



World Water Day

World Water Day, observed every year on 22 March reminds us of the importance of water in our daily lives.

While it's easy to take clean water for granted, the reality is that many people around the world face water scarcity. As we mark World Water Day this year, we can look at simple ways to conserve water. Little steps like taking shorter showers, using a hand-held hose to water your garden, fixing leaks and turning off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving can make a big impact.

We're often asked, what does Council do anyway?

Turn that around. Instead ask: what would life be like if Council didn't do what it does?

While there will always be differences between services that everyone uses or can use and some targeted services in our urban towns alone, for the vast majority of ratepayers, imagine this:

- toilets not flushing waste away
- no drinkable water coming out of your taps
- rubbish piling up
- flash floods when it rains...

- and that's before you leave your house.

Once outside, it's libraries, swimming pools, footpaths, parks, reserves, playgrounds, emergency response, animal control, local roads, transfer stations, safe places to eat, job creation and countless other things that make up what Council does to build thriving communities.

On the flip side, it costs money to deliver these services. We all know costs have increased dramatically. Council borrows money for infrastructure, so that the capital and interest can be shared by generations that benefit from it.

Council must continue to provide infrastructure that supports growth in the District. New businesses and new industries provide jobs for our people. New housing developments provide houses for people to live. We need to keep pace so that we can attract and support economic opportunities and community growth.

If you look at the scope of services Council offers, paying rates is one of the best values you get for your hard-earned dollar.

All councils, including ours, face high interest rates on borrowings, must maintain and renew increasingly ageing infrastructure and tackle sky-rocking increases in materials and labour and increased costs of compliance from central government – **these are all out of our control.**

That all sounds a bit doom and gloomy, but... fortunately, our Council is ahead of the curve.

"We bit the bullet last year and increased our rates to provide breathing space to look at our cost structure and get ahead of the curve. Our staff have done considerable mahi on tightening our belt," said Council's Manukura/Chief Executive Susan Law.

"Our mahi in this space is continuous. It is unlikely that we will need to repeat the high rate increase of last year," said Mayor Gary Petley. "We know such an increase was tough for many but our decision to go ahead with it, has put our Council in a much better position for the coming year."

Certainly, this is true when compared with what other councils are considering.

"Last year we decided not to kick the can down the road. Instead, we started to tackle our financial issues and find long term solutions to financial sustainability. As a result, we're in a better position for the preparation of the Long Term Plan," said Ms Law.

"We talked about all the things we can't control earlier in this article. What **IS** in our control is working with our communities to find out where the compromises are and where the focus needs

to be. That's where public feedback on our Long Term Plan (LTP) comes in," said Mayor Petley.

Council's 2024-34 LTP is still several months away from being ready for consultation. The LTP is the time to have genuine conversations about our services, how we deliver them, or if we deliver them. Are there perhaps new activities that we don't currently deliver, but that our community wants us to get involved in, to improve the quality of the lives we live here in the South Waikato?

In the current cost of living crisis, having your say on how your rates are spent has never been more important.

"The LTP is the time to get involved in this kōrero for your community, your whānau and yourself. We hope you'll take it," concluded Mayor Petley.

DID YOU KNOW?

By far the biggest tool Council has to recover costs is through rates. It's a pretty blunt tool, but it's the one we've got. Going forward we need to work with central Government to find another model that doesn't leave Council with only rate and debt funding levers to pull to fund the services our communities expect from us.

IN HOUSE

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

Editorial: Kerry Fabrie, Brooke Sullivan and Lisa Chunder
07 885 0340.
Print: SCG Communications



Stanley Park - have your say!

Council is proposing to change the use of part of Stanley Park in Tokoroa to create an opportunity for more community housing to help meet the significant need in the town. We'd like your feedback on the proposal.

Council is proposing to revoke the reserve status of part of Stanley Park on Stanley Street in Tokoroa.

Stanley Park (Lot 1 DPS 1668 and Lot 98 DPS 764) is classified as a recreation reserve under the Reserves Act 1977. It is zoned residential under the South Waikato District Plan.

The 10,287m² park is a large relatively flat area with several large exotic trees, surrounded by residential housing with limited visibility from the nearby streets.

Stanley Park is accessed by two narrow walkways from Billah Street and Stanley Street. The Park has no additional facilities and is not currently well used by our community.

Council is proposing to:

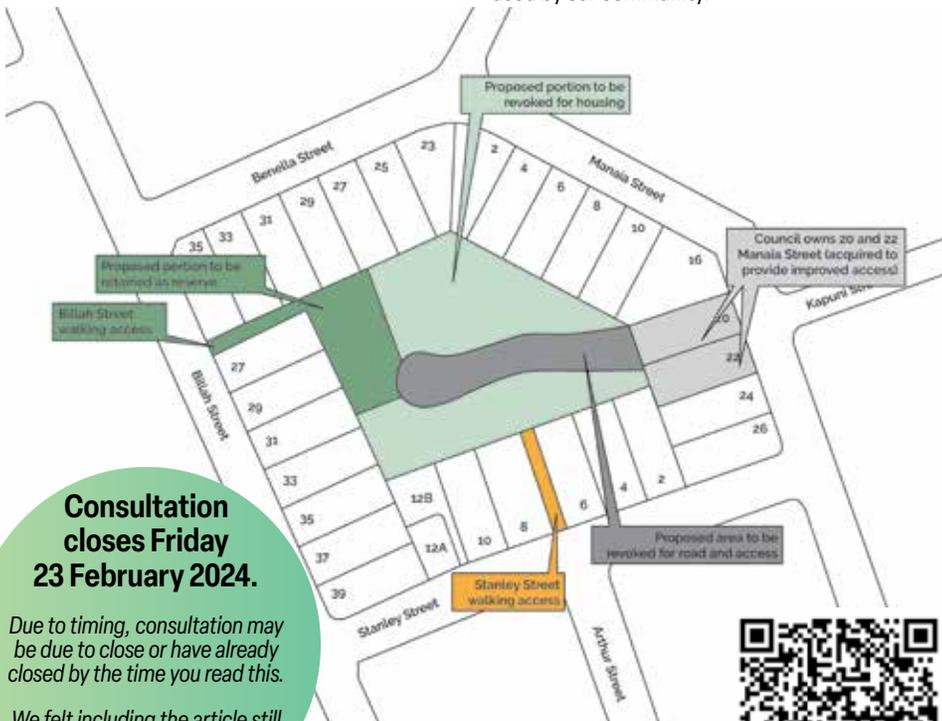
REVOKE the recreation reserve status of 8,378m² of Stanley Park and sell the land to a developer to enable community and affordable housing.

KEEP 1,909m² of Stanley Park as recreation reserve and build an inclusive playground, accessible toilets and a small car park.

Council believes that Stanley Park can offer greater benefits to the community by providing community housing on part of the Park. Revoking the reserve status of part of the Park will enable Council to sell the land to a developer for community and affordable housing.

The proposal to change the use of part of Stanley Park and sell it for social and affordable housing will:

- Provide much-needed social and affordable housing in Tokoroa – approximately 19 new homes.
- See proceeds from the sale of part of Stanley Park used for future projects that respond to our district's housing needs.
- Increase the overall use of Stanley Park.
- Provide an enhanced recreation space for people of all ages and abilities to play together and have fun.
- Make Stanley Park a more welcoming and more appealing environment for neighbours, locals and visitors alike.



Consultation closes Friday 23 February 2024.

Due to timing, consultation may be due to close or have already closed by the time you read this.

We felt including the article still had value for general information on the project.

SCAN ME →



SOUND SOLUTIONS: COUNCIL'S GUIDE TO SERENITY IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Summer is in full swing, which means summer barbeques, parties or late night card games that may get a little rowdy when you realise the kids are cheating!

All excessive noise complaints, no matter what time of day or night, can be phoned through on (07) 885 0340. The operator will take details of the complaint and forward them to a noise control contractor for investigation - it is our policy to keep complainants' details confidential.

The Resource Management Act 1991 empowers Council to control the effects of unreasonable or excessive noise in the urban area. This generally relates to musical instruments and stereos, electrical appliances, power machines and people.

There are special circumstances in relation to noise complaints received on New Year's Eve. However, normal action will be taken by noise control officers on all other occasions including tangi, funerals, unweavings and birthdays as examples.

The RMA defines excessive noise as any noise controlled by people that 'unreasonably interferes with the peace, comfort and convenience' of anyone. Sections 326, 327, and 328 of the RMA cover excessive noise. The aim is to safeguard people from 'unreasonable' or 'excessive' noise, while also recognising the rights of people and industry to make some amount of noise.

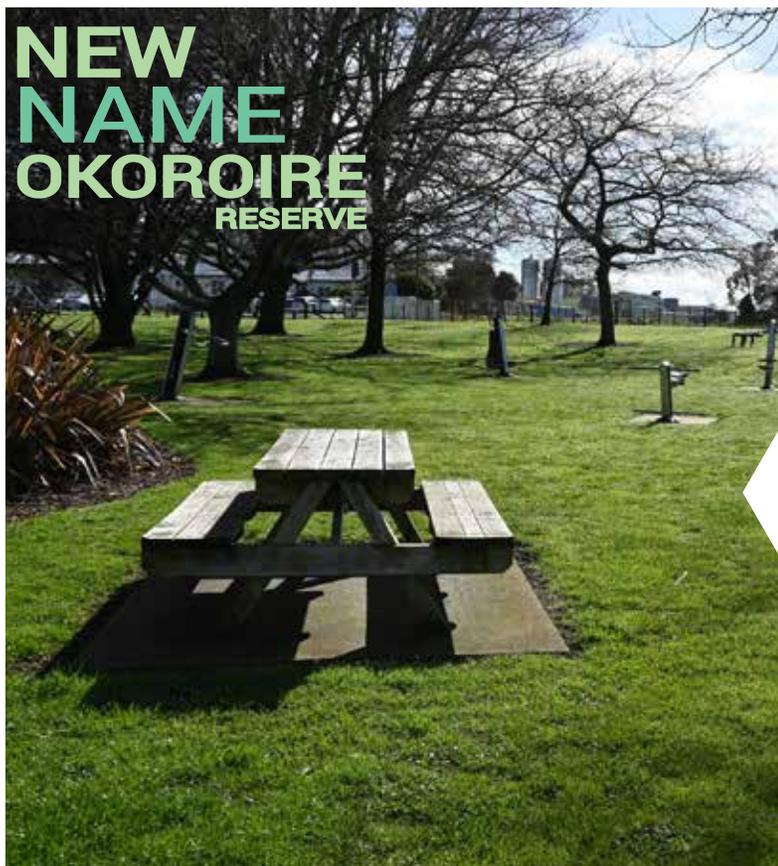
Noise control officers can seize equipment, impose fines and dispose of equipment.

There are also noise control regulations in the District Plan, which sets maximum noise levels for residential, business and industrial zones.

It is best to call 07 885 0340 to lodge a complaint so this can be referred to the noise contractors as soon as possible. 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.



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE



Tirau's reserve at the corner of Okoroire Street and Prospect Avenue will now be known as Okoroire Reserve. Council decided on the name in November last year after a community survey.

The name Okoroire Reserve was gifted to Council by Raukawa Iwi and was the most popular, as voted for by 42% of respondents.

A nameboard will be installed in the coming months to denote this beautiful little reserve. The small, picturesque reserve was vested with South Waikato District Council in 1989 and has been a popular recreational spot for young and old all year round. We would like to thank the community of Tirau for their feedback as it helped Council to make its decision.



It is great to see the numbers for the summer pools up this year. The Putāruru Pool has had 5,500 visitors through the gates. In fact, the use at the Putāruru pool is so high we have had to open additional parking! The Tirau pool has seen 1,300 visits.

Three Waterwise sessions have been held this summer holiday. We had 80 in attendance in Tokoroa (this is the second session held in Tokoroa). There were 245 attendees at Putāruru and the session in Tirau attracted 45 participants.



Replacing safety woodchip with rubber surfacing at Barnett Street Reserve is now complete. This was done to manage water logging in the play area, and is another step in providing more accessible play areas for our communities.



WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

Illegal dumping is on the increase. Besides being disgusting in our beautiful district, it is also costing ratepayers on average around \$7,000 a month. The clean up of just one dump site in Putāruru cost ratepayers a whopping \$11,219.22!



Contaminated recycling from 19 bins on one of our Tokoroa collection runs in January resulted in the recycling truck being so badly contaminated that the whole truck was sent to landfill. This inconsiderate behaviour from a handful of people in our community mucks up everyone's efforts.

Disappointing to see two newly planted Blue Totara trees hacked off at the Oraka Reserve. Is there ever an excuse for poor destructive behaviour such as this?



DANCING FANTAILS FEATURE ON CHORUS CABINET

The Chorus Cabinet Art initiative has brought a burst of colour to the district. The latest masterpiece can be found on Balmoral Drive in Tokoroa. Vanessa Barclay the artist of the Dancing Fantails, says her designs are inspired by nature, with transitioning forms and images that express the concept of wholeness. Her design features two Fantails playing in the daylight. Their natural colouring is reflected in the sun while their feathers swirl about. Be sure to take a stroll down Balmoral Drive to view this beautiful new addition to the neighbourhood.



NEW AEDS COULD SPARK LIFESAVING IMPACT

As part of our focus on community safety, South Waikato District Council is pleased to announce the roll out of six new AEDs (automated external defibrillators) across the region. These join two existing AEDs in Tokoroa at the Indoor Pools and the Sports and Events Centre.



Research undertaken by St John shows there is just a 13% chance of survival from a cardiac arrest if you have your heart attack outside of hospital. For every minute that goes by without CPR or using an AED the chance of survival drops by 10-15%. Survival rates can more than double with timely community help. As a bystander you can save lives by calling an ambulance (111), starting CPR and using an AED.

The AEDs have been permanently installed at the following locations:

- i-SITE Visitor Information Centre (the Dog), Main St, Tīrau
- SWDC Service Centre/Library, Overdale Street, Putāruru
- SWDC Main Office, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa
- Water Depot, Whakauru St, Tokoroa

Two further portable AEDs will be at the summer pools while they are open:

- Putāruru Pool, 84 Reservoir Street, Putāruru.
- Tīrau Pool, 11 Goodwin Street, Tīrau.

EASY RATES PAYMENT OPTIONS

Tired of paying your rates the old-fashioned way? Ever feel that rates payments creep up on you when you least expect them? Wish there was an easier and simpler way to pay your rates? If this is you, we may be able to help.

Council offers you heaps of ways to pay your rates. While rates are invoiced quarterly, your payments can be broken down into weekly, fortnightly or monthly instalments. Council recently introduced another option which allows ratepayers to pay their rates on the 20th of each month. If payments are spread out over the year, it can make paying rates more manageable.

Stay on top of your payments

We all get busy and it can be tough to stay on top of our payments. Council provides rates payment reminders straight to your mobile. To receive these notifications, download the Antenna App available from Google Play or the App Store.

The power is in your hands

Another option to consider is switching to direct debit. With automatic payments, you have to manually amend the amount due each year. However, with direct debit, Council reviews payments each year and changes the direct debit amount accordingly. This means that you will always be on top of your rates payments. Changing to direct debit is easy as. Simply complete the direct debit form and Council will

debit your account on the day you choose for the minimum amount required to ensure your rates are paid.

Rates Rebate Scheme

Finally, the Government's Rates Rebate Scheme is still open for applications. To check your eligibility visit: www.ratesrebates.govt.nz. You need your income (and that of any spouse/partner or joint homeowner who lives with you) for the tax year ended 31 March and your annual rates amount. If you are eligible, you will need to complete an application form and return it to Council by 30 June 2024. Application forms are available from all Council offices or can be downloaded from the rates rebate website.

Lastly

If you are experiencing difficulties and need to speak to someone about your options, call Council on 07 885 0340.

Payments can be broken down into **weekly**, **fortnightly**, or **monthly** instalments

CARING ABOUT WATER CONSUMPTION

WATER YOUR GARDEN WITH A HANDHELD HOSE

Watering your garden with a handheld hose can save up to 900 litres of water an hour.



LIMIT YOUR SHOWERS TO FOUR MINUTES OR LESS

Each minute in the shower uses about 12 litres of water.



TURN OFF YOUR TAP WHEN BRUSHING YOUR TEETH OR SHAVING

Turning the tap off can save 6-10 litres of water per minute.



CHECK YOUR HOME FOR LEAKS

A leaky tap loses on average 65 litres a day – the equivalent of running your dishwasher five times.



(ALMOST) EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT ROADING

Ever found yourself pondering the perplexities of the pavement? Or scratching your head over the plethora of orange cones lately? You're not alone. Council receives regular messages about roading works in the district, so we put this (hopefully, helpful) article together to tackle your burning issues. Let's get started.

1. How big is our roading network?

South Waikato District Council's 538 kilometres of road network, if laid end-to-end, would reach from Tirau to Wellington. The surface area totals about 3.55million square metres, which is equivalent to 330 rugby fields!

2. Who is the roading team?

The roading team is a section of the South Waikato District Council. The team acts as an internal consultancy for all engineering and technical issues. It provides Council with professional advice and services for many Council activities.

3. What does the roading team do?

The roading team is responsible for the investigation, surveying, design, construction and maintenance of all roading activities, excluding state highways.

4. Who's responsible for developing a roading programme and signing off costs?

Council's Roading Manager.

5. What are our roads made of?

Roads in New Zealand are made of chipseal and asphaltic concrete. Chipseal is the most common type of road surface and is usually applied to state highways and local roads that carry lower traffic volumes. The more expensive 'asphaltic concrete' is typically reserved for high-traffic state highways and local roads. Asphaltic concrete (hot mix) is a mixture of bitumen and stones and is less noisy and harder wearing than chipseal.

6. What is chipseal?

Chipseal is made from sprayed hot bitumen with crushed stone, known as 'chips', rolled into the surface.

7. Why chipseal?

Chipseal is economical, flexible and hardwearing. It also improves road safety by improving surface grip, and therefore reducing the length it takes to stop when braking in an emergency and provides greater texture, which prevents vehicles from aqua-planing. It also extends the life of the road and improves the waterproofing abilities of the road surface – this preserves the road foundation and prevents ruts forming.

8. Are road works on local roads funded solely through rates?

No, road works are jointly funded by Council (ratepayers) and the larger portion (two thirds) is funded by Waka Kotahi (taxpayers).

9. Why are the summer months known as road works season?

Summer is the best time to reseal roads. The warm temperatures and dry air help the new seal to stick to the existing road surface. If the work was done in winter, the cold ground would mean the new surface would harden and crack, plus the stones in the chip seal could pop out if exposed to cold weather within four weeks of application. Wet road conditions will affect the bond between the bitumen and the road. This could lead to chipseal failures.

10. How do potholes form?

Potholes are formed when rainwater gets into the pavement layer below the upper asphalt or chipseal surface of the road. Water acts as a lubricant and, with pressure from the traffic on top, the road deteriorates and potholes form. The damage is worsened by regular heavy motor vehicles.

11. Why are road works not often done during the night?

The warm ground temperature helps the asphalt or chip seal to set and stick to the road surface. It's extremely dangerous for road workers to be spraying hot, black-coloured bitumen at night. Having said that, sometimes road works are done at night to minimise disruption to drivers on key routes.

12. How can the community report potholes to Council?

Any road within the South Waikato that is not a state highway can be reported to Council on 07 885 0340. Road issues can also be reported via Antenna, a mobile phone app that is free to download. To report a pothole on the State Highway please call Waka Kotahi (New Zealand Transport Agency) on 0800 444449 or visit www.NZTA.nz.

13. How does Council decide which roads need to be rehabilitated?

We look at rehabilitating roads with our partner CoLab. They use instruments to determine the best repair methodology and specifications. CoLab reviews our network and sends us data which shows the network failings. Through constant investigation and analysis of data, we have an idea of how the network is performing and we use this data in our five-year work programme.

14. Do rate payers have to pay for repeat road works and poor workmanship?

Not at all. The roading team's contractor gets paid for every square metre that is built to the required quality assurance. Any pavement repairs that fail, is reworked at the contractor's own cost. The repairs are covered under a form of warranty, so contractors are only paid on successful completion of the work.



VIEWS FEEDBACK SUBMISSIONS 101

Read on for Council's guide to giving feedback - what submissions are, who can make a submission, how the consultation process works, what you can say in your submission and much more...

WHAT IS A SUBMISSION?

A submission is feedback. It is your chance to give Council your view on a matter under consideration. Any individual or group/organisation can make a submission. Your submission can support, oppose or express a view or opinion.

WHEN CAN YOU MAKE A SUBMISSION?

When Council is consulting on a matter, we ask for submissions. We publish this on our website and advertise it in a range of places, including local newspapers, our social media pages, this community newsletter (In Touch) and our mobile phone app Antenno.

Some examples of when Council might run a consultation and ask for submissions are:

- draft strategies and plans
- Long Term Plan/Annual Plan
- reviews of bylaws and policies
- specific projects, such as new drinking water supply scheme, reserve revocations, significant changes to services (such as the change to wheelie bins)
- speed limit changes.

CAN ANY PERSON, ORGANISATION OR GROUP MAKE A SUBMISSION?

Yes. If you are submitting on behalf of an organisation or group (eg a sport or social club), make sure you have permission to do so and that you are presenting the views of the group correctly.

If you are submitting on behalf of a group, it is good to indicate the number of people who support the submission, but please note it will be treated and processed as a single submission. So, if you list 20 people on the submission, it will not be counted as 20 individual submissions.

WHY MAKE A SUBMISSION?

Every year we consult on several issues that may affect the community. Your feedback is important to us. Making a submission is the best and most important way for you to be heard.

While the consultation process is not a vote, your submission ensures your views are considered by those making the decisions. Also, by making a submission, you will have the chance to speak directly to Council during public hearings – only submitters have this opportunity.

It is important, as a member of the community to have your say. Not every decision will go the way you want it to, but at least your voice can be heard before a decision is made.

WHAT TO SAY IN YOUR SUBMISSION?

If you are an organisation or submitting on behalf of a group, provide some background information, such as the aims and structure of your group/organisation, how many members you have, and what consultation you have undertaken with your members to put this submission together.

As for your feedback, what you say is up to you. You can write as little as you wish or as much as you want. If the submission form contains questions, you can answer as many or as few of these as you wish. It is important that you keep your feedback focused on the issue at hand to ensure your submission is as relevant as possible.

It is also a good idea to keep feedback short and to the point – some consultations receive many submissions, so the easier and clearer they are to read, the easier it is for reading and analysis of all data and input.

It is handy to remember that it is often not a 'numbers game'. One submission with a good idea, backed up with good reasoning and explanations, can have more effect than multiple submissions providing little or no explanation for the view.

You do not have to use the standard submission form. You are welcome to attach and upload any extra information alongside the submission form.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER CONSULTATION IS CLOSED?

Feedback is analysed, along with advice from technical experts and other relevant evidence.

Public feedback comes from a range of sources. These may include online and paper feedback forms, emails and letters, social media comments, public meetings and hearings.

Once staff have analysed all feedback and other relevant information, staff provide a summary report of key findings to decision-makers. This report will include copies of all feedback received.

We publish the reports on our website as soon as they are available. We also generally release a media statement too. All of our media statements are available on our website. Statements may or may not appear in local media.

WHAT ARE HEARINGS AND WHEN ARE THEY HELD?

For some consultation processes, we may also hold a hearing which is where people have the opportunity to speak to the decision-makers (usually the Mayor and Councillors) about their submission. In these cases, submissions are made public, as part of a hearing report. Submitters must indicate they wish to speak at a hearing when they make their submission. You can't just arrive and speak.

If you indicated a wish to speak to your submission at a hearing, we will contact you with a time and date on when the hearing is.

Hearings are open to the public.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SUBMISSION AND FEEDBACK?

Sometimes Council wants input into an issue, but it's not a formal consultation process with formal submissions. We're just looking for feedback, a guide, ideas or suggestions. We do this through engagement, be it face-to-face or through online and written means using the same means as for formal consultation.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT SUBMISSIONS AND FEEDBACK

- A submission is not the same as a vote.
- Submissions are part of the decision-making process used to help inform Council, but it's not the only thing. Council also considers things like expert advice, laws and regulations.
- Submissions don't need to be technical. A submission can be made in plain language, in fact plain language is preferable!
- The submission process is not simply a box-ticking exercise. Councillors, alongside staff, review and analyse all feedback and/or submissions received. All submissions play an important role in decision-making, along with advice from technical experts and other relevant evidence. Sometimes our community is divided in their feedback and there is a split in views. A decision still needs making one way or the other. It is untrue that Council does not "listen" to feedback. Feedback is heard, but the answer - for a variety of reasons - might not be what some people want to hear.

FREE CHILD CAR SEAT RECYCLING

South Waikato residents can now recycle their expired, damaged or unwanted child car seats at the Tokoroa Transfer Station for free. This comes after Council partnered with child car seat recycling programme SeatSmart.

Council Marketing and Communications Manager Kerry Fabrie says the cost is funded through the Government's Waste Levy Scheme. "We know there are people in the district who cannot afford to dispose of their car seats, and this is why we're using some of the funding Council gets back from the Waste Levy to cover the cost," she says.

The subsidy is available until 30 June 2024. The SeatSmart programme, created and managed by circular economy experts 3R Group, tackles the issue of around 100,000 child car seats going to landfill each year, with recovered materials becoming a resource instead. The programme also makes parents and caregivers aware that all child car seats have expiry dates.

Where is the drop off site?

Tokoroa Transfer Station, Newell Road, Tokoroa.

What procedure should I follow?

On arrival at the Transfer Station, let the kiosk operator know that you are dropping off a car seat. They will issue you with a docket and you then proceed to the car seat drop-off point. Once your car seat has been dropped off, you can either exit the Transfer Station, or if you have other items to drop-off, please follow the normal transfer station process.



What seats are accepted?

Any brand of booster, convertible seat or capsule. Unfortunately, no polystyrene seats, snap and go or other car seat accessories are accepted. Collection sites have the right to reject mouldy seats as these can contaminate other seats and are a potential health risk.

How do I know if the car seat is expired?

To check for expiry dates and learn more about this initiative, please visit the SeatSmart website: <https://seatsmart.co.nz>

To date,
more than
22 car
seats
were received!

NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



Arts on Tour:

Genre Fluid

– Tuesday 5 March 7pm, \$15 entry. Dynamic Kiwi duo, Genre Fluid, fuse music and theatre into high-energy funk-rock anthems with their unique synergy on stage – a show for all ages to groove and be moved.



Kate Meads: Cloth Nappies, parenting and more – Tuesday 12 March at 10am to 12pm, \$10 entry. A baby goes through around 5,500 nappy changes in their first two and a half years – that's a fact, but it doesn't need to be your reality! If you're an expecting parent, have struggled with cloth nappies in the past, or even just want to learn more about reusable baby products, then this seminar is for you!

March Sunday

Movie: 80 For Brady

– Sunday 17 March at 2pm, \$10 entry. Four best friends live life to the fullest when they embark on a wild trip to see their hero, Tom Brady, play in the 2017 Super Bowl.



Hon Louise Upston MP Taupo Friendly Forum – Friday 22 March at 2pm

CONTACT THE PLAZA

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

ROAD SAFETY



BACK TO SCHOOL ROAD SAFETY TIPS

With the school holidays over, there will be a lot more children travelling to and from school.

If your child is walking to school for the first time, walk the route with them before they start school. This will help you spot any potential danger spots. On your practice trips ask your child what they can see or hear as their point of view will be a lot different to yours.

Teach your child to do the following and explain why.

- Walk on the footpath, close to the houses and away from the road.
- Look and listen for traffic at driveways.
- Use pedestrian crossings.
- Walk, facing ongoing traffic if there is no footpath.

If you normally drive your child to school, park your car further away from school and then walk some of the way, using the trip to teach your child about road safety.

If your child is going to be cycling to school always ensure they wear a helmet. It should be the right size, with little movement when fitted correctly. If the helmet tips sideways, backwards or forwards it is too loose. Check that their bicycle is safe, and everything is working the way it's intended.

If they are using a scooter remind them to be respectful of other footpath users.

If you are driving your child to school always let your children in and out of the car on the footpath side only. Park safely, away from yellow lines, pedestrian crossings, intersections and driveways. Park on the same side of the road as your destination. Never call to a child from across the road. Meet your child at the gate and walk with them to your car.

If your child is travelling by bus make sure they know to stand well back from the road when waiting for the bus.

When picking up your children or dropping them off wait on the same side as the bus stop.

BUILDING UP TO OBJECTIVE BUILD

From Monday 5 February, Council is moving to a new, online platform for building consent applications called, Objective Build.

Customers will use Objective Build - designed to create consistency, transparency and quality in building applications.

This new system has been built after interviews with over a hundred builders, architects, designers and industry professionals across New Zealand. It improves the ability to reuse information across applications, clearly see the status of an application, action required updates, and manage a consent throughout the lifecycle.

The platform will connect seamlessly to backend Council systems, allowing New Zealand to work across a single platform. Building and Construction industry professionals will have one account to handle all applications, instead of the multiple accounts they currently have.

Objective Build has over 20 years of history working with councils across the world, and decades of experience in Building and Planning.

CONTAMINATION IN RECYCLING

Did you know one recycling bin that is contaminated can affect the entire recycling truck? This means all of the contents that the truck has collected throughout the rest of the day, has to be taken to landfill! We have unfortunately seen three different occasions where this has happened over the past 12 months.

Here's our top Nasty No-No List:

- Unwashed meat trays - if you're not going to wash them, bin them (red lid).
- Dirty Nappies (poop) - no words.
- Offal - again, no words!
- Soft plastics - if you can scrunch the plastic up in your hand, bin it (rubbish).
- Greenwaste - take to the Transfer Station.
- Vacuum cleaner rubbish - carpet nasties belong in the rubbish bin.
- Food (including what's left in take-away containers) - either start a compost heap or put food scraps in the bin.
- Deck chairs - if they are still functional, donate these items. If broken, they belong in the rubbish.
- Car parts - contact a local scrap dealer.

Here's our top Recycling Whizz List:

- Plastics 1, 2 and 5 only.
- Clean, wash or rinse all plastics and tins.
- Flatten cardboard - you can fit more!
- Put lids, caps or tops in the bin.
- If in doubt, chuck it out... in the rubbish!

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 – Feb 2024. You have to get them all correct to be in the draw.

Text your answers and your name to 0274 472 664 or private message our Facebook page by 28 February 2023.

1. Which talented young artist painted the most recent Chorus power box?
2. Are submissions a tick box exercise?
3. How many car seats have already been recycled in our new car seat recycling campaign?
4. Who is responsible for local roads and who is responsible for State Highways?
5. Do you care about saving water?

Congratulations to Rosemary of Tokoroa who was drawn as the lucky winner for the December In Touch competition. Thank you to all those who entered. Try again this issue!

The correct answers were:

1. Maia Putoko and Shaun-Leigh Davey, 2. Yes, 3. Nothing, 4. 75th, 5. Manulife Forest Management.



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Mayor Gary Petley

0274 836 809
Gary.Petley@southwaikato.govt.nz

TOKOROA ward



Hamish Daine
0273 361 676
Hamish.Daine@southwaikato.govt.nz



Rebekah Garner
0273 140 887
Rebekah.Garner@southwaikato.govt.nz



Thomas Lee
0273 178 758
Thomas.Lee@southwaikato.govt.nz



Bill Machen
0274 715 899
Bill.Machen@southwaikato.govt.nz



Maria Te Kanawa
0273 368 750
maria.tekanawa@southwaikato.govt.nz



Josiah Teokotai
0272 121 326
Josiah.teokotai@southwaikato.govt.nz

PUTĀRURU ward



Marie Farrell
0273 369 257
Marie.Farrell@southwaikato.govt.nz



Hans Nelis
0273 365 826
Hans.Nelis@southwaikato.govt.nz



Sandra Wallace
0273 365 094
Sandra.Wallace@southwaikato.govt.nz

TĪRAU ward



Kerry Purdy
0273 364 541
Kerry.Purdy@southwaikato.govt.nz

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE