



Te Waihou Walkway. Visitors and residents can once again wander parts of Te Waihou Walkway to view the Blue Spring.

Celebrating Excellence: South Waikato District Council Awards 2025 Mayoral Scholarships



In a heartwarming celebration of academic excellence, the Council proudly announced the recipients of the 2025 Mayoral Scholarship Fund. This year, the prestigious \$10,000 scholarships have been awarded to two outstanding young women: Jacqueline Colliar from Tokoroa High School and Rebekah Coop from Putāruru College.

The announcement was made by Mayor Gary Petley and Deputy Mayor Hamish Daine during the prize-giving ceremonies at the respective schools. Mayor Petley highlighted the significance of the scholarships, stating,



“This scholarship is our way of helping our rangatahi achieve their dreams and career aspirations. Our young people have worked incredibly hard this year, and they should be very proud of their achievements. Congratulations to our District’s two outstanding young wahine who excelled in a highly competitive field. They can now enjoy the rewards of their hard mahi.”

Jacqueline will be pursuing a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree at the University of Waikato and Rebekah plans to study for a Bachelor of Commerce degree at the

University of Otago. Both young women have demonstrated remarkable dedication and passion for their chosen fields.

Since its inception in 2006, the SWDC’s Mayoral Scholarship has been a beacon of support for over 22 young people in their educational journeys. Colin Phayer, a former recipient, shared his gratitude, saying, “The scholarship funds provided a significant boost at the start of each semester. It allowed me to focus solely on my studies without needing a job, which was incredibly helpful. The financial support came at the perfect time, helping with everything from settling into a flat to buying necessary supplies for university living.”

This year’s scholarship recipients are a testament to the talent and hard work of South Waikato’s youth, and their achievements are a source of inspiration for the entire community.

IN HOUSE

Produced in-house for South Waikato residents by the SWDC communications team:

Lisa Chunder, Corey Rosser and Grace Ratima



Celebrating 70 years of the Putāruru War Memorial Pools



On 9 November 2024, the Putāruru War Memorial Pools celebrated its 70th birthday with a pool party, complete with a live DJ, sausage sizzle and water and boating safety activities. This birthday marks a significant milestone for this cherished community hub which has long been a favourite gathering spot for residents. Janice Eland, Council's Leisure Services Manager expressed her appreciation for the community and partner organisations who made the day a success. "More than 180 people attended throughout the day. We are grateful for the support from Pride in Putaruru – Blue Light – Scott Mathis Property Brokers – Volunteer Fire Brigade & 883 Tamariki," she said.

A Summer-Ready Facility

Earlier this year, the pools wrapped up several key upgrades, marking the completion of a series of upgrades spanning the past two financial years. Both the adults' and children's pools were

relined, and broken pool tiles were replaced. The refurbishments built upon a comprehensive improvement plan initiated previously. The first phase saw a rejuvenation of the changing rooms, including upgraded facilities for both genders and enhanced storage areas, plus a new barbecue area, further enhancing the pool facilities. Last year, the pools received other enhancements, including the expansion of the parking area to accommodate more cars, an entry kiosk, upgraded perimeter fencing and railings along the Glenshea Memorial Park footpath. The recent upgrades ensure that these facilities remain a safe, welcoming, and enjoyable space for everyone. Whether you're a regular swimmer or a first-time visitor, the Putāruru Pools are ready to provide a fantastic summer experience.

The Putāruru Pools opened on Saturday 9 November and the Tīrau Pools opened on Saturday 2 December. Both pools will run throughout the entire summer season.

SUMMER POOL HOURS (WEATHER PERMITTING)

PUTĀRURU POOLS

Term Time:

Mon-Fri: 2pm-3pm Lane Swim
3pm-6pm General Swim

Sat-Sun: 12pm-6pm General Swim

Tue & Thu: 6pm-7.30pm Swimming Club

School Holidays

Mon-Sun: 12pm-6pm General Swim

TĪRAU POOLS

Term Time

Mon-Fri: 3 - 6pm

Weekends: 1-6pm

School Holidays

Mon - Sun: 1-6pm

Some photos from back in the day



SWIFT SCHOLARSHIP HELPS ANDREW NAIRN PURSUE PASSION IN HEALTH AND SPORT

For first-year Bachelor of Health, Sport and Human Performance student Andrew Nairn, a scholarship funded by the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT) has been a game-changer.

Andrew, who grew up in Tokoroa and attended Forest View High School, is studying at the University of Waikato, majoring in Human Performance Science and minoring in Sport Development and Coaching. Despite the commute to Hamilton, he continues to live in Tokoroa because he wants to stay connected with his hometown community.

"I've lived my entire life here, with my parents and older brother," says Andrew. "My family has been closely tied with the community for a long time. My father and grandfather were active with the Tokoroa Axemen's Association, and my grandfather was a JP. I do crossfit and have competed in many competitions over the years and I was captain of the Forest View High School soccer team."

Once a shy kid, Andrew joined a gym four years ago and that helped him grow, get out of his shell and develop into a completely different person. "I quickly learnt that health and fitness was my passion. My main influencer has been my dad who has been going to the gym with me and has always been a great motivator and competitor with me."

Now nearing the end of his first year at university, Andrew is considering continuing his education with a master's degree. His long-term goal is to return to Tokoroa as a gym trainer or a strength and conditioning coach for a professional sports team. "I want to give back to the community that has given me so much."

The SWIFT scholarship, which Andrew heard about through Forest View High School assistant principal Jason Jowett, played a crucial role in his ability to attend university. The \$1,000 scholarship allowed him to purchase a laptop, essential for his studies. "I am unsure I would have been able to attend university without it," he says.

For anyone from South Waikato considering higher education, Andrew's message is clear: "This scholarship helped me pursue my passion. It was super easy to apply for, and I'd recommend it to anyone looking to study."



Huge congratulations to **Tokoroa Intermediate School's Rusty Demon eVLocity team** for scooping Second Place at the recent competition! The TIS Rusty Demons placed second overall in the standard bike category and took out the Earth Care Award for the Waikato/BoP Region.



How cozy! Head into **The Dog at Tirau** and check out the new space for library books and readers. We have received positive feedback from locals and visitors.

One of the highlights is that the stained glass window which is a scene of the region, is now a key feature of the space.



WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

BBQ Woes at Tirau Domain.

It's been a tough time for the community BBQ at Tirau Domain. Unfortunately, the BBQ door has been damaged and the gas bottle stolen not once, but twice recently. This has put a damper on many planned gatherings.



Graffiti continues to be a persistent problem in our District. With more than 100 tags per month, vandalism costs ratepayers and Council valuable resources that could be better spent elsewhere.



2024 Festive Season Closure Hours

	Fri 20 Dec	Sat 21 Dec	Sun 22 Dec	Mon 23 Dec	Tues 24 Dec	Wed 25 Dec	Thurs 26 Dec	Fri 27 Dec
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Council

Tokoroa Council office	Open - closes midday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed
Putāruru Council office/ library	Normal hours	Normal hours	Closed	Normal hours	Open - closes midday	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed
The Dog, Tīrau	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours	Normal hours	Open - closes 12pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	10am – 3pm

Rubbish &

Tokoroa Transfer Station	Normal hours	9am - 4pm	9am - 6pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm
Putāruru Transfer Station	Closed	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	Closed
Tīrau recycling drop-off zone	Closed	1pm - 5pm	Closed	1pm - 5pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed

Leisure

Tokoroa Library	Normal hours	Normal hours	Closed	Normal hours	Open - closes mid-day	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed
Animal Shelter	Normal hours	Closed	Closed	Normal hours	Open - closes mid-day	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed
SW Sport and Events Centre	8.30am - 3pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed
Tokoroa Indoor Pools	6am - 3pm	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	10am – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	10am – 6pm
Putāruru Pool	12pm - 3pm	12pm – 6pm	12pm - 6pm	12pm - 6pm	12pm – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	12pm – 6pm
Tīrau Pool	1pm - 3pm	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	1pm – 6pm

www.southwaikato.govt.nz | 07 885 0340

@southwaikatodistrictcouncil | info@southwaikato.govt.nz

Offices and facilities opening days and times are not as normal during the festive break. Check out the opening times below

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
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Offices

Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed	Closed	Closed
Closed	Closed	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	9am – 4pm	Normal hours	Closed
10am – 3pm	10am – 3pm	10am – 3pm	10am – 3pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	10am – 3pm	10am – 3pm	10am – 3pm

Recycling

9am - 4pm	9am - 6pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	9am - 6pm
9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	Closed	9am - 4pm	9am - 4pm
1pm - 5pm	Closed	1pm - 5pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	1pm - 5pm	Closed

Facilities

Closed	Closed	9am – 4pm	9am – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	9am – 4pm	Normal Hours	Closed
Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed	Closed	Closed
Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed PH	Closed PH	Closed	Closed	Closed
10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	10am – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm
12pm – 6pm	12pm – 6pm	12pm – 6pm	12pm – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	12pm – 6pm	12pm – 6pm	12pm – 6pm
1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 4pm	Closed PH	Closed PH	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm	1pm – 6pm

HAPPY Holidays from



Top Tips for Being the Ultimate Party Host



Achieving the title of the ultimate party host among your whānau and friends is a goal many strive for. But hosting a Christmas party isn't just about great music, delicious food, and fun dancing. Ensuring your guests' safety is crucial. Here are SWDC's top tips to help you become the ultimate Christmas party host:

Chill:

- Set your fridge temperature between 2°C and 4°C to prevent harmful bacteria growth.
- Keep cold dishes in the fridge until serving and store raw meats and seafood in the fridge until cooking.

Clean:

- Wash hands between handling different foods.
- Clean benchtops, cooking tools, and barbecues before and after use.

Gathered/Recreationally Caught Food:

- Wash gathered foods like pūha or watercress.
- Ensure kai moana or seafood is collected from clean, pollution-free areas.

Cook:

- Cook chicken, mince, and sausages thoroughly; pork and poultry should be cooked until juices run clear.
- Cover cooked meat and store it on the bottom shelf of the fridge to prevent juices from contaminating other foods.

- Keep meat products away from ready-to-eat foods like fruits and vegetables.
- Use an icepack or chilly bin to keep food cold when eating outdoors.

General Tips:

- Have plenty of substantial food options like cooked ham, which pairs well with bread, salads, and steaks.
- Respect your neighbours by keeping music and noise levels reasonable.
- Provide non-alcoholic beverages such as soda, juices, tea, coffee, or a homemade summer punch.
- Ensure guests have a sober driver or take their keys upon arrival, returning them only if they are fit to drive.
- Offer beds for guests who need to sleep off their drinks.
- Inform neighbours if your party might run late to maintain good relations.
- Keep goodbyes short and quiet to avoid disturbing neighbours.

By following these tips, you'll ensure a safe and enjoyable party for everyone!

IF YOU ARE ATTENDING A PARTY HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO ENSURE THAT YOU'RE SAFE

- Try and drink a couple of glasses of water or eat some food before you leave home.
- If you are driving there, make sure that you have a sober driver or that you intend to stay the night at wherever the party is.
- Don't let your drink leave your hands. If you have to put it down and come back to – get another glass and/or bottle.
- Don't mix drugs and alcohol.
- Eat if you can. Christmas is a great excuse to put on a few kgs... take advantage of this!
- Go with a mate. Have a secret word for when you want to go home.

Above all, as the advert says - There's more to lose than your licence. Drinking? Don't drive.

TOKOROA PUBLIC LIBRARY SET FOR \$2M UPGRADE



The Tokoroa Public Library is gearing up for a significant \$2 million upgrade project. Due to the renovation, library services have temporarily relocated to 211 Leith Place.

This project is part of the Council's investment in Leisure and Wellbeing Services, highlighted in the newly-adopted Long Term Plan 2024-2034. In addition to addressing weather tightness issues, the work will allow for better use of the existing space and for the addition of a dedicated room which the community can book for meetings and activities. The finished project will also see the introduction of self-scanning kiosks at the library alongside the existing customer service team, offering users another avenue for convenience.

Mayor Gary Petley emphasised the importance of this project, stating, "We're prioritising looking after what we have over building new, extending the facility's life for up to ten years. This upgrade will provide a fit-for-purpose facility that better meets our community's needs." The work is planned to be completed by mid-2025, at which point the library will return to the refurbished building at 68/58 Mannering Street.

WAIKATO WATERS REQUIRES FUTURE DECISIONS



During its first year, the Coalition Government scrapped the previous government's Three Waters legislation and work programme.

This change was signalled during the 2023 general elections, and the new direction is Local Waters Done Well (LWDW) where the focus is on councils voluntarily working regionally on what future water service solutions could be for them.

Here in the South Waikato District, Council is currently working on two projects in this space.

Firstly, a Water Services Delivery Plan which needs to be with Central Government by September 2025. The plan will show how Council would future manage the water assets, services and costs in giving effect to the LWDW legislation requirements.

That plan would need to be completed and approved by Council before the government deadline of September 2025.

Secondly, through Co-Lab, Council is involved with work around a possible regional approach to water services through the Waikato Waters Done Well initiative. This involves Thames/Coromandel, Hauraki, Matamata-Piako, Waikato District, Waikato Regionals, Waipa, Otorohonga, Waitomo, South Waikato District and Taupo councils.

Central government has made it clear that affordable and safe water services and delivery is what it expects of local government and working with like-minded councils may provide the scale and opportunities individual councils can't.

Elected members will be considering the South Waikato District position before the end of the year, and it is anticipated some options around this will be consulted with the wider community in the first quarter of 2025.

A Waikato regional aggregated entity delivering waters services is likely to be one of the options to be consulted on.

For the latest news on what is going on in the local waters' space you can find that at www.southwaikato.govt.nz.

NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



Upcoming Events

- **New Release Book Launch!**
Hear Me by R.H Rose - A compelling book about a Mother and Daughter caught up in their story of historical trauma.
Friday 13 December from 6pm
- **Sunday Movie: White Christmas (1954)**
A successful song-and-dance team become romantically involved with a sister act and team up to save the failing Vermont inn of their former Commanding General. Dress up in your Christmas best!
Sunday 15 December at 2pm \$10 entry



- **The Plaza Christmas Break Closure**
We will be taking a break over the Christmas period, from 20 December and we will be back on Monday 20 January 2025.

Sign up to our monthly newsletter through our website www.plaza.org.nz to keep up to date on our events.

CONTACT THE PLAZA

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Web: www.plaza.org.nz



Top Tips for Towing

With summer here and the holidays approaching, it's a great time to tackle long-delayed projects, like using your trailer for large supplies or recycling.

Here are some safety tips:

Legal Requirements:

- Display a current warrant of fitness and vehicle registration label.
- Have at least one red rear-facing light; if registered after 1 January 1978 and over 1.5m wide, two rear-facing lamps.
- Stop lights if registered after 1 April 2012.
- Two rear red reflectors, one on each side.
- A white light for the registration plate.
- Rear indicator lights if registered after 1 April 2012.

Maintenance Tips:

- Check tyre pressure and look for wear or damage.
- Clean all lights and reflectors.
- Spin the wheels to check for rumbling noises indicating worn bearings.

Loading Tips:

- Ensure downward force on the tow bar.
- Spread the load evenly and keep it low.
- Position loads close to the axle and avoid heavy objects at the rear.

Driving Tips:

- Maximum speed is 90kph; drive slower if needed.
- Allow extra time for your journey and regular stops to check the load.
- Use the four-second rule for stopping distance, more if wet.
- Plan stops to check the load and ensure safety chains and couplings are secure.
- Avoid holding up traffic; pull over to let others pass.
- For reversing, get help to guide you.

Stay safe and enjoy your projects!



DECEMBER

Saturday 28

Street Rodders Drag Racing Event from 9am to 4pm. \$20 for adults, under 16 FREE

JANUARY

Saturday 4

Tokoroa Aero Club - Training Day

Friday 17 - Sunday 19

NZ Jet Model Association - Jet Unmanned Aircraft Operating SFC to 1000ft AGL

Saturday 18 & Sunday 19

Tokoroa Kart Club - Race Weekend

Saturday 25 & Sunday 26

Auckland Motorcycle Club - Bucket Championships at the Tokoroa Kart Club track

FEBRUARY

Saturday 1

Tokoroa Aero Club - Training Day

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2

Tokoroa Kart Club - Race Weekend

Saturday 8

Street Rodders Drag Racing Event from 9am-4pm. \$20 for adults, under 16 FREE

Friday 14 - Sunday 16

NZ Jet Model Association - Jet Unmanned Aircraft Operating SFC to 1000ft AGL

Friday 28

Street Rodders Drag Racing Event from 9am - 4pm. \$20 for adults, under 16 FREE

Friday 28 - Sunday 2 March

South Waikato Motocross Club Day

CLUB DETAILS FOR ENQUIRIES

New Zealand Jet Model Association

Website: www.nzjma.com

Email: secretary@nzjma.com

Tokoroa Kart Club

Email: president@kartsporttokoroa.co.nz

Tokoroa Street Rodders

Call Matt on 0275223883

Tokoroa Aero Club

Aero Club Facebook page

Call Luke on 021 190 7151

Auckland Motorcycle Club

Email: David Diprose at david@diproses.com

South Waikato Motorcycle Club

Email: swmcc-sec@hotmail.com

READ IN TOUCH? PROVE IT...

... and be in to win a lucky dip \$50 supermarket voucher.

We will be running this competition every issue. The answers to the five questions below are in this issue – December 2024. You have to get them all correct to be in the draw.

Text your answers and your name to 027 287 5980 or private message our Facebook page by 15 January 2025.

1. Where has the Tokoroa Library temporarily relocated to?
2. In which year was the SWDC Mayoral Scholarship fund established?
3. How old is the Putāruru War Memorial Pools?
4. What is the name of Tokoroa Intermediate School's eVLOCITY team?
5. On what date did the Tīrau pools open for the season?

Congratulations to Fiona from Tīrau who was drawn as the lucky winner for the October 2024 In Touch competition. Thank you to all those who entered. Try again this issue!

The correct answers were:

1. 6 years, 2. 2006, 3. Generation Programme,
4. Pedestrian Crossing / suspension bridge, 5. Pools / rates / pensioner housing / leak detectors / housing development.



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