

# IN touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 18 - September/October 2014

## Recycling move to Croad Place

The district recycling processing facility, that previously operated from Thompson Street is moving to Croad Place.

The site is owned by Council and will be managed by the South Waikato Achievement Trust (SWAT) in accordance with an existing contract. SWAT will use the space created at the old site for other activities.

"Users of the urban household recycling collection service won't notice a difference to their collection," said Andrew Pascoe, Council's Services Manager. "If people did their own drop off at the SWAT facility, whether they are rural ratepayers or have a particularly high volume of recycling, then they will need to go to the new facility."

"Council needed to move the facility because its current site which is in a residential area, is not ideal," explained Andrew. "The new site is perfect for a recycling operation; it is

larger and fit for purpose; in an appropriate zone under our District Plan and vehicle movement complies with New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) regulations."

The move will coincide with the closure of the recycling depot in the Dreghorn car park.

The new site will feature a covered public drop off centre that is manned during business hours to assist residents with correct recycling. The trucks carrying recycling from the urban areas and rural depots will enter a different gate at the north of the facility. Sorting will be done in the shed.

Council is undertaking planting around the perimeter of the facility for aesthetic purposes.

"Increasing our recycling efforts has a number of advantages including extending the life of landfills, reducing the number of bags people need to purchase for general waste and being good for the environment," concluded Andrew.

### What CAN be recycled?

- Plastic containers with recycle symbols 1 to 7 (eg, milk bottles, plastic drink bottles, shampoo containers).
- All glass (brown, green and clear).
- Paper and cardboard (eg, newspapers, magazines, brown paper, junk mail, office paper, books, leaflets, egg cartons).
- Metal cans and tins (eg, steel and aluminium cans, metal lids from jars, empty aerosol cans, clean aluminium foil).

### What CAN'T be recycled?

- NO light bulbs, broken glass, window glass, mirrors, drinking glasses or ceramics - these items are dangerous and can cause injury to sorting staff.
- NO painted or wax paper, foil wrapping paper, drink cartons, tetrapaks, nappies, toys, cling wrap, muesli bar wrappers, foodscraps, coffee refills, flowers, oil containers, paint tins, fibreboard, polystyrene (including meat trays) - these items cannot currently be recycled here.
- NO hazardous material containers (eg, pesticides, oil or toxic chemicals) - these items can be disposed of at the Putāruru Transfer Station and the Tokoroa Landfill.

### How can I help the recycling process?

- Please RINSE containers so they don't smell.
- Please SQUASH plastic containers and FLATTEN cardboard and paper so they take up less space.

**Croad Place is expected to be open by November.**

## IN brief

- Arapuni Street kerb and channel replacement and pavement rehabilitation project and upgrades to Wiltsdown and Old Taupo Road intersection are underway.
- Following concerns raised by members of the public regarding vehicle speeds while children are being dropped off and picked up from school, the speed indication device was located in Kowhai Place. It is pleasing to see that the average speed recorded was 34kph. It was noted that traffic volumes were heaviest at morning drop off times with little or no traffic outside of school hours.

## IN side

- 2&3 If a disaster happened NOW, are you ready?
- 4&5 Vandalism costs Getting to know staff
- 6&7 Bylaws and Policies Lake Moananui - yay!
- 8 Councillor columns Councillor contacts

## IN house

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# If a disaster happened RIGHT NOW, would you be ready?

## A SEVERE STORM IS ON THE WAY

## VOLCANIC ASH IS HEADING OUR WAY

## A HUGE EARTHQUAKE HAS JUST HIT

### What would you do?

Now that we have everyone in a panic... calm down!!

There is a lot you can do to prepare your household, your family and your community.

Due to its location and environment, New Zealand faces many potential disasters. In some cases like a severe storm or volcanic eruption, there may be time for a warning to be issued by the authorities. But some natural disasters just happen out of the blue... no one in Christchurch expected to be shaken awake at 4am... but they were.

All disasters have the potential to cause disruption to services that we often take for granted, damage property and take lives. So it's vital to be prepared.

What you would do if suddenly your sewerage system didn't work? No power for days on end? What if you turn on the tap and horrible smelling, looking and tasting water comes out... what if no water comes out?

What then?

We don't have enough space here to give you all the tips, hints and detail. We encourage you to get ready and get through (branded Get Ready Get Thru).



You should visit the following websites for more on preparing yourself and your family for an emergency and what to do during and after an event.

- [www.eqc.govt.nz](http://www.eqc.govt.nz) - how to make your home earthquake safe
- [www.fire.org.nz](http://www.fire.org.nz) - fires
- [www.police.govt.nz](http://www.police.govt.nz) - criminal acts and terrorism
- <http://www.metservice.com/national/home> - weather warnings

- [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz) - pandemic (health related illness outbreak)
- [www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz) - being prepared
- [www.gns.cri.nz](http://www.gns.cri.nz) - earthquakes and volcanos
- [www.civildefence.govt.nz](http://www.civildefence.govt.nz) - Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management

### EARTHQUAKES



Earthquakes are difficult to predict, they can strike any time, without warning. They can be mild causing no damage, medium causing some damage, severe causing serious damage or catastrophic.

#### Before an earthquake

- Identify safe places within your home, school or workplace. These could be under a strong table, next to an interior wall, away from windows that can shatter and tall furniture that can fall on you.
- In the movies and in the past, it has been recommended to get to an internal doorway. In most modern NZ homes, this is not the best option. Doorways are no stronger than other parts of the house and have doors that can swing and hurt you.
- Secure heavy items of furniture to the floor or wall.

#### During an earthquake

- The key point with earthquakes is DROP COVER HOLD. Drop to the ground, cover your head (or get under cover) and hold on to something (if you can).



- If you are inside a building, move no more than a few steps. DROP COVER HOLD. Stay indoors till the shaking stops and you are sure it is safe to exit.
- If you are outside, move no more than a few steps away from buildings, trees, streetlights and power lines. DROP COVER HOLD. Stay there until the shaking stops.
- If you are driving, pull over to a clear location, stop and stay in the car with your seatbelt fastened until the shaking stops. Once the shaking stops, proceed with caution and avoid bridges or ramps that might have been damaged.

#### After an earthquake

- Expect aftershocks.
- If you are in a damaged building, try to get outside and find a safe, open place. Use the stairs, not the elevators.
- Watch out for fallen power lines or broken gas lines, and stay out of damaged areas.

### STORMS



Major storms can be accompanied by strong winds, heavy rain, thunder and lightning. They can cause damage to property and infrastructure, affect crops and livestock and disrupt essential services.

#### Before a storm

- Prepare your property for high winds. Secure large heavy objects or remove any item which can become a deadly or damaging missile. Get your roof checked regularly to make

sure it is secure. List items that may need to be secured or moved indoors when strong winds are forecast.

- Keep materials at hand for repairing windows, such as tarpaulins, boards and duct tape.
- If farming, know which paddocks are safe to move livestock away from floodwaters, landslides and power lines.

#### During a storm

- Secure, or move indoors, all items that could get blown about and cause harm in strong winds.
- Close windows, external and internal doors. Pull curtains and drapes over unprotected glass areas to prevent injury from shattered or flying glass.
- If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you.

#### After a storm

- Check for injuries and help others if you can, especially people who require special assistance.

### FLOODS



Floods can cause injury and loss of life, damage to property and infrastructure, loss of stock and contamination of water and land. Floods are usually caused by continuous heavy rain. A flood becomes dangerous if the water is very deep or travelling very fast, the floods have risen very quickly or if floodwater contains debris, such as trees and sheets of corrugated iron.

### Before a flood

- Find out from us (07 885 0340) if your home or business is at risk from flooding.
- Know how to get to the closest piece of high ground.

### During a flood

- Lift valuable household items and chemicals as high above the floor as possible.
- Fill bathtubs, sinks and storage containers with clean water in case water becomes contaminated.
- Do not attempt to drive or walk through floodwaters unless it is absolutely essential.

### After a flood

- It may not be safe to return home even when the floodwaters have receded.
- Throw away food including canned goods and water that has been contaminated by floodwater.
- Avoid drinking or preparing food with tap water until you are certain it is not contaminated. If in doubt, check with Council or the District Health Board.

### ASHFALL

We are situated on a geographic belt containing 90% of the earth's volcanoes. Volcanoes usually have short active periods, and long dormant periods. Volcanoes produce a wide variety of hazards that can kill people and destroy property nearby as well as hundreds of kilometres away. Hazards include widespread ashfall, very fast moving mixtures of hot gases and volcanic rock and massive lahars. In the South Waikato we don't necessarily have a volcanic hazard. Our closest active volcano is Mount Ruapehu



and the caldera Lake Taupo. An emergency affecting us related to a volcanic eruption would likely be from ashfall.

### Before an ashfall

- Put all machinery inside a garage or shed, or cover with large tarpaulins to protect them from volcanic ash.
- If you have to go outside use protective gear such as masks and goggles and keep your skin covered. Wear eyeglasses, not contact lenses as these can cause corneal abrasions.
- Bring animals and livestock into closed shelters to protect them from volcanic ash.

- Protect sensitive electronics and do not uncover until the environment is totally ash-free.

### During an ashfall

- When indoors, close all windows and doors to limit the entry of volcanic ash.
- Place damp towels at thresholds.

### After an ashfall

- Stay indoors and away from volcanic ashfall areas as much as possible.
- When it is safe to go outside, keep your gutters and roof clear of ash as heavy ash deposits can collapse your roof.
- Avoid driving in heavy ashfall as it stirs up ash that can clog engines and cause serious abrasion damage to your vehicle.

In New Zealand there are other types of natural disasters, but these are not considered overly relevant for South Waikato. These include snowstorms, tornados and landslides.

## Tips for storing water

- Wash bottles thoroughly in hot water.
- Fill each bottle with tap water until it overflows.
- Label each bottle with dates showing when the bottles were filled and when they need to be refilled.
- Check the bottles once a year. If the water is not clear, throw it out and refill clean bottles with clean water.
- Store bottles away from direct sunlight in a cool dark place. Keep in two places and where there is not likely to be flooding.
- You can also fill plastic ice cream containers with water, cover, label and keep in the freezer.
- You can use water purification tablets too. These tablets can also be used to sanitise water if you suspect it is contaminated. Follow manufacturer instructions at all times.

## Council messages - where?

**Radio:** Council will use Classic Hits (97.3FM) and Newstalk ZB (1413AM) for emergency messages.

**Social Media:** Council will use social media in an emergency. Follow us (twitter: @SouthWaikatoDC) and like us (facebook: www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil and www.facebook/SouthWaikatoEmergencyManagement).

**Website:** Council will use its own website for updates. www.southwaikato.govt.nz

*It is likely that other civil defence agencies will be issuing bulletins too (see websites listed on page 2).*

## In all emergencies, do the following:

- Put your household emergency plan into action and check your getaway kit. Be prepared to evacuate quickly if it becomes necessary. Include your pets in your emergency plan.
- Make sure your home and property is adequately insured. If property is damaged, take photos for insurance purposes.
- Look for and report broken utility lines to appropriate authorities (eg, power, phone, water).
- If life or property is threatened, always dial 111 (remember 111 services may be overloaded).
- Where possible keep pets indoors and move stock to safe sheltered areas, or high ground.

## Community Response Plan

Get together with your neighbours and develop a Community Response Plan. When disaster strikes, it is ordinary members of the public, not emergency services who are the first to respond. A Community Response Plan developed **by** your neighbourhood **for** your neighbourhood will help coordinate the first 72 hours of an emergency. If you and your neighbours are interested contact Council's Civil Defence Manager, Ian Wellings on 07 885 0340. Ian will meet with you and help get you started.

## House number and access issues

Emergency services in the South Waikato such as fire and ambulance appeal to landowners to have house numbers and rural numbers in plain view and to ensure driveways are suitable for an ambulance and fire truck to pass. Remember these vehicles are larger than many other vehicles. If you are in need of emergency care and your property number is not visible, the ambulance can drive straight past; this could mean the difference between life and death in serious situations. And a fire truck that gets tangled in a tree getting to your fire can be equally disastrous!!

**Plan to look after yourself and your loved ones for at least three days. Emergency Services may not be able to get to you immediately.**

**Develop a Household Emergency Plan (see insert), a Getaway Kit and a First Aid kit. Visit [www.getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready](http://www.getthru.govt.nz/how-to-get-ready) to download templates and kit details.**

# Community and Council gutted by vandalism

Council is appalled at the recent spate of vandalism on both public and private property in our district.

The district has a negative profile at times. There are many in the community - too many to name; business leaders, developers and community-minded people with the biggest hearts, who work tirelessly to improve this image, improve our lives and improve the perception of our beautiful towns. It is intolerable that there also appears to be a small minority who seem hell-bent on keeping this negative image alive.

In the past financial year over \$200,000 has gone towards repairing damage caused by vandalism. With the help of Council initiatives such as *Biff it in the Bin* and the 0800 tag line this figure is lower than previous years (2010 figures were over \$300,000) but it could stand to be a lot lower still.

The bulk of the repair costs go towards repairing damage to our parks and reserves, and public buildings (\$122,000). The remainder goes towards fixing/replacing damaged street/road signs (\$41,000), and the clean-up of fly tipping/illegal dumping (\$45,000).

"The cost to Council, and ultimately the ratepayer, to replace equipment damaged by vandalism, paint out tagging, fix reserves, re-plant trees if they have indeed survived being ripped out, is simply not acceptable," said Ted Anderson, Council's Assets Group Manager. "Further costs that we are looking at include increased security patrols, hire of private security guards, and installation of CCTV cameras, because we simply can't risk not to."



Replacing the swing on the new Lake Moananui playground cost \$3,000...



...and the damage done twice over to Council's office in Putāruru cost \$1,100 all up.

Council (and we're sure ratepayers too) would much rather us spend funding on other things. When there are fewer damages to fix, there is more money to spend on improving property in our district.

A positive example of this is that because there has been a significant drop in damage to our road signs over the last few years; the roading team has been able to enhance signage in our district and increase their level of service on existing signage, within existing budgets.

And it's not all about the costs; we have several staff members who work tirelessly to help make our district a better place to live, work, and play in. Our Parks and Property staff are always out and about finding ways to improve the look of our towns and are proud of the work they do.

Recently our Parks/Property Officer Lawrence Warrington repaired some damage done to the Putāruru office, where a careless vandal had kicked in the boards on the side of the building; this cost \$400 to fix. Two days later he returned to find that it had

been done again, only this time it was worse, costing \$700 to repair.

"I walked in there and my heart just sank," Lawrence recalls "You're left feeling really disheartened after seeing your work disrespected like that."

If Council can identify who is responsible for the vandalism they will be billed for the cost of repairing the damage. We work with the police on this where we can and we have our own infringement system for fly-tipping and illegal dumping of rubbish that contains identifiable material.

However, at the end of the day it comes down to those who choose to vandalise and damage property. The onus is on them to take responsibility for their actions and realise that this is costing our community.

Council would also like to remind our community that just because it isn't happening to your property, doesn't mean that you aren't paying for it. If you see something happening, report it.

## What's

Mark your calendar

### Diwali

18 October 2014  
SW Sport & Events Centre

### Health Expo

18 October 2014  
Putaruru Plaza, 10am to 3pm  
Free day sponsored by the Lions Club (charge for lunch), talks on prostate cancer, sleep pain and acupuncture; wide range of professionals advising on alzheimers, parkinsons, podiatry, physiotherapy and more. Representatives from Age Unlimited, Red Cross, St John's, Age Concern. Try Tai Chi and Upright and Active.

### Putāruru Business Awards

18 October 2014  
Putāruru College, 6pm  
Tickets available from Pride in Putaruru

### Taniwha (Waikato River Trails)

8 November 2014  
Details and enter here:  
[www.thetaniwha.co.nz](http://www.thetaniwha.co.nz)

### Hello Sailor

8 November 2014  
Concert featuring Hello Sailor and other local acts - open to all in the community; come along and have some fun  
Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground - on the oval

### Tokoroa Big Weekend

5 to 6 December 2014

*Tokoroa A&P Show* - Sat 6 Dec, 9am to 4pm, Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground, animal events, mower racing, home industry and other entertainment

*Carols in the Park* - Fri 5 Dec, 6 to 8.30pm, Memorial Sportsground, bring a picnic tea and seats to sit on.

*Christmas Parade* - Sat 6 Dec, 11am until prize giving around noon, event leaves Kindergarten Place at 11am travelling along Bridge Street to Leith Place, entertainment in town, including face painting

### Putāruru Christmas Parade

12 December, 6pm  
Start Overdale Street, proceed up Princes Street, return

### SuperSport

20, 21 and 22 February 2015



\$300 worth of plants were thoughtlessly ripped from Council's front garden early in September.

## Getting to know our staff

Hi my name is Maree and I am the Assistant Parks Officer. I have worked at Council for just over 16 years, and am a South Waikato girl through and through. My husband Joe is the Property Assistant here at Council and has worked here for just over 10 years. Joe moved to New Zealand 40 years ago, straight to Tokoroa from the Cook Islands. I was born in Putāruru, and I have also lived in the South Island. But for both of us, the South Waikato is home.

Together with the rest of our Parks and Property team we help keep the South Waikato looking beautiful; providing our communities with great parks and reserves to visit, tidy property to enjoy and be proud of. Yes, it can be really disheartening when our hard work is destroyed by thoughtless vandals, but we like to keep positive and think of the many more community members who appreciate the work we do.

There are so many aspects of our jobs that make it worth coming to work everyday. We work in an amazing team who care about our district and the environment, this goes for all Council staff too. We both love how our jobs allow us to be outdoors, and being out in the community, engaging with the people is

really rewarding as well. We often work with groups and schools who volunteer their time to come along for planting days around the district; teaching kids about the importance of trees and knowing that even if just one of those kids continues on to enjoy and care about trees in the future, that we've made a worthy difference.

One of our proudest achievements has been all the work we have done at Te Waihou Walkway and Blue Spring over the years, including building the board walks, maintaining the track, planting thousands of trees, along with a number of other jobs we do that help keep the area looking lovely. It's a fantastic spot for people to visit, both locals and tourists, and it's a great feeling knowing we have helped make it what it is today.

Outside of work Joe and I love to fish. Ocean fishing is where it's at and we love to travel to awesome fishing spots and go out to sea with other fishing groups. We also enter into fishing competitions whenever we get the chance. The great thing about living in the South Waikato is we are so central, it never takes us very long to get to a fishing spot and at the end of the day it's quick to get home. And we love coming home.

*Joe and Mara (below), Maree and Jasmine (far below) plant trees along the Waihou river, with help from their fellow Putāruru Brownies.*



## Talking safety with our Police



My role as the family violence officer gives me the opportunity to give a real and hands on view of what I see on a daily basis. The word 'poverty' has been used a lot in the recent election campaigns. But does it really exist or is it some political hype?

Yes poverty does exist. In some cases I see it as a form of choice by certain people, who through unemployment, drug addiction and poor life choices have given up and allowed themselves to live in a substandard way. It does not cost a lot to keep clean, but when I go into some of our homes, I really wonder: would they be better off living in a barn with all the animals like we did 500 years ago. I see dogs kept inside for days on end and allowed to defecate. I am all for home security, but at the demise of your family's health?

Poverty is created by substance abuse where some people spend their valuable \$20 on a fix instead of on bread and milk. Looking at people's rubbish is a great way of telling how their weekly food budgets are spent - garages, garden sheds, even back yards overflowing with alcohol bottles/cans, takeaway wrappings, empty computer box games etc. I am amazed that some people cannot be bothered to take the rubbish bag to the pavement to be picked up by Council.

Our community has a high rate of domestic violence and if we are to combat this we have to ensure that our children are given every opportunity to get an education. Poverty can be seen as an indicator of where our society is at; what I am seeing is a decline in our living standards. There are many pressures that families face every day, however we are fortunate that we have people who can help. This past year there has been a big emphasis on informing our community about our non-government social services. They are there to provide the appropriate support and assistance to our people who genuinely need help.



The 2014 Dancefest will be held over Labour Weekend **25 to 27 October**. Organised by a small band of South Waikato ladies this is a superb opportunity to see dancing talent at its best. The three day event is packed to the brim with classical and contemporary dance. The costumes are truly stunning. The organising committee invite the public to come and enjoy this occasion.

**Friday 14 November** sees the return of the Australian Showtime Management Abba concert. This show provides a musical journey into the magic, talent and history of Abba. With authentic costuming and trademark dancing, this show will take you back in time to the much loved songs the group performed. Show starts 8pm Tickets \$39.

John Drummond's Opera Bravo promises to be excellent on **Sunday 16 November**. Accompanied by Francis Cowan and vocalists Elaine Wogan, Pamela Wallace and Filipe Manu this is an opportunity to hear first class singing. Show starts 2pm. Admission \$35, Students \$15.

Monthly movie screenings at The Plaza are proving to be very popular. The late return of power in August was disappointing as we were unable to show MAO'S LAST DANCER. A thank you to all who arrived for the screening. This movie has been rescheduled for **Sunday 19 October** at 2pm. The movie is based on the rags to riches life of Li Cunxin. And then on Sunday 30 November at 2pm we are featuring 12 YEARS A SLAVE. This story is based on the true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom. Tickets to movies at the Plaza are \$8.



# Bylaw and Policy update

Council's **Significance and Engagement Policy** was updated recently. The policy helps Council to assess the significance of a decision (ie the level of importance to our community) and how we engage with our community.

The amendments we have included in the policy reflect the results of the recent (March 2014) Customer Satisfaction Survey. This survey shows that:

- 83% are satisfied with the amount of information Council provides its community across various mediums; 10% dissatisfied, 7% don't know.
- 66% are satisfied with the decision making, planning and leadership of elected members; 12% dissatisfied, 21% don't know. This rates favourably against peer councils average of 61%.
- 61% are satisfied with the degree to which they can

have a say in Council decision making and planning; 16% dissatisfied and 24% don't know. This rates favourably against peer councils average of 49%.

Based on this last key point, Council considers that this information provides sufficient direction to Council on when and how our community would like to be formally consulted and the level to which they currently feel involved in decision making.

The policy itself details levels of engagement including:

- Inform (like when we issue messages about water restriction, air quality, pool holiday programmes etc).
- Consult (like when we ask you what you think about the Annual Plan or Dog Control Bylaw).
- Involve (like the work Council does with other agencies for the Air Quality programmes)

- Collaborate (like what Council is doing with the Public Transport group)
- Empower (like a referendum, local body elections).

Once the policy is final it will be available on our website.

The **Dog Control** bylaw and policy, detail exercise areas, prohibited areas and requirements of dog owners as guided by central government legislation.

Council received eight submissions that were generally supportive with a few suggested changes.

Some of the submitters requested to be heard and hearings will be held in mid October, which is after In Touch was signed off to print, so results will be published here next issue.

## The Open Fires in Urban Areas Bylaw

is a renewal of the existing bylaw that allows Council to exercise control over fires in the urban area to provide protection of people and property from the risk and spread of fires and to prevent smoke from fires in the open causing a nuisance.

The main change that Council made to the existing bylaw was to include that when a prohibited fire season is declared in a Rural Fire District, it will automatically extend to the surrounding urban area.

Council received only one submission, which was in support of the suggested change. The submitter didn't wish to be heard, so no hearing was held.

The bylaw is available on our website under Our Services - Emergency Management.

# Ever wondered what to plant and where?

Trees are a valuable addition to any residential garden. They can add colour to your landscape, shade to your outdoor living area and provide areas for wildlife to live. However, if enough thought isn't put into selecting the correct tree, you could be left with an expensive problem later on.

This new column is compiled by our Parks team and will provide some guidance when you are selecting which tree to plant and where.

Before you plant a tree make sure that it's root system won't disturb building foundations in the future and bear your neighbours in mind - you don't want to block their sunlight - or your own - in the years to come!

The Maple (*Acer*. genus) is an exotic tree that is predominantly deciduous. It likes average to well-drained lime-free soil and dislikes continuous strong winds. *Acers* are grown mainly for their brilliant autumn leaf colours, ranging from golden yellows to bright oranges, reds, pinks and crimsons. Some such as the 'Snakebark' maples and 'Paperbark' maple also have attractive bark. Their flowers are small and inconspicuous.

As trees in the *Acer* genus can grow in height anywhere from shrub types at two metres to trees over 20 metres, we recommend the following for residential sections:

Photo compliments of Leafland - showing the bright red leaf of the Crimson King.

- *Acer* 'Gracefield' is a Snakebark maple that is low spreading, growing to 2.5m with bright orange autumn colourings and a splash of pink on new growth.
- *Acer japonicum* 'Acontifolium' is ideal for smaller gardens, growing to 4m and sporting the full range of autumn colours.
- *Acer japonicum* 'Aureum' are a slow growing and compact tree, reaching 3m with yellow colourings in autumn.
- *Acer japonicum* 'Green Cascade' is a weeping form that grows to 2m with deeply cut leaves turning from yellow to red in autumn.

The widest range of *Acers* suitable to home gardens belong to the Japanese Maples (*Acer palmatum*). These range from weeping forms to trees between 2m and 5m in height, covering the spectrum of

autumn tonings. Examples of these include:

- 'Atropurpureum' grows to 3.5m and has crimson to bronze purple leaves in summer turning to scarlet in autumn.
- 'Katsura' is the first maple to unfurl in spring with orange and yellow leaves and grows to 4m.
- 'Osakazuki' has large lobed leaves, pinky bronze new growth and grows to 4m; it is considered to have the brightest scarlet autumn colours.

Weeping *palmatum* include:

- 'Crimson King' is crimson in spring, deep purple over summer, and red and orange in autumn.
- 'Seiryu' is an upright grower, with graceful spreading branches, growing to 3m with autumn tones of gold tinted red.
- 'Orangeola' boasts bright orange and red autumn colours.



## This is YOUR lake, enjoy it!

It is great to see Lake Moananui looking like its old self and Council is thrilled to see so many people using both the reserve, walkway and playground. The project was a little slow in starting, largely due to the complexities of the dam repair and silt removal. Once the team got going, progress was good, hampered from time to time by the inclement winter weather.

This refurbishment came with a fair price tag of just over \$1million, most of which was loan funded over time, so as to minimise the impact on rates of today. Given the tremendous use the reserve gets from those who use the lake for exercise, mums and dads with babies in prams and people walking dogs, we think the funding Council committed to the reserve was worth it. We are also looking forward to the installation of some basic pieces of exercise frames at spots around the walkway.

There are still a few things to be done, such as the jetty construction. The jetty is not a public facility, it is necessary for the management of the lake levels. While the lake looks stunning, especially with the warmer weather we have been having lately, we will have to drop the level again towards the end of October so that we can install the jetty. But never fear, it will only be lowered for a couple of weeks and then we will have it filled again, all in good time for the summer holidays. Following this second re-filling, Fish and Game will be releasing trout.

We will be having a small official opening just before the Lake Celebration kicks off

on Friday 17 October. There will be lots on for the whole family to enjoy, so make sure to join us down at the lake. The Pink Walk will be taking place during the celebrations, if you're coming down why not throw on something pink and join the walk - remember your gold coin donation. The Lake Celebration runs from 5pm - 7pm, and the Pink Walk starts at 5.30pm.

### The project in a nutshell

#### Silt removal and island construction

We removed silt that was clogging the lake and reducing the depth. We used this silt to reshape an island at the southern end of the lake. A retaining wall was constructed in the island to contain the silt. The island has since been planted by our local school children during public planting days.

#### Silt stockpile

Remaining silt was stockpiled and left to dry. It will be reshaped to improve the contour of the reserve.

#### Silt trap

We excavated an area at the top end of the lake to create a silt trap. This will trap silt flowing into the lake in coming years to keep the lake itself from silting up again. This will need emptying every three to four years.

#### Dam wall restoration

The dam wall was leaking so have covered the face of the dam with a water proof liner.

## Hello Sailor live in concert



Council's Community Team have been busy organising an event to tag on to the end of the third annual Taniwha event, and it's shaping up to be a blast! Hello Sailor will be performing on the Oval at the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsgrounds, on Saturday 8 November, along with a number of local performances. There will also be food and activities for the whole family to enjoy, so make sure you come along, because it's open to everyone, not just those who participated in the Taniwha...

BUT we do encourage you to enter the Taniwha if you haven't already. As always, there are a bunch of different distance options for both mountain bikers and walkers/runners, so feel free to bite off as much as you think you can chew, then chew like crazy!! You can have a crack on your own, or you can rope in your family and/or friends and do it as a team relay!

Whatever you choose to do, you will be exposed to some absolutely brilliant track, massive swing bridges, flowing gravel paths, boardwalks, wide open reserves, and even crossing a number of dams along the way! You'll love it!

And as a bonus, as a local you get a special discount, head on over to [www.thetaniwha.co.nz](http://www.thetaniwha.co.nz) to register and email the team to get your special code. You will get an awesome 20% discount when you enter!



## Spring is here... go get your wood!

Spring is the ideal time to get your wood ready for winter!

We know it's getting warmer and it's hard to think of the cold winter months so far away, but preparing your wood NEEDS to be done in spring and summer.

Here are some key tips:

Collect your wood for this winter NOW.

Stack it in a dry place, all ready for use.

DRY SEASONED wood not only burns better, but it releases considerably less PM10 into the air.

DRY and SEASONED wood should be chopped 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 at least once a year, spring and summer is the perfect time.

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](http://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:



Central Bay Firewood  
07 886 6387

Tokoroa City Lions  
[www.tokoroalions.com](http://www.tokoroalions.com)

Tokoroa Firewood Ltd  
0508 FOR WOOD (0508 367 9663)

Balmoral Firewood Supplies  
07 886 7550

South Waikato Achievement Centre  
07 886 8941



## IN brief continued...

- Footpath improvements to Browning Street and Moffatt Road will start in October to address some of the issues raised as part of the Amisfield School crossing upgrade on state highway one.
- The speed indication device (SID) is being put to good use around the district. In Arapuni it shows that most traffic is adhering to the 50kph speed limit, with only 10% of vehicles travelling north going over 60kph and 23% over when travelling from the south.
- The Day Night Thriller held at the Cougar Mountain Bike Park in Tokoroa during September was a fantastic success. All credit to the Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club and event organiser Event Promotions for a tremendous event. Feedback from competitors was very positive. 107 teams and 55 solo riders competed across the various categories and race lengths. Between them they completed 2,656 laps and covered a total distance of 18,592km.
- Huge thanks to the 180 school children from several Tokoroa schools who came down to Lake Moananui to help plant the newly constructed island. The team planted a whopping 3,400 plants over two days!

## IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via: website:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz  
facebook: www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil  
twitter: @SouthWaikatoDC

## IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email [kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz).

## Councillor Column Terry Magill

I believe residents of the South Waikato are getting value from the Mayor and Council who are working consistently very hard to achieve better things for our district.

Our primary role is to ensure that our infrastructure (sewerage treatment plants, water supply, roads and reserves) is kept in a more-than-satisfactory state. There is a fine balance between this duty and the social wellbeing of the district. These social and community areas are not core functions of local authorities, but this Council strongly recognises the importance of providing the likes of our libraries, swimming pools, playing fields, employment related initiatives and many others; especially in the absence of central government roles within the district.

Our commitment to trade training is, on a per capita basis, much greater than other local authorities and it is hoped that many of these students will find employment here, including at the construction of the milk powder dryer at Lichfield.

One of Council's statutory obligations is to prepare a Long Term Plan (LTP) looking at the next 10 years. We have to anticipate what projects will come on board during the coming decade, to rank their priority and to attempt to capture the likely costs of all of these on-going areas of expenditure.

Council has been involved in several workshops to reach the best possible outcomes for this LTP which, of course, will be put to the community for feedback.

Whilst expensive, the Lake Moananui project will hopefully see substantial use and enjoyment by everyone, especially those in Tokoroa. It is indeed a shame that in recent times there has been much vandalism both at Lake Moananui and in other areas. We as a Council want to convey pride in our communities and these senseless acts of vandalism are very disappointing.

## Councillor Column Thomas Lee

It's almost been a year since I was first voted on to Council along with my fellow Councillors and Mayor Neil, and what a year it's been. The first two months was just a massive tidal wave of:

- learning about local governance
- learning about how everything within our district worked
- visting all of our assets, parks and reserves etc
- and lots and lots of reading!

We, the newbies, were almost swamped, but with the assistance of the old hands within Council and great Council staff we were able to keep our heads above the water and now it's plain sailing and full steam ahead.

One of the enjoyable things we have done since election time was giving out \$5 million to several organisations and projects in our district. Those that came with good submissions and business plans were able to secure some of the funding and well done to them. All of Council wished we had more funds to give, but unfortunately it was a limited supply.

The worst thing that has happened so far, and this has been recent, has been the wanton vandalism and destruction of property within the district. Why would anyone set fire to a child's swing, or pull out plants, or snap newly planted trees? There is always a cost to this sort of behaviour. The \$200,000 spent over the past year on vandalism is 1% of the rates and this is paid for by us the ratepayers. We, as a community need to stop/report this behaviour and have pride in our communities and district as a whole. We need to show the rest of the country that we're proud to call South Waikato home and it's a great place to live and work. We need to attract business and investment, to create jobs for our youth. Pride in our communities and district will do this. Spread the word and tell people what a great place we live in.

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## IN value

IN Touch costs 50 cents per copy per resident per issue. The cost of six issues per year is \$3 per ratepayer. For this cost our community receives 48 pages of information about Council and the district.

*\*approximates, overruns not included.*