

# IN touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 26 - January/February 2016

## South Waikato parks and reserves ready for summer

Council staff and contractors have been working hard over the past few months to get our parks and reserves ready for a wonderful summer.

Lake Moananui is looking fantastic with the new exercise equipment, jetty, barbecues and picnic tables. It's great to see so many people down at the lake almost every day exercising and enjoying the sun.

The barbecues in particular have been a real hit with our community. Please remember if you are using the facility to leave it tidy and clean for the next user.

Late last year Council, Tokoroa Sports Fishing Association and Fish & Game released just over 100 large rainbow trout into Lake Moananui.

"The fish are in excellent condition and range from one to two kilos," commented Fish & Game Ranger Adam Daniel.

Fish were released in December last year, early enough to support the annual kids fishing competition at the lake that is coming up soon.

Lake Moananui is open for fishing all year round and all legal lures and baits can be used.

Jim Barnett Reserve has also been a hit over the summer, with new tracks having been recently added to the reserve.

There are now 13 tracks in total, all easy walking with some short, steep bits.

Please remember that Jim Barnett is shared with the Waikato River Trails and cyclists also use the tracks, so share with care.

But of all of our local attractions, Te Waihou Walkway has seen the most visitors this summer - it even featured on Stuff News as NZ's Best Kept Secret.

The downside to the increase in visitors has meant that vehicle traffic, foot traffic and rubbish have also increased. All users - locals and visitors - are reminded to take all rubbish out with them. People are also reminded to take care on the narrow rural roads, especially during periods of congestion (that should now be slowing). Council staff are out regularly checking on toilets and litter and we are making improvements to parking and road width over time and within budgets.



Locals Jackie and Arista have incorporated the fitness equipment into their daily round the lake walk.



Photo courtesy of Little Love Photography

### IN brief

- It is disappointing to see the tragic increase in road fatalities in the South Waikato. Sadly we have seen 11 deaths on our road since 1 July 2015, compared to three deaths for all of 2014.
- The Road Transport, Distribution and Logistics Training course - an extension to the existing Trade Training Centre - is making significant progress. Agreements with a training service provider have been signed, funding of \$85,000 committed and a site identified and leased.

### IN side

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- Vandalism
- 4&5 Protecting the Kokako
- Pensioner Housing
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- Croad Place recycling
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### IN house

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

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# WATCH YOUR WATER USE THIS SUMMER

We've been experiencing some lovely, hot summer days towards the end of January and beginning of February, with less and less rainfall. This will possibly mean that by the time In Touch hits mailboxes Water Alert Level 1 may have been introduced.

The water restrictions for Water Alert Level 1 will mean that sprinkler systems are only permitted from 6am to 8am and from 6pm to 8pm. Council will advertise in South

Waikato News, and on our Facebook page and website if or when the water restrictions are introduced so keep an eye out.

If, over the coming months, this hot, dry weather continues it may mean that the level of water restrictions will increase. There are four Water Alert Levels, the details of which are in the coloured boxes to the right.

We can all help keep these water restrictions at bay by

being smart with our water use this summer. Here are a few helpful tips...

- Take shorter showers. Every minute you spend in the shower uses seven litres of water. Reduce your shower by one minute, and you'll save about 2,500 litres of water a year!
- Turn off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving: a running tap wastes 10 litres per minute.
- Washing vegetables: plug the sink when you're preparing vegetables. It'll save you up to 10 litres per minute.
- Make sure you're doing full loads of washing when it comes to the washing machine and dishwasher.

## Water Alert Level 4

Restrictions: Total ban on all external non-essential use of water.

## Water Alert Level 3

Restrictions: Total ban on domestic sprinklers - only hand held hosing permitted.

## Water Alert Level 2

Restrictions: Sprinkler systems permitted from 6am to 8am and 6pm to 8pm on alternate days only.

## Water Alert Level 1

Restrictions: Sprinkler systems permitted from 6am to 8am and from 6pm to 8pm.

## Annual Plan - time to tell Council what you think

**October 2015**  
budget preparation  
by staff

**November 2015**  
budget approval by  
Executive Team (ET)

**December/January 2016**  
Councillors and ET discuss  
Annual Plan and budgets

**February 2016**  
draft budget and consultation  
document approval by Councillors

**March/April 2016**  
draft Annual Plan open for  
consultation

**May 2016**  
submissions heard and  
decisions made

**June 2016**  
final plan adopted ready for  
the 2016-17 year

**Got something to say about what Council does? Make a submission between 16 March and 15 April.**

Every year Council plans its budget and projects for the coming financial year. There is an opportunity coming for people to have their say on what Council has put in the Annual Plan budget, how much funding we are committing and what we are planning to spend it on.

**That opportunity is coming very soon - 16 March to 15 April.**

Details on how to submit will be available on our website in early March. The Annual Plan process is outlined to the left.

Council has focussed on business as usual with some key consultation points that are (at the time of writing) still being refined. These will likely cover Leith Place concept plan, traffic and parking in Tirau, Putāruru Concept Plan among other key topics.

Annual Plan consultation is your opportunity to get involved in the decisions that Council makes. If you have questions or want to learn more attend a public meeting (details below).

**Annual Plan details will be on our website [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) in early March**

**this is where you have your say**

Date	Venue
Mon 21 March	Upper Atiamuri Hall, State Highway 30, Upper Atiamuri
Tues 22 March	Putāruru Plaza Theatre, Kensington Street, Putāruru
Wed 23 March	Arapuni Hall, Arapuni Road, Arapuni
Wed 30 March	South Waikato District Council Chamber, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa
Thurs 31 March	Tirau Hall, Main Road, Tirau

**All public meetings are from 7pm to 9pm.**



Council continues to be impressed with the use of the Urban Connector from our communities. It has proven to be a great asset used for many different purposes such as visiting family, shopping, and getting to the Health Centre.

Because of its success so far Council has decided to extend the trial while we take a business case forward to the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). This business case is to help see the Urban Connector become a permanent service in the South Waikato. The trial will extend to the end of February (and potentially further depending on how long it takes to have the business case reviewed).

If the Urban Connector business case is successful it is likely there may be some changes to the service, Council will keep you informed and updated of any changes that may occur.



# WHAT'S HOT

**The Gallagher Chiefs visiting our district.**



Animal Control receiving three compliments from people in our community during December, great feedback over a busy period.

Responses to our requests that owners mow long grass on sections that are a fire risk has been very good - thank you all.

Great to see the community is recognising the importance of the risk of fire in these dry summer conditions - lots of rural fire permits being applied for!

The firemain along Chambers Street, Tokoroa from the Tokoroa club to the railway being relaid.

Compliments from our facebook users on the BBQs and exercise equipment at Lake Moananui - thank you for letting Council know. Great to see so many people out there enjoying the sunshine and our beautiful lake.



**A 32% power reduction for the street lighting in Bridge Street thanks to the new LED lights.**

People cleaning the new public BBQs at the lake and Jones Landing.

Footpath extension coming soon along Arapuni Street.

Online Property File search - use this service online now.

Kiosk upgrade at the Putāruru Transfer Station.

Te Waihou Walkway - apparently - according to the heaps and heaps of visitors over the holidays and tremendous feedback we receive from the media and social media.

## What's the point?!

Council sets budgets, we provide services, we build things and so forth and to do all that we take rates... from ratepayers, that's you.

It is frustrating, annoying and heartbreaking for everyone - ratepayers and staff alike - when money spent on street trees to beautify our neighbourhoods and as a traffic calming method to slow vehicles down ends up like this...

Some facts:

- The average cost to replace a single vandalised street trees is between \$160 and \$180.
- The incidences of this type of vandalism spikes during school holidays and when there is a (known) party in the area.
- The commonly hit areas are Bent St, Arapuni St, Marchant St and Kensington St in Putāruru and Elizabeth Dr and Duke St in Tokoroa.
- Council's current annual budget is \$95,000 (maintenance, pruning, planting, removal and replacement).
- Ratepayers pay for this destructive behaviour.
- In the recent holidays 15 trees had to be completely replaced because they were so badly damaged they would never survive. A number have been pruned back and will hopefully recover and become reasonable specimens.
- The bill for replacing these trees is \$2,550. This does not include the labour on trying to patch the other trees that staff are hoping survive.

# WHAT'S NOT

Not paying your annual dog registration fees and then moaning when you dog ends up in the pound and you have to pay the fee, the fine for not paying the fee on time and the impound infringement!

Dog owners not picking up their dog's poo around the lake - urgh for other users! Free poop bags available from Council.

Dirty public BBQs!

High holiday traffic volumes conflicting with the summer roading programme - the hot summer weather is perfect for roading rehabilitation projects,

but it does make for a number of frustrating delays for holiday travellers. Be safe.

Youth lighting fires in our public toilets.



**Over-flowing recycling stations over the Christmas period - although it is great to see people recycling more and stacking the overflow neatly.**





# Council helping the Kōkako

The South Waikato recently hosted the Patron of the National Kōkako Recovery Programme Dame Malvina Major at the Waikato Biodiversity Forum held at Papa o Te Aroha Marae.

Presentations were given outlining the background of the Mokaihaha Kōkako Recovery

Group project and on Kōkako as a whole in New Zealand. During this time the group of around 50 interested people heard from members of the Department of Conservation (DoC) and national leaders in Kōkako research. Forum participants and members of the community visited the Mokaihaha Ecological Area

to learn more about Kōkako management and look for ways to further collaborate to maximise outcomes for this special ecosystem.

"A visit to the Mokaihaha Ecological Area gave participants a feel for the type of forest that the Kōkako make home, even though on this particular occasion the Kōkako were elusive," said Councillor Herman van Rooijen. "However we did hear and see a number of other native birds including kaka, North Island robin, grey warbler, fantail and silvereye. In supporting the protection of the Kōkako, Council is also supporting all bird populations. Basically if we protect one species, we protect them all."

The forest is impressive with its abundance of mature podocarp trees as a result of the area never having been milled.

During the LTP process, Council committed \$10,000 annually for

the next 10 years to support the protection of these birds and wider ecosystem.

The Kōkako population in the Mokaihaha area is of national significance, ranked the third most important population in the country. At least 70 birds are recorded to be living in the area. Following pest control measures in August, rat and possum populations have shown a significant decrease. This ensures that eggs, chicks and adults that are vulnerable to pest predation are protected over the summer months.

Under the District Plan, Council has a commitment to protect biodiversity in the district, and this is an important project that needs support. Our Council will continue to work with project partners, Department of Conservation, Department of Corrections, Raukawa, Hancock Forest Management and Southern Pastures.



## Roading Project Update

Council's roading team are keen to keep the community updated on roading projects. At any one time we have several projects on the go, especially over the summer months.

### Happening or just complete:

- Waratah Place - road pavement is complete, seal is down; final asphalt sealing should be complete at the time of writing.
- Harris Road - sealed and waiting to be roadmarked (pictured alongside)
- Arapuni Road - complete

### Just started or coming soon:

- Old Taupo Road/Tomlin Road intersection upgrade - earthworks have started, contractor is

moving on to the pavement work soon; the project is expected to take six weeks

- Wiltsdown Road/Paraonui Road intersection improvements and pavement rehabilitation on Wiltsdown Road - earthworks have started; this project will also take about six weeks

- Leslie Road formation widening - this budgeted work is being done for several reasons, being increased heavy traffic volumes and more light vehicles. This project is staged (and budgeted) over several years. This year we will be doing the earthworks to cut the bank formation back to

approximately five metres from the existing edge of the seal. The work involves a 200 to 300 metre section of road just before the Leslie Road carpark for the increasingly popular Te Waihou Walkway. The first stage of the project is expected to take between six to eight weeks.



*All jobs are open to traffic, but under temporary traffic management; please drive with caution and adhere to signage and instruction.*

## Pensioner Housing Project makes progress

The community will have seen some physical works at Kindergarten Street Reserve in preparation for the units.

### • Tree removal - February

Council will be using a local contractor for this work. It will involve the removal of nine trees in total. Council intends to make the firewood available for the community through the Lions and we have also earmarked the wood from a couple of the trees to be retained by Council and possibly used for new Talking Poles or wooden artwork feature(s) in the development of Leith Place. The root and stump growth will need to be removed and filled to ensure building stability.

### • Earthworks - February/ March

Earthworks can be expected prior to installation of additional services (like sewerage, water, power etc).

### • Unit foundations - mid-March

Installation of unit concrete foundations.

### About the project

Council looked at a number of options and sites for the pensioner housing before deciding on the Kindergarten Street Reserve.

An early decision to partner with Waiariki for carpentry students to build the units means reduced labour costs and no mark-up on materials.

Following a public consultation period to reclassify Kindergarten Street Reserve so that pensioner units could be constructed there, we heard mixed responses from the community. Council compromised and is now using a portion of the reserve for units for our older people, leaving a portion as public reserve.

## 2016 Local Elections

Local elections will be held again this year so if you want to get more involved in your community and **STAND** for Council, now's the time to start thinking about it!

Elections for councils are held once every three years on the second Saturday of October. This year it will be held on 8 October.

Remember, to **VOTE** in your local elections you must be over 18 and you must be enrolled to vote. To **ENROL** or to check your enrolment details visit [www.elections.org.nz/voters/enrol-check-or-update-now](http://www.elections.org.nz/voters/enrol-check-or-update-now).

### Key dates for local authority elections 2016

- **1 July 2016** - Electoral Enrolment Centre enrolment campaign starts.
- **15 July 2016** - Nominations open for candidates. Nominations have to be sent to the electoral officer at Council. Rolls open for inspection at Council offices and other sites locally.
- **12 August 2016** - Nominations close at 12 noon. Rolls close. After this date, anyone who is entitled to vote and who is not enrolled as an elector, or whose details are incorrectly recorded on the roll, will have to cast a 'special vote'.
- **17 August 2016** - Election date and candidates' names publicised by electoral officers.
- **16-21 September 2016** - Voting documents delivered to households. Electors can post the documents back to electoral officers as soon as they have voted.
- **8 October 2016** - Polling day — the voting documents must be at the council before voting closes at 12 noon. Preliminary results (ie once all 'ordinary' votes are counted) will be available as soon as possible afterwards.
- **13-19 October 2016** - Official results (including all valid ordinary and special votes) declared.

## What's

Mark your calendar



### Our Neighbourhood Parties

23 February - Elizabeth Park, Tokoroa

27 February - Glenshea Park (run by Pride in Putāruru as part of the Putaruru Water Festival)

### Putāruru Water Festival

27 February, Glenshea Park

### Balloons Visit South Waikato

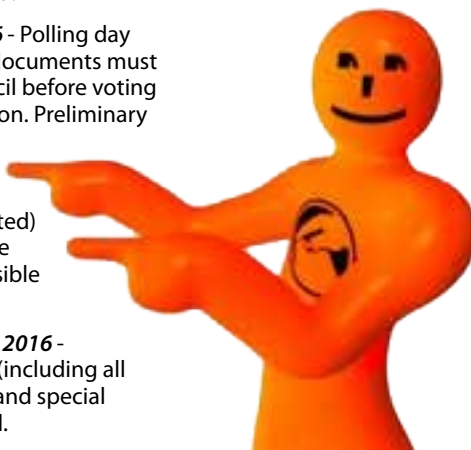
18 March, Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground

### 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...



## Help improve our winter air quality during summer

While enjoying these beautiful summer days it can be easy to forget that winter will eventually return. But it's important we don't let it slip our minds as what we do during the warmer months can greatly help improve our air quality during the winter months.

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. Council has several schemes that can see your old non-compliant woodburner replaced with a new compliant heating appliance at different levels of assistance through either Buy Now Pay Later, Split the Bill or On the House.

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

For more information on air quality, firewood, flue cleaning and WHCA schemes contact Council on 07 885 0340 or visit [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://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



## Council recognises environmental protection

South Waikato District Council's Mayor Neil Sinclair and Councillor Herman van Rooijen were pleased to have the opportunity to recognise the environmental and biodiversity protection efforts of local forestry company Hancock Forest Management (HFM), based in Tokoroa.

Council's District Plan came into force on 1 July last year. Under this new District Plan is a commitment to preserve biodiversity and for industry to take environmental impact of operations into consideration.

Currently 22 logging crews work for HFM's client Taumata Plantations Ltd in the vast forestry plantations surrounding Tokoroa, including Gareth White Logging; and it is their efforts logging pines on steep slopes next to identified Significant Natural Areas (SNAs) that underpins HFM's commitment to environmental protection.

"While Council's District Plan now ensures SNAs are protected, HFM has long held this view. The efforts of Crew 40 protecting the pockets of natural bush and wetlands has to be commended," said Cr van Rooijen. "The technical expertise combined with the crew's desire to protect as much of the natural bush along the Tikitiki stream as possible is an example to others."

"Understanding the significance of plants and animals like fish, birds and mammals that live in these pockets of natural bush, waterways and wetlands is key to understanding why SNAs need to be protected, why it is our responsibility to protect these areas and how we best go about doing that," said HFM's Environmental Planner Robin Black who has worked in the forestry industry for over 40 years

"The complexity of operations that Gareth White Logging's Crew 40 has achieved in the Tokoroa forest block is impressive," he continued.

Mr Black explained that before



*Photo courtesy of Alan Blair - Crew 40 from Gareth White Logging took time out to receive commendation certificates from Councillor Herman van Rooijen, recognising their efforts in protecting biodiversity.*

harvesting the team review the harvest plan, identify hazards and decide how to extract the logs with minimum impact on the pocket of natural vegetation. Their efforts on this particular site has resulted in the continued protection of 35 hectares of natural bush containing large old podocarp trees nestled among third rotation forestry land.

"Each job is different and sometimes the team goes back to the drawing board because the system originally decided on is not working," he continued. "The goal is to extract the logs with minimal impact on waterways and the ecosystem and wetland that has developed alongside the trees."

"The co-operation and communication between our company and Hancock Forest Management is vital in completing challenging areas throughout the forest," said Director Gareth White. "This particular area was a challenging block with significant hazards but we were able to plan the harvest in order to utilize the technology we have available. By doing this we reduced the risk of hazards to the men on the ground by 60% and it also ensured that we could protect the SNA with the best possible outcome."

According to Mr White you can plan these areas prior to harvest but it takes a good team of



*The steepness of the slope that was felled and closeness to the natural pocket of native vegetation alongside meant that felling and extracting the logs with minimal amount of damage was complex and time-consuming. Leaving the natural bush area intact for rare and protected species of falcon and birds is a goal the team are proud to work towards.*

professionals to ensure the plan comes together on the day and it is great to have the guys recognized for the standard of work they aim for daily.

Many of the members from Crew 40 are locals, having been born and bred in Tokoroa.

The Hancock group has a culture of environmental protection and is certified under the Forest Stewardship Council. In the South Waikato

District alone, Hancock manage 62,000 hectares of forests and country-wide 250,000 hectares. Plantation Forests are an ongoing cycle. Following harvesting the area is sprayed to control weeds and replanted in the following winter.

Forestry has a long history in the South Waikato District with parts of the HFM forest currently being replanted with the fourth rotation of trees on that area of land.



*Photo courtesy of Alan Blair - Logging operations in local forests.*



## Drop your recycling to Croad Place

A reminder to our residents that recycling can be dropped to the Croad Place recycling centre at no cost. So whether you drop off your own recycling or you have extra recycling that doesn't fit into your crates, the Croad Place Recycling facility is the place to go.

The facility moved from Thompson Street to Croad Place in late 2014.

The site is owned by Council and continues to be managed by the South Waikato Achievement Trust (SWAT) under their existing contract.

The Croad Place site features a covered public drop off centre that is manned during business hours to assist residents with correct recycling.

Council moved the facility to take the operations out of the residential area.

"Croad Place is perfect for a recycling operation, it is larger and fit for purpose," commented Andrew Pascoe, Council's Services Manager.

You can help the recycling process by rinsing containers so they don't smell, squashing plastic containers and flattening cardboard and paper so they take up less space.

For more information check your recycling calendar or visit our website and access the Rubbish and Recycling tab located under 'Our Services' on the home page.

The Croad Place recycling centre is open from 8am to 4pm weekdays and 8am to 2pm on weekends.



### What CAN be recycled?

- Plastic containers with recycle symbols 1 to 7 (eg, milk bottles, plastic drink bottles, shampoo containers).
- All glass (brown, green and clear).
- Paper and cardboard (eg, newspapers, magazines, brown paper, junk mail, office paper, books, leaflets, egg cartons).
- Metal cans and tins (eg, steel and aluminium cans, metal metal lids from jars, empty aerosol cans, clean aluminium foil).

### What CAN'T be recycled?

- Light bulbs, broken glass, window glass, mirrors, drinking glasses or ceramics - these items are dangerous and can cause injury to sorting staff.
- Painted or wax paper, foil wrapping paper, drink cartons, tetrapaks, nappies, toys, cling wrap, muesli bar wrappers, foodscraps, coffee refills, flowers, oil containers, paint tins, fibreboard, polystyrene (including meat trays).
- Hazardous material containers (eg, pesticides, oil or toxic chemicals) - these items can be disposed of at the Putāruru Transfer Station and the Tokoroa Landfill in the hazardous substance area.

## Keep your event local!



Are you hosting an event and can't think of a venue? Council has a number of fantastic venues perfect for birthdays, weddings, meetings, workshops, award celebrations and more!

Our venues are local and reasonably priced.

Council also has a portable toilet facility available for hire for \$140 per day or \$260 for the weekend. This is great for any outdoor function or wherever you may need an extra loo.

The Sport and Events Centre is great for any occasion large or small as you can book any room - the Lions Room, Rotary Room or the Arena. The kitchen and foyer can also be hired out for as little as \$20 an hour.

If you're looking for a venue that can provide a little fun in the sun why not hire out the pools for private hire. The seasonal pools and indoor pools are both available for hiring for great prices.

And did you know that you can even hire out some of Council's offices? Our Committee Rooms and the Chamber are available for use and there's no additional charge for set-up.

We also have a number of local halls that are available for hire, such as the Plaza in Putaruru.

For more information give Council a call on 07 885 0340 or for our full list of fees and charges visit our website and access the Fees and Charges page under the 'Our Council' tab on the home page.

With so many great venues available for hire in the South Waikato, why would you go anywhere else!



We've got an exciting year ahead at The Plaza with a variety of shows and performances to keep you entertained!

**Peta Mathias** (comedy and music) – 28 February, 7pm, tickets \$25. Peta Mathias makes a return to the stage; show includes readings from her award winning culinary travel books in which she explains why beating things until stiff can change your life, why travel makes you brainier, why food is the best way to access any culture and why it is never too early in the day to drink good red wine.

**Carnivorous Plant Society** (Arts on Tour – music and animation) – Wednesday, 2 March, 7.30pm, tickets \$20. The Carnivorous Plant Society was dreamed up by Auckland trumpeter and keyboard player Finn Scholes and draws together some of Auckland's top musicians to add violin, vibraphone, guitar, synthesizers, keyboards, bass and drums to the magical mix.

**Michelle A'Court: Stuff I Forgot To Tell My Daughter** (Arts on Tour - comedy) – Monday 21 March, tickets \$20.

**Encore** (musical) – Sunday 17 April.

**The Topp Twins** (comedy) – date to be confirmed.

**Into The East** (Arts on Tour – music) – Wednesday 18 May, tickets \$20.

**Mr and Mrs Alexander** (Arts on Tour – a play) – Tuesday 14 June, tickets \$20.

**The NZ Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute** (music) – Saturday 9 July.

**The North Shore Male Choir** (music) – Sunday 11 September.



## IN brief continued...

- Playground equipment renewals in Putaruru have been well received by the community.
- The resurfacing of the Tirau Tennis Club is complete and feedback from the club has been positive.
- The Our Neighbourhood Parties are enjoyed by our community - focus areas were on health and fitness, pensioner housing project and marae visit.
- The Tokoroa library celebrated its 21st birthday late last year.
- The School of Zen event held annually by the Youth Leadership and Advisory Board was a huge success involving 550 youth. This event was well supported by local schools.
- Council received 250 service requests in November 2014 covering a range of issues.
- There are 3,637 registered dogs in the district owned by 2,556 owners. Animal Control staff have noticed that the community is reporting rushing and attacks on a more regular basis. These incidents are recorded in our system. This is crucial in building a history of behaviour and incidents. Council encourages the community to continue to report such incidents when they occur.

## 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 Jeff Gash

Happy New Year everyone, I hope the holiday season was filled with happiness, family and festivities.

We are now into our third year as a Council and that means elections in October. I have been asked numerous times whether I have enjoyed my time on council and if I will be standing again this year.

Let me just say I believe this term of Council has seen a group of Councillors who are engaged, committed and who have worked particularly well as a group.

There has been strong, robust and at times heated debate in the Chamber when discussing the many issues faced by the South Waikato community.

We as a Council have been called upon to make a multitude of decisions that affect all of us. Have we always made the correct decisions and choices? This I guess is open to interpretation by the community and people affected by those decisions. I would like to think that overall we did make the right choices, but either way the people of the South Waikato should be confident that we have made our decisions with the absolute best interests of the district at heart.

I am looking forward to the year ahead in particular the release of the Leith Place/CBD upgrade plan which is not too far away. I know it seems like this has taken an eternity but rest assured a heap of work has been going on to make sure we have a plan that suits our town, will contribute positively to economic growth and is something we can afford within budget.

On a final note it has been very pleasing to see and hear the positive feedback about Lake Moananui over recent months, it truly is looking great at present. So get out there and enjoy the rest of the summer weather and our great district and I look forward to serving the people of the South Waikato now and into the future.

## Councillor Column Jenny Shattock

Happy New Year. I hope you all had a great Christmas and you were able to spend some enjoyable time with friends and family.

It is the last year of our current Council's term. There's going to be some changes around the table and it's going to be a very big year for me. I really enjoy Council business and I get a huge amount of satisfaction working for our district.

It's been a really good three years and I've been part of a group of dedicated elected members who have made some pretty big decisions on behalf of our community and we've seen some exciting projects come to fruition. As a smaller council I think we're entrepreneurial and punch above our weight. Last year we were visited by other councils to check out some of our innovative projects... the rail siding project, our expanding Trade Training Centre, our Sport and Events Centre, our University Bus project and the Urban Connector are just some and I'm very proud to have been part of the team that made those projects happen.

The Urban Connector bus service was a trial for six months. The trial finished in December and Council was very pleased with the community response. A decision will need to be made shortly as to its future and sustainable funding.

Lake Moananui with the new playground, exercise equipment, BBQs and BBQ tables is looking a picture and the number of people and families I see there confirms to me that it was worth it to do the repairs and tidy it up. Council has put money into the 2016-17 Annual Plan to add to the exercise equipment around the lake.

We have received draft plans for the Leith Place Development. It looks very exciting with some interesting proposals. Council will be talking with the community before anything is finalised.

I'm looking forward to another busy and positive year and I wish you all the best for 2016.

## IN touch

**Mayor Neil Sinclair**  
Phone: 0274 468 422  
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