



in touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 17 - July/August 2014

Council allocates \$4.7 million

South Waikato District Council has allocated \$4.7 million, much of it provisionally, towards 15 economic and community development projects submitted during the recent \$5 million application consultation process.

"Council received a total of 43 applications requesting over \$15 million," said Ben Smit, Deputy Chief Executive. "A handful of the successful projects are fairly straightforward and will be provided with funding immediately after appropriate invoice documentation is received. For the most part however, groups or project sponsors will need to do further business planning and other investigation/clarification work in order to uplift the funds."

Council will be liaising with these groups directly. Stringent accountability and monitoring processes will be put in place to ensure funds are spent appropriately and that the desired long term objectives for each project are achieved.

"Many of the applications posed some really neat initiatives," continued Mr Smit. "Council was very conscious of the level of economic and community impact that projects would have in the long term. This was a crucial factor in the decision making process. This funding was set aside to grow our economy and community; aligning with Council's two key

strategic goals of facilitating job creation and promoting the district."

"The commitment, dedication and passion for their projects and the community from all the submitters was outstanding. Unfortunately not all projects could be funded. We know that groups that missed out will be disappointed," said His Worship the Mayor, Neil Sinclair. "Keep your dedication going; don't ever stop your tremendous efforts towards improving the lives of people in the South Waikato. Many of the ideas that were put forward would indeed add value to our social fabric, but funding them all was simply not possible."

"We were conscious of striking a balance between economic benefit and social values, while keeping our future demographic in mind. The key considerations during deliberations were to focus on projects that Council would not or could not normally fund, the longevity and sustainability of the initiative for the future viability of our district and the reach it would have to benefit the community at large," continued Mayor Sinclair.

Of the nine projects put forward by Council itself during the consultation phase, three projects will receive funding. These include the road/rail terminal initiative, pensioner housing and the Leith Place refurbishment.

An additional four projects that were raised in a number of applications have also secured funding, however Council will be taking the lead on these, some in collaboration with the groups and other interested parties. The funding will remain in house initially; bringing the total of Council-led projects to seven. These projects include investigation into nutrient and waste stream management, improvements to Te Waihou Walkway to enhance the level of service, scope and potentially implement a public transport service and additional planting at Lake Moananui.

The successful applications are listed on page 4. Council will keep the community informed on the Council-led projects (marked with an asterix).

... continued on page 4...

Leith Place upgrade will go ahead

Council is disappointed about the decision to allow the proposed unmanned service station on the old 'blue building' site to go ahead; but undeterred in our commitment to refurbish Leith Place.

Council had opposed the development because of its own plans to enhance and redevelop Leith Place over the coming years.

Council welcomes ideas on the Leith Place development from the community and the business leaders who have recently aligned to work together to further business development in Tokoroa.

With the bypasses of both Taupo and Cambridge, Tokoroa is ideally placed to attract both north and south bound travellers to stop and take a break here. Council has committed close to \$1.5million to making improvements that will invite more people to stop. This in turn will have a positive economic spin-off for businesses, especially those in Leith Place, but for others in the CBD as well.

IN brief

- Selected Owner Policy (SOP) criteria have been amended to include microchipping as required; and SOP applications to close on 31 May each year.
- A team of ten staff members will be workshopping improvements to Council's complaints recording procedures.
- 465 building consents, valued at \$24,960,592 were issued between 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014; compared to the previous year's 501 consents, valued at \$21,784,118.

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IN house

Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the South Waikato District Council.

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Council backs terminal in Tokoroa

Council has resolved to back the development of a rail freight terminal in Tokoroa through a \$2.3 million dollar investment.

The development will be in partnership with KiwiRail, New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) and RJ Lincoln Logistics (RJL). The decision comes after almost six months of intense investigation on the economic viability and long term sustainability of the concept.

Inland port

The rail terminal will allow direct road/rail container loading and unloading; making Tokoroa a key distribution centre. The development will generate transport and storage business opportunities, encourage new business, provide employment opportunity and deliver an efficient freight solution that reduces the cost of doing business.

The \$2.3million estimated cost excludes RJL's significant contribution of 'gifted' land for the access road and container load and unloading area and \$1million for equipment to be used for loading and unloading containers from the rail.

Funding

The Council-committed funding will be broken into \$770,000 from the \$5 million economic and community investment funding that was recently consulted on (see page 1 article), \$500,000 from the newly developed DRIVE Trust and \$1 million from increases in the market value of Council's SWIF investment over the past year. Some funding is planned to be received from

external agencies. No funding is proposed to come from the \$20 million that Council recently handed over to the South Waikato Investment Fund (SWIF) Trust.

Strategic objectives

"The development of this project fits perfectly with Council's two strategic objectives of economic development (more jobs) and district promotion," said His Worship the Mayor Neil Sinclair.

"It also fits with on-going work around the long term concept to develop Tokoroa as a freight distribution hub for the immediate and surrounding districts using a rail terminal for the primary industries of farming, forestry and power generation and associated secondary manufacturing and engineering industries."

"Our community has a 10% unemployment rate, well above the national average. In an attempt to make our community more economically vibrant and less reliant on government services we need to focus on the real opportunities we have in our district that will create jobs and boost further economic development," continued Mayor Sinclair. "We believe a rail terminal is an excellent way to do this."

Community concern

Council appreciates that some nearby residents have concerns over the development.

Council wrote letters to neighbouring residences and businesses detailing the proposal and inviting them to a meeting to discuss the proposed development.

Many people see the value in the development and believe that it will have a positive economic impact; however a number raised concerns about noise levels, traffic management, visual outlook and reduced property prices.

Council has contracted an independent acoustic expert to advise on solutions to reduce the negative effects of the terminal. Should a resource consent be required, Council will work through that process.

"Council appreciates that there will be a change to the view from homes alongside the existing track; and an increase in activity on the site," said Mr Smit.

"Council and our partners simply can't pass up on the opportunity to take advantage of our central location by establishing an inland port. Fortunately correctly zoned land under the District Plan is available and ideally located and we have support from existing businesses."

"Once we have guidance from the acoustics consultant we will work with property owners to consider their needs," he concluded.

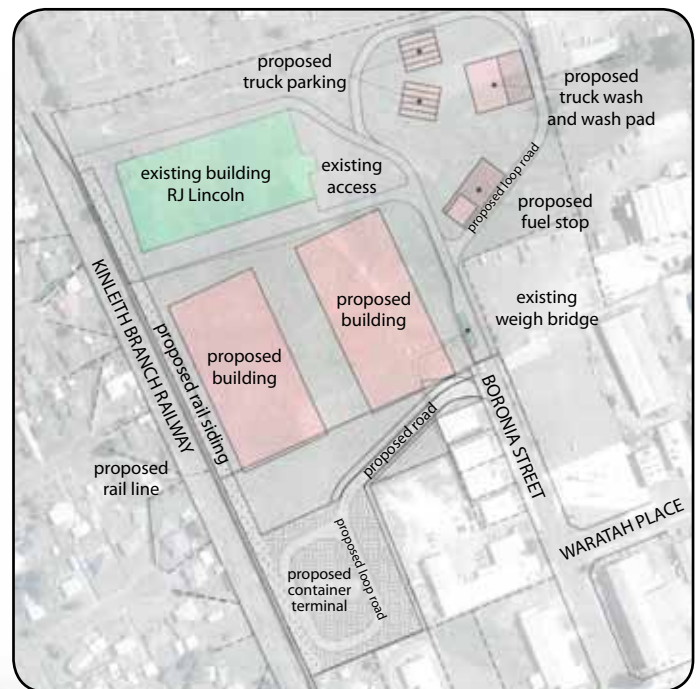


Diagram showing the proposed site at the end of Boronia Street in the Tokoroa industrial zone. This diagram is not final.

E-Waste not a waste any more

Have you ever had a computer, a toaster, or even a microwave that's 'kicked the bucket' but you didn't know what to do with it? It never feels quite right to just biff it in the bin does it? But what other option do you have?

Well, up until recently we didn't have many other options here in the South Waikato, but thanks to the South Waikato Achievement Trust's newly developed E-Waste recycling centre our community can now dispose of our old electronics in an environmentally-friendly way.

E-Waste is a growing problem our world faces. Electrical and electronic waste contains hazardous materials that can leach into our soil and affect our water table. As technology advances at ever-increasing rates and our 'throw-away' culture grows, it is imperative that these products are recycled at the end of their life-cycles to protect our environment from unnecessary pollution.

The South Waikato Achievement Trust is responsible for most of the recycling in the South Waikato, and they recognised the great need our communities had for a recycling system for electronic products.

"Our truck drivers consistently need to stop and pick up electronic goods that are audaciously dumped on the side of the road, especially old TVs," comments South Waikato Achievement Trust General Manager, Russell Ensor.

"We saw there was an opportunity as an off-shoot to the recycling that we already do, and we decided to close the loop."

So at the beginning of this year they launched their E-Waste

programme, operating out of the Trust's Thompson Street site, alongside the recycling and good wood programmes.

"Members of the community and businesses are able to drop their used electronic products here to us and we recycle them in the correct way as to the chain of custody."

This means the parts are broken down as to the standards set by the Ministry for the Environment (MFE).

Electronics are manually disassembled and materials are separated and sorted. Approximately 95 per cent of everything that comes through the Thompson Street site is recycled by the Trust. The other five per cent (which includes materials such as glass from television and monitor screens, and circuit boards) is sent up to Abilities in Auckland that has a Basel Permit which allows them to export hazardous waste, that can't be recycled in New Zealand, overseas.

Two of the Trust's E-Waste staff are now approved fillers, which means refrigerants (used in fridges, freezers and heat-pumps) can be recovered before they are recycled. Illegal dumping of refrigerants can carry a fine of up to \$500,000 under section 114 of the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996.

So, what electronics can be recycled? Mr Ensor tells us



E-Waste employee Graham Turner disassembles an old stereo and sorts the materials to be recycled.

that it's "anything with a cord" or anything that uses a cord to charge. And the best part? Recycling your electronics with the South Waikato Achievement Centre works out cheaper than dumping!

"We only put a charge on the products that contain the materials we have to deliver to Abilities to recycle, such as TVs and monitors. And there is a charge on refrigerants as they have to be degassed," says Mr Ensor.

But the cost is minimal (with an extra \$5 charge for pickups):

- CRT TVs - \$15
- Plasma/LCD TVs - \$10
- CRT Monitors - \$15
- Monitors LCD and CRT - \$5
- Fridges and Freezers \$20

Keep a look out in your mail boxes for a pamphlet on E-Waste from the South Waikato Achievement Trust.

"This initiative will not only help to protect our environment but will provide further employment options and a sense of purpose for people with disabilities and socially disadvantaged people within the South Waikato community," said David Foote, Chairperson of the Trust.

The Trust is looking forward to the opening of the Croad Place recycling centre in September and will be manned by the Trust. They can then expand their E-Waste operations at the Thompson Street site.

So from a kettle to a washing machine, if any of your electronics have seen the last of their days, don't just biff it in the bin! Bring it down to the E-Waste electronic recycling centre in Thompson Street.



Materials are sorted into specific categories so they can each be recycled, according to MFE standards.



Just think... all of this could have ended up in the landfill!

\$4.7 million allocated ... continued from page 1

Project	Project leader	Summary	Funding allocated
Tokoroa rail terminal *	Council and RJ Lincoln	Construct a rail terminal in Tokoroa; consisting of a rail siding and container loading and unloading facility that will be available to the district's business community.	\$770,000
Leith Place refurbishment *	Council	Refurbish Leith Place/Tokoroa CBD, including information centre, toilets, and the surrounding links to the wider CBD.	\$1,000,000
Pensioner housing *	Council	Increase the number of pensioner housing units in the district.	\$950,000
Rangiura retirement village	Rangiura Trust Board	Contribute funding toward stage 1 of Rangiura Trust's plan to add 11 beds, a new kitchen, dining and lounge and upgrade the community hall, lobby and kitchen.	\$650,000
Cougar Park upgrade, marketing and promotion	Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club Inc.	Develop existing and new tracks, facilities and signage and improve marketing to increase exposure of Cougar Park.	\$350,000
South Waikato Motorcross Track upgrade	South Waikato Motorcycle Club	Contribute to the upgrade of South Waikato Motorcross Track in order to attract riders, of all levels, to Tokoroa.	\$50,000
Tirau Walkway	Tirau Community Board	Develop a walkway from the Tirau township to the Tirau Domain.	\$230,000
Te Waihou Walkway upgrade *	Council	Implement a track upgrade to enhance the quality of the walkway for locals and visitors to support the growing increase of visitors.	\$151,000
Tokoroa High School Services Academy expansion	Tokoroa High School Service Academy	Provide vehicles so that funding can be moved to increasing the number of students who can benefit from the Services Academy.	\$100,000
Lake Moananui revegetation *	Council	Work with the Lake Moananui Steering Group (and Friends of the Lake Group) to support the on-going re-vegetation of Lake Moananui.	\$20,000
Future nutrient and waste stream management/ agriculture project development *	Funds held within Council, collaborative project, leader not yet known	Council does not yet have an exact scope for this project but has allocated funding and will work with the sector leaders to further enhance sustainable dairy farming in the South Waikato.	\$50,000
Trade Training Centre	Tokoroa Trade Training Centre – Steering Group	Develop and introduce a new welding course (includes equipment purchase) for the Trade Training Centre. This will complement the existing engineering and auto-engineering courses already on offer.	\$120,000
Former Masonic Hall alternations	Order of St John Putaruru	Contribute to the upgrade of the former Masonic Hall to allow it to be used for training the St John's Youth Group.	\$75,000
Tokoroa Hospice	Tokoroa Community Hospice Trust	New equipment, including beds, mattresses and other equipment necessary to help meet the demand for people wanting to be cared for at home.	\$28,000
Public transport district wide *	Funds held within Council, collaborative project, leader not yet known	Steering Committee established to identify the current services and determine the gaps. After this, Council will decide whether it will fund the purchase of vehicles.	\$200,000
Total allocated			\$4,744,000

* Council-led or Council involved projects are marked with an asterix

What's

Mark your calendar

Day/Night Thriller

13 September 2014
Tokoroa Memorial Park
Details and enter here: www.eventpromotions.co.nz/events/tokoroa-day-night-thriller

Polyfest

20 September 2014
SW Sport and Events Centre

Diwali

18 October 2014
SW Sport & Events Centre

Health Expo

18 October 2014
Putaruru Plaza, 10am to 3pm
Free day sponsored by the Lions Club (charge for lunch), talks on prostate cancer, sleep pain and acupuncture; wide range of professionals advising on alzheimers, parkinsons, podiatry, physiotherapy and more. Representatives from Age Unlimited, Red Cross, St John's, Age Concern. Try Tai Chi and Upright and Active.

Putāruru Business Awards

18 October 2014
Putāruru College, 6pm
Tickets available from Pride in Putaruru

Taniwha (Waikato River Trails)

8 November 2014
Details and enter here: www.thetaniwha.co.nz

Tokoroa Big Weekend

5 to 6 December 2014

Tokoroa A&P Show - Sat 6 Dec, 9am to 4pm, Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground, animal events, endurocross, home industry and other entertainment

Carols in the Park - Fri 5 Dec, 6 to 8.30pm, Memorial Sportsground, bring a picnic tea and seats to sit on.

Christmas Parade - Sat 6 Dec, 11am until prize giving around noon, event leaves Kindergarten Place at 11am travelling along Bridge Street to Leith Place, entertainment in town, including face painting

Putāruru Christmas Parade

12 December, 6pm
Start Overdale Street, proceed up Princes Street, return

SuperSport

20, 21 and 22 February 2015

Getting to know our staff

Hi, my name is Kerry and I am Council's Communications Manager. I have worked for Council for just over 10 years. I immigrated direct to Putāruru from South Africa 11 years ago. I've never lived anywhere else in New Zealand. I love it here. I am a communications professional. I particularly enjoy the shifting nature of communications especially these days when everything is just so quick and fluid and... ah, umh, public! I have a brilliant job in that I get to engage with our community, write about what we do and how we do it, promote what is happening in Council and the district and help people understand the often complex nature of local government. Most importantly I get to celebrate our successes as an organisation and a district with you all. This community newsletter, In Touch is one of the ways Council uses to

do this. When I'm not being a Communications Manager, I spend time with my lovely family and I walk... I walk a lot. And I couldn't live in a better district... not only do we have the lovely Waikato River Trails, Cougar Park, Te Waihou and Jim Barnett Reserve, but we're so centrally located with many other neat walks just over our boundaries. I wasn't born here, but I have chosen to make here my home.



Hi, my name is Ian and I am the Principal Rural Fire Officer and Civil Defence Emergency Manager. I've worked for Council for just over three and a half years. I emigrated from the UK 25 years ago direct to Tokoroa and been here ever since. All three of my children were born in the UK but have been educated in NZ at local schools. I have an interesting background. I completed an engineering apprenticeship with Rolls Royce in Shrewsbury. One my arrival in New Zealand in 1989, I worked at a local engineering accompany starting as a fitter turner and when I left 21 years later, I was working as the IT Manager. I have been a member of the

Tokoroa Volunteer Fire Brigade since 1991 and progressed through the ranks, becoming the Chief Fire Officer in 2000. In 2011 I stepped down the ranks to take on the role of Principal Rural Fire Officer and Civil Defence Emergency Manager at Council. I enjoy my Council and volunteer roles as I get to meet so many interesting people in the community. My Council role allows me to travel around the South Waikato which gives me the chance to see some of the fantastic scenery that we have. I encourage you all to get out there and enjoy it too. In my spare time, which I don't have much of, my wife and I like walking the Waikato River Trails.

While Ian is always calm and collected under intense pressure... he is not really standing THIS calmly in front of his ute with a blazing fire behind him... it's just a little bit of clever Photoshop'ing!



Talking safety with our Police



Family violence is a key focus area for the South Waikato Police due to the number of reported incidents occurring in our area. Often these incidents are simple fixes where one member of the relationship has issues that at that particular time can not be addressed without Police intervention. However there are also incidents when violence is used against a member of the family and Police are called in to ensure the safety of family member.

Every incident is different and that's what makes the job we do so good. Even though different we face consistent themes we see constantly, such as financial, alcohol, drugs, mental health and parenting problems that impact negatively yet can be resolved without Police intervention through the many community agencies available. Support and help is there for those who need it through these agencies and the South Waikato Police work with these groups to ensure those we deal with get referred to an agency that can address the underlying issues and support them through change.

To date we haven't had the results we have been hoping for and family violence matters are still one of the major calls for service. Therefore our prevention measures have begun to include re-visiting those who are dealt with by Police at regular times following an incident. People often don't like Police coming to their home following an incident, but its important for us to continue to follow up on these matters, especially where we feel things could have been prevented through people taking responsibility and gaining help, without having Police intervening, basically refereeing. This we believe will start to have a positive impact on family violence matters within the South Waikato.

What's on at The Plaza?

The Plaza is rocking over the coming months. Check out the line-up and grab yourself a ticket!

Sun 17 Aug, 2.30pm, Pianist **Melanie Lina**. Including Beethoven ("Les Adieux"), Debussy ("Clair de Lune"), Gershwin ("I Got Rhythm") as well as Ravel and Chopin. Admission \$30, students free.

Fri 22 Aug, 7pm, Australian based **Dixie Street Jazz** band. Adults \$25, Seniors \$20, Children \$15. Tickets available from I-sites in Putaruru and Tokoroa.

Sun 31 Aug, 2pm, movie screening, **Mao's Last Dancer**. An inspiring true story of Li Cunxin and his extraordinary journey from poverty to international stardom.

Fri 19 Sep, 6:45pm to 9pm, St Mary's Catholic School **"Wearable Arts"** fundraising event. Students to showcase their creative talents in a fun 'Night At The Zoo' theme. Tickets available from the school from early September and to purchase on the night.

Sun 21 Sep, 2pm, movie screening, **Last Vegas**. Three sixty-something friends take a break from their day-to-day lives to throw a bachelor party in Las Vegas for their last remaining single pal.

Wed 24 Sep, 7:00pm, **Operatunity "At your place"** concert series. A celebration of music through the ages, showcasing great show tunes. Tickets \$22. Tickets available from I-sites in Putaruru and Tokoroa & The Story Teller in Matamata.

Sun 28 Sep, 2.30pm, **Glenn Riddle** (piano) and **Marianne Rothschild** (violin). This stand-out Australian duo will present works by Brahms and Franck, with some show-stopping solos mixed in. Admission \$30, Students free.



Who ya' goin' to call? ...

Leaking toby? Aggressive dog? Pot hole? Who ya' goin' to call? ... well not the Ghostbusters! You're going to call Council...

Council captures requests for service in a central system so that requests can be actioned in a timely manner and tracked. The community is encouraged to use this system by calling our Customer Service Team in Tokoroa on 07 885 0340 or in Putāruru on 07 883 7189. Here's what happens to your service request. We have included two examples - one urgent, one non-urgent, alongside to assist your understanding:

	Service Request Process	Example 1	Example 2
Log the service request	Call comes in to Council. It is answered by one of our Customer Service Officers (CSOs).	"My toby is leaking"	"A dog has just bitten my child."
	They immediately start a new service request. A number is allocated instantly. This is provided to the caller.	Service request number provided to caller	Unlikely to provide number at that time, high stress situation
	CSO notes the caller's details, name, address, phone number.	Mr IM Fake, 2 Toby Lane, Tokoroa, 886 1234	Mrs IM Madeup, 2 Dog Street, Putāruru, 883 1234
	CSO notes the details of the service requests.	Toby is leaking, all mushy and wet outside fence	Child bitten on ankle by roaming dog, as walking down Dog Street on way home from shops
	Caller/CSO conversation ends.		
Assign the job	CSO allocates a Group - Assets, Corporate, Regulatory, Community or Executive	Assets	Regulatory
	CSO allocates a department within that group	Watermark	Animal Control
	CSO allocates a 'type of request'. These request types are all pre-loaded with an option to create a new one, in case it's something new.	Leaking toby	Dog attack
	The 'type of request' automatically:		
	• allocates time frames	Action within five days	Respond within one hour
• allocates a Council officer or contractor (some types of requests go direct to the contractor)	Water technician assigned	Animal Control Officer assigned	
• indicates if the service request needs to be accompanied by a phone call from the CSO to the officer/contractor as well (this happens with all request types that are urgent and require immediate attention).	CSO completes logging service request	CSO completes logging service request and phones Animal Control On-Duty Officer	
Action the request	Officer actions. Once action is completed (not detailed in this article) the service request is completed by detailing what they did and then signing the request off. In then sits in the system as complete.	Water Technician responds to the call within five working days	ACO responds and acts immediately. Follow up with victim and caller and owner of roaming dog
	If requested to, the officer phones the caller to provide detail on what was done.	Caller phoned back and detail provided	It is likely that several phone calls and site visits are held with the caller and owner of dog as this is one of the more serious issues
Close the request	Service request signed off	Water Technician details action taken in the service requests and closes request	ACO details action taken in the service requests and closes request
	If the request is not actioned within specified timeframes, the service request is followed up by both the CSOs and the managers of the officers assigned.		

Key things to tell us when you call!

- 1. Location, location, location...** the precise location is key for a couple of reasons. If we don't have the exact location we waste staff time and contractor time looking for it, and sometimes we bother other people in the community when we go to the wrong place. Just a small example is when people tell us 6 High Street... just so you know, there is a High Street in Putāruru and Tirau! Or 14 Kowhai Place. There is a Kowhai Place in Tokoroa and Putāruru. If there is a pot hole for instance, it would be helpful to be told: there is a pot hole on the right hand side of the road in Papanui Street, about 200 metres from the corner of Papanui and Baird Road. Lovely!
- 2. Keep me in the loop** - if you specifically want to know what is done, when and other details; please advise the Customer Service Officer to note on the service request that you wish the Officer to call you back with the detail.
- 3. Note the service request number** - every single request for service that comes in to Council is allocated a number. The CSO will share this with you at the time of the call. Make a note of it. That way, should you call back about the same issue, it can be easily tracked in the system and can be escalated if overdue or unactioned.

An added benefit of the service request system is that Council can use it to future plan. Say for instance we pick up an unusual number of water pipe breaks in a particular area, we know that there is a larger issue; and can plan for pipe replacement.

Air exceedances same as last winter... *already!*

Tokoroa has an air quality problem during our winter months that just isn't going away.

During winter the PM₁₀ levels in the Tokoroa airshed are very high and on average Tokoroa has around 15 exceedances per year. If we don't reduce this to three per year by 2016 and again down to one per year by 2020, industries that are looking at setting up in Tokoroa will have to offset their air emissions. Unfortunately this may mean that businesses will look elsewhere. This will have a negative impact on our economic growth.

But it's not just about growing our economy, poor air quality is affecting the health of our community! Breathing in PM₁₀ can be as bad for your child as breathing in second hand smoke.

So we need to make a change.

Council again looked at introducing a Clean Air Bylaw, but decided against this, at this time; in favour of making some adjustments to one of our air quality schemes - Warm Homes Clean Air. This scheme is only for people living in the urban Tokoroa airshed area.

Before

Previously, people had to be a community services card holder and have appropriate insulation installed to be eligible to the scheme. These two criteria have now been changed.

Now

As long as you are on the list to have your insulation sorted by 30 June 2015, you can have a new energy efficient heating appliance installed first, at no cost. In addition, the scheme is now open to those people who have received a rates rebate in the past two years.

Coming in 2015

More changes are on the cards in 2015 too (again for those living in the Tokoroa airshed). Anyone will be eligible for 50% (up to \$2,000) of a compliant heating appliance to be fully funded. The remaining portion can either be paid by yourself or you could apply to Heat Swap for the remaining portion.

Please remember that to be eligible for any of Council's air quality schemes, your old non-compliant woodburner must be decommissioned.

Key messages (for people in the Tokoroa airshed)

1. If you have applied for a rates rebate in the past two years, apply to the Warm Homes Clean Air scheme NOW.
2. If you are thinking about signing up for Heat Swap in the next year, WAIT until 1 July 2015. That way you will have the first \$2,000 fully funded.

Council air quality schemes are summarised below.

Enquire at your local Council office for more information or visit

www.southwaikato.govt.nz.

Warm homes clean air

The Warm Homes Clean Air Scheme is aimed at lower income households, those holding a community services card or who have received a rates rebate in the last two years. The scheme installs energy efficient clean heating appliances into homes. Fully funded, jointly by Council and the Waikato Regional Council.

A South Waikato Clean Heat Initiative

HEAT swap

This scheme assists ratepayers (including landlords) to replace non-compliant fires in residential properties by adding the cost to rates that is paid back to Council, over a period of up to nine years. As part of a heating upgrade, insulation may need to be installed or upgraded.

burnwise

This scheme endorses wood suppliers who commit to providing good wood in the community.

Central Bay Firewood
07 886 6387

Tokoroa City Lions
www.tokoroalions.com Tokoroa

Firewood Ltd
0508 FOR WOOD (0508 367 9663)

Balmoral Firewood Supplies
07 886 7550

South Waikato Achievement Centre
07 886 8941

Council supports Gateway

Gateway is a programme that provides secondary school students the opportunity to experience a working environment in a career area that interest them. Students are placed in a business and experience the workplace hands on. Council has been committed to the Gateway programme for several years. Recently the Communications team hosted Conal Parker. Here's Conal's take on his two day visit.

"My name's Conal, I have lived in the South Waikato my whole life and attend Forest View as a Year 12 student. My interests are Business, Communications, Marketing and Law. Thanks to the Gateway programme I was able to spend two days in the Communications section, where I experienced working life in local government.

"I gained insight into the running of my district, as well as querying how and why many things operate. During my two days at Council I visited upcoming and current expansions and improvements (like Lake Moananui) and sat in on a workshop which taught me a new form of strategic planning. You can probably guess which I enjoyed more! I learnt many valuable things and have a much deeper understanding of political systems and can continue planning ahead with much more confidence and knowledge.

I would like to thank both the Gateway programme and Council for this experience, as well as Mrs O'Connell our local Gateway coordinator. And a big thanks to Sina and Kerry who orientated me. Gateway has enabled me to experience life after school and has given me confidence in my career plans as well as new ideas as to where I want to head in life.



Bylaw and Policy review update

The **Local Approved Products Policy** (LAPP) gives Council the ability to influence where retailers selling psychoactive substances can be located and how far away from sensitive sites and each other those outlets can be. The legislation does not allow the LAPP to dictate any other aspect of the trade, such as opening hours.

Council received 23 submissions from a number of local residents, service providers, business owners, and key organisations.

All of the submissions were very positive and in support of the LAPP. There were many comments commending Council for taking the initiative to prepare this policy.

Council will be holding a public hearing on 8 August, starting at 10am.

The **Dog Control** bylaw and policy detail exercise areas, prohibited areas and requirements of dog owners as guided by central government legislation.

Council received eight submissions. Submissions were generally supportive with a few suggested changes.

Some of the submitters requested to be heard and hearings will be held in August.

The **Open Fires in Urban Areas Bylaw** is a renewal of the existing bylaw that allows Council to exercise control over fires in an Urban Fire District to

provide protection of people and property from the risk and spread of fires and to prevent smoke from fires in the open causing a nuisance.

The main change that Council made to the existing bylaw was to include that when a prohibited fire season is declared in a Rural Fire District, it will automatically extend to the surrounding Urban Fire Districts.

Council received only one submission, which was in support of the suggested change. The submitter didn't wish to be heard, so no hearing will be held.

The bylaw will go to Council for adoption in August.

email: info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN brief continued...

- 86 resource consents were issued between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014; 100% were processed within the statutory timeframe. This is the fifth year in a row the team has achieved a 100% achieved record. Well done to the planning team!
- Council's new Business Case Management Service is bedding down well. Some of the more interesting cases include spring water bottling plants, a dog day care facility, the Lichfield dairy expansion project, childcare centre, art gallery and cafe.
- A number of Council staff participated in a civil defence training exercise on 8 July. The exercise was designed to test how we respond to a significant earthquake event; and it was coordinated across the region with multiple councils participating. This collaborative effort provides training opportunities for a real life large scale event affecting several districts and councils.
- Planning a function? Having a party? Need a venue for a workshop? Book now at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre by calling 07 885 1059. This facility offers two conference room venues (that can combine to one larger venue) at reasonable prices.



IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via: website:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz
facebook: www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil
twitter: @SouthWaikatoDC

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.

Councillor Column Anne Edmeades

Life as a Councillor is pretty busy. In mid-June we attended the hearings and deliberations for the \$5million economic and community investment funding. The 43 proposals were mighty fine and really thought-provoking; and decisions were difficult with a lot of debate around the table. Thank you to all of the submitters who put in such effort and show such passion for our community. I look forward to seeing the 15 successful projects come to fruition.

Over the last few months I have had people contact me regarding issues with footpaths, water mains, roads etc around Putāruru. Council's Service Request System is where these can be logged and tracked. If you call Council's main line 07 885 0340, it will be logged immediately and attended to much quicker.

Often for larger more complex issues, it is good to approach your local Councillor like myself as these generally require a fair bit of discussion, but for the more simple "there's a pothole here" the Service Request System is the best option.

Every six months Council has a grants allocation round where the Grants Committee allocates Council funding to applicants for community projects and initiatives. Council is currently advertising its September Grants round, so if your group has a project in mind that fits the criteria contact Council to get an application form.

I have been on the Grants Committee for three years and it concerns me that we don't get many applications. I often hear that groups need things, and I think, that would have been a perfect request for the grants scheme. So my message to clubs is come on, have a meeting and apply for something your club needs. Council staff are on hand to guide you through your application too - just contact the Community Group. They can help point you in the direction of other funders too if your project requires a lot of funding, more than our schemes can cope with; or if your application was unsuccessful.

Councillor Column Tua Ngumanga

Ngā mihi o te tau hou - Greetings for the New Year.

Matariki or the Māori New Year is a time to reflect on the year that was and to greet the year that will be.

The last ten months have been full of challenges, balancing fulltime shift work, being an Elected Councillor and family life.

Balance is something that we all need to find in our everyday lives. In Council we need to find the balance between providing the highest level of service at the lowest cost; and the community wants against the community needs.

So much to comment on and so little space.

The Road Rail Siding project providing a freight storage and distribution hub and the addition of the welding component to the Trades Training Centre are positive and will both provide much needed jobs and skills for our local industry.

Great news that Tokoroa has secured the Day/Night Mountainbike event for September after being held in Taupo for the past 15 years; and the Tokoroa 1000 Road Rally in 2015. These are two big events heading our way bringing exposure and a much needed boost to local businesses and our economy.

On Lake Moananui, work continues to be done on the spillway and the finish line is now in sight. Sadly via Facebook there have been ill-informed posts and bandwagoning regarding the lake project and other projects. This does nothing to enhance our community profile. If you don't know please ask rather than speculate. Or join Council's facebook page, details alongside (to the far left).

Finally I look forward to working with our new Youth Advisory Council, getting a youth perspective by youth for youth. Positive proactive youth who want to contribute to our district's future, not its demise.

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IN value

In Touch costs 50 cents per copy per resident per issue. The cost of six issues per year is \$3 per ratepayer. For this cost our community receives 48 pages of information about Council and the district.

**approximates, overruns not included.*