

# IN touch

IN Touch

celebrates its

50<sup>th</sup> issue!

Do the quiz on pg7,  
be in to win!



South  
Waikato  
District  
Council

A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 50 - January (Kohitātea) / February (Huiānguru) 2020

Toilets and plaza area starting... we're into the last stage!



## Revitalising the CBD

Revitalising the CBD in Tokoroa and bringing vibrancy to the town's centre has been a key goal of Council's for a decade. Over the past twelve months, we have seen numerous improvements as part of the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade and aligned stormwater and road works that were done at the same time to shorten the upheaval period.

Most recognisable is the new and improved car park, new footpath, creation of the talking pole forest and installation of low maintenance gardens; along with major SH1 road surface upgrades and the upgraded stormwater infrastructure. And the results have provided overall improved visual appeal and functionality.

Council staff have worked tirelessly with contractors to ensure all works done aligns with the Council's vision of revitalising the CBD. As the project progresses into the final stage, the long-awaited toilet upgrades and Plaza area are already taking shape. We can't wait for this project to be completed!

We thank the residents of Tokoroa for embracing the CBD project, for your patience. Check out our website for more updates: [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) - Our Council - Major Projects.

Artist impression of the new toilets



## IN brief

Council's Building Team has again successfully retained its accreditation as a Building Control Authority following a successful audit by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). This ensures Council can continue to deliver a cost effective building control service to residents and ratepayers.

Council continues to conduct street tree assessments.

Heavy winds in December caused a number of issues with 11 trees in the district needing felling.

## IN side

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## IN house

Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the SWDC Communications Team.

Editorial: Kerry Fabrie,  
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Print: GASP Designs

# What you should know about water restrictions



Many South Waikato residents would have noticed the recent messages sent out regarding the water restrictions in place in Putāruru and Arapuni.

The topic raised social media comments relating to water usage by water bottlers.

So here's some facts!

- Water bottlers use only 8% of our total water in Putāruru.
- Putāruru's total business water use (including the bottlers) is 13%.
- Residential water use is 87%.

It's important to note water restrictions are at this stage only imposed on residential users and are only targeting garden watering.

The restrictions do not cover commercial operations or what is happening within the residential household.

Council does not discriminate on what is a good or bad

business (in the public's opinion). We focus on the business being legal and complying with legislation.

The water restrictions are enforced as a part of Council's resource consent. As part of this consent, Council is required by Waikato Regional Council to have an approved Water Conservation and Demand Management Plan.

The aim of this Plan is to ensure demand is managed in an efficient manner so there is plenty of water all year round for all residents.

It is this Plan that triggers water restrictions.

As our district grows and with climate changing (more storms and longer hot dry spells) there is even more reason to ensure Council manages demand to protect our water supplies and the environment.

The water allocation in the Waikato District catchment has been fully allocated so it would be unlikely that Council would be granted approval to extract more water than what has been already allocated from this catchment to the South Waikato District.

Efficient management of allocation is the best option.

## Doing their part to keep SW clean

While many of us enjoyed the much needed family time to go along with the amazing summer weather over the Christmas holiday period, for one husband and wife team the work had only just begun.

Peter and Leanne Maber, who are employed by one of Council's contractors Downer, worked tirelessly over the holidays as they scoured the district cleaning up rubbish, emptying bins at our local reserves and our towns - even on Christmas Day.

This dynamic duo left quite the positive impression on members of our Compliance Team who commended the Mabers on their work ethic and positivity... even after an incident where both Peter and Leanne were called out to clean up a large amount of rubbish left behind the Tokoroa New World.

The team were on the scene and working alongside our Compliance Officers to resolve the issue.

According to Animal and Compliance Officer Jon Smith, he felt strongly that these two outstanding individuals should be commended for their work.

"I just don't think they have been given the credit they so deserve. It would be nice to do this [brief article] on behalf of Council to show our appreciation," Mr Smith said. "Good on you guys. Keep up this awesome work."

*Dynamic duo: Peter and Leanne Maber have been hard at work over the holidays.*



## Council's forward thinking to managing freshwater

National and regional legislation regarding cleaning up our waterways has been debated for several years. Given the significant impacts this legislation will have on our district, our Council has been involved in those debates every step of the way; indeed we have been acknowledged in media for the leadership role we have taken.

There are two pieces of legislation that Council is keeping a careful eye on – Healthy Rivers Wai Ora (regional draft legislation under Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa O Waikato) and the Freshwater Reforms (similar debate at a national level).

Council submitted on the proposed Healthy Rivers

Waikato Regional Plan Change after significant consultation with community stakeholders. We gave strong evidence at three hearings telling the South Waikato story. We also collaborated with six neighbouring Waikato councils on several matters raised under Wai Ora.

We have also provided extensive feedback to the package of freshwater reforms (national level), as many of our concerns with Wai Ora are mirrored in the freshwater reforms.

While Council supports the principles behind the draft legislation, we believe the balance between environmental

protection and sustainable communities is a significant issue.

Our district's two main industries are forestry and farming and this legislation will have serious effects on both sectors. This is causing huge concern for Council leadership.

Council believes the proposals show a fundamental disconnect between the desired environmental standards, the ability to achieve them and the cost to communities already in lower socio-economic areas.

"We want to assure our community and our stakeholders that Council continues to raise our concerns

of the impacts of these pieces of national legislation at every opportunity we get," said Mayor Jenny Shattock.

"We agree with the aspiration to have clean, swimmable and fishable water for our future, but we cannot achieve that at the expense of our communities' wellbeing," said Mayor Shattock. "The government appears to have put significant emphasis on the environmental wellbeing while neglecting to consider the economic and social impacts. We need to consider our four wellbeings equally."

For more information visit [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) - Our Council - Major Projects - Freshwater.



# WHAT'S HOT



**Pictured right:** Councillor Sandra Wallace's clean up of Princes Street in Putāruru with her team of helpers. Twelve black rubbish bags full... and a street that looks a whole lot cleaner. Nicely done... now if only people would stop littering...



**Pictured below, top:** The Councillors have been getting to grips with all things Council, including several tours of Council facilities and services. They are pictured here visiting the Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plant where talk revolved around the current facility and the upgrade that is necessary to ensure continued compliance with clean water requirements.

Growth in the district continues and Council is working its way through the necessary hoops that will support a District

Plan Change to re-zone areas around Putaruru as residential and business. Last year Council consulted with the community regarding increased funding in the LTP to support growth and at the time of writing we are consulting on our proposed Development and Financial Contributions Policy. This Policy will ensure that ratepayers don't foot the bill for growth related infrastructure. Next step, the actual District Plan Change!

Awesome community respect while holidaying in our local

reserves. Limited issues, just great summer fun. Super nice for our Compliance team.

**Pictured below, bottom:** Fantastic to see our recycling bins for glass more accurately separated into colours - you can definitely see where the brown, green and clear bottles are supposed to be now! Nicely done South Waikato, let's get them perfect! That means no egg cartons grrrr (see green bottle container)!

## Dogs in the CBD

In recent times there has been some discussion regarding dogs and the CBD. We thought we would clarify the rules in our district.

The Dog Control Act allows Council - through its Dog Control Bylaw - to decide if dogs are allowed in our CBD areas or not.

Currently all dogs are permitted in the CBD areas in Putāruru and Tirau, as long as they are on leash and under control of course.

The Tokoroa CBD is however prohibited to dogs (other than assistance dogs) during the hours of 8am to 6pm.

Dogs (other than registered assistance dogs) are not permitted inside shops and other businesses. Only assistance dogs are allowed into the actual business as the role of the assistance dog is to help and support the person they are with. Assistance dogs wear coloured coats and their owner has a licence. Council also fully supports assistance dogs in public places, like libraries and other facilities, that are normally off limits to other dogs.

In summary:

- Leashed dogs in Putāruru and Tirau CBD are sweet at all times
- Leashed dogs in Tokoroa CBD not permitted from 8am to 6pm, but after that, all good.
- Normal dogs not permitted in shops or businesses.
- If you have a disability dog that is registered with the Blind or Deaf Association, it can accompany you anywhere at any time.



## WHAT'S NOT

Fires in our neighbouring Australia, melting tar slowing down traffic, littering and horrible intimidation and violent behaviour at our beautiful skatepark ☹️.



# 104 children read 615 books over summer!

2019-20 school holidays saw South Waikato District Libraries delivering the annual Summer Reading Programme for the 22<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year.

The theme for this summer was The Great Reading Carnival, and 104 children across our district completed the programme, reading a whopping 615 books over a five week period!

Participants were recognised for their reading efforts at the programme finale sessions held in Tokoroa and Putāruru last month.

Mayor Jenny Shattock, Deputy Mayor Bill Machen and representatives from Tokoroa Lions presented books, medals and certificates. Amazing entertainment was provided by Jase the Juggler from Circus in a Flash.

The Summer Reading programme runs from mid-December to mid-January each year. It is open to all children in the district between the ages of 4 and 11. There is no cost for families, but spaces are limited.

South Waikato District Libraries are thankful for the support of our Council, and the Putāruru and Tokoroa City Lions that have provided the funding needed to make this a free offering for our communities.

The programme aims to promote literacy and a love of reading, and combat the summer slide - a decline in reading ability that can occur over the summer period when school isn't in session.



## Stopping begging in the Tokoroa CBD

Council continues to hear of some disturbing reports of intimidating behaviour in the Tokoroa CBD area. We are in contact with the Police regarding these issues. Council's Compliance staff also continue to have a presence. The Police have Officers in the CBD when they are able, amid their other duties. These people are categorised as 'professional beggars'. It is known that many of these people have a place to stay at night, collect a benefit, some don't even live here and a number of these people are begging for money for drugs and alcohol; so when people give them money, they are in fact supporting their addictions.

The Police and Council are encouraging our community to take three clear actions detailed below to help curb this activity.

1. **STOP** giving beggars money. Every time someone gives them money, it encourages them to continue.
2. **REPORT** any intimidating and/or threatening behaviour to the Police by calling 111.
3. **WALK AWAY** – politely decline and walk away. Do not confront them about their behaviours or actions.

Begging is a national problem. It is a bigger issue in the Bay

of Plenty, than the Waikato. A number of Councils have attempted to tackle this issue. The most recent being Tauranga City Council with a bylaw. This made national TV. Rotorua District Council too has tried to introduce a process to curb this activity. Neither of these proposed systems were introduced, due to conflicts with human rights.

It's not an easy one to sort out! Shop owners are encouraged to notify all incidents to the Police (call 111).

Take care of each other without putting yourself at risk.

## Chainsaw man Brazilian visit

Great to see some familiar faces in familiar places! Check out the Sevens Team from Brazil that stopped in Tok for a photo with our Chainsaw Man in the Talking Pole forest. The team was on its way to the NZ Sevens in Hamilton in January.



## Abandoned vehicles – CANs and CAN'Ts

Abandoned vehicles can be annoying for our community and Council understands that – we find them annoying too. Unfortunately, the legal process to deal with abandoned vehicles is neither simple nor quick.



A couple of cars removed from around the district recently and stored while Council continues through the process.

Council staff must follow several steps before lawfully removing and disposing of a vehicle; consequently.

This can appear that Council is not doing anything about it. We want to assure our community that this is not the case – we are working through the necessary process.

If the vehicle is causing a safety hazard we liaise with the Police and aim to remove the vehicle as quickly as possible. Vehicles that are parked safely – albeit a nuisance for neighbours – can't be removed until the licence and/or WOF expires. During this time Council will attempt to make contact with the vehicle owner; often with mixed success. Sometimes we are unable to locate the owner but we have to wait until the licence and/or WOF expires before we can do anything further. Sometimes we are able to get hold of the owner and they commit to collecting the vehicle in a particular timeframe, and we generally work with the owner in these cases. Sometimes while we manage to get hold of the owner, they are unable to collect the vehicle; however we still have to wait through the timeframe.

During this 'waiting period', a common concern raised with Council is that these cars can be set alight. While we appreciate that, we can't simply remove a licenced and registered vehicle belonging to someone else. Arson is a Police matter and carries serious penalties. More importantly a fire could spread and put life and livelihoods at risk.

Once the WOF and/or rego is expired, and we have either been in contact with the owner or have made several efforts to find them (including public notices), the vehicle can be deemed legally abandoned and Council can take ownership of the car. Depending on the state of the vehicle we could sell or dispose of the vehicle to recover Council's costs.

We appreciate that our community wants what appears to be an abandoned vehicle removed quickly. Unfortunately Council can't be too quick to remove it without following due process.

This process can take as long as six months, if not longer.

We welcome our community reporting vehicles to us. Please do this through our website, email, by calling Council or reporting it via Antenno – a handy mobile phone app.

- [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) – Do it Online – Say It – Feedback/Request/Report a Problem
- 07 885 0340
- [info@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:info@southwaikato.govt.nz)
- Download Antenno from Google Play or the App Store – use the My Reports feature

When you report a vehicle we need to know the location, registration plate number (if it has one), vehicle make and model, and the expiry date of the WOF and Registration (again if it has these). It would also be useful to know if – in your view – it is causing a traffic hazard.



**We've all seen pedestrian crossings. We've used them as pedestrians; and we have stopped at them for pedestrians. But how many of us know how to use them?**

### What is a pedestrian crossing?

A pedestrian crossing is an area of road that has white stripes marked across it.

Some crossings have raised islands in the middle, creating a 'refuge' where pedestrians can stop. These are helpful when crossing wide, two-way roads or multi-laned roads.

Ahead of the pedestrian crossing are crossing signs and black and white poles at the crossing, with fluorescent orange disks, or round yellow lights that flash at night.

White diamonds are generally painted on the road before the crossing, and a white limit line shows drivers where to stop.

### Who could be using a pedestrian crossing?

Pedestrians, prams and people using mobility devices (such as motorised wheelchairs and similar devices) and wheeled recreational vehicles (such as skateboards and foot-propelled scooters). When crossing using a skateboard or scooter it is safer to dismount and walk across the crossing. Bicycles must not be ridden across a pedestrian crossing.

### Driver behaviour on approach

Slow down and prepare to stop. You should always approach a pedestrian as if you would have to stop. Any user of a pedestrian crossing has the right of way.

Remember you are surrounded by steel, the pedestrian is not!

Stop for any pedestrians stepping onto, or on, the crossing – this also includes people obviously waiting to use the crossing.

Wait until the pedestrian has crossed in front of you and is clear of your vehicle before you proceed, elderly or those with impaired mobility may take longer to cross. Show patience, maybe even a smile and a wave.

### Driver NO-NOs at a crossing

- Don't overtake a vehicle stopped at a pedestrian crossing or that is slowing down at a pedestrian crossing.
- Don't honk your horn at the pedestrian.
- Don't speed up to beat a pedestrian who is approaching a pedestrian crossing.

### Things to think about

Children aren't little adults so don't expect them to act as adults do.

Unfortunately some children think of pedestrian crossings as magic barriers against cars, sadly they are not, so always be prepared to stop.

Be especially careful around the beginning and end of school times, but remember children and adults too could be using a pedestrian crossing at any time.





# We have Space to Grow

The South Waikato has Space to Grow. And we're talking about it! Talking about it far and wide with messages aimed at families trying to make ends meet in our major cities... struggling on household incomes that barely cover the rent!

Our marketing campaign clearly identifies that the Kiwi-dream is still achievable in the South Waikato. We have land, we have opportunity, we have lower cost of living. For a fraction of the cost of living in a city, a family of four can come here, buy a home, maybe even a business and never have to wait at a traffic light again!

"Council wanted to create a separate brand to improve our economic development profile with a focus on who we are, why we're a great place to invest and what opportunities abound," said Council's Digital Marketing Coordinator Anton Sudano.

Our Space to Grow logo represents our special environment, blue for our water and green for our forests, grasslands and native bush. Surrounded by white space, because we have Space to Grow. This brand is bedding down well online and getting traction and reach from people looking for an alternative to big city living.

"Our brand new attraction website highlights three key pillars – Invest, Live and Visit. Our initial focus has been on developing the Invest and Live pillars, with Visit taking a slight backseat," continued Anton.

The Invest pillar bundles together key aspects that business investors and entrepreneurs need to identify business opportunity. It details the Council support investors can expect, commercial and business land availability and businesses for sale. Local businesses can also create its own profile to promote itself and connect with other businesses.

The Live pillar paints a picture for people and families thinking about living here. It draws information on the property market, houses for rent and purchase, jobs that are available in the area, amenities, schools, health care, among other valuable relocation information.

The Visit pillar is populated with some valuable information that will be further developed down the line.

The Space to Grow website is self-populating drawing information from specialist sites like Trade Me and EventFinda. This ensures content is current and up to date.

Coupled with the website is supporting online presence platforms like the Space to Grow Facebook, Instagram and Linked In pages. All of these platforms work together to improve our online presence and make people take a second look at investing, living and visiting here.

Our summer marketing campaign had a focus on attracting young families and older people to take a good look at the South Waikato and what we have to offer.

The number of followers on the Space to Grow Facebook page is growing by around 128 new users a week; 56% female and 43% male, with the predominant age bracket of 25-54. Since the launch just before Christmas, we have received 15 private messages, our posts have generated 75 comments and have been shared 19 times.

Website traffic during December and January shows 9,353 page views with 6,337 being new visitors. Visitors are located predominantly in Auckland (51%) and Hamilton (14%) with Wellington (9%) and others from a range of areas including Christchurch and Tauranga. We currently have 18 conversations underway with various people spread across the Invest and Live pillars.

Visit [www.swnz.co](http://www.swnz.co) and have a browse around.



LESS TIME  
IN TRAFFIC



WHY  
RENT?



A GREAT  
PLACE FOR  
BUSINESS



MAKE  
THE MOVE



With 2020 upon us we have an exciting year ahead with some great shows planned for the enjoyment of our people. The South Waikato Arts Trust is also pleased to welcome new manager Ashleigh McCormack.

The Plaza is a performing arts venue, movie theatre and home to numerous community groups, as well as a facility for your private functions. Get in contact to discuss your needs!

**DREAMS - THE FLEETWOOD MAC EXPERIENCE!** 15 Feb, 7:30pm, tickets \$31.00 at the Plaza Theatre or on Eventfinda.

*'Dreams' is one of the most memorable musical experiences of the 70s and 80s.*

**HARMONIC RESONATORS and THE NUKES!** 29 Feb, 7:30pm, tickets from the Plaza Theatre or on Eventfinda.

*Two classic kiwi groups deliver an amazing musical performance, promising to have audiences singing-along, laughing outloud and tapping their toes. Great whanau entertainment.*

**The Victoria State Ballet presenting BEAUTY AND THE BEAST!** 21 March, 7:30pm.

**Movies Screenings will continue in 2020 - tickets are \$5 Students and \$8 Adults.**

**Hustlers** - Fri, 14 Feb, 7pm,

*Hustlers follows a crew of savvy former strip club employees who band together to turn the tables on their Wall Street clients. Jennifer Lopez at her best.*

**Judy** - Sun 23 Feb, 2pm

*Legendary performer Judy Garland arrives in London in the winter of 1968 to perform a series of sold-out concerts. Renee Zellweger's performance has won her the best actress award at the 2020 Golden Globes.*

Give the TV a skip, and join us at the Plaza!



07 883 8596/0276 559 715  
[www.plaza.org.nz](http://www.plaza.org.nz)  
Email: [theplaza@plaza.org.nz](mailto:theplaza@plaza.org.nz)  
Facebook: [theplazaputaruru](https://www.facebook.com/theplazaputaruru)

ENJOY THE THINGS THAT MATTER

## In Touch 50<sup>th</sup> issue -

*This issue of In Touch is our 50<sup>th</sup> issue!* So we're celebrating with a multiple choice quiz. Please answer the ten multiple choice questions below and either:

- Email your answers along with your name and phone number to [communications@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:communications@southwaikato.govt.nz); or
- Circle your answers, write your name and phone number on it and drop this page off at the offices in Tokoroa or Putāruru.

We need to receive your answer sheet by Friday 29 February. The winner will be drawn on Thursday 5 March. The first correct entry drawn will win a \$100 voucher from a local supermarket of their choice.

- What date was the first ever issue of In Touch?**
  - January 2013/February 2013
  - December 2011/January 2012
  - November 2010/December 2010
- What regular column in In Touch has been included in every issue ever produced?**
  - What's Hot
  - In Brief
  - The Plaza
- What image was used in the banner of the first In Touch?**
  - Te Puna (Blue Spring)
  - Waikato River
  - A Talking Pole
- How many issues of In Touch a year do we publish?**
  - Three
  - Four
  - Six
- When did South Waikato District Council celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> birthday?**
  - 2017
  - 2018
  - 2019
- How many Mayors have led South Waikato District Council?**
  - One
  - Two
  - Three
- How many staff currently (as at 16 January) work for South Waikato District Council?**
  - 95
  - 221
  - 175
- How many marae are mandated to the Raukawa Settlement Trust?**
  - 12
  - 4
  - 16
- What was the original name given to Tirau?**
  - Oxford
  - Cambridge South
  - Matamata County
- How long is the Waikato River trails?**
  - 50km
  - 75km
  - 103km
- What is the length of the Arapuni suspension bridge?**
  - 100m
  - 125m
  - 152m
- What is the name of the talking pole located at the round-about near the skatepark?**
  - Nga Hau e Wha
  - Life Force
  - Reflections

*\* Please note: Council staff and contractors and their families are not eligible to enter.*

# IN Touch

celebrates its

## 50<sup>th</sup> issue!

Be in to win!  
\$100 voucher

IN date

MAR

### Putāruru Hotel Indoor Market, Sunday 1 March.

Held on the first Sunday of every month, Putāruru Hotel. 11am – 3pm.

*A range of yummy food and local arts & crafts on sale. Everyone welcome.*

### Tirau and Putāruru Summer Pools close on Sat 14 March.

Come along and enjoy the last public day at the Tirau and Putāruru pools.

*Hours: 12noon to 6pm.*

### Putāruru Swimming Club host Club Race Day, Sunday 15 March.

Annual race day club meet, hosted by the Putāruru swimming club.

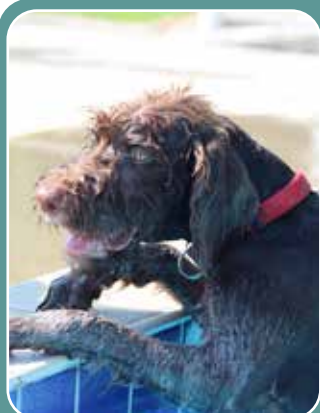
### Tirau Pool Pooch's Party, Sunday 15 March.

Pooch's Pool parties are a great day out for pets and their owners to enjoy the pools before they close for the season.

### Putāruru Pool Pooch's Party, Sunday 22 March.

Pooches Pool parties are a great day out for pets and their owners to enjoy the pools before they close for the season.

*The pooch's pool event is open to all South Waikato registered dogs and their owners. Gold coin entry fee.*



## 2020 Pooch's Pool Party

To celebrate the end of our summer season, Council will be hosting two pooch's pool parties when we close our seasonal pools. The parties proved very popular among our furry residents last year (and their owners, might we add), so we're excited to be hosting them again this year on Sunday 15 and 22 March.

We encourage small dogs between 1.00-2.30pm, followed by large dogs at 3.00-4.30pm.

*Please note: All dogs must be actively supervised and under control of their owners at all times. SWDC registered dogs only, you can register your dog on the day at the pools. All entry proceeds will be donated to SPCA.*



Install Antenna FREE  
Report issues to Council  
Receive messages from Council





## IN brief

Road rehabilitation on Leslie Road has been completed; and rehab will soon start on a section of Waotu South Road.

Work will soon be starting on the new Tokoroa Transfer Station at the Tokoroa landfill site. Users will start to see some changes at this operation. Please be mindful in the area.

Council will soon be kicking off a couple of community education campaigns with a focus on **3Ps only** and **no wipes down pipes**. Breaks to our wastewater system are caused by people putting unwanted items down the toilet. These items cause blockages, blockages need to be cleared, costing time and money. Keep an eye out for these campaigns. Let's all do our best to keep our wastewater system from blocking up!

The Creative Communities Scheme allocated almost \$16,000 during this round to five projects. The Community Development Grant Scheme allocated almost \$40,000 to 16 groups.

Council received 1,355 service requests during November and December last year. The most common reports were about water repairs and leaks, dogs roaming, and parks maintenance.

## 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).

## Councillor Sandra Wallace

Tena Koutou katoa

Welcome to 2020. I would like to thank everyone for their support and encouragement in my new Councillor role. I am really enjoying the new challenges and role. Our start to the Councillor year has involved lots of meetings, training and reading.

I am proud to be working with Hans Nelis and Gary Petley representing Putāruru and we are determined to make a difference in the next three years.

In December I was one of the judges at the Putāruru Float Parade which is always well attended and enjoyed by our Putāruru community.

There have been various service issues, which I have fed through to Council including, but not limited to, a broken rubbish bin, water leaks, potholes, an unkempt shop and more.

The Putāruru Councillors are keen to support the youth in our town, to listen to what they enjoy here, and what they would like to see in our district and we will do what we can to achieve results. This will be an awesome area for us to get our teeth into.

Putāruru can look forward to new subdivisions ahead which brings new housing opportunities. A change in rubbish collection with the introduction of wheelie bins will happen later in the year.

I look forward to being a very much hands on Councillor and will be looking for ways to have our towns and areas looking inviting, having things to do and an area we can be proud of.

## Deputy Mayor Bill Machen

Kia Ora and happy New Year to all, I hope all of you had a pleasant festive break and are ready to face the rigours of another year.

While, our first Council meeting was in the third week of January, I know most of Council continued to attend to issues in the district during the break.

We face another big year with major works to complete and others yet to start. Leith Place will be finished within a few months with the building of the toilets, shelters and Plaza area. I received many positive remarks from visitors about the new look to the town frontage and the remediation of state highway one through the town. It was pleasing to get these comments.

The big projects yet to start are the new facilities at the Tokoroa landfill, which includes a new transfer station and possibly a recycling facility. We also anticipate that wheelie bins will be rolled out in October. The landfill will then close for good towards the end of the year.

Lowering Lake Moananui to carry out silt removal from the silt trap at south end, and enable general maintenance of the Dam and the shore areas, will be done on a two year cycle going forward to ensure the depth of the lake is maintained.

A large, unseen, but costly project is the upgrade work at our wastewater plants to allow us to meet new clean water standards and renew our Resource Consents for this activity. This project has been under investigation for the past couple of years and we are now ready to proceed.

As always I am available to any citizens who wish to speak about council matters or need advice.



**Mayor Jenny Shattock**

0274 416 230

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## Tokoroa Ward



**Bill Machen**

**Deputy Mayor**

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**Ngapo-Lipscombe**

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