

## Gearing up for summer fun in the South Waikato



The holiday season is here. For many residents in the South Waikato it's a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and take in what a Kiwi summer has to offer.

And there is plenty to do for everyone. Picturesque reserves where friends and families can soak up the summer sun, relaxing around a sizzling BBQ or swimming the waters for hours on end.

Jones Landing is a popular camping spot, attracting locals and visitors, providing access to the lake, a playground and your usual facilities. Close by is the Arapuni leg of the Waikato River Trails, which provides rewarding views of the Waikato River and gets the heart pumping.

Dunham's Point located east of Whakamaru Reserve down Ongaroto Road is another location where visitors can park up and enjoy the scenery and be amongst nature.

Little Waipa, on Horahora Road, rounds out the reserves here in the district and is an ideal spot where holiday goers can escape the noise in exchange for peace.

In addition to our reserves, a visit to Te Waihou Walkway and Blue Spring is a must. Over time we've noticed a significant improvement of the vegetation

in the riverbed and on the banks. Swimming continues to be discouraged in the Blue Spring environment. This taonga is special and beautiful, let's all try to keep it that way.

The seasonal pools are open in both Putāruru and Tirau while the Indoor Pools in Tokoroa will continue to be in service right throughout the summer.

Fancy a bit of quiet time? The South Waikato libraries will have a plethora of activities and programmes to cater for all ages and don't forget about the STARS programme for our younger rangatahi.

So whatever you and your family get up to these holidays, enjoy the festive season in the South Waikato at our local parks, reserves and leisure facilities.

Note: If you plan on camping in the South Waikato, you do need a permit. Apply online at [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz). Permits are free.

*Top: Jones Landing in the summer is beautiful spot to camp.*

*Middle: Take a ride along the picturesque Waikato River Trails.*

*Bottom: Enjoy local parks where there are activities for all.*

*Photos: Jodi Sweetman Photography.*



### IN brief

- Council's Civil Defence preparedness was recently audited. Results show a pleasing progress, with some identified improvements. These will be prioritised. One of the areas that we will be focussing on is improved engagement and education, so our community can expect to see a bit more in this space in months to come.
- Fertilising of sports fields will see the spring turf renovation works completed.

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### IN house

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Editorial: Kerry Fabrie, Renee Renata and Anthony Momoemausu, 07 885 0340

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# Message from the Mayor

**The Mayoralty is an honour and a privilege and I am very proud to be your Mayor again for the next three years. Thank you for your support.**

**I want to acknowledge the Councillors from the previous triennium who have moved on – Jeff Gash, Gray Baldwin, Wendy Cook, Adrienne Bell and Herman van Rooijen for their support and effort over the time that they have been on council. Herman has been an elected member on the SWDC for 21 years, that's a fantastic achievement, Adrienne for nine years, Gray for three years, Jeff for six years and Wendy for a total of six years. I wish them all the very best for their future.**

And of course a warm welcome to our new Councillors Gary Petley, Sandra Wallace and Hans Nelis representing Putāruru and Hamish Daine and Alex Jansen representing Tokoroa. They join me, Deputy Mayor Bill Machen, Thomas Lee, Arama Ngapo Lipscombe, Marin Glucina, Peter Schulte to make up our Council. Together I am sure we will continue to lead our Council forward, complete the changes we've started and work collectively to achieve our district vision.

South Waikato has faced some big changes during 2019 and the Council I've led has had to change its whole way of thinking. Rather than shrinking our footprint we've had to plan for growth and we're working hard to address this change.

## **Achievements during 2019**

Work on the district's four wastewater treatment plant upgrades and consent renewals continues following extensive community engagement. Work will be spread over many years to ensure affordability.

We talked extensively about the future of the landfill and from those discussions we decided that closing the Tokoroa landfill and transporting waste out of the district was the best option as the risks and cost of managing a landfill continues to escalate mainly due to stringent environmental, health and safety controls and monitoring. Construction of a transfer station will begin in January in preparation for the landfill closure in October 2020.

Waste management is an ongoing challenging area. At the time of writing we were heading into hearings for the public submissions on household waste collection. We had 546 submissions and of those 35 people indicated that they wanted to speak to their submission.

We are thrilled with that response. The future of waste management is changing and we need to rise to the challenges, not just as a Council, but as a community.

The Tokoroa CBD upgrade kicked off in March. After deciding not to construct a new i-SITE building, we redesigned the Leith Place area for better car parking, new toilets and a multi-purpose grassed Plaza area. Swanston Street and SH1 stormwater works were completed and hopefully by the time you read this, the reseal work by NZTA will be complete. We can't wait to have our beautiful modern new Leith Place, toilets and Plaza area open to enjoy.

The Tirau Walkway was officially opened, providing a public open space to walk, play and relax in. In 2020, the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the Oraka stream will join the two halves of the domain. We also installed new ramps, exercise stations and a basketball pad and hoop at Prospect Avenue.

Responding to economic growth - both population and business - has been a focus and staff have made progress on a District Plan review in Putāruru to re-zone land for residential and business development. This work has included infrastructure assessments and by the time you read this we will be consulting on new funding for infrastructure that is necessary to support growth. Growth planning is not isolated to Putāruru; with investigation work beginning for other towns in the district.

We gifted a collection of taonga 'Te Toko Tokoroa o Matarawa' to Raukawa. As kaitiaki, Raukawa will preserve, maintain and care for these taonga in the Huia Kaimanawa room at Te Whare o Raukawa.

Brand new facilities in three of our reserves – Little Waipa, Jones Landing and Dunham's Point are a great addition to our local reserves. The new shower blocks, bbqs, rubbish and recycling stations are sure to be enjoyed this summer season.

We supported a number of community events this year including ANZAC Day services, the Putāruru Waterfest, Festival of Cultures and Shining Light on the Dark.

There has been significant business investment interest in the South Waikato and Council has worked hard to bring in new jobs to the district and attract Central Government funding. Council continues to collaborate with the SWIF Trust on a range of initiatives from attracting new business to business training and attracting business investment.

Our focus on improving relationships is going from strength to strength. We have held successful workshop sessions with individuals, groups and organisations from business sectors including forestry, estate agents, agriculture and with our Pacific Island communities. Our relationship with Raukawa and other iwi continues to improve as better relationships with all our community play an important role in our collaborative delivery of programmes, events and initiatives for our community. This in turn enhances our resilience as a community, as a district and as a Council.

A recap of 2019 would sadly not be complete without mentioning the tragic events of 15 March. The terrible act of terrorism on this day affected every New Zealander and people in our beautifully multicultural community were no different. Hundreds participated in two local community vigils.



The 2018-19 year has certainly been a big year. Council has taken the bull by the horns in terms of supporting, facilitating, attracting and seeking economic opportunities to grow and improve our district and respond to our growing population and towns. This has put pressures on the organisation, but we are rising to the challenge and already 2020 looks set to be another positive year.

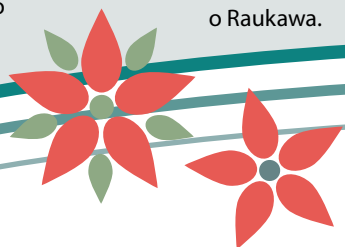
So thank you everyone. This will be my last term as your Mayor so we've got three years to look for a successor, however I assure you I will continue to work very hard for the best outcomes for our wonderful district

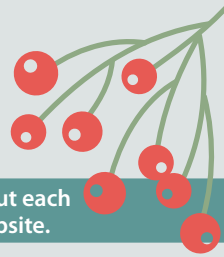
Please keep an eye out for people on their own this Christmas. This is a time for kindness and sharing.

To our emergency services, medical teams, retail and hospitality staff working and keeping us safe over the holiday period, thank you.

And please remember to keep safe out there, with seat belts on in the car and life jackets out on the boat.

Meri Kirihimete  
Merry Christmas





# Warm welcome to our 2019-22 Elected Members

The next five pages introduce our new Elected Members to our community. We hope you enjoy reading a little more about each Member. Contact details for Councillors are on the back page of In Touch and all Elected Member details are on our website.

## Tokoroa Ward

### Bill Machen



"A little bit about me. William Ernest Machen (Bill or Wiremu is more acceptable).

I first stood for Council to represent the ordinary citizens of this district, the underprivileged and all the good people who I have been associated with for many years through membership of many organisations. My interests in Council have been to see how it really works and interact with its customers – you and me; and to try and make our district a better place to live in, and to visit.

The strengths I bring to Council are the ability to get on with all levels of society and my respect for the diversity of people in our community. I also have had experience of managing and leading people. I am a good listener and empathetic. I also know my weaknesses.

Our challenge over the next three years is to finish the work already under way, on budget and on time – we haven't performed as well as we should in this respect in the past. We also have to develop the plans for extra housing and commercial/industrial availability of land in the district to encourage population increase and job opportunities for our citizens. Climate and environment issues will also be a big issue.

I am Interested in History and Poetry and read a lot, although these days it is a lot of Council literature."

-Bill



**First paying job ever:** My first job was as a grocery boy for Eric Andersons IGA in Pentland Terrace, wage 4 pound 9 shillings and 3 pence per week today's money = \$8.95.

**An unknown detail about yourself:** During my teenage years I was a nationally ranked athlete competing for Waikato around the country eventually winning NZ Championship medals in the Junior (under 20) pole vault and 400 metres. I later turned my hand to marathon races and rugby.

**Favourite quote:** One of my favourite quotes which I remind myself of often is as follows: "He aha te mea nui o tea o? He Tangata he tangata he tangata" = "What is the most important thing in the world? It is people tis people tis people.

### Arama Ngapo-Lipscombe

"Kia ora koutou katoa,

Thank you for electing me into a second term as your representative for the next three years. It is a privilege and an honour to represent such a diverse and vibrant community.



My community interests include focusing on planned growth and youth. I want the South Waikato District to be full of opportunity for our community and provide exciting activities like the river trails, cougar park or other community resources such as the Maraetai Lake, skatepark and Youth Park.

I stood for Council as I believe diversity of voice is important. I can bring a perspective from

a mother's point of view as well as a businesswoman. I was born and raised in Tokoroa and have witnessed the ever changing economic landscape and challenges that our community faces. However, I believe we have a unique skill base and a positive community that will help us overcome any challenges that we have.

I enjoy our close knit community and our community's ability to band together and support each other. When we host events like the 'Take a Kid Fishing', celebrate the return of local League Heroes, the community here is in force to support each other. Likewise the various community organisations that are supported by countless volunteers that organise many events and support local sporting clubs, art groups or just the Senior Citizen groups are another example our South Waikato Community spirit. It is why I am most proud to share with others why I live here and I am proud to be an elected member of your local Council."

### -Arama

**Favourite quote:** Our value does not diminish because of someone's inability to see your worth...

**Biggest fear:** never knowing success because I'm too fearful to try...

**Greatest challenge:** work life balance

### Thomas Lee

"This is my third term on Council and the original reasons I stood are still the same. I wanted to help people to voice their concerns around the Council table, and also to help guide the direction of the communities within our District.

My interests in Council are the people, the strategic direction, the rates impacts on our communities and the direction that Governance takes us all.

My strengths are: - I'm a very good listener and I have empathy for people even if their views differ from mine, and I have lots of common sense and life skills. I am socially minded and have passion and commitment. I am willing to help anyone with a problem to achieve an amical outcome.

My favourite things about the South Waikato have to be the people, and the green green grass of home. After all this is OUR HOME, OUR COMMUNITY and OUR DISTRICT.

I think our biggest challenge for the District has to be the Healthy River legislation. This is another piece of legislation enacted by Central Government but funded by the Rate Payer. Not only will it cost every community to upgrade their existing wastewater treatment plants, but has the ability to impact much needed local jobs in and around the rivers.

Our opportunities for the District is our central location. With Taupo, Rotorua, Tauranga and Hamilton within an hours' drive, also the Tauranga Port, and State Highway 1 running through three of our towns. We have land available for business development and soon residential land for growth. Our trade training is getting our young people up to speed to be work ready and qualified and many different fields. The road/rail terminal will only expand. Last, but not least we have some very good people in Council working hard to improve our District." - Thomas



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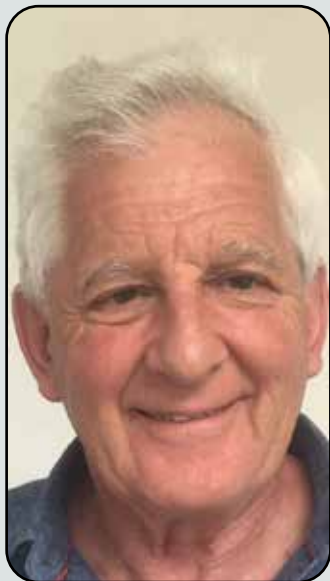
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**First paying job ever:** I worked in Ivan Porters wood yard and received 50 cents an hour. It doesn't sound like much now but back then an ice block was 4 cents and you could get 4 lollies for 1 cent and for 25 cents you could get a pie, bag of chips and a small Coke.

**Favourite childhood memory:** While attending Amisfield School when the hearse went pass and was heading to the Tokoroa Lawn Cemetery all the children in the playground would stand still and be silent as a mark of respect.

**Biggest fear:** My biggest fear has to be letting down the people who voted for me. They expect me to represent them to the best of my ability, and nothing else will do and failure is not an option.

**Marin Glucina**



"Having been re-elected to the South Waikato District Council for the third time gives me an opportunity to see real change to the district take place, now that the South Waikato is a district with a growing population.

Council has had a long term plan to re-develop Leith Place, Tokoroa and improve the amenities for residents and

visitors. The new carpark and toilets will make for a more attractive town front.

A similar process has been taking place in Putāruru, with a long term plan for hundreds of new residential sections becoming available for prospective residents over the next 10 years.

One major stumbling block for those industries that want to move to the South Waikato is the lack of new housing in a modern setting. Putāruru will be the first to benefit from large scale housing development.

There are many positives, such as bike trails, lakes, forests, old uncut native trees in reserves close to towns, rivers and parks. The district has so much to offer, we can expect a significant population growth.

The South Waikato has parks and reserves which encourages people to use and explore the outdoors by making them accessible to the public.

Overall the South Waikato District can be one of the best in New Zealand to live in because of the natural attractions with pleasant town and country living environments.

It is my aim whilst on Council to encourage and support the enhancement of the South Waikato in the district for visitors and residents.

I have had a long term interest in town planning and development and note that the South Waikato will have significant growth in population over the next 10 years.

I was fortunate to grow up in Avondale, an outer suburb of Auckland which was on the edge of the city then. We had all the benefits of the city without living a city life.

When I arrived in Tokoroa in 1980 it was a thriving town similar to Avondale. Since then we have not had a population increase.

My schooling was at the local school and I later went to Auckland University to study Science, then Law. This led to my career and life in Tokoroa.

It is my experience and knowledge acquired over 40 years that I now use for the benefit of Tokoroa. **-Marin**

**My biggest fear:** that Central Government will put so much cost and responsibility on the District Council that we would be unable to pay, leaving the door open for the South Waikato to be amalgamated with Hamilton.

**Greatest challenge:** for the district is to stay strong and independent.

**Hamish Daine**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who voted for me in the recent triennium elections. I hope to bring a positive and forward thinking role to the job. To all ratepayers, I'm committed to you for the whole of the next three years. Please do contact me if you want to talk about anything at all that you feel needs thought and action within our district. Thank you and let's engage.



I stood for Council to hopefully bring a positive voice for you, but also to recognise that as Councillors we are accountable to you the ratepayer. My decisions will be based on what you tell me, allied to the best outcomes for the district. Not only do we need to protect our existing assets, we can also build on them by capitalising on sustainable opportunities like Te Waihou Walkway, night markets in the recently re-developed Leith Place in Tokoroa, and housing projects in both Putāruru and Tokoroa.

I am really interested in affordable and sustainable housing development for our district. If we are to grow employment, which will enhance welfare and lifestyle, we need housing. Following from this, we need to focus on stronger infrastructure, namely our key services of roads, three waters, refuse and digital connectivity. I know these are boring subjects, but they are the foundation of our district infrastructure and will need very careful thought, planning and funding to maximise the opportunities we can enjoy.

I have a can do attitude. I'm not interested in looking at why we can't do something, but why can't we do it! Obviously there are constraints, but let's be real and practical about how we get from dreaming to reality. I love the South Waikato – the people, culture and community of it all. My desire is to see all our communities connected and working at the highest level of human potential. If we think small, we get small. Now is the time to be bold and step up to the plate. What is really holding us back from increasing our economic impact, our housing stock, and our lifestyle? Let's explore this and tie projects to these ideas to get our district firing on all cylinders. Who's with me? **-Hamish**

**First paying job:** My first paying job was at McDonalds Tokoroa. There I learnt what a work ethic is. I was taught McDonald's teams learn about how to deliver a fantastic product, in a timely manner, with top customer service time and time again. These values were key to the business success.

**Favourite childhood memory:** Living in a very loving family and community. We had so many good times with our neighbours. People were kind and connected. It felt like I was growing up united with everyone I had contact with. Everyone looked out for each other and shared whatever assets and resources they brought to the table – literally!

**Favourite quote:** Learn from other people's mistakes, you can't make them all yourself – Usher. This is about being smart and not reinventing the wheel.





Time is short, learn from others and get on with it. Don't get bogged down in the primordial soup! Rise above it.

**Alex Jansen**

"I decided to run for Council as someone to represent the youth. Being 20 years old, I have an understanding of what changes my generation wants, and how we work to make our voices heard. Studying politics at Waikato University, I will be able to apply my learning to Council and share ideas from what I have learned in an immediate manner. I did a Gateway placement of work experience in 2017 at Council, alongside Mayor Jenny Shattock and the previous Councillors. Doing this I was able to see more of what goes on in Council and get an understanding of the background work the public don't see. I have not entered into being a local government Councillor without some knowledge of what is required of me over the next three years. I would highly encourage any other youths who may be interested in politics to also enter a Gateway placement at the South Waikato District Council.



We live in an amazing, and beautiful part of New Zealand. We have a mix of many cultures, are very centrally placed not only in the heart of New Zealand, but also conveniently on State Highway 1, have the rail line right in the middle of our industrially zoned hub; and we have modern, amazing facilities that can host big events. If we can encourage major events and organisations to our district, then that creates tourism throughout our district and will hopefully boost our local businesses. I am open to differing views from around the district and am comfortable

to bring concerns and ideas back to Council for further consultation. As a Council, we have the responsibility to provide a safe community, develop residential areas and maintain our assets. I would like to see our district develop a better reputation and encourage more people to come here.

I bring ethical, considerate and well thought out decision making to Council, good communication between myself and the community, and a fresh perspective. I am an advocate for easy accessibility for everyone, safe roads, safe parks, and safe footpaths. I not only bring the perspective and advocate for youth; I am in Council for everyone, from my Grandparents who live locally, to the local business owners, right through our constituency to my peers.

Being the youngest member of Council allows a fresh perspective and an idea of what youth want and need. I would like to see this Council focus on climate change, continue to clean up our district and encourage growth throughout the South Waikato. I hope to see this Council focus on creating a high trust model with the community, ensuring each others' communications are both heard.

I look forward to working alongside Council and the community over the next three years. Together, we can make things happen." -**Alex**

**First paying job ever:** At 2 Brothers Joinery. I went on a Gateway placement there, and helped build cabinets and clean, this led to me working for them part-time, a few days a week after school. It also led me to know that building is not my strongest skill.

**Favourite childhood memory:** Going on holidays around the country, or overseas with my family. I enjoy spending time with family and making memories alongside them.

**Biggest fear:** I absolutely hate snakes and spiders. The sight of one will have me jumping out of my skin. Both are a hard NO from me.

**Putāruru Ward**

**Sandra Wallace**

"Hi I'm Sandra Wallace and would like to thank everyone who voted for me. I feel very privileged to be able to represent the Putāruru Ward.

Over the years I have been involved with many different groups and organisations and I now want to be able to make a difference in our area hence my main reason for wanting to stand for Council.



I believe Putāruru's new three Councillors will be a fabulous team and do our very best. We will be having our own Putāruru meetings so we will have a strong voice to represent Putāruru urban and rural.

One of our biggest challenges is waste, rubbish, recycling – which we are looking at, at the moment. We need to minimise our waste, get better at recycling, take pride in our area, and educate people. There are opportunities here to have a clean green attractive area.

Another area of concern is lack of housing. Council is also looking at this, so we get subdivisions ready for new housing.

Some of the best things in the South Waikato that I see are firstly all the wonderful people who live here and also the natural beauty of our farmland and our wonderful walking and cycling tracks including Te Waihou, Jim Barnett reserve and the Waikato River Trails. I would love these to remain a very important part of our area and possibilities here of expansion; I would love it to be more than a dream.

Challenges will be attracting new businesses to town and more employment opportunities. With more housing brings more people, this will give us a better work force. Main highway and rail also gives opportunities and affordable commercial/business areas. We need to be approachable and accommodating.

We are lucky to have the Plaza Theatre here in Putāruru and all the wonderful shows and events that are held here we can all be very proud of.

I hope to be able to support our elderly to ensure they feel safe secure and listened too.

Sporting facilities are also a very huge part of our area and it is important that these are also well cared and looked after.

Youth are a very important part of our area and I will ensure that they get looked after and considered as much as I possibly can. Strong families can ensure a happy environment.

Putāruru is my home, but as a Councillor I will be doing my best for our whole area.

Businesses need to have a voice and I am happy to hear concerns.

We need to get our basics right including footpaths, roads, waste, water as this is our core.

My campaign of a voice for Putāruru, energy to burn, passionate, community minded, family values will continue throughout my councillor journey." -**Sandra**

**First paying job ever:** Rousing to earn money to go on a Putāruru High School Geography trip to South Island aged 15.

**Favourite childhood memory:** Family trips to the beach, swimming in the surf and stopping for ice cream on the way home.

**Biggest fear:** Don't know about biggest, but fear is more the unknown. Going for Council – will I get in? Public speaking – Will I be nervous? Once I get focused, I just go for it and give it my best shot. Things don't always go to plan but I just do the best I can.

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## Hans Nelis

"I have been associated with Putāruru for approximately 40 years. When some people asked me to stand for Council, I felt it was my duty to contribute to our town and district and give our farmers a voice in Council.



After a long time milking cows I would like to challenge myself with a different role in our society. At the age of 60, I did a post-graduate degree in dispute resolution at Waikato University. The last time I was at uni was 42 years earlier; things have changed and I was on a steep learning curve to understand it all especially the use of technology, but it was a very interesting time and I thoroughly enjoyed learning many new things.

Having six children, my empathy goes to the youth, and with the other two Putāruru Councillors I would like to focus on this group. I have been involved in planting of wetlands and riparian areas and enjoy creating areas of native plantings. I believe Te Waihou Walkway is a great example of what can be achieved with vision and dedication.

Having been self-employed most of my life, budgeting and financial analysis comes naturally to me, and I would like to use these skills in my new job as Councillor to ensure our rates money is being used in the most effective way.

The best thing about living in the South Waikato is that it is a small community. We have a

nice neighbourhood, people know each other, and there are many active groups that operate around the district and give opportunities for people to meet each other and support other members of our area. Farmers already have a natural inclination to meet each other at different organised functions, which is healthy, enjoyable and spreads knowledge.

I would like to see our town grow, keep up with the modern times, and create work for all age groups. The aging underground infrastructure will be a financial challenge, but depreciation over the last decades should finance future upgrades.

Our population is living longer and thus getting older, and Council needs to be aware of this in their planning programme. The Rangiuru Centre is another great example of local initiative that you often only see in small towns.

Many thanks for your support."  
-Hans

**Favourite quote:** "I came across this quote in a café in Hillary Bay, Perth: 'If you don't build your dreams, someone will hire you to help build theirs.' It was my dream to own a farm and hence as a twenty-two-year-old, I immigrated to New Zealand from Holland.

**Greatest challenge:** The greatest challenge for me will be to sit around the table with a diverse representation of our district population and sort out the issues on our agenda. Each and everyone has their special projects at heart. Passion for the people and the district should result in a healthy debate with a positive outcome.

## Gary Petley

"Firstly thank you to the people of the Putāruru Ward for voting me onto Council.

My reason for standing is simple. I want to make a continued difference on how Council performs and participate in decisions that will have a positive trickle-down effect on the District. Working with Council and the community to supply services based on need. I'm interested in turn being part of

a well-balanced Council that the community can trust and respect. It's not about me, it's about us.



Having been on several committees I bring knowledge around areas of compliance and procedures. An important strength I bring to Council is common sense. The South Waikato as a community has much to offer; a community that is vibrant by nature and safe.

Future challenges ahead around development of new business and residential which will bring growth. However that will come with added pressure on internal systems for example wastewater and sewerage." -Gary

**Favourite childhood memory:** Christmas at my grandmother's in Marchant St when our whanau would gather to get everyone there she would simply say this could be last Xmas

**An unknown detail about yourself:** When I left school I thought I was small enough to be a jockey. It will come as no surprise that with a nickname like Puku that dream was never realized.

**Biggest fear:** The only fear I have is one of failure.

## Tirau Ward

### Peter Schulte

"My second term as the Tirau Ward Councillor has started and I am extremely proud to serve the Tirau Ward and our District. The last three years as Councillor has been an education for me to say the least. We all can be very proud

of the Tirau Community Board (TCB) and it was sad to see Cassandra Robinson and Clive Collingwood step down. Good luck and all the best!

I would like to congratulate Holly Blair, Kerry Purdy, Sharon Burling-Claridge and Kevin Slater for their election to the TCB. I am looking forward to working with them to achieve great things for Tirau.

I stood for Council last time and again this time to give back to the South Waikato as this district has been good to me. My main interest is creating business opportunities and facilitating job creation so that our young people don't have to leave our district in search of jobs. I have a business of my own and therefore a good head for business. My passion is to help people who want to better themselves. I love the South Waikato, our rural community and our townships, each with its own unique personality and vibe. One of our biggest challenges is to attract new businesses to the South Waikato; this has to be a priority for our Council to ensure our communities continue to thrive.



Looking back over 2019, the TCB, the Domain Action Group under the leadership of Hans Nelis and our Council has done a fantastic job in getting the railway crossing loop walkway open. Good to see the Okoroire Street park had a basketball hoop and pad installed, some exercise equipment and new skate board ramp.





Now to the next three years.

Money has been allocated for the bridge over the Oraka Stream to connect the upper and lower domain. In the Domain I would like to see further development on the upper Domain, maybe with a BMX track for our youngsters. That all still has to be decided and money allocated.

We all know that our footpaths are a problem, especially for our elderly. I know the problem and I am sure that our Council is doing its best to mitigate the slippery blocks.

Next is the three waters – stormwater, wastewater and water supply. All of our wastewater treatment plants have to be upgraded to comply with the new standards and that costs a lot of money. Then there is rubbish; the landfill in Tokoroa is going to close and a new transfer station has to be build. That again costs money.

Nobody likes rate increases, but they are a necessity to pay for all of this. Let me assure you that Councillors and the Mayor are well aware of the impact of rates on our residents. Every year the Elected Members agonise over the rates in what can be saved and what cannot. It's not an easy decision. The rates in the South Waikato are still cheaper than in other Councils." **-Peter**

**First Paying Job:** Job during school holiday with a roofing company. I was deemed not suitable because of my fear of heights.

**Unknown detail about myself:** I don't like going for walks

**Favourite quote:** With perseverance any problem can be solved.

## Tirau Community Board

### Kevin Slater

"I put my name forward for the Tirau Community Board and I was lucky to be one of the four candidates to make it through the election. I have lived in Tirau for the last six and half years. My partner Mariea and I have eighteen grandchildren and fifteen great grandchildren, so we have a busy family life. We love Tirau and are now retired. I did have my own electrical business, but now that

I'm retired I have some time available and thought I could give something back to the community.

I would like to see the work at the Tirau Domain keep ticking over, but people must be patient as it takes time to process requests through Council. The biggest thing for me is to keep that communication up. I said I



would be eyes and ears for the Council and living next to the Village Green in Church Street (children's park) and very close to town, I see a lot going on. Out of the four people on the Tirau Community Board I have been chosen to be chairperson. We have a great team, myself and three ladies. I look forward to working for Tirau over the next three years." **-Kevin**

### Sharon Burling-Claridge

"I stood again for TCB because I felt my time wasn't done yet, and I wanted to carry on with some projects not yet completed.



Tirau has some challenges to face over the next few years, traffic management I would say, will be the biggest. With the

increase in traffic continuing to grow and the improvements of highways from Auckland to the Wakiato, this is our greatest challenge. This of course is New Zealand Transport Agency's responsibility and not Council, but I hope to very much keep updated on progress through the TCB on this very important issue.

This little town in my view has so much to offer as the gateway to the South Waikato. It needs to stay unique and quirky, but more forces need to come together to make this happen as the Council, with the guidance from the TCB, cannot do everything it on its own. It needs support from other areas, like the community, landlords, shop retailers, working together to continue to make this a vibrant, sustainable place to work, live and play.

All the TCB members are looking forward to the challenges ahead in the long and short term for Tirau."

**-Sharon**

### Kerry Purdy

"Kia Ora, My name is Kerry Purdy and I have been asked to tell you a bit about myself and my journey into Council.



I live in Tirau, have done for over 20 years and am married to Brett and we have four children.

We are sharemilking on my husband's family farm and I am also the Tirau town postie, which I love!

I guess the decision to stand for Council came from the local community. With my job I interact with people every day and hear what is good and what

isn't good with Council, so I thought I may be able to help in some way and to give locals a voice.

I am not in Council for personal gain or have any hidden agendas, I just want Tirau to be the best town out there, to have people want to come see our awesome businesses, our amazing community and to reach our full potential with help from our Council to 'go forth and prosper' even more in the future.

My goals are security cameras in our town ASAP and I want to get the footpaths in our main streets sorted so no one gets hurt slipping or tripping over them, also ASAP!

I worry with Tirau being smaller we may get overlooked, but will work hard to make sure this won't happen!

I appreciate your time and hope to cross paths with each and every one of you in my term on Council." **-Kerry**

### Holly Blair

"My name is Holly Blair. I am a stay-home-mum of two young boys - Jude is four, and Haddin is two years old.

I run my own Accounting practice from home, Tirau Accounting. My husband Ewan is a counsellor.



I joined the Tirau Community Board last year in the bi-election. As a local homeowner, business owner and most importantly a parent, I want to help Tirau to be the idyllic South Waikato town for my sons to grow up in - safe, understanding, and with plenty of activities." **-Holly**



## Tokoroa CBD Upgrade

As the Leith Place development begins to take shape we can't help but feel a sense of excitement about how the area will look once the project is completed.

To date we've seen the completion of Stage 1 with highlights like the development of the new Shared Zone, the installation of the Talking Pole Forest and the complete rehabilitation of SH1 done by NZTA.

The main benefits of Shared Zones include more space for pedestrians to gather, relax and enjoy, more space for events and activities, they encourage traffic to drive at a safer speed and create an attractive destination for people to visit and business to develop.

It's intended that our Shared Zone will complement the Plaza area for events, carnivals, markets and other activities.

Users - drivers and pedestrians - are encouraged to show respectful and courteous behaviour. The paving is quite different from a normal road and this indicates that you are in a slower paced environment (walking speed for cars of 10km/h). This makes it easier for users to navigate around each other.

Further Shared Zone education and signage will be delivered in the coming months as well as some information flyers and media messages.

In addition to the Shared Zone is the Talking Pole Forest which has been erected nearby the iconic Chainsaw Man. The concept of the Talking Pole forest was developed to complement the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade project.

The configuration of the Talking Poles within the forest was designed by a professional curator and visual design architect to depict a story.

It begins with Raukawa (the pou) standing northward facing, greeting people who enter into the forest of pou via a footpath.

The iconic Chainsaw Man stands proud of the forest and represents our strong forestry history. Te Toko Poutangata also celebrates industry. These three poles bind the other poles together.

Collectively the forest celebrates our heritage, history, multi-cultural society, merging of cultures, wisdom and guidance.

The Spore pou – by nature disperses and germinates seeding new plants, is the final work in the stand of pou that signifies community growth and the emergence of a community that is vibrating with life.

By the time you are reading this the SH1 rehabilitation would have been completed to go along with the new stormwater repairs that were completed earlier in the project.





# WHAT'S HOT

Brilliant shout out to Weber Bros Circus who recently spent a week in Tokoroa. When they came to town they were unable to set up on Memorial Sportsground as they normally do because the ground was too sodden to hold up the strain on the tent pegs. Harry and Marie Weber approached the SWIFT Trust to see if they could use the site on the corner of Chambers St which SWIFT agreed to more than happily. Rather than expect a fee for using the site, it was agreed that the Webers would simply make donations to local charities. Unbeknown to the Trust, the Weber's actually gave out 1,070 free tickets to children and their families who might otherwise struggle to see the circus acts. And donated some \$4,000 to local charities. So this is a massive shout out to the team at Weber Bros Circus! Awesome generosity.

Seasonal Pools are open in Putāruru and Tirau – Summer's is here. Come along for a summer splash!

The national earthquake exercise ShakeOut. Council staff and a number of other organisations and individuals participated. Well done to the team at SWAT for getting down under their desks! And to the people in our community who posted photos that won them an emergency Get Thru kit. Well done on your efforts.

If you think you might need a sweat out to shed those Christmas kilos... register for the Waikato River Trails' Summer Sizzler event. The event takes place on Saturday 11 January and meanders the trails alongside the mighty Waikato River in the area surrounding Whakamaru and Maraetai Lakes.

At the time of writing, 268 people had voted on the Tirau playground equipment poll. Awesome!



A massive 546 submissions were received on the household waste collection consultation. What fantastic engagement from our community!

## WHAT'S NOT

Puppies being stolen from the pound.

Road works.

## Summer smart alcohol use

**If you are having gatherings or parties at your home over the holidays – being a responsible host could be the difference between a great party or a party with a sad and tragic end.**

**Follow these guidelines and all your whanau and friends will be able to come back next year.**

**DO food.** Have lots of it and prepare for a long evening. Bread, sausages, steak sammies are easy and good value. Crack out the BBQ later in the evening and put some onions on it and you will have people salivating – it is a scientific fact that cooking onions make us want to eat. Avoid salt as that makes people thirsty.

**DO places to crash.** Make sure there are a few beds or sleeping places if people want to stay.

**DO car keys.** If you are the host, take people's keys as they walk in the door and put them somewhere for safe keeping. When people are ready to go home make sure that have a sober driver.

**DO keep a watch.** Make sure that you as the host, or nominate someone, to not drink so they can keep an eye on your friends

**DO water water water.** Have ice and lots of water. Low alcohol beer and plenty of juice, soda and tea and coffee. Tip - black coffee does not make a drunk person any more sober quickly – it just makes them wide awake and still drunk.

**DON'T let intoxicated people sleep in the back seat of a car.** Too many people have vomited and choked.



### JANUARY 2020:

- Fri 24 Jan, 7pm - South Waikato Country Music
- Sun 26 Jan 2020, 2pm - Sunday Movie (TBC)

### FEBRUARY 2020:

- Fri 14 Feb 2020, 8pm - Friday Movie (TBC)
- Sat 15 Feb 2020, 7.30pm - Dreams - Fleetwood Mac Experience
- Sat 22 Feb - South Waikato Country Music Open Day/Community Event
- Sun 23 Feb, 2pm - Sunday Movie (TBC)
- Fri 28 Feb, 7pm - South Waikato Country Music
- Sat 29 Feb - The Nukes and Harmonic Resonators

### MARCH 2020:

- Fri, 13 March, 8pm - Friday Movie (TBC)
- Sat 21 March - Victoria State Ballet - Sleeping Beauty
- Sun 22 March - South Waikato Music Society - James Brown Piano
- Fri 27 March, 7pm - South Waikato Country Music
- Sun 29 March, 2pm - Sunday Movie (TBC)

### Plaza - Community Groups

Mah Jong: Mondays, 12.45pm.

Putaruru 50+ Group: Indoor Bowls, Scrabble, Rummikub, 500. Tuesdays, 12.45pm

Zumba: Tues from 6.30pm-7.30pm. \$5 entry

Dancefit 886: Wed from 6.30pm-7.30pm. \$5 entry

South Waikato Country Music: fourth Fri of every month at 7pm.

South Waikato Grey Power: last Thurs of every second month from 1.30pm.



07 883 8596/0276 559 715  
www.plaza.org.nz  
Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz  
Facebook: theplazaputaruru



# South Waikato District Council

## COUNCIL OFFICES

The Council offices in Tokoroa and Putāruru# will be closed from 3.00 pm on Tuesday 24 December 2019 and will re-open again at 8.00 am on Monday 6 January 2020. Council can be contacted for all queries on 07 885 0340 (water, sewerage, noise, environmental health and building). For all dog related issues phone 07 885 0774.

# Putāruru Library opening hours are below.

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

\*unless bookings arranged prior

## POOLS

The South Waikato Indoor Pools are open during the festive season from Monday to Friday from 5.30 am to 8.00 pm and on weekends and public holidays from 7.30 am to 8.00 pm, except for:

- Open on Christmas Eve (Tuesday 24 December 2019) closing at 3.00 pm
- Closed on Christmas Day (Wednesday 25 December 2019)
- Open on New Year's Eve (Tuesday 31 December 2019) closing at 3.00 pm
- Open on New Year's Day from 12 noon (Wednesday 1 January 2020)

The seasonal pools in Tirau and Putāruru will be closed on Christmas Day, and open every other day from 12 noon to 6.00 pm.

## PUBLIC TOILETS at the former i-SITE in Leith Place, Tokoroa

The public toilets in Leith Place will be open during the festive season from 9.00 am to 5.15 pm, except for:

- Christmas day (25 December 2019) and Boxing day (26 December 2019) - weekend hours apply
- 28 & 29 December 2019, 1 & 2 January 2020 and 4 & 5 January 2020 - weekend hours apply.

Please note: weekend opening hours are scheduled for approximately one hour at 11.00 am and at 4.00 pm.



Every year thousands of people suffer from food poisoning. Most of these cases occur in homes just like yours. You can help prevent your whānau from becoming ill by following the 3Cs – clean, cook, chill.

### Preventing food poisoning

Remember the 3Cs: Clean, cook, chill will help prevent your whānau from becoming ill.

#### Clean

Before you prepare food and after handling raw meat:

- Wash hands, chopping boards, dishes, and utensils (like

knives) in hot and soapy water.

- Dry them properly - preferably air dry (not with a towel).

#### Cook

- Cook food (especially chicken and mince) thoroughly all the way through until the juices run clear.
- Reheat until *hot*. Warm does not kill bacteria, hot does.

#### Chill

To stop bacteria contaminating or growing in your food:

- Cover and put in the fridge.
- Keep cooked and raw food

separate don't leave food out.

- Refrigerate within two hours or bin it. If in doubt, throw it out!

For more information on food safety this summer visit:

[www.mpi.govt.nz](http://www.mpi.govt.nz)



# Council Christmas Closure Hours



## RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

Collections scheduled for **Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays** over the Christmas and New Year period **ARE** affected.

**Every collection area in Tokoroa is affected by this change.**


**Putāruru, Tirau and Arapuni collections are NOT affected.**

If your normal collection is Wednesday (25 December) and Wednesday (1 January), your collection will move to the following days, ie, **Thursday 26 December and Thursday 2 January**. This is the **GREEN** collection day on the recycling calendar.

- If your normal collection is Thursday (26 December) and Thursday (2 January), your collection will move to the following days, ie, **Friday 27 December and Friday 3 January**. This is the **PINK** collection day on the recycling calendar.
- If your normal collection is Friday (27 December) and Friday (3 January), your collection will move to the following days, ie, **Saturday 28 December and Saturday 4 January**. This is the **ORANGE** collection day on the recycling calendar.

Residents - please note the Tokoroa Landfill, Putāruru Transfer station and the Croad Place Recycling Centre will be closed on Christmas Day and New Years' day. District recycling centres are available for excess recycling. These sites will be cleared daily over the Christmas period.

### Recycling drop-off zone customer behaviour. PLEASE:

- Flatten and fold cardboard boxes. Unflattened boxes fill the cages too quickly.
- Take the time to put the right colour bottles in the right coloured bins. The glass bins at the Tokoroa landfill, Putāruru Transfer Station and Tirau recycling depot are COLOUR CODED.
- Rinse plastic and tins. And remember: **ONLY** plastics 1s and 2s can be recycled. Look for these symbols: 

	Tues 24 Dec	Wed 25 Dec	Thurs 26 Dec	Fri 27 Dec	Sat 28 Dec	Sun 29 Dec	Mon 30 Dec	Tues 31 Dec	Wed 1 Jan	Thurs 2 Jan	Fri 3 Jan	Sat 4 Jan	Sun 5 Jan
<b>Tokoroa Landfill</b>	open	closed	open	open	open	open	closed	open	closed	open	open	open	open
<b>Putāruru Transfer Station</b>	open	closed	open	closed	open	open	closed	open	closed	open	closed	open	open
<b>Croad Place Recycling Centre</b>	open	closed	open	open	open	open	closed	open	closed	open	open	open	open

## URBAN CONNECTOR

The Urban Connector bus service will run as normal during the Christmas period - Monday to Friday, normal times. The only days the service won't be running is Wednesday 25 December, Thursday 26 December and then again on Wednesday 1 January and Thursday 2 January.

## Noise, neighbours and respect over Xmas

With summer holidays and the festive season upon us, we're all settling down to a Christmas break with whānau and friends. The days are longer. The nights warmer. Christmas celebrations are underway. These get togethers and celebrations can come with a bit more noise than usual.

Here's some tips regarding noise, neighbours and respect this festive season.

- Let your neighbours know if you are having a party that is likely to run late into the night. Most people are okay with the odd party.

- Be respectful of your neighbours with music and merriment noise levels. Loud music and noisy boisterous behaviour fuelled by an abundant supply of alcohol can be annoying to those in your neighbourhood who are trying to sleep.
- When the party is winding down, it can sometimes spill out on to the street as we say our goodbyes. It's a nice gesture for your neighbours to keep goodbyes on the footpath short and quiet.

For those who are having issues in the night with loud

party noise, you can report this through to the on-duty After Hours Noise Officer. Here's some clarity into how noise complaints work.

- It is best to call 07 885 0340. If the call is made after-hours, follow the voice prompts to be put through to the after-hours contractor.
- While you are welcome to contact Council via Facebook and Antenna, please note that these mediums are not attended 24/7, so immediate action won't always happen. You're welcome to use these methods to let us know of

concerns you have, but calling 07 885 0340 is the best way to get quick action.

- If there are any follow up queries regarding Noise Control services or complaints made, please contact the Environmental Health team for further information; again by calling 07 885 0340.
- Council Officers can investigate noise complaints, and under legislation, Officers can require the noise to stop. Ultimately however it is the responsibility of the occupier of a property to control or limit noise.

## IN brief

The playground module from Grey Street has been moved to Barnett Street Reserve. Grey Street is now the home base of the Putāruru Community Gardens.

During October, Mamaku South Road was graded, and additional aggregate was applied where needed.

Downer started a rehabilitation project for a 300m stretch of road on Leslie Road in early November, starting around the entrance to the Blue Spring car park. Hopefully by the time of reading, it is complete.

Usage at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre continues to track higher than this time last year, with the facility playing host to 23,784 users so far in 2019. The pools too have seen higher patronage.

Divers are inspecting Te Waihou water intake. This is normal procedure, occurring every few years.

The new STARS library programme at the libraries was well received with 463 participants.

Council staff continue to roster on at the ex-Tokoroa i-SITE facility. This building is being kept open for public toilets until our new toilets are constructed.

## IN the know

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

## IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email [kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz).



## Keeping our temporary pools safe for our tamariki

**Keep our tamariki safe this summer by ensuring that you follow some basic safety guidelines for your pool that contains less than 400mm of water. Most often these are the pools that aren't installed all year round but are purchased from retailers for our whanau and friends to enjoy over the hot summer holidays... well at least we hope it's going to be hot!**

If you do buy or have a pool that is capable of containing more than 400mm then you will need a building consent for its installation along with the provision of compliant barriers, fences, gates etc. This is a significant cost that is often overlooked at the time of purchase.

Pools that can't hold more than 400mm of water don't need to be fenced and therefore registered with Council, however there are some sensible practices around their use.

The following is important for the safety of our community.

Don't place these pools in an open front yard. You have no control over other children finding their way into your pool. This could have tragic consequences.

You can cut the risks that swimming pools present even further by:

- Always supervise children in or near your pool.
- Maintain garden fences and keep gates and other means of access in good condition.
- Always make sure the gate to the yard is safely shut and it can NEVER be propped open.
- Set rules of behaviour around the pool and teach your children water safety, swim and survive skills.
- Empty the pool when not in use.
- Clear away toys and flotation aids from the pool area when not in use (these can be super tempting for littlies).
- Learn first aid and resuscitation.

*For more information please visit Council's website - [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) - Our Services - Building Consents and Information - Swimming Pool Fencing*

## Competition... next issue...

The next issue of In Touch will be our 50<sup>th</sup> issue since we introduced it! Wow! To celebrate we will be running a fun competition so keep an eye out for the Jan Feb 2020 issue and celebrate our 50<sup>th</sup> community newsletter with us.

The competition will consist of multiple choice questions, all about In Touch, Council and the South Waikato...

## Prizes up for grabs!



**Mayor Jenny Shattock**  
0274 416 230  
[Jenny.Shattock@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:Jenny.Shattock@southwaikato.govt.nz)

## Tokoroa Ward



**Bill Machen**  
Deputy Mayor  
0274 715 899  
[Bill.Machen@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:Bill.Machen@southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Arama Ngapo-Lipscombe**  
0275 339 988  
Arama.  
[Ngapo-Lipscombe@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:Ngapo-Lipscombe@southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Thomas Lee**  
0273 321 292  
Thomas.Lee  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Marin Glucina**  
0210 284 3214  
Marin.Glucina  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Hamish Daine**  
021 125 9225  
Hamish.Daine  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Alex Jansen**  
0279 581 906  
Alex.Jansen  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)

## Putāruru Ward



**Sandra Wallace**  
0210 291 3702  
Sandra.Wallace  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Hans Nelis**  
0210 552 306  
Hans.Nelis  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)



**Gary Petley**  
0274 836 809  
Gary.Petley  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)

## Tirau Ward



**Peter Schulte**  
021 434 933  
Peter.Schulte  
[@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:southwaikato.govt.nz)