



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 55 - January (Kohitātea) / February (Haitāngara) 2021

Big decisions for Council and community... coming soon...

Council and the community both have a part to play in developing a ten year plan that ratepayers can afford and that delivers on the needs of the community.

There is a lot of pressure on councils to deliver cost effective services for the community now and into the future.

Council funds 20 services or activities. Some of these are costly, like wastewater and solid waste. Some are less costly like cemeteries and emergency management.

Some of our activities are funded solely by rates, such as economic development. Other activities are funded partly by rates and partly by user pays. Examples of these are our pools, libraries and transfer stations.

Some activities are only funded by targeted rates, like water supply which is only paid by urban ratepayers.

We are currently working through proposed budgets for the next ten years, that include:

- what we are **required** to do by Central Government legislation (such as improved wastewater requirements),
- what we have **already committed** to doing through previous consultation with the community (like wheelie bins), and
- what we **currently** do (business as usual) and enhanced services that we **want** to do to make this a great place to live, work and play (everything else).

Council has spent the past year talking with you through the town concept plans, reserve management plans, at workshops, at events and other engagement opportunities.

Your feedback is helping us develop the draft ten year plan that will be available for submissions in March. A Consultation Document will highlight key topics. Keep an eye out.

Council will be seeking general feedback on several issues like funding from Fees and Charges, the level of the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC), Development Contributions and policies; among others.

We will also be seeking your specific feedback on several significant consultation issues.

At the time of writing, these had yet to be finalised through LTP workshops, but will include some big questions about several facilities and services across the district.

We would love your continued feedback and engagement.

Running the district comes at a cost

Providing 'business as usual' comes at a cost.

It's not cheap to run a 'household' with 540 kms of roads, 2,644 streetlights, over 513 kms of water, stormwater and sewer pipes, six water treatment plants, three swimming pools, two libraries, 285 hectares of parks and reserves, 14 playgrounds, four cemeteries, two transfer stations, 34 public toilet blocks... and so much more... plus all the people and tools needed to manage them.

Not to mention all the business support services underpinning the efficient running of our 'household' – information technology, human resources, finance, strategic and community development, economic development, marketing, communications, regulation and compliance, governance, health and safety... and so on.



SECURE TODAY. SHAPE TOMORROW. STRONG FUTURE.

IN brief

- Full compliance with the Drinking Water Standards was achieved for December 2020.
- Tread board replacement on several playground modules were completed prior to Christmas. Work in early 2021 includes seating installations, replenishment of metal on reserve carparks and bollard installations.
- The new pedestrian crossing in Tirau is operational.
- Two trees in Logan Street are recommended to be removed due to ill health. This will occur in February.

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IN house

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

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Print: GASP Designs

Leith Place CBD project is in the home stretch

After what's been an eventful project, the Leith Place plaza area, including five new toilets and shelter, opened to the public in December.

This occurred just in time for the hugely successful Christmas Block Party, where it took centre stage for the evening event.

The project is entering its final stages of completion with new seating and planter boxes

still to be installed around Leith Place in the upcoming months. The remaining garden areas will be planted out in autumn.

Meanwhile we are working through minor refinements, such as improving ventilation and upgrading the door locks of the toilets.

While this project has seen its share of negative feedback, we're sure people will agree that the Christmas Block Party showcased just how versatile and energising this Leith Place space can be. The development has certainly brought rejuvenated life to the area.

It has been awesome seeing locals and bus visitors using the toilets and grassed plaza area for a break and to stretch their legs after having visited our Leith Place retailers for snacks, lunch and larger purchases.



Photo compliments: Nick Lambert / DCA Architects

Updates on the Waterpark project in Putāruru

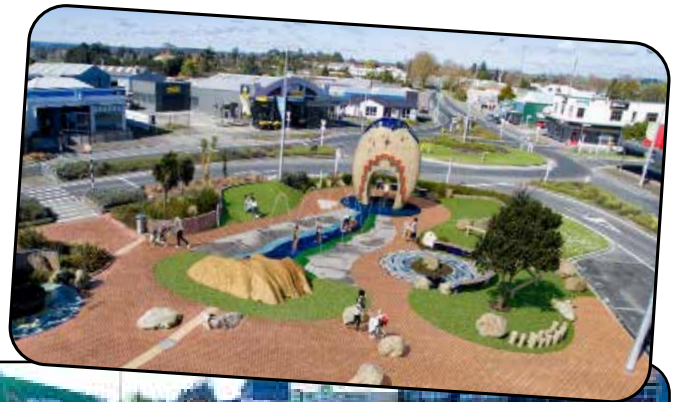
The concept design of the Putāruru Waterpark was enthusiastically received by members of the public during the engagement process that ran through September 2020. You told us you loved it, with a 100% positive response rate on the overall Matariki concept.

As mentioned during our public engagement Council had budgeted \$400,000 to refurbish the Waterpark by removing the water feature, repairing damage and giving the park a tidy-up. We are trying to deliver something of more value to our community and visitors than a simple refurbishment.

Our design partner, Gray Matter, is in the final stages of detailed design for Stage 1, which will enable Council to tender the construction phase to interested suppliers.

At this stage, we anticipate construction for Stage 1 to start in the second quarter of 2021.

During this time we hope to secure external funding for Stage 2 of the project – the water and anchor features. We will continue to provide updates as they occur in the upcoming months.



WHAT'S HOT



Seeing our reserves and Leith Place being used and appreciated by passers by, along with great respectful camping behaviour by most visiting our reserves.



Over 90 children completed the Summer Reading Programme (run by the SWDC libraries in Putāruru and Tokoroa and supported by the Lions. This programme has been running for 24 years.

Changing Waste Ways project

Council's new Changing Waste Ways project hopes to change waste behaviour and raise environmental awareness within the South Waikato.

As the lead for the Changing Waste Ways project, Rangimarie Smith's focus will be to educate the community in every aspect of waste management whilst making positive environmental, economic, social and cultural changes across our district.

Rangimarie hopes to achieve the following outcomes during the project:

- Our communities are actively engaging in recycling all products that meet the contractor criteria, ensuring that the quality and quantity of recyclable product is maximised.

- Our communities are actively engaging in diverting waste materials that still have value, and putting them back into circulation through reuse, repair, upcycle, refurbish and resale.

Beyond the term of the project, Rangimarie hopes the community will have the knowledge and confidence to make better consumer choices that minimise or exclude problematic or unnecessary packaging.

She believes that educating the community to change their waste behaviour and raising environmental awareness will succeed if supported by the right infrastructure to enable the community to do the right thing. Council is addressing the infrastructure aspect through the introduction of

WHAT'S NOT

Rubbish and littering that block our stormwater drains are a major cause of stormwater blockages.



Pointless vandalism of signs that need replacing at a further cost to ratepayers.



Having a brand new basketball hoop deliberately broken by one person in our community... to the detriment of many people who use the basketball courts with care and pride. If anyone knows more about this incident please contact Council. By the time you read this, a new hoop should have been installed and play for our enthusiastic basketballers can resume!



large wheelie bins for kerbside recycling, and the new Transfer Station in Tokoroa.

Through this project, Rangimarie plans to engage our communities using direct methods, creating good practice and behaviour change targeted to minimise waste and maximise resource use; starting with group and testing

solutions and ideas on a small-scale first.

Council wants to make it easy for people to change behaviours, through providing solutions, education and knowledge. We expect to improve the quality and quantity of recovered materials, resulting in social and economic benefits.



Tokoroa Digester works on track



Works have started back on site after the festive break with Spartan looking to start the year the way they finished last year, with good progress and works being completed safely.

Following the little shake on Christmas Day, the team undertook a review of works completed to date and gave the site the all clear. With three of the four tank's bases and walls constructed on site, the next phase includes quite an exciting and intricate crane lift operation to install the tank rooves.

The roof of the largest tank - the actual digester, had a support beam of just over 12 meters arrive on site in January. Getting the roof on this main tank is a significant milestone for the project. The concrete roof will be poured on site and is a challenging bit of work to complete. The initial location and levels for the building works have also started for the construction of the main building.



With both these aspects of the build occurring concurrently and process equipment turning up, the site will be busy over the coming months. Council is pleased with the progress and how well the site is taking shape. The project is on track to be completed in August.

Creative hubs promoting local artists

Impact Hub Waikato officially opened up Our Space in late 2020. It's an inspiring place for entrepreneurs in Leith Place, Tokoroa. Our Space is a collaborative project which brings together a number of different organisations to inspire and enable entrepreneurs in our region.

Pop in and check out the amazing range of local art, clothing, jewellery and homewares for sale.



Māketē Mahi Toi was another creative space supporting Putāruru artisans. Māketē Mahi Toi opened its doors in November 2020.

Operating from the old Edmeades Jewellers site in Princes Street in Putāruru, Māketē Mahi Toi showcased knitted products, dreamcatchers, soaps, herbs and veggies, Indian snacks and sweets, health food, jewellery and pottery.



TALKING ROAD SAFETY

As the holidays come to an end, it is time to consider how your child will travel to school. As a parent, have you done enough to ensure your child travels safely by foot, scooter or car?

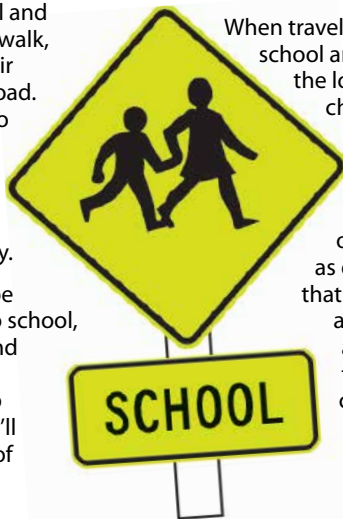
If your child walks to school, ensure they know the safest route and crossing points. Regardless if your child is returning to the same school, it is always good to walk the route with them to ensure that nothing has changed. A good tip is at any areas where the child has to cross the road, kneel down so your eyes are at their level to get their view of the world. You may be surprised at how limited their view can be!

If your child is riding their scooter, again travel the route with them and ensure they know how to safely scooter. A helmet is essential and encourage them to walk, rather than ride, their scooter across the road. Remind your child to be aware of other footpath users, especially the elderly and those with limited mobility.

If you are going to be driving your child to school, try leaving earlier and park away from the school gate for drop off and pickups. You'll find there is plenty of

parking, plus it will give you and your child time to talk and discuss their day. Maybe even talk about road safety as you walk. Never wait for your children on the other side of the road. Always cross to your children.

Important reminder to all parents - the yellow no parking lines around schools are there for a very important reason! These lines ensure there's enough visibility for those using the crossings and to ease congestion around the school gates. They are no parking zones so you cannot stop even if you stay in your car.



When travelling past school areas be on the lookout for children at all times. Remember a child's perception of traffic is not as developed as that of an adult, and they don't always make the correct choices.

Cargill School engages in pools redevelopment

It was exciting to have the students at Cargill School provide their feedback for the recent engagement sessions for redevelopment of the South Waikato Indoor Heated Pools. Students came up with a range of ideas to enhance the pools, including play features and water slides. Council staff were impressed with the thoughtfulness and time taken by students to provide their ideas, which have been incorporated into the Master Plan. This will be out for consultation as part of the Long Term Plan and we look forward to involving the students further through this process. The students were given free pool passes to thank them for their efforts.



Helping keep cemetery maintenance efficient



To our community who visit their departed loved ones in any of our four cemeteries, just a reminder that we have a few necessary rules in place to ensure that the grounds can be maintained efficiently and effectively for the enjoyment of all.

"Council and contractor staff have noticed that glass receptacles are on the increase," said Nathan Bunting, Council's Parks Officer. "We need to remember that glass receptacles create a safety issue as they break easily. Flowers are welcome, but please use receptacles from safer materials like plastic."

Another issue that seems to be on the rise is private chairs. Council encourages visitors to rather bring folding chairs that

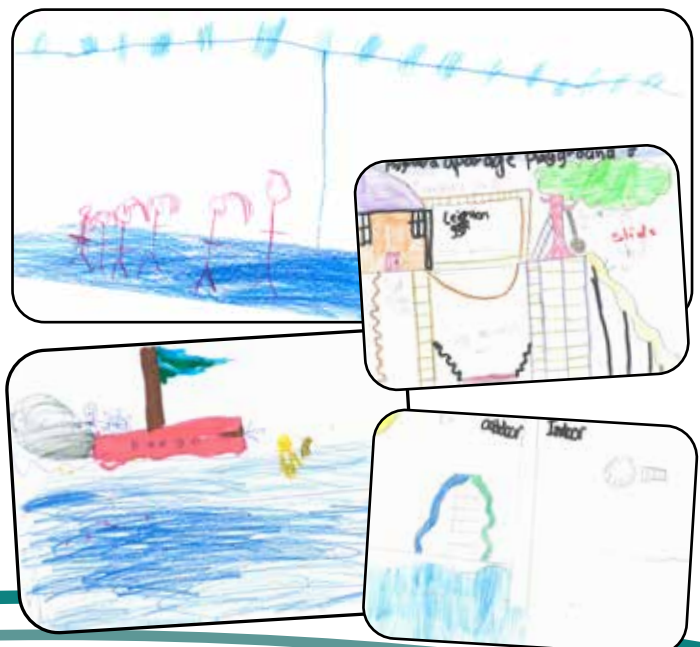
are light and easy to carry that can be removed each time.

"We know that folding chairs are not suitable for some of our older cemetery visitors so more permanent private seating is allowed, but these must be light enough to be moved by one person during maintenance," Mr Bunting continued.

Heavy plot toppings like concrete pavers and timber edging are also not permitted.

Adornments are only to be placed within one metre from the berm so that our grounds crew can keep the cemetery environment neat and tidy.

The cemeteries bylaw can be found on Council's website.





Christmas celebrations

Every year the South Waikato communities come together to celebrate the festive season. To kick start the 2020 festive celebrations, Pride in Putāruru held its annual Christmas parade on Friday 11 December. No surprise, it's always a popular parade with over 20 floats and a great turn out from the community. The parade travels from Glenshea Park down Princes Street and returns back to the park. At the conclusion of the parade, everyone went to Glenshea Park turning it into an amazing family picnic atmosphere that saw the largest crowd ever relax and enjoy the rest of the evening.

The following day, Saturday 12 December, Tokoroa celebrated its Christmas Twilight Block party. This event was a collaborative effort from numerous community organisations and Council. The event consisted of the Christmas parade, entertaining block party and late night madness market. The Twilight Block Party saw over 3,000 people pack out the Tokoroa CBD to see the parade, block party performances in Leith Place and enjoy the local market. The grand finale of the event was a seven minute firework display from Colson's Hill, which could be seen from homes and streets all over Tokoroa.



Special thank you to: South Waikato YMCA, Wera Aotearoa Charitable Trust, Creative Arts Tokoroa, Ironic NZ, Raukawa FM, Cruise FM, Raukawa Charitable Trust, Tokoroa City Lions, NZ Police, GO Bus, Downer, Allied Security, South Waikato Vet Services, South Waikato District Council and most importantly the South Waikato community.





Mayor's Business Breakfast attracts 150 business leaders

The Mayor's Business Breakfast held just prior to Christmas last year was a great opportunity for South Waikato business people to hear some inspiring stories and presentations, network together and relax over breakfast after what can only be described as a massive year.

"Nothing has had more of an impact on the world in the last decade than COVID-19," said Mayor Jenny Shattock. "We survived with a renewed recognition of the importance of the primary sector and businesses. Attracting, facilitating and enhancing business in the South Waikato remains a focus for Council going forward."

Noteworthy insights from the event include:

- Enabling young people to get full driver licences is a key project of the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust. Full licences are a key to employee success. -SWIFT
- South Waikato District Council is pro-development, not just now moving forward, but for

the past decade. The district is a standout for several reasons – the people, the heart of the South Waikato and the community is unlike anywhere in NZ. -Honourable Louise Upston

- The primary sector is critically important. South Waikato is a good place to build businesses and create employment. -Heyden Farms
- Developing a voice for forestry through the Central North Island Wood Council will provide support to the forestry sector. -Hancock Forest Management
- Partnerships are key to an amazing future together through innovation and thinking. We can do it, we are doing it today and we can do it better tomorrow. -Raukawa

Mayor Shattock wrapped the event up by thanking everyone for attending and sharing their inspiring stories.

"Together we can do this. We can recover. We can succeed," she concluded.



Upcoming events: Sat 13 Feb, 7pm - Arts on Tour Production, South of France, Fiona Pears and Connor Hartley-Hall - Gypsy Jazz Duo. Tickets \$15 each from The Plaza and Eventfinda.

Sun 28 Feb, 2pm - Movie - Hope Gap (2019) - story of love, betrayal, support and regaining your footing after heartache. Tickets: students \$5 and adults \$8.

Sat 13 March, 8pm - Showtime Australia is bringing a Neil Diamond Tribute to our stage. Tickets available soon.

Sun 14 March, 2pm - South Waikato Music Society presents Dave Flynn, award-winning composer/guitarist Dave Flynn is touring New Zealand again with a new genre-jumping show of virtuoso guitar music. Tickets: adults \$25, members \$20, students free. Door sales only.

REGULAR USERS:

Mahjong - Mondays, 12.30pm

50+ Putāruru - Tuesdays, 12pm

Sign Language Class - Tuesdays, 5pm

SWPICS - Keep moving class - Wednesdays, 1.30pm

Dancefit886 (ZUMBA) - Wednesdays, 5.30pm

Grey Power - fourth Thursday of every second month, 1pm

St Patricks Indoor Bowling - Thursdays, 6.30pm (March-September)

Putāruru Redcross - second Friday of every second month, 1.30pm

South Waikato Country Music - fourth Friday of every month, 7pm

SW Music Society - Sundays as required - visit: www.southwaikatomusic.org/.



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IN date



Annual Cheese Rolling
 Saturday 13 March. Fun times from 1pm to 4.30pm, next to the Tokoroa Transfer Station. Gold coin donation per each activity. Everyone welcome.

Summer Pools
 The Tirau and Putāruru summer pools officially close for the 2020-2021 season on 20 March.

Annual Pooches party
 Pack a picnic and bring your fur babies along for a swim at the pools for the Pooches Pool Party.

Tirau - 21 March.
 Putāruru - 28 March.



Supersports
 21, 22 and 23 February. Supersports weekend event is held annually to raise funds for South Waikato sports people competing in international events. South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, Tokoroa.

Dynamo Cycle Series
 28 February. A six round team based series with different grades to suit all levels, the series offers a challenge to all competitive cyclists. South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, Tokoroa.

Check out Council's website for more events:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

Anyone can submit an event using the blue SUBMIT EVENT button on the right of the Events Calendar page to display their event here.

IN brief

- The new carpark for the Tokoroa basketball court is expected to be complete by early February.
- Pool usage numbers are up over December 2019 by over 1,000 visits.
- New water restriction signs were installed in Arapuni.
- Powerco is working towards providing a detailed plan for the proposed SW National Grid Connection by mid-2021. For more on this project visit: www.powercodelivering.co.nz/projects/south-waikato-national-grid-connection.
- The Warm Homes Clean Air programme is making good progress with close to 70% of budget committed.
- The Tirau i-SITE building improvements are scheduled to start soon.
- Following a recent incident Council has updated its procedures regarding placement of crosses at the airfield during community events. NOTAMs are the primary closure regulation process. Cross placement is an additional safety measure but is not required.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with council information via:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

[www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)

Download Antenna FREE

or email
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email contact: kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz

Councillor Bill Machen

May 2021 be a less stressful year than the last one for everyone.

Many of the projects that Council has been working on are coming to fruition. Leith Place, with the installation of seating and summer shade equipment to be finished. Youth Park Basketball court complete and being well used. When the off street parking area is finished this will complete a fine facility for the youth of Tokoroa. Don't worry Putāruru and Tirau, your improved facilities are on the Council programme.

The Tokoroa Transfer Station has been completed and is being well used. A much cleaner and more efficient way of disposing of recycling and rubbish will be complete with the arrival of wheelie bins later this year.

Council's largest, most expensive and often unseen improvements are in the three waters area - drinking water, wastewater and stormwater. Many millions of dollars are being spent to ensure safer drinking water and cleaner discharge of wastewater to our waterways and environment. A new wastewater digester will soon be commissioned at the Tokoroa Treatment Plant and upgrades to Tirau, Arapuni and Putāruru are all to take place. Total costs of these works is in the tens of millions and this is being financed through low interest loans from the local bodies loans authority and the loaned money repaid over an extended period (an intergenerational loan). Council has a strong balance sheet and is well able to sustain the repayments.

Our Long Term Plan (ten year plan) will be available soon for public consultation and comment. Please take the time to read this important document and make your thoughts known in writing or by speaking with a district Councillor.

Councillor Sandra Wallace

Welcome to 2021.

I look forward to a busy year ahead.

One of the highlights for me for the end of 2020 and running into 2021 was the Māketē Mahi Toi – the pop up store in the old Edmeades Jewellers shop in Putāruru. This was a Council funded project which I was heavily involved in. It started as an idea and ended with a pop up shop in an empty space that gave local artisans a place to sell their wares and bring some more activity into Princes Street. This store proved to be very popular leading up to Christmas and the greatest outcome is that the local artisans have now taken on the lease of this shop.

Shop local has been a big emphasis for our whole district and this is important moving forward as well.

There has been significant interest in new subdivisions and many sections have already sold. Houses are in short supply and sell very quickly.

Another focus for me is the tidiness of Putāruru and I continue to organise working bees to tidy up areas where needed and continue painting to enhance our town as well. Feel free to join in or ask about these.

Putāruru Councillors are passionate about our town and district and really want to do what we can to build and support Putāruru and the surrounding district. We are particularly keen on supporting our youth and first on our list is to see the Putāruru Youth hub up and running. We are also pushing for the development of the new skatepark for Putāruru which is in the budget for the 2021-22 financial year. We are Councillors for the whole South Waikato, but Putāruru is our heart.



Mayor Jenny Shattock

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