

Taking on The Taniwha

The Taniwha is one of the district's premier multi-sport events, now in its second year.

Stretching along the beautiful Waikato River Trails and organised by TotalSport, the event attracted over 800 competitors in its inaugural year (2012) and over 1,100 this year... wonder how many will participate next year?!

The event caters for everyone - walkers, runners and bikers across a range of distances.

South Waikato locals certainly made the most of having a quality event on their doorstep, with 119 participating on the day. We were joined by competitors from all over New Zealand, including Auckland, New Plymouth and Christchurch, as well the Warriors rugby league team!

We even had five visiting participants from Australia.

This event celebrates the endeavours undertaken by the Waikato River Trails Trust over the past nine years, culminating in 100km of top quality walking and biking trails, most of it on previously inaccessible land along the mighty Waikato River.

The event is epic, challenging yet achievable across a wide range of abilities. Legs start at various points along the trails, all finishing at the picturesque Whakamaru Christian Camp. It offers mountain biking, walking and running events over distances from 7km to 83km.

Basically the Taniwha combines beautiful trails with fantastic scenery, views of the mighty

Waikato River and the thrill of a major event. Be sure to be there for the 2014 event.

*Below: Almost there! Christine Beach, Gordon Naidoo and Kerry Fabrie near the finish line.
Right: Ben Ackerman came sixth overall in the 42km run.*

Photos courtesy of Photos4salenz and Waikato River Trails.



Event Partners

Waikato River Trails
South Waikato District Council

Charity Partner

Shine (Fight against Domestic Abuse)



IN brief

- Council's official green rubbish bags have gone up in price due to inflation, the bags used to be \$5.00 for a pack of five and are now \$5.50. We have no control over the price set by other retailers and understand that prices differ across the district. The old brown bags are still permitted.
- Twelve people have enrolled in the 2014 programme at the Trade Training Centre in Tokoroa, with another eight people who are interested but who have yet to complete their forms.

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IN house

Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the South Waikato District Council.
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Meet your new Council

Council is pleased to introduce to you our new Councillors for the 2013-16 triennium. We welcome back our Mayor and four familiar faces and a special welcome aboard to six new faces. In Touch thought our community should hear a little about who our Councillors are and their experiences to date.

Council 2013-16, from left: Jeff Gash, Thomas Lee, Terry Magill, Deputy Mayor Jenny Shattock, Marin Glucina, Mayor Neil Sinclair, Bill Machen, Adrienne Bell, Herman van Rooijen, Anne Edmeades and Tua Numanga.



Jenny Shattock (Tokoroa)

I'm in my sixth term of Council and third term as Deputy Mayor.

Currently I am a trustee on the Achievement Centre Trust, board member of TCOSS, member of Rakanui, Senior Citizens, Big Weekend Committee and Tokoroa Rotary. I am also secretary of the Tokoroa Wine Tasters and a JP.

I have a full time job as manager of Classic Hits and can understand and appreciate the new Councillors that have come on board as they try to juggle their full time jobs and the demands of Council. Until you become a Councillor you just don't realise the work load that falls on all Councillors.

In my time on Council I have seen many changes in the way Council works. The four well beings have gone and government is imposing more and more requirements on Council and the costs fall on our ratepayers.

We are nearing the completion of our district plan which will determine the future direction of our district but it still must give effect to the Regional Policy Statement and the Waikato River Authority so we can't just do what we would like. We are constrained by Central Government.

The most noteworthy achievements in my terms have been the establishment of the Trades Training Centre, the building of the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre and the development of the Waikato River Trails. Both of the latter happened because of the foresight of Council in making the decision to use some of the interest of the South Waikato Investment Fund. Now I look forward to the tidying up of Lake Moana Nui, the Leith Place redevelopment and the drive to bring new businesses into town.

Amongst all this we have to find a way to preserve our identity as a unique multi-cultural South Waikato community. I am a fervent believer in local solutions for local issues and therefore will be watching the amalgamation debate with interest.

Jeff Gash (Tokoroa)

I have lived in Tokoroa coming up 13 years. My wife and I own and run Sportsworld, we have three daughters. I am currently serving on the Board of Trustees at Tokoroa Intermediate School, am on the committee of the NZ Deerstalkers Association South Waikato branch and I am the Patron of the Tokoroa Sports Fishing Association.

The recent district tour was extremely interesting as I was unaware of the number of assets we have in the South Waikato District. I have enjoyed the whole experience so far. I have enjoyed learning what Council does, what we as Councillors can affect and the balancing act when it comes to funding groups, activities and rates. I knew that being on Council consumed a fair amount of time, but have been surprised at how much time and effort goes into making decisions that affect the ratepayers of our district.

I was probably very much like most people and really unaware of the number of activities Council has a role in:

- many services, from roads to water to leisure activities and parks and playgrounds
- how decisions made can affect the residents now and into the future
- that we need to look well beyond the present and in fact need to look 10, 20, 30 years down the track.

It is our responsibility to hopefully get in right now so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy this wonderful district in years to come.

I have enjoyed getting to know the Councillors, Mayor and staff employed by Council, who by the way do a great job. But most of all I have enjoyed talking to the residents of the South Waikato who have their concerns and issues that they would like me to address. I am happy to listen and do what I can.

Tua Numanga (Tokoroa)

I have lived and worked in Tokoroa all of my 41 years.

Earlier this year I completed 20 years of continuous service with Carter Holt Harvey; the past 12 years with CHH Pulp and Paper Kinleith, where I still work fulltime. My interests include reading, sports, music and cultural activities.

In my very short time on Council, the most interesting aspect that I have experienced to date are the SWIF submission hearings and deliberations and that a large number of people outside of Council have almost no idea of the scope of work that is required and undertaken by Elected Members, the staff employed at Council or its contractors. I think if people knew, one of two things would happen:

1. It would blow their minds!

2. There would be a healthier more respectful relationship between Council and community.

In terms of Council operations, I have learnt that we have a totally professional, willing and able organisation behind the scenes, always guiding, offering and supporting with a smile, backed up with a huge amount of knowledge and skills relevant to helping us guide the district to a better future. I have learnt that the current group of Councillors are diverse (lawyers, business owners, farmers, managers, floor workers) and together we represent a good spread of the community with the best interests of the community at the fore.

To date the most enjoyable thing I have experienced is the Assets Familiarisation Tour. A big learning curve that gave me a renewed respect for the people involved in maintaining these assets. It is amazing what we all take for granted, like turning a tap on and clean water coming out, flushing the toilet, having sealed roads to drive on, with no thought given to the work or the workers that have the skills and knowledge to ensure we continue to have these amenities. Sustaining and maintaining these services on a very restricted budget is hard enough and these people need to be acknowledged and appreciated.

Terry Magill (Tirau)

I have resided in the district for eight years. I run a property at Harwoods Road, Okoroire which is a 70 acre support block for a dairy farm near Te Poi.

I have worked as a lawyer in the district (my practice is run out of an office in Matamata) for over 30 years. I am now a consultant to that firm and I have many (mainly farming) clients and business clients in the South Waikato District. Tirau is the nearest urban centre to where I reside and I shop frequently in Putaruru also.

I have six adult children who are scattered around the globe but four of whom now reside in New Zealand and the other two in India and USA.

My primary interest is in relation to my dairy farm. My farming company is currently run as an organic certified dairy farm and

I run the property with a very high level of sustainability. We have won various prizes for our farm including the Ballance Agri-Nutrients Dairy Farm of the Year (in 2009).

I have interests in a number of community groups, principally in the sporting sphere where I have previously been active as a coach and administrator in a rugby club and involved with my children's sporting interests.

I am excited by my involvement with Council. The South Waikato District has a number of pressing and important issues, not the least of which is to promote the growth of the district and provide more jobs for residents. In the short time I have been involved with the Council, I am pleasantly surprised about the initiatives already in place to provide an outcome to these issues. Much more needs to be done however.

It is apparent to me that the Council will be a very good working group and a good collective strength which I hope will be translated for the overall benefit of the district.

Adrienne Bell (Putaruru)

I have lived in Putaruru since 1998 when I moved here from Auckland. I am Manager of the Putaruru Community Resource Centre and am also a communications professional working mainly in the social services and arts industries. I also teach piano – currently at the Putaruru School of Music.

I have a strong interest in the arts. I am a member of the Waikato Society of Arts and Friends of the Waikato Museum and am the Council appointed member of the South Waikato Arts Trust. I am currently involved in the planning of "Art in the Grove", a festival which will showcase local artists. I also belong to a number of other groups including Pride in Putaruru, Putaruru Council of Social Services, Regional Transport Forum, Hamilton Waikato Tourism and Capable Rotorua.

A noteworthy aspect of Council I find is the constructive atmosphere in the Council Chamber. Members argue their point without fear of, and without resorting to, personal ill will. Relationships are positive

and Council meetings are focussed and productive.

I have also been impressed by the level and calibre of information and advice that is provided by staff in relation to the many issues on which we must make a decision. This is often supplemented by a presentation from a visiting expert in the relevant field.

What I have learned about Council operations is that they are many and varied indeed. Air quality standards and the Waikato Regional Council requiring us to reduce PM₁₀ emissions under threat of a fire ban. Animal Control which has been in the news so much over the last term. Building consents which new Government regulations have made more complex and expensive to obtain. Civil Defence also having to undergo extensive modification due to events in Christchurch. The South Waikato Sport and Events Centre is getting busier all the time. Pools and Libraries are used extensively by the young and the elderly. River pollution, roads, rubbish, water in, water out, sewerage, parks, business development. There are so many aspects to Council operations.

What have I enjoyed? All of it!

Thomas Lee (Tokoroa)

I'm a local, born and raised in Tokoroa. I work for CHH Pulp & Paper at Kinleith Mill, and I work in #5 Recovery Boiler as a Spout Man. I've worked at Kinleith for 37 years next month.

I am a member of the local fishing club, Tokoroa Ulysses branch and secretary/email sender for Tokoroa Random Riders.

As a new Councillor, there is so much to learn and come to grips with. Council is a very big operation, and until you're a part of it you don't realise how many services they provide that you normally don't give a second thought about and how many people it takes to make things happen. The Council staff have been great and they can't do enough to help and assist as we try and find our way around. I have honestly never read so much in so short a time, minutes, agendas, reports. WOW.

The most interesting thing I've learnt about Council is that they extract Tokoroa's drinking water from only two bores and they pump the water from a depth of 75 metres, and the aquifer is very large and shouldn't run out? The wastewater we treat has to go through a lot of operations before it's clean enough to discharge and it doesn't smell as bad close up as I thought it would.

I enjoyed the assets tour around the district, and we sure do have a lot of them. We have lots of roads and they are our biggest cost and very expensive to maintain. We need to try and get more money from Central Government to help with the upkeep, as we have logging trucks, milk tankers, cars and other large vehicles using them every day. Probably won't happen.

Anne Edmeades (Putaruru)

I am now in my third term as Putaruru Ward Councillor.

I am proud that you have selected me as one of your representatives from Putaruru.

I have been involved with the business activities of Putaruru for 35 years, being a partner along with my husband Royce at Edmeades Jewellers.

The Mayor elected me Council Representative for Pride in Putaruru (PiP). This is the organisation that writes, edits and delivers you The Prattler. PiP is also behind the Christmas festivities, the annual Water Festival and the Putaruru Business Awards.

Each day in Council brings many challenges, some pleasant and others difficult. We meet every three weeks and if our general Thursday meeting is anything to go by, we are in for an exciting and busy three years.

Some weeks there are major decisions made and I feel it is a privilege to be on Council making these major and smaller decisions for the South Waikato.

Bill Machen (Tokoroa)

I have lived in Tokoroa since 1956 and still work at the Kinleith Pulp and Paper Mill in the 'Supply Chain' team. My job entails the organisation of transport for all of the Pulp and Paper from the mill to customers.

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Meet your new Council

I intend to retire early in 2014 to commit myself fully to Council work.

The most surprising thing for us new Councillors has been the amount of reading we have to do to keep abreast of Council business and the number of meetings and briefings that we are expected to attend. Since being sworn in on Wednesday 23 October I have been on Council related business for seven full days and have at least nine more days of Council work before mid-December; then there are the phone calls and e-mails from concerned ratepayers asking interesting questions.

Last week we spent a day visiting Council assets including sewerage plants, water works, refuse/recycle depots, the dog pound and other places owned by Council, and having their operation explained to us by staff. It was an extremely interesting and informative day. Most of us citizens do not think when we turn on a tap, use the toilet or put our rubbish out that all of these critical services (and many others) have to be planned, operated and maintained 24/7 365 days a year for everyone in the South Waikato - and it is your Council workers who ensure it happens.

In the past week I have also attended two functions of note.

Firstly the South Waikato District Sports awards where local people were honoured for their sporting prowess or organising abilities in the sporting field; and secondly the Apprentice Graduation Ceremony for local people who have completed various employment courses. Both of these events showcased some of the best aspects of what is going on in the South Waikato and gave me a positive feel about the district and its future.

Marin Glucina (Tokoroa)

My first visit to Tokoroa was fifty years ago when I helped my brother Ross and his family move here, he was to be employed as a chemist at the mill. After that time I visited often and in 1980 I moved here to take up employment as a solicitor with Clancy Fisher Oxner & Bryant in the office in Logan Street. Thirty-three years later I am still working in that office and I am still a resident in Tokoroa.

In the thirty-three years I have been here, there has been a decline in the population of the town, with most of the thousands of children born here in the 1960s, 70s, 80s and 90s moving away, leaving a distinctly older generation to look after the town. The town was built for 30,000 people and still has all the infrastructure

to cope with a much larger population.

The South Waikato is well placed to take advantage of the current economic revival especially in the dairy sector which is taking place in the South Waikato. I am impressed with the way the Council administration and elected Council are focussing on trying to capture for the South Waikato District the benefits of development.

Council must seek out all opportunities to promote the district and make it as inviting as possible for people to live here.

Passing traffic must be encouraged to stop, shop, enjoy and if possible stay awhile. All of our main highways need to present a friendly and inviting image to visitors who will stop again if their first experience is a good one.

I am looking forward to being part of a team which will focus on the welfare of the South Waikato District and all of its residents in a co-operative way. It is the opportunity to plan for a future that is the most important and rewarding part of being a South Waikato District Councillor.

Herman van Rooijen (Putāruru)

Thea and I came to New Zealand and Tokoroa in 1963 as newly weds. We worked on a Newells road farm for four years and

then sharemilked at Atiamuri for eleven. Then we achieved farm ownership at Lichfield and have been here ever since. With a young family of four we got involved in school and community, and I had a busy life both on and off the farm; indoor bowls, Forest and Bird, Lions and the environment all fill my time these days.

The new term is my sixth. What fascinates me is the ever changing range of issues that arise. The current one is around protecting Council's SWIF invested fund, which I see as an enormously valuable resource, that is worth safeguarding.

Recently I attended a graduation ceremony for about 140 young and not so young apprentice graduates. All rural areas are losing population and we are no exception, so I'm right behind any training we can provide. I include in that Taratahi Agricultural Training as our rural industries drive much of our economy and are in great need of well trained people. I enjoy helping look after infrastructure, roads in particular.

Let me conclude in wishing everyone a happy festive season.

And from His Worship the Mayor, Neil Sinclair...

This is the start of my fourth term as Mayor of what I think is a fantastic district.

I have been around for some time. I came to Putaruru in Christmas 1964 as a dentist and was 'compulsorily retired' when I developed an allergy in 2000, an allergy that became the subject of my research project. I had been on the Putaruru Borough Council for eleven years and joined the South Waikato District Council in 2001. I had nearly three years in Papua New Guinea with family, had a stint on the Regional Arts Council and was a founding Trustee

on Arts Access Aoteroa and was involved in a host of other community activities in the district. I became Mayor in 2004 having to try to fill the big shoes left by Gordon Blake.

There had to be four new Councillors at least this term and we now have six new Councillors. A good mix of experience and new ideas. I have been most impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication that has been brought to the table by 'old' and 'new' Councillors and their acceptance of a big workload.

The workload at the start of this triennium is particularly big with decisions on how:

- we should handle our investment money,
- we should upgrade Lake Moana-nui,
- our District Plan is impacted upon by the Regional Plan and the River Authority,
- we promote our district and above all how we get more jobs particularly for our youth,
- we face the 'threat' of losing our identity,

- we develop Leith Place,
- we expand our trade training centre,
- we extend the cycle way over to Rotorua,
- we still keep all the functions of Council on-going, whilst keeping our rates as low as possible.

It is an exciting time to be on Council and being a Councillor involves a lot of work, as all have mentioned above. But it is, I believe, the most satisfying community service one can wish for.

Our neighbourhood parties

Council has brought back the neighbour parties for a third year in a row and they have gotten off to a flying start!



Council's neighbourhood parties started up again this November and we couldn't be happier with how they've gone! So far we have hosted three neighbourhood parties in Tokoroa, at Elizabeth Drive Park, Glenkill Park and the Tokoroa Hospital. Each party has hosted no less than 200 guests with a crowd of at least 350 attending the Elizabeth Drive Park party.

Our neighbourhood parties are completely free and there is so much on offer for everyone to enjoy, such as face painting, bouncy castles, sausage sizzles, music, dancing and more. The good old fashioned games have attracted as much attention and enthusiasm from the adults as well as the children!

"We are so pleased with the success of the parties," said Council's Community Resource Officer Lynne Hazelgrave. "They have been exceptional. I think the best part has been how amazing the community has been in coming together and not only having a good time but also helping us throughout the evening. It's been amazing!"



The neighbourhood parties began in 2011 as a pilot project, started by Sport Waikato. They were so successful that Council decided to continue to fund the, took over the responsibility and have been running them ever since, with the help of many community groups, organisations and people, including Sport Waikato who remains a crucial participant.

Our Community Development team would like to extend a massive thank you to Sport Waikato, South Waikato Pacific Island Community Service, Swagg dance crew, the Rural Fire Service, the Tokoroa Police Force, Neighbourhood Support, TCOSS, St Johns, and the fantastic MCs - Russell Thompson, Chux, Lucky Lips and G.I. Joe. A special mention also goes to Ian Wellings for his unflappable presence and support!

We will be back in February 2014 with more neighbourhood parties in Putāruru and Tirau, starting at the Jim Barnett Reserve in Putāruru on 12 February; we hope to see you there!



Talking safety with our Police



Intoxication

You may be interested to know that intoxication in public is not illegal. But often the behaviour of the intoxicated person is! There is a 24/7 liquor ban in place in the Tokoroa and Putāruru CBD areas, these are well sign posted.

The ban means it is an offence to drink alcohol or to have an open bottle of liquor in this area other than on licensed premises. The police will enforce this ban. While the liquor ban cannot address all the problems in the CBD areas, it is essential in setting a basic limit for what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour regarding the use of alcohol.

The liquor ban is a positive way to help reduce alcohol related harm in our towns.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is...

Don't give anyone your personal details, pin numbers, access passwords or respond to winning a prize, IRD overpayments, bank update details. These are all scams. Report scams to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Holiday time

Take care of your property - don't come home to a burglary! Reducing burglaries can be as simple as reporting suspicious behaviour, locking doors and not leaving windows open; simple quick steps. Sometimes people may have information about a crime in their neighbourhood but they don't want to speak to the Police directly. In those cases the CrimeStoppers confidential crime line is available toll free on 0800 555111.

Crime can't survive in communities that care and Police can't act on something we don't know about. If you suspect something, RING 111. Remember: "If in doubt - give the Police a shout."

What's on at The Plaza?

We recently had the pleasure of hosting the Royal New Zealand Ballet. Tower on Tutus Tour covered five acts, including excerpts from Flower Festival at Genzno, FrENzy, Through to You, Little Improvisations and Don Quixote pas de deux with a mixture of classic and contemporary dance. Over 280 adults and children had an enjoyable evening.

December Events

The Plaza continues to be busy towards the end of the year with Diane Wilcox School of Dance Exams, Putaruru Principals Association Prize Giving and Matamata Aspire Arts Dance School performed their "Night Before Christmas" production end of year show.

If you would like to make a Christmas booking please see me here at the office. The Plaza can accommodate an audience of five to 500 with four main areas for hire:

- Foyer: comfortable seating for up to 50 people with a full kitchen and bar facility
- Pavilion: a fantastic room for conferences, workshops or gatherings for up to 50 people.
- Auditorium: with a large stage with up to 320 fixed seating, 98 retractable seating and 100 stand alone seats ideal for hosting dinners, concerts, films, displays and conferences.
- Arthur Fountain Studio: a great facility with all amenities, comfortably seating up to 40.

For further enquires or bookings, please note our office will be closed from mid December until mid January.

To our regular users of the Plaza, thank you for your support during 2013.

The South Waikato Arts Trust wishes you all a Merry and safe Christmas.



Christmas closure hours

Council offices and other Council managed facilities will be closed at times over the festive season. We suggest you cut this portion out of In Touch and put it on the fridge to remind you of the opening hours for the offices, libraries, South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, swimming pools, refuse and recycling collection changes and emergency contact details over the holidays.

Council offices

The Council offices in Tokoroa and Putāruru* are closed from 3pm on Tuesday 24 December and will reopen again at 8am on Monday 6 January 2014. Council can be contacted on 885 0340 for all queries (water, sewerage, noise, dogs). Environmental Health have a duty officer on call, please contact 0274 516 173.

* The Putāruru Service Centre is open from time to time but for the library service only (refer table below)

Fire Permits

No rural or urban fire permits will be issued after Friday 20 December 2013 until Monday 6 January 2014. Urgent calls only to 885 0340.

Pools

The South Waikato Indoor pools are open during the festive season:

- Monday to Friday from 6am to 8pm
- Weekends and public holidays from 7.30am to 8pm

Except for:

- Xmas eve and New Year's eve when we close early at 6pm.
- Closed on Christmas Day
- Open on New Year's day from 12 noon.

Seasonal pools (Putāruru/Tirau) are closed on Christmas Day and open every other day from 12noon to 6pm.

Libraries

	Mon 23 Dec	Tue 24 Dec	Wed 25 Dec	Thurs 26 Dec	Fri 27 Dec	Sat 28 Dec	Mon 30 Dec	Tue 31 Dec	Wed 1 Jan	Thurs 2 Jan	Fri 3 Jan	Sat 4 Jan	Mon 6 Jan
Tokoroa Library	open	open	closed	closed	open	closed	open	open	closed	closed	open	open	open
Putāruru library	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tirau library	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	open

South Waikato Sport and Events Centre

The centre is open for casual users from 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday 27 December, Monday 30 December and Friday 3 January.

Booked functions at times outside of these will go ahead as scheduled.

Refuse and recycling

Collections on Tuesday 24 December, Christmas Day, Tuesday 31 December and New Year's Day are affected. If you were supposed to have your refuse and recycling collected on those days, it will be collected the day BEFORE.

- Tuesday 24 December will be collected on Monday 23 December.
- Christmas Day will be collected on Tuesday 24 December.
- Tuesday 31 December will be collected on Monday 30 December.
- New Year's Day will be collected on Tuesday 31 December.

This information is on the recycling calendar and Council's web site.

All landfill and transfer station sites are closed on Wednesday 25 December 2013 and Wednesday 1 January 2014. The Tokoroa landfill and Putāruru Transfer Station sites are also closed on Thursday 26 December 2013.

At Christmas time there is usually an over abundance of recycling from an increase in bottles, containers and cardboard. Don't forget that the urban recycling centres are available for you to use and they are serviced every day... your recycling doesn't need to pile up and over flow.

Pets at Christmas

Too regularly over the Christmas period, dogs are left alone without food and water, while the family is away on holiday. Please if you can't find a housesitter who can take care of the dog then either take the dog with you or put it in boarding kennels (there are several in the South Waikato).

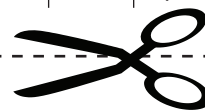
As the owner you will be charged fees for having an officer come and remove your dog and impound it so that it can be fed and watered properly. In severe cases an infringement notice could be issued too. We have zero tolerance for owners who do not provide the absolute necessities for their pets, ie food, water, exercise and weather proof kennelling.

If you are a concerned neighbour please notify us at Animal Control on 885 0774 and speak with an on duty officer who will immediately take the appropriate action.

Thank you for caring for your pet this holiday season.



Festive Food Safety!



Christmas and New Year is a time for celebrating and having fun with colleagues, family and friends.

More people means more food, and more food means fridge space can become a bit tight. In addition, summer brings higher temperatures, and higher temperatures can turn food bad quickly. Some foods are very susceptible when left at room temperature, like meat, poultry, mayonnaise, milk.

Take extra care this summer when storing food items. Ensure that food which can't fit in the fridge is either eaten, stored in additional cold storage like a chillbin, or thrown out. Often food borne illness is caused by improper storage of prepared meals or leftovers.

Longer daylight hours, holidays and extra opportunities to socialise sometimes result in late night festivities that can result in noise and unsavoury behaviour. Just a reminder to be respectful of your neighbours and others over the festive season.

Council wishes residents a wonderful holiday break. Relax, bask in the warm weather and don't forget to enjoy the beautiful walks in the South Waikato.

Save water this summer

Judging by the weather and the hot spring days we have been having, it certainly looks like we are in for another fantastic sunny summer season. We do need to be mindful though of water usage and the potential for repeat drought conditions.

Council has developed water trigger restrictions levels for all of our urban areas. Because each town has a different water source these trigger levels are different, as you can see in the table below.

But in basic terms, if it's as hot as last year, please be conscious of your water consumption and use.

Water alert levels are based on water use by each individual community. The levels with associated restrictions are listed below.

Once each community reaches its individual water use levels (in cubic metres), they trigger their corresponding Water Alert Level restrictions.

Council will advertise current use levels with the trigger levels throughout the summer months, so each community can track how they are doing.

Water Alert Level 1

Restrictions: Sprinkler systems permitted from 6am to 8am AND from 6pm to 8pm.

- Tokoroa - 6,500
- Putāruru - 4,600
- Tirau - 900
- Arapuni - 270

Water Alert Level 2

Restrictions: Sprinkler systems permitted from 6am to 8am and 6pm to 8pm on alternate days only.

- Tokoroa - 6,840
- Putāruru - 4,850
- Tirau - 950
- Arapuni - 285

Water Alert Level 3

Restrictions: Total ban on domestic sprinklers - only hand held hosing permitted.

- Tokoroa - 7,200
- Putāruru - 5,100
- Tirau - 1,000
- Arapuni - 300

Water Alert Level 4

Restrictions: Total ban on all external non-essential use of water.

- Tokoroa - 7,900
- Putāruru - 5,600
- Tirau - 1,100
- Arapuni - 330

Keep an eye out for water use level adverts in the South Waikato News over the summer period.

Below are some tips on how you can actively conserve water every day throughout the year.

- Fix leaking taps.
- Re-use boiled water to water your garden.
- Make sure you turn the dishwasher on when it is full not half full.
- Only use your washing machine for full loads.
- Capture washing machine water and use it to water your garden.
- Place a small brick in the cistern to reduce the amount of water used each time you flush.
- Turn the tap off when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Take shorter showers or install a low flow shower head.
- Water your garden in the evening when the sun is no longer at its hottest.

Burning better starts now!

Summer is here and it's the perfect time to get your wood ready for winter! We know it's hot and it's hard to think of the winter months so far away, but preparing your wood NEEDS to be done in spring and summer.

Here are some key tips:

- You should have already collected your wood for this winter, have it stacked in a dry place, all ready for use. If you haven't, do it now! DRY SEASONED wood not only burns better, but it releases considerably less PM₁₀ into the air.
- DRY and SEASONED wood should ideally have been chopped up into suitable size pieces and stored in a dry area for between six to 12 months prior to when you need to use it. That means NOW!
- Clean your flue regularly; summer is an ideal time to do this.

The Tokoroa City Lions Club holds forest days most weekends, during the cutting season. Firewood sites will vary, so for more information and updates click on the 'Firewood' tab on the Tokoroa Lions website (www.tokoroalions.com).

Our Burnwise suppliers have all the information you need for preparing your firewood for the coming winter. Here is a list of our suppliers:

Tokoroa Firewood Ltd
0508 FOR WOOD
0508 367 9663

Balmoral Firewood Supplies
07 886 7550

Tokoroa City Lions
www.tokoroalions.com

Central Bay Firewood
07 886 6387



Taking TVs out of SW homes!

The national TV Take Back campaign that coincides with the Digital Changeover in the South Waikato has resulted in 223 TVs being dropped off (as at 1 December).

Krione Maika of Doug Gerrard Ltd (Council's landfill contractor) loads yet another TV into the the first container load of 113 TV sets from the Tokoroa area.

"Our customers have been very supportive in diverting older TV sets from landfill," said Krione.

"Residents only pay for the weight over the weighbridge which is normally around \$2 or \$3, but a maximum of \$5," said Andrew Pascoe, Council's Services Manager. "The standard TV fee that Council normally charges has been waived during the TV Takeback programme."

Just drop into the Tokoroa landfill or Putāruru transfer station.

"The scheme will run at this discounted cost until our district quota of 1,000 sets has been reached."



IN brief continued...

- The clothing bins in Putāruru that were situated in the Main Street carpark have been moved to the Putāruru Transfer Station. The move was agreed to by both the owner of the bins and Council. The bins are located next to the recycling bins and are still free to use. The community is encouraged to use these bins - and other clothing bins - responsibly and not as a dumping ground for rubbish. The bins are for decent, second hand clothing that can go to less fortunate people.
- The new South Waikato Health Centre is set to open on 20 January next year. The centre is the result of a shared determination by the community, iwi, Council and the District Health Board to bring new vigour to rural health services in South Waikato.

Council wishes our community a happy and safe festive break. If you are travelling please take care on the roads.

IN the know

Council's financial management system contains around 2,800 budget lines (specific items like pavement rehabilitation), divided across 65 cost centres (services like roading).

This column features a snippet about Council. Got a question, drop an email to kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.

SWIF to move to external trust

Council recently resolved to move the \$25 million SWIF investment fund to an external trust that is independent of Council.

Council consulted with the community on this issue during the Annual Plan process and more formally during November.

"There are several conditions to the resolution," said Craig Hobbs, Chief Executive. "The Trust Deed and process for the appointment of Trustees needs to be finalised, confirmation of income-tax-free status, writing the investment procedures and policies, and the relationships between the Trust, Council and the community need to be formalised."

Some funds will remain in Council to fulfil current commitments, including rates subsidies and the \$1 million to the new Economic

Development Trust (which is in the process of being established, consulted on during the Annual Plan process). Council will also use \$100,000 for economic development related projects including the development of both trusts.

Council would like to thank those who took the time to share their views during consultation. As Council continues to work through the finer detail, the ideas of submitters will be invaluable to this part of the process. Sixteen people spoke at the public hearings. The results of the consultation process indicated that of the 82 submissions, 10 opted for Council to keep the SWIF in Council and 68 opted for the move to an external trust. Four submitters didn't identify a preferred option.



Council wins at Court of Appeal

Two years after being taken to the High Court by Roading and Asphalt Ltd (RAL) regarding the awarding of the landfill management contract, Council has been awarded a win at the Court of Appeal.

"This is great news for Council and our ratepayers," said Roger Fisher (who was Council's Assets Group Manager at the time). "Council was surprised by the initial ruling as we felt that our tender process was managed appropriately and the tender documents worded accurately. Our confidence in how the process was handled was the reason why we appealed the decision."

Following the High Court decision, Council paid the settlement amount of

\$472,830.87 into a holding account. The settlement amount was for the loss of profit amount, interest and legal costs. This will now be repaid in full plus Council's Court of Appeal legal costs.

The legal disagreement occurred when Council didn't award the landfill management contract to the lowest tenderer. Council believed that the tender documentation clearly stated that it may not necessarily select the lowest tender price, depending on other factors; whereas RAL felt that the document indicated the Council must accept the lowest tender.

Council is pleased at the final outcome and the fact that the decision by the Court of Appeal is final; no further appeal is possible.



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