



Message from the Mayor

Christmas is almost upon us, and as we plan for our holiday break let us pause and think of those for whom Christmas won't be a time of celebration. We in the South Waikato are remote from the troubles of Paris or the Middle East, but such events do remind us that we are part of the wider world.

Here in our community we have some people who will find Christmas a time of stress and we fortunate ones need to give them a little kindness. A little compassion to those less fortunate than ourselves will mean a lot.

This is the twelfth Christmas I have had as your Mayor and I give thanks for the opportunity to have worked in this great community of the South Waikato.

We have had some great achievements in those 12 years; some hurdles, some pain, but looking back overall, we have moved forward.

I am proud to have led a Council that has faced up to the problems of rural New Zealand, in particular the changing demographics of our District. The commitment to getting more jobs in the District has been vital. Our Business Case Manager has had 77 new businesses come to him in the past twelve months.

We have seen the Fonterra expansion, Blue Pacific Minerals expansion, the Road Rail Terminal hub, Big Chill expansion, Okoroire Hotel refurbishment, Subway and Robert Harris, the new flour mill, brand new petrol stations and brand new supermarkets - just a few examples of our growth and development. Most importantly this proves that businesses and organisations, some multi-nationals, are investing in our piece of paradise.

Council has recognised that our youth need to see a future here for themselves, so our Trade Training centre, the University bus, the Waiariki bus and our own Mayoral Scholarship show commitment to the concept that education is the vital way forward. The Sport and Events Centre is proving to be an exciting part of

the rebranding of our District as more and more organisations are recognizing the facilities we have and just how central the South Waikato is for events like the National Dog Agility Trials and the Daynighter Thriller mountainbike event.

However as important jobs are, the South Waikato has to be seen as a great place to live. We have some fantastic community and sporting groups and clubs that work tirelessly in the community. I firmly believe that the South Waikato has more dedicated

volunteers than most other districts. Just think of the Mountain Bike Club and the continued development of Cougar Park, the Taniwha and Generator with the River Trails Trust, Jim Barnett Reserve and the efforts of that committee, the Dog Obedience Club running the national event, our Service Clubs, our emergency services, the numerous sports clubs, our theatre groups, Hospice caring for others and so many other groups... these are the people that really make the South Waikato great and are the reason we are all so proud to be part of such a fantastic community.

The New Year will see new ventures emerge, like Leith Place, Putāruru Going Forward, and the Tirau Concept plan develop.

The South Waikato will be the place to be.

May the spirit and meaning of Christmas be with us all and our hopes and aspirations for the New Year be fulfilled.



"Christmas is a tonic for our souls - it moves us to think of others rather than of ourselves. It directs our thoughts to giving."

IN brief

- Ninety vehicles attended the NZ Off Road 1000 event; 450 volunteers and around 2,000 spectators attended the three day event. 600 local school children got up close and personal with these loud machines with twenty lucky children winning a 10 minute hot lap in the cars. Thrilling stuff!
- Since 1 July nine homes have been completed under the Buy Now Pay Later home heating scheme, 60 under Split the Bill and 22 under On the House.

IN side

- 2&3 Exercise equipment Summer time
- 4&5 Chinese investment visit Pensioner housing
- 6&7 Christmas Office Closure Dumping and littering
- 8 Rating revaluations Councillor contacts

IN house

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

Editorial: Communications staff, Kerry Fabrie and Sina Tolovae, 07 885 0340

Print: GASP Designs

Watch that water use...

Summer is here which means that water restrictions may need to be put in place soon to ensure that there is enough water for everyone to use during the drier months.

In the last issue we answered some of your frequently asked questions, here are a few more to help you understand water restrictions and why we need them...

Alternate day sprinkling and the letterbox rule - what do these mean?

Alternate day sprinkling means residents whose street address number is an even number can use their sprinkler systems between 6am-8am

and 6pm-8pm on days with even dates (ie 30 January, 2 February, 4 February etc).

Those with odd letter box numbers can use their sprinkler systems between 6am-8am and 6pm-8pm on days with odd dates (ie 31 January, 1 February, 3 February etc).

Why do we need restrictions when there's lots of water in the rivers, bores, streams and springs?

Council takes water from various sources throughout the district. The Elizabeth Park bores supply water for Tokoroa. The Waihou River (Blue Spring) and Glenshea bores supply water for Putāruru.

In Tirau the water supply is from the Oraka Spring located alongside the Oraka River.

Arapuni and Lichfield water is supplied from bores located close to each community.

Council has been monitoring the levels of the ground water that supplies our water and they have been dropping over the last few dry years we have had. Council is also governed by Waikato Regional Council on the amount of water we are allowed to take each day, to ensure everybody in the catchment has access to water.

I am paying my rates, why can't I water my lawn and garden whenever I want?

The demand for water has increased in New Zealand so the allocation rules have been put in place to ensure all water users (including farmers) only take what they need. The allocation rules will help to protect all water sources and ensure there will be plenty of water available for everyone not only today but in the future.

How can I learn about using water wisely?

If you google 'water usage' you can find great ideas on how to save water. Check out Council's Facebook page over the summer for tips and updates on water usage.

Get out and active on the new outdoor fitness gear

Brand new outdoor fitness equipment has been installed at Lake Moananui in Tokoroa and Glenshea Park in Putāruru, and Council is thrilled with the response we've received on the equipment so far.

"We have a wonderfully active community and we knew that this equipment would be greatly used and enjoyed in our district," said Mayor Neil Sinclair.

Six stations have been installed at the lake and

four at Glenshea Park. Each station features a dual purpose piece of equipment that can see two people using it at once and most stations come with a secondary apparatus, such as balance beams, pull up bars etc.

The stations come with a handy guide on how to properly use the equipment, what muscles it works and how long you'd need to use the piece of equipment to work off one hotdog... and it's much longer than you would expect!

It's important our community recognises that the fitness stations are only to be used as directed, improper use of the equipment could result in an injury.

The equipment was installed during October/November and it's already been put to great use by our community.

"As we were installing the equipment, we'd finish one station and move on to the next, and we'd look back and see that people were already jumping on and giving it a go! It was awesome to see," commented Parks Officer, Maree Taimetua.

One of those people was Nga Petero, who was out for a run around the lake with a friend.

"This is great, I often bring groups of people down here to the lake for a train, we'll

definitely be including these in our trainings now," he commented.

The idea for the fitness equipment has been discussed in the community, including Council's own Parks and Reserves staff for a number of years. It was also raised in a Long Term Plan submission in 2012 by another Council staff member, Desiree Morunga. And Councillors during the LTP supported the idea too.

"I, myself submitted on the fitness equipment to be installed in Tokoroa, thinking they would be a great for our town. It's so cool to see that Council listens to public



Local fitness enthusiast Nga Petero giving the fitness stations a go...



You can help improve our air quality during summer

It's summer time in the South Waikato and the warmer weather is definitely welcome! Woodburners in our district will be needed less and less, which is good news for our air quality.

Breathing fresh, clean air is something we should be able to enjoy all year round, however, research tells us that during the winter the air that we breathe becomes so polluted that it causes issues to our health and wellbeing, more so for our young children, elderly and those whose health is sometimes already compromised.

There are several causes to our air becoming polluted, but the main source in our district

comes from non-compliant woodburners in our homes and the burning of wet wood. These two factors alone contribute towards 78 per cent of the PM¹⁰ problem.

Improving our air quality is a year-round commitment and there are plenty of actions South Waikato residents can take during the warmer months to help make sure that come winter we are burning better and breathing easier.

Actions you can take during spring and summer:

- Collect your firewood now and store it in a dry sheltered area - this will ensure that your wood is seasoned and dry come time to burn

- Clean your flue - this should be done once a year before your woodburner is used again.
- Replace that old woodburner - this can be done through one of our WHCA clean schemes.

If we put in a little bit of work now we can help improve our air quality and our health!

For more information on air quality, firewood collection, flue cleaning and WHCA schemes contact Council on 07 885 0340 or visit www.southwaikato.govt.nz.

Or contact a Burnwise supplier...

BURN WISE

GOOD WOOD
from GREAT SUPPLIERS

- Tokoroa Firewood Ltd
0508 367 9663
- Balmoral Firewood Supplies
07 886 7550
- Central Bay Firewood
07 886 6387
- South Waikato Achievement Centre
07 886 8941

submissions and builds on them. Having the fitness equipment in Glenshea Park for our Putāruru residents to enjoy as well is awesome," Desiree said.

"More people should get involved during Council's Long Term Plan and Annual Plan submission processes, it might take a bit of time to see the results, but good ideas are worth the wait."

Just a reminder to dog owners - Lake Moana nui is a multi-use space. Please ensure dogs don't bother other users, keep them

under voice control in the off leash area, on a leash in the leash area and don't allow dogs near the children's playground.

With the warm summer months upon us, it is important that everyone can enjoy the lake environment.



The equipment is set up with two sides, so it can be used with a buddy...



This station is perfect for stretching and comes with a guide of useful stretches...



Most stations come with a secondary apparatus like this pull up bar...

Deputy Mayor of Yichun City visits South Waikato

Council was pleased to have the Yichun City Deputy Mayor Wang Yalian and business and education sector leaders visit our beautiful district recently.

After a meet and greet, Mayor Sinclair and Deputy Mayor Yalian signed an agreement for Sister City Friendship before heading off to the newly developed Tokoroa Road Rail Terminal to learn more about the potential business and development opportunities associated with this distribution road/rail hub.

They next visited the newest South Waikato farming area along Mossop Road, stopping to view a herd being milked at a farm that was developed eight years ago and is now milking 930 cows a day.

"We took the opportunity to explain the importance of



farming to our economy and of course the quality of our dairying systems," continued Mayor Sinclair.

The visit went well and further cemented relations that will pave the way for investment and economic opportunities.

Building accreditation retained!

Council's Building Team has once again retained accreditation as a Building Control Authority (BCA).

This involves a bi-annual audit by International Accreditation New Zealand to ensure the team meet building regulations and that our Quality Assurance systems are appropriate and followed.

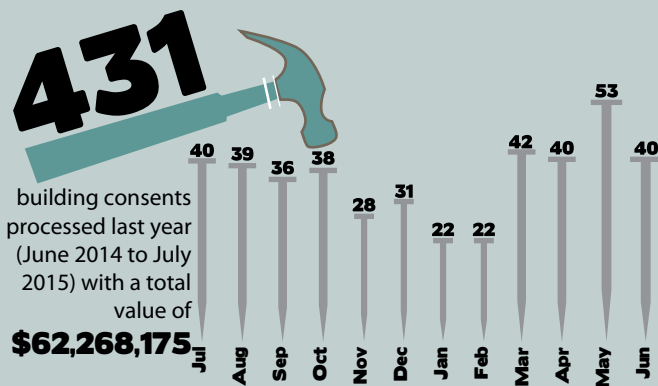
Having our own BCA means we are able to keep this regulatory function local by having our own Council staff processing, issuing and inspecting building work. Otherwise our Council would need to contract this work to another BCA. This would likely increase costs of processing building applications.

And further improvements in our service delivery is the recent website enhancement.

For quite a number of years we've had Building Files (often called Building Packets) available to the public via the kiosks in Council's foyer and at the Libraries. This service is now available to the public via our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on the 'Our Services' tab, select 'Do it Online', Select the 'Property and Building files' option.

Any files downloaded via this service will be stamped with the date/time, a document number and email address of the person who requested the file.

If you discover that the downloaded document(s) contain incorrect information please contact Council with the document ID number and we will have it corrected.



WHAT'S HOT

Plans for the new Road Transport, Logistics and Distribution Training Centre - driver training in our district coming soon!

Tokoroa Library again! This time for being nominated as a finalist in the National Māori Language Awards... decision pending at the time of writing. Let's hope we bring home a win, but making finalist is super cool too!



Our Neighbourhood Parties!

New LED streetlighting being installed in Bridge Street - less maintenance, lower power costs and more light - win, win, win!

The new Downer/Council co-branding - proud of our work.

Support from the Police for non-compliance/enforcement issues that Council staff sometimes face in the community.

The increasing numbers of farmers who are applying for rural fire permits.

Tokoroa Library celebrating 21 years - congratulations!

Celebrating graduating apprentices in the district with local businesses.

Urban Connector... what a ride!



The new exercise equipment - remember to use them as directed and have fun getting fit!

WHAT'S NOT

Poo'ing in the South Waikato Indoor Pools - not cool for other users when we have to close the entire pool on a regular basis!

Irresponsible dog owners.

Special liquor license applications and stall holder applications coming in with insufficient time to process.

Delays over summer due to roadworks. It is unfortunate, but the warm summer weather is the best time to do roadworks.

Vandalism on our street light fuse boxes - costly to repair and could result in serious injury!

Aggressive behaviour and assaults towards our staff who are just doing their jobs.

Pensioner Housing Project explained

In May 2014, Council approved \$950,000 from its Economic and Community Development Fund for the development of more housing for our older people. There were many options for scoping and we looked at several.

We will be working with the Waiariki Institute of Technology using its Carpentry Trade Training Unit students to build the units on land we already own. This means reduced building labour costs, no mark-up on materials and no land cost, which means we can build more units than the eight originally identified.

The reserve identified is the Council owned Kindergarten Street Reserve situated next to the Senior Citizen's Hall and the Central Kids Clyde Street Kindergarten. This is our preferred site for several reasons. It is peaceful with a quiet ambiance, close to shops, hospital and the Senior Citizen's Hall, is flat land and has an existing road network.

In order to build the units, we needed to change the reserve status with the Department of Conservation (DoC). This included a period of public consultation for people to have their say. At the time of writing we had received some submissions. By the time In Touch is distributed we would have heard those submissions and issued a recommendation to DoC who is the final decision maker.

It has been important for Council to maintain momentum on this project so progress is continuing during the consultation period. Indeed a lot of work has already been done, like unit design. Once we have DoC's final decision on the changed reserve status the final planning can occur for the agreed site.

In order to have the project up and running in the new year, we have to make some progress now,

regardless of which piece of land is used; which is why Council is currently also looking for a Licensed Building Practitioner to oversee the project.

Council sees this project as a fantastic way to further our partnership with Waiariki, expand the Trade Training Centre initiative, provide local students an opportunity to get relevant and practical building experience and provide a pool of young builders for our local building business sector.

"Our key goal was to create partnerships to achieve as much as possible with this funding while achieving a great outcome for our community."



More about the Pensioner Housing activity

Council currently owns and manages 78 one and two bedroomed pensioner units located in Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau.

We have an active waiting list of 45 prospective tenants, 38 of whom want units in Tokoroa.

The pensioner housing that Council administers is totally funded by rent; there is no ratepayer input into the activity, nor will there be.

This \$950,000 project is also not funded from rates; it was funded from the capital South Waikato Investment Fund.

We have an aging population. Statistics NZ showed that there are 3,477 people 65 years and over living in our district. This is expected to increase to 4,900 by 2026. Because of this district's demographic and deprivation profiles we are likely to have more need for this service than most other districts. This need is not currently being filled by the private sector.

Shining the light on street lights

Dedicated street light pole

Light and pole - owned by Council and maintained under contract

Fuse at base and incoming supply cables - owned by PowerCo and maintained under contract

Power supplied by an energy retailer

Power pole mounted lights

Light, outreach arm and cables - owned by Council and maintained under contract

Pole - owned by PowerCo and maintained under contract

Power supplied by an energy retailer

Issue	Time to fix	Action	Responsibility
Blown or flickering lamp	1 to 3 days	New lamp fitted, light checked and cleaned	Council
Failed light (control gear or blown fuse)	1 to 3 days	Gear tray or light replaced, fuse replaced, outreach arm cables checked	Council
Failed light in entire street (relay fault)	1 to 3 days	Main fuse and control relay checked and replaced	Council
Failed light in entire street (cable fault)	Dependent on PowerCo	Location of cable fault identified, area dug up and repaired	PowerCo
Failed lights (entire region)	1 to 2 hours	Resend the control signal to ripple plants	PowerCo

All street light faults should be reported to Council to be allocated a service request number. This will ensure we can pick up frequent fault areas which may be an indication of a deeper issue.

The two faults that cause the most problems for our community are cable faults and ripple plant problems. Unfortunately, both of these are outside the control of Council for response times.

When you call...

Council captures requests for service in a central system so that requests can be actioned in a timely manner and tracked. Remember:

1. To tell us the precise location so that we don't waste time looking for the problem.
2. To ask us to note that you want to be called back with the action details, if you wish.
3. To note the service request number so that if you call back about the same issue, it can be easily tracked in the system and can be escalated if overdue or unactioned.

The community is encouraged to use this system by calling our Customer Service Team.

07 885 0340 (Tokoroa)

07 883 7189 (Putaruru)

Council services over the Christmas holiday break

Council offices and other Council managed facilities will be closed at times over the festive season. We suggest you cut this portion out of In Touch and put it on the fridge to remind you of the opening hours for the offices, libraries, South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, swimming pools, refuse and recycling collection changes and emergency contact details over the holidays.



Council offices

The Council offices in Tokoroa and Putāruru* are closed from 3pm on Thursday 24 December and will reopen again at 8am on Tuesday 5 January 2016. Council can be contacted for all queries on 07 885 0340 (water, sewerage, noise, building). For dog issues phone 07 885 0774. Environmental Health have a duty officer on call, please contact 0274 516 173.

* Putāruru Library opening hours - refer table below

Fire permits

No rural or urban fire permits will be issued after 12pm on Thursday 24 December 2014. This service will resume Monday 11 January. Urgent calls only to 07 885 0340.

Pools

The South Waikato Indoor Pools are open during the festive season from Monday to Friday from 5.30am to 8pm and on weekends and public holidays from 7.30am to 8pm, except for:

- Christmas Eve when we close early at 3pm
- Closed on Christmas Day
- Open on New Year's Day from 12 noon

The seasonal pools in Putāruru and Tirau are closed on Christmas Day and open every other day from 12noon to 6pm, except Christmas Eve when we close early at 3pm.

Refuse and recycling

Collections for the Christmas and New Year period **ARE** affected; some collections will be the day **AFTER** normal. Refer below:

- Friday 25 December will be collected on Saturday 26 December
- Friday 1 January will be collected on Saturday 2 January

This information is on the recycling calendar enclosed in this issue of In Touch and on Council's website.

At Christmas time there is usually an over-abundance of recycling from an increase in bottles, containers and cardboard. Don't forget that recycling can be dropped off 24/7 at the urban recycling facilities in Tirau (Depot St), Putāruru Transfer Station (State Highway 1) and rural recycling facilities at Te Waotu and Kurunui. The recycling depot at the Tokoroa landfill (Newell Road) is open from Tuesday to Sunday from 9am to 4pm and the Croad Place facility (off Sloss Road, Tokoroa) is open weekdays from 8am to 4pm and weekends 9am to 1pm.

All landfill and transfer station sites are closed on Friday 25 December and Friday 1 January.

All Council facilities* will close on Friday 18 December at 3pm for a staff/family Christmas gathering. The normal after hours service will be in place. Urgent matters will be attended to.

*except all pools, these will remain open

	Thurs 24 Dec	Fri 25 Dec	Sat 26 Dec	Sun 27 Dec	Mon 28 Dec	Tues 29 Dec	Wed 30 Dec	Thurs 31 Dec	Fri 1 Jan	Sat 2 Jan	Sun 3 Jan	Mon 4 Jan	Tues 5 Jan
SWSEC#	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tokoroa Library	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Putāruru Library	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tirau Library Link*	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	open

unless bookings arranged prior *i-SITE open for WiFi access, no library service

Pets at Christmas

Too regularly over the Christmas period, dogs are left alone without food and water. Please, if you can't find a housesitter who can take care of your dog then either take your dog with you or use boarding kennels.

As the owner you will be charged fees for having an officer come and remove your dog and impound it so that it can be fed and watered. In severe cases an infringement notice could be issued too. We have zero tolerance for owners who do not provide the absolute necessities for their pets, ie food, water, exercise and weather proof kennelling.

If you are a concerned neighbour please notify us at Animal Control on 885 0774 and speak with an on duty officer who will take the appropriate action.

Thank you for caring for your pet this holiday season.



Festive Food Safety

Christmas and New Year is a time for celebrating and having fun with colleagues, family and friends.

More people means more food, which means fridge space can become tight. In addition, summer brings higher temperatures that can turn food bad quickly. Some foods are very susceptible when left at room temperature, like meat, poultry, mayonnaise, milk.

Take extra care this summer when storing food items. Ensure that food which can't fit in the fridge is either eaten, stored in additional cold storage such as a chillbin or thrown out. Often food borne illness is caused by improper storage of prepared meals and leftovers.

Longer daylight hours, holidays and extra opportunities to socialise sometimes mean late night festivities that can result in noise and unsavoury behaviour. Just a reminder to be respectful of your neighbours and others over the festive season.

Council wishes residents a wonderful holiday break. Relax, bask in the warm weather, enjoy the beautiful walks we have in the South Waikato, and above all drive safe, play safe and stay safe.

Rubbish dumping an issue

Council has noticed an increase in flytipping and dumping around the district, particularly at our recycling depots that are accessible 24 hours a day. The recycling depots are for recycling. Council believes that the signage is sufficient; that people are just using the area to dump general household rubbish. We appeal to our community to use the recycling stations responsibly.

Another issue is large scale dump sites in remote areas around the district. Forestry gate entrances and out of the way places are often targeted by people for dumping. Council's Litter Officer has the unpleasant task of looking through this dumped material and if identifiable items are found, the person responsible will be infringed or even prosecuted.

In the six month period from April to September, Council's Litter Officer tidied rubbish dumps from 57 spots across the district. Litter collection and flytipping costs money to clean up. Council does this work and it costs the ratepayer.

From these 57 dump spots, five contained identifiable material and those responsible were either warned or infringed depending on the scale of the dumped material.

We sometimes find official green rubbish bags dumped around the district too, which is a little mind-boggling. The cost of collection and disposal

is included in the cost of the official green rubbish bags, so all people need to do is leave it on the kerbside and we will collect it... surely that's cheaper than using the fuel to dump it in some out-of-the-way spot!

And then of course there is always the option of disposing of excess material at the landfill or transfer station; charges apply.

Let's not forget that rubbish strewn alongside our roads and large scale dump sites in our reserves creates a negative impression of our district.

Rubbish can also get into our stormwater drains, blocking them and leaching into our waterways. Rubbish from stormwater drains enters rivers and then the sea and effects aquatic life.

We're heading for summer, when visitors and tourists will be travelling through and around our beautiful district, let's make sure it's clean and free from dumping and rubbish!

It is interesting to consider how long it takes some materials to break down.

- Paper - two and a half months
- Orange peel - six months
- Milk carton - five years
- Cigarette butt - 10 to 12 years
- Plastic bag - 10 to 20 years
- Disposable diaper - 75 years
- Tin can - 100 years
- Beer can - 200 to 500 years
- Polystyrene - never!



What's

Mark your calendar



Team Championship Cycling Series 2015

Sunday 13 December, third leg in the race series, Tokoroa

Our Neighbourhood Parties

16 February, Lake Moananui, fitness and health focus

23 February, Elizabeth Drive Reserve, Warm Homes Clean Air focus

1 March, Mason Reserve, environmental focus

Chiefs team visit

Pre-season training challenges in Tokoroa and Putaruru - keep an eye on media channels for details closer to the time

Waitema Celebrations

6 February, Waitangi Day Dawn Ceremony, Colsens Hill, Tokoroa

13 February, Waitangi Day Celebration, 10am to 3pm, Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground

Putaruru Water Festival

27 February, Glenshea Park

Balloons Visit South Waikato

18 March, Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground

Dynamo Cycling Series

3 April, Tokoroa, final race

Remember to get out and discover the beautiful walks, trails and reserves in the South Waikato this summer...



In the past month The Plaza has seen a dance festival, an 80th birthday party, a Welsh play, an auction, christmas tournament, classical pianist Jason Bae and Nathan King fronted The World Vision Kids for Kids concert - a choir of over 300 children was an awesome acoustic display.

We've still got a couple of shows left for you to enjoy:

Handel's "Messiah" - Friday 11 December 2015, tickets \$25. Hosted by the South Waikato Music Society, the show is performed by Opus Orchestra and the combined Hamilton Civic and Rotorua District Choirs. With a professional Orchestra of 30 and 100 singers this is a real coup for the South Waikato. Tickets are now on sale at the Plaza and our usual outlets.

Treasure Island - Sunday 13 December 2015, tickets: adults \$20, children \$12.

Join us for Aspire's annual show on 13 December, 1pm-3pm or 4.30pm-6.30pm, tickets available from Eventfinda.

Over summer we will be busy with renovation work to the Arthur Fountain Studio and a projector upgrade. Look out for our monthly movies starting in the New Year!

2016 is shaping up to be a great year with a vast array of artistic performances for you to enjoy. We have Peta Mathis (food writer, speaker, singer and comedian), Carnivorous Plant Society (instrumental), Michelle A'Court (comedy), Into the East (concert), The Topp Twins (comedy and music), Mr and Mrs Alexander (play), the NZ Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute (show) and the North Shore Male Choir already booked in.

We look forward to seeing you at The Plaza in 2016.

Have a safe and happy holidays!



IN brief continued...

- The Putāruru Library hosted speakers from the Putāruru Fire Service and Putāruru Police during its safety-themed September school holiday programme.
- Library visitors are increasing steadily, largely due to the free WiFi service.
- The seasonal pools in Putāruru and Tīrau are now open.
- Several roading projects are on the go in the district. Watch Council's facebook page for regular updates.
- Lights at the Village Green in Tīrau and the entrance to the SW Sport and Events Centre were installed.
- The number of people putting out recycling crates in our district is on the increase. In December 2014 3,161 homes were recycling in our district; in September this year this number had risen to 5,531! What a fantastic improvement everyone - the more we recycle, the less goes to landfill!
- A road safety intersection observation shows disappointing behaviour from drivers: 43% failed to indicate when required, 27% using cell phones (!) and 10% were otherwise distracted by either smoking or eating. Certainly results that could be better!

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.

Rating Valuation Notices Coming Soon

Every three years councils must get an independent valuer to value all the properties in its district. Our Council uses a valuer called Landmass. New rating valuations will be based on the property market as at July 2015.

Council will be mailing out the Rating Valuation notices relating to this revaluation for all properties around mid-December.

Landmass has assessed that there will be little change for residential properties, some increase for commercial properties and significant increase for rural properties, particularly dairy farms, when compared to the previous rating valuations completed in 2012.

What are valuations used for?

South Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council use these valuations as a basis for levying rates.

How does the valuation affect my rates?

Changes in valuation may result in changes to rates. For most urban properties, only a small portion of the annual rates (referred to as the 'General Rate') is based on property value.

Most of the rates bill for urban properties is made up of 'targeted' rates such as water supply, sewerage, refuse and recycling and the Uniform Annual General Charges (UAGC). The UAGC is an equal amount charged to every property in the district for services that can be used by all ratepayers.

An increase in a property's valuation therefore has a larger effect on annual rates for higher valued properties like rural properties that have a higher proportion of general rates and few targeted rates such as water supply, sewerage and refuse.

When property values change, the total amount of money we collect doesn't change, just how we 'slice the pie'. The size of each 'slice' reflects the changes in rating values.

An increase in a property's Rating Valuation does not automatically mean the rates for that property will increase. Some properties may even see a decrease in their rates, even if their capital value increased if their property value has increased less than the average property value.

If the Rating Valuation on all properties changed by exactly the same percentage amount, either up or down, than a revaluation would have no effect on an individual ratepayer's general rates. However in practice the valuation of properties does change by different amounts so there is always some effect. Changes in rates are most likely to occur when the valuation on an individual property is different from the average value change for the district. In most cases any percentage change in rates would be less than the valuation increase.

How often is this done?

A general revaluation of all properties in the district occurs every three years.

Please contact Council if you are the owner of a property in the South Waikato and have not received a valuation notice by 23 December.

More detailed information will be available on our website from 16 December 2015. Please note that individual property valuation details will not be available before that date.



IN touch

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