago's natural and physical resources.

Tell us what you think about it by making a submission at [www.otago.govt.nz/RPS](http://www.otago.govt.nz/RPS) before 3pm on 3 September.

Otago Regional Council

**RIGHT DIRECTION**  
Jason Dean's laissez-faire "we can do whatever we want" attitude is all too familiar, and it threatens the prosperity of future generations in Wairaki. If we follow that course, our children and grandchildren will never forgive us.

Dr Lianne Winder, Oamaru