

Christchurch City Council
ATTACHMENTS - UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Date: Wednesday 1 April 2026
Time: 9.30 am
Venue: Camellia Chambers, Civic Offices,
53 Hereford Street, Christchurch

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Mayor's monthly report

March 2026

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Kia ora

This month, as a city, we remembered the devastating loss and heartbreak caused by the attacks on 15 March, seven years ago. That date also signals the start of Unity Week, a meaningful, community-led response to something that was designed to cause division. As you'll read, this month we celebrated our unity and diversity through events that brought whānau, cultures, and communities together.

There is also good reason to celebrate the results from our recent resident survey. The Council achieved its highest overall satisfaction score since 2019. Of the services measured, 92% met their annual targets, up from 84% last year and the highest result since before the earthquakes. Fourteen out of 16 key Council services met or exceeded their Level of Service targets.



Thank you to our staff for your efforts in helping achieve these results. It is clear that the improvements we have put in place are working.

It is also worth knowing that if you compare what homeowners pay across Christchurch, Selwyn, and Waimakariri, Christchurch comes out cheapest for most residential properties.

Using a home worth \$830,000 as a benchmark, roughly the average Christchurch house value in 2022, Christchurch City Council charges \$4,232 in annual rates. That compares to \$4,417 in Rangiora, \$4,663 in Rolleston, \$4,777 in Lincoln, \$4,803 in Darfield, and \$5,488 in Oxford.

Finally, the official opening of One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha was a proud moment. I can't wait for the first event and to see the streets alive with visitors, supporters, and fans making the most of this fantastic new asset!

There is a real vibe in the centre of the city right now, a wonderful blend of old and new. People are loving living, working, studying, and playing here. Long may it continue.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Mauger".

Phil Mauger
MAYOR

Remembering March 15

15 March civic commemoration

Our thoughts, as a city, remain with the victims, their families, and all those whose lives were changed forever by the events of 15 March, seven years ago.

I attended the formal commemoration at the World Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens. One by one, the names of the 51 shuhada were read aloud, each name marked by the tolling of the Bell. It was the right setting: away from the noise of the city, dedicated to peace, and held in a quiet space for reflection and remembrance.

Earlier that morning, I had helped distribute cake as part of the 101 Cakes initiative. The simple but powerful act of sharing 101 cakes with neighbouring households is a reminder that compassion does not always come in grand gestures. Sometimes it comes in a knock on the door, a shared moment, or a kindness freely given.

These two moments captured something true about who we are as a city. We remember. And we reach out. Seven years on, people from all faiths, cultures, and neighbourhoods continue to say to one another: you belong, and you are not alone.

Our hearts are always with those who suffered. As Mayor, I am proud of Christchurch. Proud of our diversity, proud of our willingness to care for one another, and proud of our commitment to building a city where everyone feels they belong.



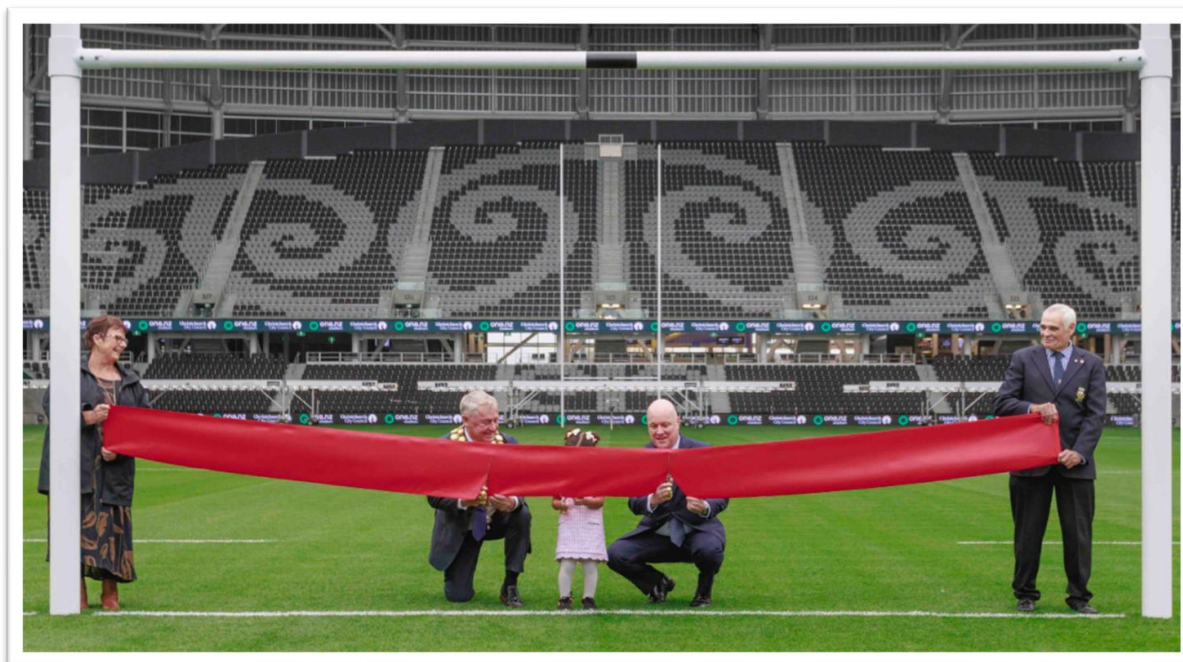
Official opening of One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha

I was over the moon to be at the official opening of One New Zealand Stadium at Te Kaha. It was a huge milestone for our city and a moment worth celebrating.

This is the biggest construction project Christchurch City Council has ever delivered, and I'm proud to say it came in on time and within budget. Watching this stadium rise and take its place on our skyline has been something special, and it's sparked real conversation and excitement right across the city.

The stadium is already transforming our central city, supported by upgraded streets, public spaces, and transport links, alongside a thriving hospitality scene. The construction has been a real local success story. Around 4,000 people helped bring the stadium to life, contributing 2.4 million work hours, with more than 75% of contractors coming from Canterbury or the South Island. That's jobs, skills, and investment staying local.

It's a place built with pride and purpose, and a place where people belong. I'm immensely proud of Council staff for delivering a world-class venue our city can be proud of. I can't wait to see it packed with fans, whānau, and visitors — cheering on sport, enjoying live music, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. One New Zealand Stadium will help cement Christchurch as the sporting and cultural capital of Aotearoa, and this is only the beginning.



Residential Rates Comparison: Christchurch, Selwyn, and Waimakariri

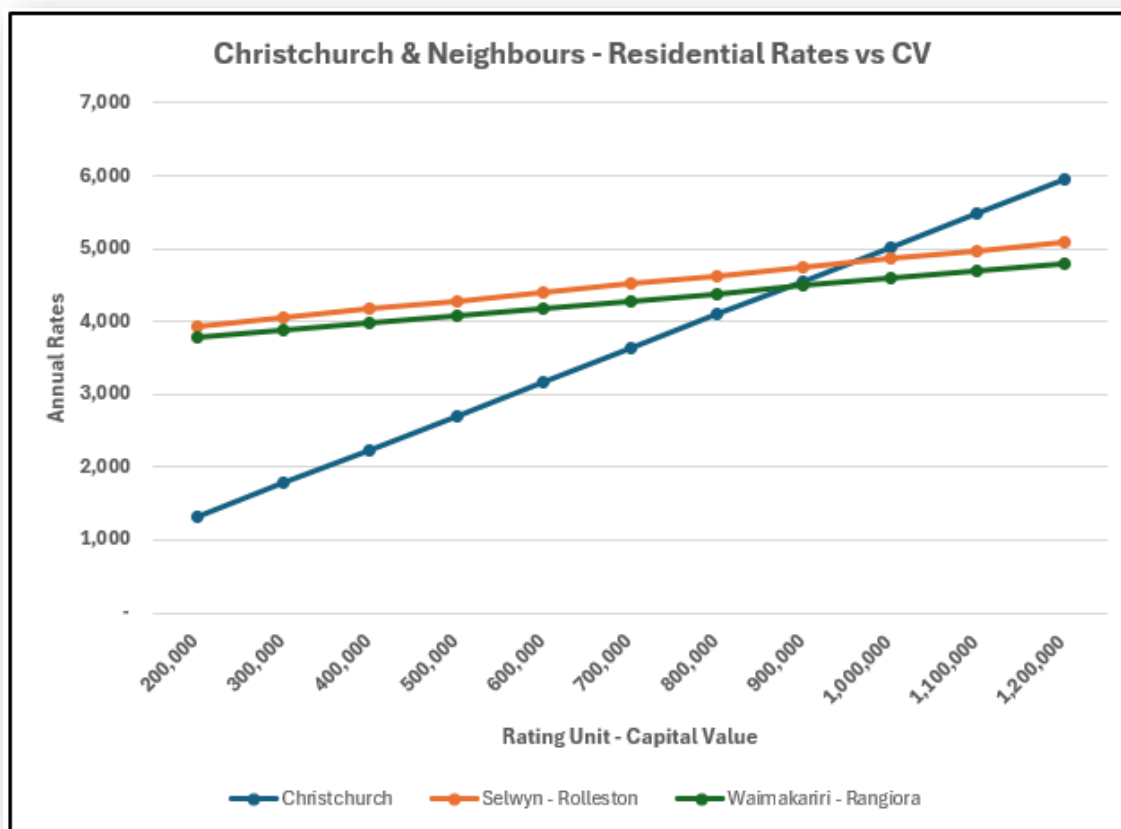
I'm pleased to report that a comparison of residential rates across Christchurch, Selwyn, and Waimakariri shows that Christchurch homeowners pay the lowest rates for properties valued up to approximately \$880,000 — which covers the majority of Christchurch homes.

Using the city's 2022 average residential valuation of \$830,000 as a benchmark, Christchurch City Council charges \$4,232 in annual rates. Comparable properties incur higher charges our neighbouring districts: Rolleston \$4,663, Lincoln \$4,777, Rangiora \$4,417, Darfield \$4,803, and Oxford \$5,488.

While average home values in Selwyn and Waimakariri tend to be slightly lower than in Christchurch, the rating difference this creates is minimal — estimated at under \$100 — because those districts rely more heavily on fixed charges regardless of capital value.

The graph illustrates a key structural difference: Christchurch's rating system is strongly value-based, meaning rates rise more sharply as property values increase. This is what drives the crossover point at around \$880,000, beyond which Christchurch becomes the most expensive of the three. For the majority of ratepayers, however, Christchurch remains the best-value option in the region.

This comparison highlights the significant variation in rating models across greater Canterbury — and confirms that our approach continues to deliver real value for most Christchurch homeowners.



Community Events, Meetings, and Highlights

Children's Day

It was a delight to mark Children's Day; I attended with my granddaughter, who delivered my opening address...! The event is about celebrating children; the day is about having fun, learning and gaining information. More importantly, parents and caregivers don't have to say no, as all activities are free.



New Zealand Squash Open 2026

I had the privilege of celebrating the official opening of the New Zealand Squash Open 2026 and attending the final. It was a superb showcase of world-class sport right here in Ōtautahi Christchurch.

The Isaac Theatre Royal provided a magnificent backdrop, and the standard of play was nothing short of exceptional. Events like these remind us of the power of sport to bring people together, inspire, and put our city on the national and international stage.

SPACPAC Canterbury Polyfest 2026

Polyfest 2026 was a two-day celebration that showcased the vibrant Pacific culture of the South Island. This year it featured performances from 26 high school groups, 70 community and food stalls, and thousands of whānau, friends, and supporters celebrating the talents and cultural pride of our Pacific youth.



Community Events, Meetings, and Highlights

Unity Week

March 15 marked the start of Unity Week, and I was proud to attend the Unity Summit — a powerful community response to an act designed to tear us apart.



United Fire Brigades' Association South Island NZ Firefighter Challenge Classic

It was fantastic to attend the United Fire Brigades' Association South Island NZ Firefighter Challenge Classic and witness our firefighters in action. The skill, fitness, and sheer determination on display was extraordinary. These women and men serve our communities with courage and commitment every single day and it was reassuring to know that they are so fit and health and ready to spring into action!

Brit & Euro Classic Car Show

I had the pleasure of opening the Brit & Euro Classic Car Show at the Air Force Museum of New Zealand. It was a wonderful occasion on a great day and brought together motoring enthusiasts and history lovers alike. The combination of classic machinery and our world-class Air Force Museum made for a truly memorable setting, and it was great to see such strong community engagement on the day.

Walk for Dementia

I joined participants in the Walk for Dementia. This is a meaningful community event held in memory of, and in support of, those living with dementia and the whānau who walk alongside them. It was a privilege to encourage those taking part and to acknowledge the vital work of Dementia Canterbury in providing support, advocacy, and resources to those who need it most.

PwC Economic Panel Conversation

I participated in a PwC Economic Panel conversation; this was a valuable opportunity to engage with business and economic leaders on the key issues shaping Christchurch and the broader Canterbury economy. These conversations are essential as we continue to build a resilient, inclusive, and forward-looking city.

The exchange of ideas and perspectives is always rich, and I left encouraged by the confidence and ambition evident across our business community.

Residents Forum

The Residents' Forum is always something I look forward to, it is great to connect with passionate volunteers who are deeply engaged in their communities and in the work that Council does at a local level.

NZ Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards

I attended the NZ Road Safety, Emergency Response and Healthcare Awards. This event recognises the extraordinary individuals and organisations who keep our communities safe and healthy. It was a privilege to acknowledge the dedication, professionalism, and often quiet heroism of those working in these critical sectors.

Community Events, Meetings, and Highlights

Culture Galore

Culture Galore is always one of the standout events on the Christchurch calendar, and this year's festival was no exception. Celebrating our city's remarkable diversity through food, arts and crafts, music, and dance from more than 30 cultures that call Christchurch home, the festival is a joyful and powerful expression of who we are as a community.

This year, Culture Galore took place during Unity Week — adding further depth and meaning to the occasion. The stage was alive all afternoon with performances ranging from high-energy and exhilarating to those that invited us simply to pause, breathe, and appreciate the richness around us. This is Christchurch at its best.



All In For Arts

I attended the All In For Arts annual event series, presented jointly by the Arts Foundation Te Tumu Toi and Creative New Zealand Toi Aotearoa — two national organisations with a shared commitment to championing creativity across New Zealand.

The event was a reminder that creativity is not the preserve of the few; it belongs to everyone. You don't have to be an artist to practise creativity.

BrainTree Appreciation Evening

I was delighted to join the BrainTree Appreciation Evening, marking four years since the opening of the BrainTree Wellness Centre in July 2022. The centre remains a vital resource for people living with neurological conditions, their carers, and the wider community, this milestone is a testament to the vision, dedication, and compassion of everyone involved. Well done.

Civic and International Relations

Chinese New Year Banquet

Hosted by the Canterbury Malaysian Society, I had a wonderful evening celebrating the Lunar New Year with great food, warm company, and vibrant culture.

Irish Minister Noel Grealish

I was joined by Irish Minister Noel Grealish and Her Excellency Jane Connolly, the Irish Ambassador, at a wreath-laying ceremony at Oi Manawa, the National Earthquake Memorial. Minister Grealish visited Christchurch to honour the Irish victims of the February 2011 earthquake and to connect with the local Irish diaspora. It was a moving and fitting tribute.



Emperor of Japan's Birthday

I attended a reception to celebrate the 66th birthday of His Majesty the Emperor of Japan, a special occasion reflecting the strong ties between our two countries.

UK Trade Envoy and Deputy High Commissioner

I attended a reception hosted by the British High Commissioner, a welcome opportunity to strengthen our relationship with one of Christchurch's most important trading partners and a celebration of our Sister City link with Christchurch UK.

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office

I enjoyed a courtesy call with the representative of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, the official representative body of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government in Australia and New Zealand. It was a valuable conversation covering issues of shared interest and mutual benefit.

Civic and International Relations

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

I always love attending the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Ceremony and had a fantastic time presenting awards to some of our outstanding young people from schools across the city.

Recipients earned Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards across a range of challenging categories which represent months (sometimes years) of commitment, personal growth and stepping outside comfort zones.

I'm so proud of everyone who takes part and those who support them along the way!

Tuvalu Prime Minister to visit One New Zealand Stadium

At the end of the month, I spent time hosting the Prime Minister of Tuvalu for a visit to One New Zealand Stadium. The Prime Minister and his delegation were visibly impressed by the scale of the structure, its commanding presence, and its location in the heart of the central city. Seeing the stadium through our guests' eyes was a timely reminder of what we have achieved as a city.



Regional Partnerships

Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee

The Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee is a voluntary coalition of local government, mana whenua, and government agencies working collaboratively to address strategic challenges and opportunities for Greater Christchurch.

Greater Christchurch Partnership Committee meetings are open to the public and are typically held every quarter. The agendas are available one week before the meeting is scheduled to be held.

The Partnership met on 6 March 2026, and the agenda and notes for the meeting, as well as a livestream recording of the meeting can be found here:

- <https://www.greaterchristchurch.org.nz/>

Looking Ahead

Events and meetings calendar

12 April	Attend the St John's National Youth Festival
15 April	Speaking at the University of Canterbury Graduation Street Parade Meeting Minister for Seniors Hon Casey Costello
18 &19 April	Attend the Supercars ITM Christchurch Super 440
23 April	CIR Shenzhen Delegation Visit Attend Zethos Demonstration Plant Grand Opening Attend opening night of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
24 April	CIR Ambassador HE Lawrence Meredith visit Attend Super Round Crusdaers v NSW Warratahs
25 April	CIR Anzac Day Dawn Service CIR Anzac Day Citizens Service
28 April	CIR Citizenship Ceremony
30 April	Speaking at the LGNZ Zone Conference