



IT'S HERE... Revitalising the CBD area in Tokoroa and bringing vibrancy into the town's centre has been one of Council's great ambitions over the past decade. We are very excited to be able to reveal the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade plans to our community and finally start turning this into a reality.

"We want to thank our community for their input into this process. We have consulted with you at length over the years, and your thoughts and ideas have made a huge impact to the final design," commented Mayor Jenny Shattock. "The wonderful team at DCA Architects have presented us with a plan for the Tokoroa CBD that we are absolutely thrilled with - and we hope you are going to love it too."

The upgrade features a fresh new Leith Place dedicated to enhancing the Tokoroa experience for locals and visitors alike. Green space, seated eating areas, public art and activities - but the key feature is the new i-SITE building. This beautiful structure serves not only as a functional information centre with public toilets but also as an amphitheatre that can seat up to 581 people. The building can be used for events and performances, such as concerts and plays; it can also be used as a viewing platform, and eating area. It will provide a place for people travelling to stop, grab a bite to eat, and rest from the road.

EVENT

Not to be missed!

The 2018 Putaruru Water Festival is being held on Saturday 24 February at Glenshea Park in Putaruru.

Open from 10am to 3pm.

Come along for a fantastic family day out including:

- Displays from Franklin Farm FMX and Freestyle Lifestyle BMX
- Top Team and Get Crafty competitions
- Axemen's Carnival
- Rides for the children
- Stalls and exhibitions from local organisations
- Activities for everyone

... and more...

For more information:
www.theprattler.org.nz



IN brief

- Since 1 July last year, 51 people have converted to clean and efficient heating under one of Council's Warm Homes Clean Air schemes.
- A new chlorinator was fitted at the Tirau Pool after a fault was found early in the season.
- Usage of the Putaruru and Tirau seasonal pools is trending to be almost double the previous season. Great to see so many people enjoying their local summer pool.

IN side

- 2&3 Tokoroa CBD upgrade project revealed
- 4&5 Is our water safe? What's Hot, what's Not
- 6&7 UFF for Putaruru Dumping rubbish
- 8 Changing intersection 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



"This building is the heart of the upgrade - it's what Tokoroa has been missing. In Tirau we have the Dog, Putāruru has the old Post Office building, and now in Tokoroa we will have this truly iconic structure." - Councillor Peter Schulte.

"This upgrade has the ability to change not only how people who travel through view Tokoroa, but also how we view ourselves. My congratulations to Council on this project!"
- Garry Brunton, i-SITE Manager

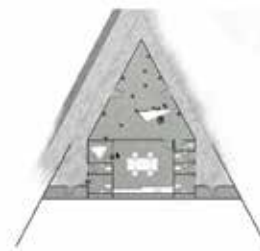


This upgrade opens up Tokoroa to be a destination stop on Aotearoa's main road. It will provide our district with a space to be proud of and a place for our people to come together to enjoy the best of their town.

"The Tokoroa CBD Upgrade is a bold and important development that this town is worthy of and it's something I think our whole district can get behind." - Councillor Gray Baldwin

Also in the plans is a Talking Pole Forest - several of our Talking Poles will be relocated to the southern end of Leith Place. The Talking Poles are an important part of Tokoroa's identity and we want to highlight them as a key feature in our town.

"We are thrilled to partner with the South Waikato District Council on this project. The upgrade presents a unique opportunity to showcase the best of Tokoroa while acknowledging its rich history, culture and people. We have come up with a design that celebrates Tokoroa and we are looking forward to seeing this transformation come to life." - Darryl Church, of DCA Architects.



Interior Plan



Roof Plan

"I approve. Right now people just drive through, but this makes a statement that you have arrived in Tokoroa."
- Lorraine Young, Sweet Rose Cafe



Concept Drivers

"It's a great concept."
- David Foote, Footes Furnishings



1 EXCITING FEATURES

New i-SITE Building • Viewing Platform and Amphitheatre
Green Spaces • **Eating Areas** • **Talking Pole Forest**
Safer Roads • **New Public Toilets** • **Event Capability**
Electric Car Charging Stations • **Activation Stations**

2 TREE REMOVAL



The trees in Leith Place will be removed in March to April 2018. We will be planting new trees in Leith Place as well as other plantings to help keep our town centre looking green and vibrant. Council will notify the community before the work begins.

5 CARPARKS

Carparks in Leith Place will drop from 132 to 100 to make way for the new i-SITE building and open space. Council will be making improvements to the Dregthron Carpark to compensate for the loss of these parks.

3 SH1 CHANGES

State Highway 1 will be changing to one northern lane and one southern lane with on and off ramps to improve safety and access into the CBD. These changes occur in the next construction season and appropriate signage will be in place to help road users understand the new layout.

6 BUDGET



Council is investing **\$3,970,000** into the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade. This figure covers all the important costs, from infrastructure down to road marking.

4 LOCAL ROAD CHANGES



There will be some changes to the Bridge Street and Swanston Street entrances into Leith Place to help improve safety and accessibility.

Construction for the upgrade is planned to begin in June of this year, but you will begin to see changes to the Leith Place area from March onwards. Plans will be available for viewing at the Tokoroa Council Office, or you can visit our website for more details on the project.

DCA ARCHITECTS

DCA Architects of Transformation are a medium sized Rotorua based practice established in 1996. Over the past 20+ years, the practice has accumulated multiple design awards, including international recognition, for their projects.

DCA have a stellar track record of successfully delivering projects for private and public companies, developers, Central Government and Local Government clients.

Through their mission statement 'Transforming people's lives through great architecture', and vision statement, 'Bringing great architecture to NZ and the world', DCA believe their projects have the ability to make a positive impact on the lives of everyone involved and everyone who might come into contact with them. They are conscious and focused beyond the client.



Toi-Ohomai Health and Science Building



Redwoods Visitors Centre Toilets



Tarawera Cabin

Other projects by DCA Architects
Photo credits: Graeme Murray



Is Council's water safe?

The tragic water issue that occurred in Havelock North has created widespread concern around New Zealand. It is understandable that people in the South Waikato have a heightened level of interest and concern about our own water supplies.

"First off, we assure our urban community that Council takes its responsibilities around providing safe drinking water very seriously," said Craig Hobbs, Council's Chief Executive. "Our systems, treatment and monitoring enable us to deliver safe and healthy water to our communities."

There will always be some risks in water supply. It is the mitigation and management of these risks that is key.

We are fortunate in the South Waikato that our raw water is of high quality. Council has invested considerable sums of money over many years to ensure residents are supplied with good quality water. This investment will continue.

We operate under the Health Act and the Drinking Water Standards (under review). Each water supply has different compliance criteria depending on source and headworks.

All of our water supplies are chlorinated except the Blue Spring supply. UV treatment is installed on all supplies except the Glenshea Bore (UV treatment for this bore is budgeted and is in the pre-construction phase, to be installed in April). There is a greensand filter installed in the Arapuni supply to remove high levels of iron and manganese.

Disinfection methods, treatment and monitoring

Chlorine disinfection kills bacteria (e-coli and campylobacter). Chlorine levels are monitored continuously. Alarms warn operators if chlorine levels fall below the required level. Alarms are investigated immediately.

UV treatment inactivates protozoa (cryptosporidium and giardia), bacteria and to a lesser extent viruses. It does this by damaging the genetic code of the organism, preventing reproduction, which makes them harmless because they cannot replicate to the large numbers needed to make people sick. UV units are monitored continuously. Again, alarms warn operators if the UV units are not functioning within the required parameters. These are investigated immediately.

Cartridge filtration remove particles from the water as it passes through a porous medium. Particles larger than the pores in the filter are trapped on the outside and the smaller particles pass through, like a tea strainer. The size of the filter is one micron (to compare - a red blood cell is about 5 microns across and a human hair 75 microns). Cartridge filters are an effective way of removing turbidity and protozoa from water. They will not remove bacteria and viruses, because these are smaller than the pore size available. This is why we use chlorine and UV. Monitoring is continuous.

The water in the Tokoroa area requires **pH correction** due to mildly acidic water therefore lime is added at the Billah Street headworks. Continuous monitoring for pH is conducted.

Council undertakes six monthly manual **sampling** for giardia and cryptosporidium in all water sources. To date Council has not had any samples with a presence for cryptosporidium or giardia.



The Tokoroa Skatepark build has started! Construction began on Monday 12 February.

The build is expected to take around three months to complete - dependant on good weather!

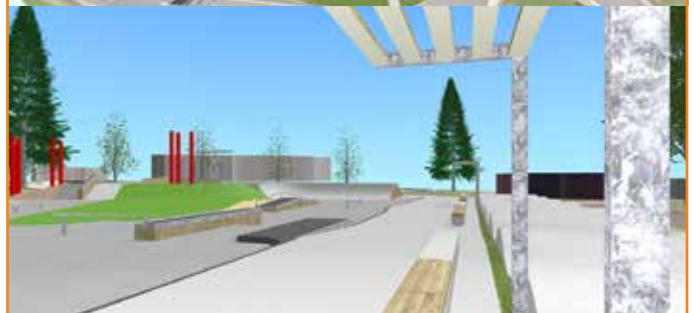
During this time, there will be a noticeable amount of activity on the corner of O'Sullivan Drive and Roslin Street, but we will strive to keep nuisances to a minimum.

To make way for the Skatepark and to help with visibility, some trees have been removed - we're retaining as many as possible and planting will be done at the tail end of the build.

This is a very exciting project for the youth of our town and Council greatly appreciates the patience of the neighbouring properties during the construction of the park.

Throughout the build we will post updates and important information to Facebook and Antenna.

If you have any questions or want to talk to us, please do! Give us a call or drop on into Council - we're happy to talk to you about the project.



WHAT'S HOT

The South Waikato Events Centre Arena recoat is so shiny you can see yourself in it! An awesome facelift for the two courts during the holidays - all set for the 2018 sports leagues.



We processed 610 rates rebate applications to end of December, resulting in 576 subsidies from central government totalling \$326,400.

People in our district who take it upon themselves to clean up dumped rubbish and those who notify Council. Awesome. Well done to those who are giving their own time to clean up other people's dirty behaviour.

The BookMyne app - search for books at your local library, put books you want to read on hold, renew your books, download e-books and much more... and the app is Free!

New picnic tables outside the Pride in Putāruru office - great joint project from Council and the PIP/PMF team.



District wide footpath vegetation trimming is close to completion with only Tokoroa still to complete.

The LED street lighting project installation is schedule to start mid-February.



Looking smooth! Clearing out debris and vegetation from Pilrig drain (inset - before).

Those people who continue to disrespect the Blue Spring environment... Council has received a few photos of people blatantly disregarding the 'no swimming' signage and that the area is tapu, some very disrespectfully - we're not going to print them. Shame on those people!

WHAT'S NOT

Dirty dumping around the district - multitude of hot spots!

People who don't pick up their dog's poo... yuck!

Vandalism at the Youth Park toilets.

Rellishing Reading in the SW

The Tokoroa and Putāruru libraries hosted the Annual Finale Parties for the 142 children who completed the Summer Reading Programme 2017/2018.

The programme encourages and stimulates children to enjoy reading. It improves reading skills, communication, creativity and helps develop self-esteem.

"It also encourages children to become regular library users by fostering positive relationships between families, public libraries and librarians," said Lalita Sudhakar, Library Manager.

The format for the programme is simple. Read. Report-in. Get Rewarded. At the completion of the programme the children

receive their medallion, certificate, and a good reading book to continue to enjoy reading over the holidays.

"Staff love the programme too," continued Lalita. "We see the joy of a child retelling a story in their own words and see just how keen they are to start reading yet another book."

A big thank you to the Tokoroa City Lions and the Putāruru Lions Club for their generosity in supporting the programme and to all the parents and children involved in making this programme a successful library event.

The feedback received from parents on behalf of participants was 100% positive.

"I most enjoyed the progress my girls have made since last year - their reading has improved. Continue the Summer Reading Programme for the future. My children enjoy reading." A Mum

The programme is a fantastic opportunity and reporting-in is exciting and unique. The ladies are always encouraging and enthusiastic which is what makes reporting-in such a fun experience. This event is one that our family very much looks forward to every year. It is invaluable for children and their families." Feedback

"The children said their favourite part was reading to the librarians because they enjoyed listening to them and praised their efforts." Comment

Planning on lighting a fire?

Yes? STOP! What about a fire permit?!

To find out if you need a fire permit check the fire season status by visiting www.checkitsalright.nz or calling 0800 658 628. If you do need a permit, apply for one at this same link.

Fires can be devastating, destroying property, livelihoods, homes and worse. Fire and Emergency NZ caution if anyone knowingly or recklessly lights a fire or allows another person to light a fire in an area that is in a Restricted or Prohibited Fire Season, you are committing an offence.

During restricted or prohibited seasons you need a fire permit issued by Fire and Emergency New Zealand and your fire needs to adhere to conditions of the permit.

Get a fire permit
BEFORE
you light a fire.



Photo by Staff



Fibre Broadband is coming to Putaruru!

You may be seeing activity on the streets of Putaruru soon (or already) - this is Ultrafast Fibre Limited (UFF) building the new fibre broadband network. They are upgrading Putaruru streets to the latest broadband technology.

If Putaruru residents would like to receive a streamlined fibre installation, you can register for free at www.fibreiscoming.co.nz. Click on the Putaruru button.

- Register your interest for FREE, via the form to let the team know if you want them to install some of the network on your property when the team build down the street.
- Ultrafast Fibre will contact you to take you through the next steps.
- Once UFF gives you the green light, you can contact your preferred broadband provider and sign up to a Fibre Broadband service.

Streamline your fibre installation into your home by registering now, while the network build along the street is in progress.

Important to note:

- This streamlined installation is free and free to fill in the form.
- UFF is not a broadband provider; they install the fibre broadband network.
- To get fibre broadband you will need to contact your preferred provider once the UFF team have given you the green light.

"The economic benefits of having fibre installed in our towns is huge," said Council's

Community Group Manager Sam Marshall. "It makes for faster, more reliable and consistent internet connectivity that is so essential to business success in this day and age."

Fibre Broadband is also coming to Tirau which was included a little later in the process, so the UFF team is still in the planning phase of how the town will become connected. This will be clearer in the coming months and Tirau residents can expect to start seeing some promotion in their township too.

"We're thrilled that Putaruru was selected as part of the second rollout," said Mayor Jenny Shattock. "Fibre is the future for connectivity and speedy internet. With Tokoroa already connected, Putaruru imminent and Tirau pending... that's really awesome for our district. And not just for business either. Home internet needs are also increasing with many of us having multiple devices all 'wanting' bandwidth at the same time. Families and residents will see a big difference too."

"Council staff have worked closely with the UFF team since Putaruru was announced and we're very pleased that we are one of the first towns off the block in this new roll out," continued Mayor Shattock.

Word on the street... fibre benefits

- Faster download speeds (typically three times or more)
- Dramatically faster upload speeds (typically 10 times or more)
- Improved reliability due to the removal of the inconsistencies associated with copper cable for data transmission
- Fibre is an enabler for international business through improved information and data flow
- High definition (HD) quality video conferencing
- Enables internet based backup systems for much larger amounts of data
- More flexible capabilities for working from home
- More consistent online video and TV services (Netflix, YouTube, Lightbox, Neon TV, Sky Go, etc)
- Remote cloud backup and data sharing are be more practical

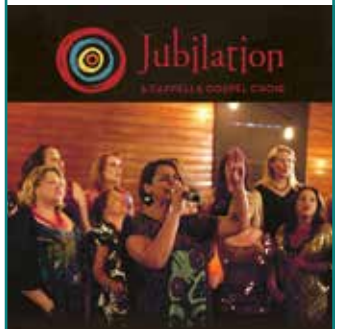
The photo below is not taken in Putaruru... but you get the picture. This is what will be happening along our streets... roll on ultrafast broadband!



We've hit the ground running with a varied and full calendar of events coming up in 2018!

Jubilation, 24 February, 7pm, tickets on sale for \$30 from Eventfinda*, The Plaza, Tokoroa i-SITE and Diamond Jewellers Matamata.

Jubilation is a 33-strong acapella gospel choir with a rock & roll heart and a repertoire of soul, blues and country-infused gospel performed by well known singers Rick Bryant, Jackie Clarke and Jennifer Ward-Lealand.



Rado and Raybon Save the World, 27 March, 7.30pm, tickets on sale for \$25 from Eventfinda*, The Plaza, i-SITE Tokoroa and Diamond Jewellers Matamata.

Leading comedians Raybon Kan and Nick Rado team up to perform a two hour show.

**booking fees may apply*

While Council provides some funding for The Plaza, the Trust works really hard to secure additional funding from to bring our district bigger and better events.

Events and movies are listed on The Plaza's website and Facebook page.

- www.plaza.org.nz
- www.facebook.com/ThePlazaPutaruru
- 07 883 8596/027 655 9715

See you soon at The Plaza!



Dumped rubbish is a cost to ratepayers...

Council has noticed an increase in dumping across the district. Large piles of material are being seen in service lanes, at the entrance to the transfer station, in stormwater drains and railway corridors.

"Besides costing Council - or should we say costing the ratepayer - to clean it up; it looks dreadful for residents and visitors alike," said Kerry Fabrie, Council's Communications Manager. "This kind of behavior - and we know many in our community would agree - makes our district look dirty and uninviting."

People caught dumping or identified by dumped material face fines of up to \$400. And a reminder that there are cameras operating at the Putāruru Transfer Station

Dumping in stormwater drains that adjoin properties is not only dirty behavior that costs ratepayers to clean up, it can cause significant health and environmental issues as a result of rats and smells. In addition material dumped in stormwater lanes blocks our drains and when we have heavy rainfall this can have serious consequences for homes in the vicinity.

Council also thanks those in the community who report these incidences when they see them. Please continue to do so. Here's some useful ways to report:

- Dumped material in Council reserves, stormwater drains, sportsgrounds, please report to Council.
 - Tel: 07 885 0340
 - Email: info@southwaikato.govt.nz
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil
 - Website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz - orange button - Request It.
- Dumped material in railway corridor (KiwiRail) can be reported to Council (we just pass it on) or direct to KiwiRail via their website: www.kiwirail.co.nz/contact-us

Facilities for dropping off waste

- Tirau recycling depot, Goodwin Street, open all hours
- Putāruru Transfer Station, SH1, recycling depot open all hours. Transfer station open Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 4pm. Also open most public holidays*.
- Tokoroa Landfill and Recycling Depot, Newell Road, open Tuesday to Sunday from 9am to 4pm. Also open most public holidays*.
- Croad Place Recycling Facility, Croad Place, Tokoroa, open week days from 8am to 4pm and weekends from 9am to 1pm. Open most public holidays* from 9am to 1pm.

*CLOSED Christmas Day, New Years' Day and Good Friday; and ANZAC Day until 1pm

- Rural recycling drop off zones - Kuranui and Waotu, open all hours



Far left - Rubbish dumped in Rosebery Street service lane.

Centre and left: Rubbish dumped at the Putāruru Transfer Station - we wonder what part about 'No dumping of rubbish' is unclear?

Timber Museum development taking shape

The Timber Museum at Putaruru has extensive collections of historical documents, photographs, oral history tapes, maps and other information about early settlements in South Waikato, as well as a number of historic buildings and early local government records.

"Development work to complete a long planned South Waikato history collection is well under way," says Tony Jaques, chair of the Timber Museum of New Zealand Trust. "As part of the museum development programme we are working now to organise the archives so they can be made available for research by local residents and descendants of early settlers."

"It's a big task to go through all the material we have; and build up a database of the

information we hold - like most district museums we rely heavily on volunteers to help to maintain and support our buildings, displays and archives for the benefit of the community and wider interest groups.

"We have all but completed the toilet block and are working toward completion of the upgrade of the Sycamore Centre conference room at a cost of more than \$200,000. This project was signed off by the trustees as essential work to be done, to provide a modern meeting facility serving the South Waikato. The building materials for this project have been donated and a significant portion of the required funds has been raised."

Mr Jaques said that once the Museum Trust has completed the archives project it would look forward to welcoming local writers and history researchers to the museum.

"It has been a long haul by a small, dedicated group of people to keep the Museum

going while we develop it into a major community and tourism asset, but the results are beginning to show through," he said.

Below: Local history enthusiasts meet, from left, Bob Talbot, Elsie Monahan, Adrienne Bell, Colleen Jaques and Gay Lamb.



IN brief continued...

- The Community Team are conducting a Grant and Loan Policy review which includes a survey that has been sent to groups who have requested funding over the past years. Great feedback is coming in.
- Staff are working on a review of the Drone Policy.
- A picnic table has been installed at Pioneer Reserve in Arapuni.
- Staff kicked off a pensioner housing eligibility survey just before Christmas. The 200 responses already received are pleasing; we are still receiving responses.
- Footpath trimming works continue across the district. The project includes clearing vegetation, trimming the footpath and identifying and addressing tree root issues.
- The summer road marking programme is nearing completion.
- The Glenshea UV installation is imminent; to install two ultra violet disinfection units and a cartridge filter. These works cost \$245,000.
- We currently have over 400 people with Antenna installed on their phones. Download free from Google Play or the App Store - reminders, information, news... direct to your phone!

IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:
www.southwaikato.govt.nz
[www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)
[@SouthWaikatoDC](mailto:info@southwaikato.govt.nz)
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

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

Councillor Column Adrienne Bell

Greetings all – and welcome to the new year! Hopefully everybody found time to spend with family and also found some time for just relaxing.

Council had a busy time leading up to Christmas looking at our budgets and our Long Term Plan. There is always so much that we would like to do but we have to remember that it all comes at a cost to ratepayers.

Don't forget if you are on a low income you can get an accommodation supplement even if you are working. You can also get a rates rebate from the Department of Internal Affairs – enquire online or at Council.

Also remember that most people spend more per month on electricity than on rates and you get a lot more for your rates dollar.

To help determine our budget priorities we met with a wide range of community groups and received a lot of feedback from members of the public. A big thank you all – your input and feedback is really important.

Council's next Community Grants hearing is coming up. These grants are for community group projects and funding assistance. Applications can be submitted at any time of the year and hearings are held in March and November.

It's a good idea to start your application well in advance as it can take some time to complete. You will usually have to seek quotes and references and will sometimes need signatures from people who might be hard to find. For applications to the March hearing most groups' annual accounts will be almost a year old so you will have to compile some recent figures or provide treasurer reports.

Keep well everyone.

Councillor Column Jeff Gash (Deputy Mayor)

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a happy and safe festive season.

It's been a busy past year for Council and Councillors. Long term planning has taken up a lot of time and is well underway. This is carried out every three years and sets our goals, budgets and aspirations for the following 10 year period.

We have carried out extensive - and very successful - community engagement. Thank you to all those who came along to the various meetings - your input was fantastic. All your thoughts, ideas and comments have been considered as we put the plan together.

There are some very big issues facing the South Waikato that will need to be dealt with in the next 10 years. These include wastewater treatment and discharge, landfill and the Healthy Rivers proposed plan change. These are the three largest issues in terms of the cost to the district and the ratepayers.

There are some big projects due to get underway this year like the new skatepark in Tokoroa. And of course, there is residential land development that is also a focus. One of our largest projects is the Tokoroa CBD upgrade which is scheduled to start later in the year. Council has been bold and brave with design, going with a wow factor that will put Tokoroa on the map for all the right reasons.

There are going to be challenges this coming year. District wide revaluations will likely see many properties realise higher values than they have had before. This is good news for locals and investors.

This, combined with Council projects and a multitude of statutory requirements means pressure on rates - an area Council works very hard to keep to an acceptable level; balancing the need for growth and affordability. Not an easy job.

Mayor Jenny Shattock

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