

## China visit cements economic and tourism relations

The year has flown by, new Councillors have settled in and after grappling with the Annual Plan, Long Term Plan and District Plan can no longer be considered 'new'. There were many highlights this year, too many to mention, some key ones include the completion of the refurbishment of Lake Moananui, the announcement from Fonterra of the brand new dryer being constructed at Lichfield that will create heaps of jobs during construction and around a further 40 permanent jobs, Okoroire Hotel being sold, funding \$5 million towards community and economic development projects and watching those come to fruition, and even the Gull project completed.

Very recently Deputy Mayor Jenny Shattock and I were invited guests of the 2014 International Mayoral Forum

on Tourism held in China. We joined over 70 other mayors from across the world, including places such as Luxemburg, India, Korea, Finland, Romania, France and Spain, to name just a few. The place for tourism in a country's economy was without doubt of prime importance for these world leaders. Cities, like Madrid for instance, place huge emphasis on tourism, but couples tourism with a broader view including their transportation system, social responsibility, sustainability and capital development.

New Zealand traditionally sees tourism as a small part of its economy. Apart from Australians, New Zealand has less than 1% of the travelling tourists from all other countries. The challenge for New Zealand and South Waikato in particular is to sell what we have that is unique - we have a beautiful

district, we need to provide good service, and ensure visitors have a memorable experience in our district - we need to make them feel welcome. We are clean and green, we are multi-cultural, we are safe and we are friendly - let's sell it!

Aside from the Tourism Forum, we also visited Yichun City to establish a sister city relationship. This culminated in a reciprocal visit from the Mayor of Yichun and entourage just a week after we got back from China! Cementing and building these relationships has been ongoing for a number of years, sharing our mutual desire to further education opportunities and grow our economies through significant investment. We have much to give each other, from sharing skills, developing partnerships and taking advantage of economic opportunities.

On behalf of Councillors and staff at the South Waikato District Council we wish our community the very best holiday season with family and friends. Enjoy our beautiful district, share our reserves and walkways with your visitors. Most of all, drive safe on the roads.

Christmas is upon us. It is a time to reflect, a time to recharge batteries, a time to spend with family and friends, a time to pause and consider just why we are here in the world. Christmas to me means family, a yearning for peace; let's have no violence over Christmas - what a wonderful Christmas present to our children that would be for our children!



### IN brief

- Creative Communities allocated \$6,365 to six of the 11 applications received, while Community Development Grants were made to 27 out of 36 applications, totalling funds of \$37,367.
- The Apprenticeship Graduation Ceremony was held in November recognising the efforts of 71 South Waikato graduates.
- The welding workshop expansion at the Tokoroa Trade Training Centre is underway.

### IN side

- 2&3 Update on \$5 million dollar projects
- 4-6 Representation review - what do you think?
- 7-11 News news news... Christmas closure times
- 12 Lake Moananui Councillor contacts

### IN house

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# \$5 million project update

Earlier this year Council allocated \$5 million to 15 projects through a public submission process. We thought it was a good time to give the community an update on where some of these projects are at. This feature covers eight of these projects with a special focus on two projects that are successfully up and running. Further updates on these and the other projects will feature in future issues of In Touch.

## Tokoroa Rail Terminal

The design/layout has been completed. Concerns by nearby residents that the operation may generate unacceptably high noise levels have been addressed through an acoustic assessment with noise levels falling within the District Plan limits. Mitigation measures detailed in a Noise Management Plan will be put in place. A Memorandum of Understanding between Council and RJ Lincoln has been prepared. Construction is expected to start before Christmas and be complete by March next year.

Spend to date: \$31,281  
Total budget: \$770,000 (from \$5 million fund) (additional \$1,500,000 from investment fund)

## Leith Place re-development/ Tokoroa Civic Hub

Council has contracted Visitor Solutions to do an economic assessment. To date they have completed the data analysis on traffic volume, visitor numbers, vehicle and pedestrian flow patterns and spend rates and held interviews with local stakeholders and businesses. Council will receive a detailed economic impact assessment and business case outline soon.

Preliminary discussions have also been held with the design team (Bossley Architects).

Spend to date: approx. \$50,000  
Total budget: \$1,000,000

## Cougar Park upgrade

A contract for the track development and marketing opportunities between Council and the Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club is in place. Work on the new tracks is expected to begin pre-Christmas. The new tracks will be developed over the next five years.

Spend to date: \$0 (all in-kind costs from Council staff and Club members)  
Total budget: \$350,000



More Cougar Park action coming soon.

## Tokoroa Trade Training Centre expansion

A new course - Welding and Fabrication - at the Tokoroa Trade Training Centre will kick off in 2015. Council committed funding to the development of a welding workshop. All the equipment and plant has been ordered and is due for delivery. The carpentry workshop has been moved ready for the refurbishment work for the welding workshop. We have already had enrolments in the course.

Spend to date: \$14,741  
Total budget: \$120,000

## St John Youth Hall alterations

The Putāruru Ambulance Station alterations have been completed. St John is finalising the plans and consents for stage two of the project.

Spend to date: \$25,000  
Total budget: \$75,000

## Te Waihou Walkway upgrade

This project has been divided into five sections: vegetation control and aesthetics, improved access in wet areas, extension to the Whites Road car park, extension to the Leslie Road car park and a new retaining wall at the Blue Spring. To date a considerable amount of vegetation control along the length of the track has occurred, new toilets are being installed and the Whites Road car park extension has started. Work continues on the other aspects.

Spend to date: \$7,633  
Total budget: \$7,633

*Other projects funded through the \$5 million but not covered above are: pensioner housing, Rangiura Retirement Village expansion, South Waikato Motorcross track, Tirau Walkway, Lake Moananui re-vegetation, Waikato water allocation study and public transport.*



Council staff member tidies up the toilet entrance way at Te Waihou.

## Tokoroa High School Services Academy

*Pictured are the Year 10 students with teacher Shane Tito (far right).*



Two vehicles have been purchased and are in operation. The project is virtually complete with vehicle signage still to be completed. It is a good example of a simple, relatively inexpensive initiative that has huge benefit to the community and for our young people. The Tokoroa High School Services Academy is a partially government funded project with a three-pronged focus:

- Focusing young people on their academic performance. Aligned to this is a steer towards making a career choice

## Tokoroa Hospice new equipment

The equipment - hospital beds, commodes, wheelchairs, over-bed tables and other items - have been purchased and been in use for about the past three months. Tokoroa Community Hospice is based at the Tokoroa Hospital site out of the TCOSS offices. The unit provides much needed equipment to terminally ill patients suffering from cancer, renal and heart failure, motor neuron and other terminal conditions and their families.

"Once a patient who has been diagnosed with terminal cancer is discharged from hospital into home-based care, Hospice ensures that the all the necessary equipment and assistance is in place in the home, both for the patient and their family. We maintain and monitor the patient, and help the family, through the end of life care process," said Vicki Ray, Services Coordinator. "This equipment was highly needed and has been well used over the past three months."

Over the past 12 months Tokoroa Community Hospice has assisted, or is currently assisting, 72 families.

Spend to date: \$27,694  
Total budget: \$28,000



Photo credit:  
South Waikato  
News, Fairfax  
Media

while still at school so that they can take appropriate subjects and work towards their future aspirations early.

- Building pride and commitment in our young people towards their community and being involved in community projects and enhancement initiatives.
- Giving young people a voice to speak out in the community on issues that they feel passionate about.

"Our kids were really keen to stand up against the R18 shop we had issues with last year and that builds their voice in a community. Service Academy is about embedding a pride and sense of belonging to a

community that lives on as the young people get older, either choosing to remain in Tokoroa or move on - it gives them a sense of **Tok is home and I'm proud of it**" said Director of the Academy, Matthew Manu. "These vehicles have meant that we can get out into the community and do even more community good than we were before."

Council itself has been a recipient of the increased levels of volunteer assistance the Service Academy is providing and is consistently impressed with the leadership shown by the youth.

Spend to date: \$93,845  
Total budget: \$100,000

## Talking safety with our Police



Throughout the year, come rain, hail or sunshine burglaries happen. Most are crimes of opportunity, so let's not give the crooks the chance. Help us to help you by taking precautions.

This can be as simple as locking your doors, sheds and garages and not leaving windows open or equipment and tools lying around.

Small, valuable items that are easily taken and disposed of are the most popular items stolen, such as jewellery, tools and electronic devices.

Police recover thousands of dollars' worth of stolen property every year. Sadly many items cannot be returned because the owner did not record the serial numbers or mark the property so it could be identified as belonging to them.

People who can provide the serial numbers of stolen goods to police have a much greater chance of having items returned.

Make a personal property record listing the item, its make, model, serial number and any identifying feature.

Operation SNAP (Serial Number Action Partnership) is a free initiative enabling anyone to record serial numbers and other unique identifying details of their valuable goods. Details are securely stored in an electronic database from where they can be quickly and easily retrieved by owners to give to Police if property is lost or stolen. This assists recovery of stolen goods and identifying of burglars and thieves. For more information and to register your goods, visit [www.SNAP.org.nz](http://www.SNAP.org.nz).



The Plaza has been exceptionally busy leading up towards the end of the year. We already have our 2015 calendar so please book early to get the dates you require for next year.

A combined Christmas Service will be held on Sunday 21 December from 6pm - 8.30pm. Enjoy sausage sizzle, brass band, carols, drama and more! Everybody is welcome to join in as we celebrate Christmas. An offering towards Bibles in Schools will be appreciated.

### Movie Screenings - Jan

Wednesday 21 January at 2pm - The Lorax; a story of a 12-year-old boy searching for the one thing that will enable him to win the affections of the girl of his dreams. To find it he must discover the story of the Lorax, the grumpy, yet charming creature who fights to protect his world. Tickets: adult \$8, children \$5.

Wednesday 28 January at 2pm - Despicable Me 2; when Gru, the world's most super-bad turned super-dad has been recruited by a team of officials to stop lethal muscle and a host of Gru's own, he has to fight back with new gadgetry, cars, and more minion madness. Tickets: adults \$8, children \$5.

The Plaza office will be closed from mid December and re open mid January 2015.

The South Waikato Arts Trust wishes to thank all our regular user groups for your support throughout 2014 and to also wish you all a very Merry and Safe Christmas. Future events will be listed in the next issue of In Touch.



# Representation Review

Consider the issues... got thoughts? Tell us!

Every six years Council must review its representation structure. This review determines how you will be represented for the next six years by your local Council. This spread is the first stage in the process. It will help you decide how you think the people in the South Waikato will be best represented. There are a four things to ask yourself before Council develops a formal proposal.

Do you want Maori seats?

Do you want a community board in your area?

How many Councillors do you think is best?

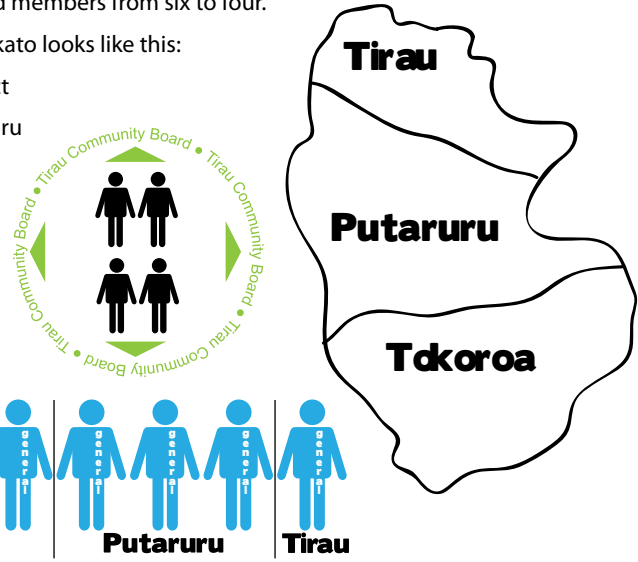
Do you want wards, and if yes, where?

## CURRENT SITUATION

The representation arrangements in the South Waikato have evolved over time. Over the years we have reduced the wards from four to three, reduced the number of Councillors from 14 to ten, twice adjusted the boundary between the Tokoroa and Putaruru wards, abolished the Putaruru Community Board and reduced the number of elected Tirau Community Board members from six to four.

Currently the representation in the South Waikato looks like this:

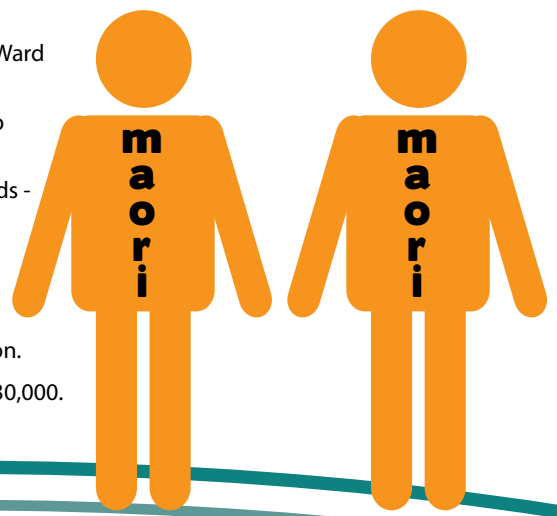
- One Mayor, elected at large across the district
- Ten Councillors - one in Tirau, three in Putaruru and six in Tokoroa
- No Māori seats
- Three wards
- Tirau Community Board, consisting of four elected members and the Tirau Ward Councillor



Do you want Maori seats?

## CONSIDER

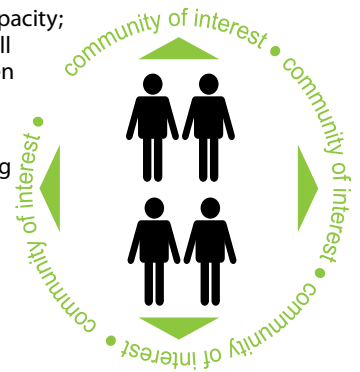
- Council has recently decided not to introduce Māori seats nor initiate a poll itself, but you can initiate a poll. If 5% of the electorate (738 people) demand a poll, one will be held. You have to be enrolled as an elector of the South Waikato District to sign a valid demand. You can only sign the demand once and you need to sign under the exact same details that you are listed by on the roll. The demand to have a poll needs to be received by Council by 2 March 2015.
- If Māori Electorates are introduced and you are enrolled on the Māori Electoral Roll, you can only vote for the candidates standing for the Māori seats on Council. You can no longer vote for any of the candidates standing in the General Wards. You can still vote for the Mayor.
- Under legislation, given the district's population, two Māori seats can be introduced.
- Should Māori seats be introduced, your iwi may not be represented; it depends on who stands.
- If you are keen on Māori seats, you need to think about what the wards will look like. There are two ward options for Māori representation:
  1. two wards, eg, a North Ward and a South Ward (ie, one representative per ward) OR
  2. one ward over the whole district, with two representatives.
- This doesn't mean that the three current wards - Tirau, Putaruru and Tokoroa - for the General Electorate need to change. We could end up with four or five wards - three wards representing the general population and either one or two wards with different boundaries representing the Māori population.
- A poll will likely cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000.



Do you want a community board in your area?

CONSIDER

- Community boards represent a smaller defined community within the district.
- Community boards must have a minimum of four members, and a maximum of 12 members.
- Currently we only have one community board in the District, the Tirau Community Board, representing the Tirau Ward area.
- The Tirau Community Board works in an advisory or advocacy capacity; it doesn't have decision-making powers. These are retained by full Council which considers suggestions made by the board and then either implements or declines. Decision-making powers can be devolved to community boards.
- We can keep our current community board (ie, Tirau, representing the current Tirau Ward), do away with it or change its boundaries so that it represents a smaller or larger community of interest.
- We can introduce other community boards for other areas.
- The area that a community board represents does not have to coincide with urban boundaries or ward boundaries.



How many Councillors do you think is best?

CONSIDER

- The big consideration with the number of Councillors we have is how do we achieve fair and effective representation, while staying within legislation.
- There are currently three wards representing three communities of interest based mostly around the three most populated townships.
- We can have between 6 and 30 Councillors who represent wards (as it is now) or one ward (ie, the whole district).
- Having Māori seats or not does not affect the 10% rule for the general wards explained alongside.
- It is impossible to list all options, some examples are used alongside. None of these examples illustrates Māori seats as they are treated separately from the general wards.

**The 10% rule**

According to legislation the number of people that individual Councillors can represent must be within 10% (+ or -) of a figure that is calculated by using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Total population}}{\text{Number of Councillors}} = \text{number of people each Councillor represents} \text{ as at 2013 } \frac{23,200 \text{ population}}{10 \text{ Councillors}} = 2,320 \text{ people}$$

The reason for this is so that people have near to an equal chance of being able to access one of their Councillors and all Councillors should have about the same community workload.

**Example ONE: ten General Electorate Councillors over three wards**

Ward	Population (2013)	No of Councillors	Representation per Councillor	Compliance variation	To comply
Tirau	2,210	1	2,210	-4.74%	OK ✓
Putaruru	6,450	3	2,150	-7.32%	OK ✓
Tokoroa	14,540	6	2,423	+4.43%	OK ✓
TOTAL	23,200	10	2,320		

Example ONE (which is the status quo) works for the 10% rule.

**Example TWO: eight General Electorate Councillors over three wards**

Ward	Population (2013)	No of Councillors	Representation per Councillor	Compliance variation	To comply
Tirau	2,210	1	2,210	-23.80%	+ 400 people ✗
Putaruru	6,450	2	3,225	+10.08%	-70 ✗
Tokoroa	14,540	5	2,908	+0.28%	OK ✓
TOTAL	23,200	8	2,900		

Example TWO doesn't work for the 10% rule. Tirau needs 400 more people to make the formula work, Putaruru needs to lose 70 people, Tokoroa is OK.

**Example THREE: eight General Electorate Councillors over two wards**

Ward	Population (2013)	No of Councillors	Representation per Councillor	Compliance variation	To comply
Tir/Put	8,660	3	2,887	-0.45%	OK ✓
Tokoroa	14,540	5	2,908	+0.28%	OK ✓
TOTAL	23,200	8	2,900		

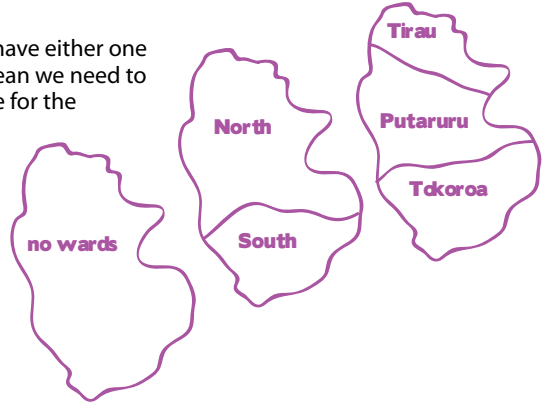
Example THREE works for the 10% rule.

Representation Review is continued over the page...

Do you want wards, and if yes, where?

# CONSIDER

- Because of the 10% rule explained in blue above, we may have to either move ward boundaries or reduce or increase the numbers of wards (or change Councillors numbers) to achieve the +10% rule.
- If Māori seats are introduced we will need to have either one or two wards for those seats. This does not mean we need to do away with the current three ward structure for the General Electorate.
- And, we need to consider communities of interest. It is unreasonable to move ward boundaries to a position that puts people affiliated with a particular urban centre into another ward as we are not taking their community of interest into consideration.



## Process

### Consider/feedback

This spread is for your information; and you are welcome to tell Council what you think. This is not formal consultation.



### Consultation

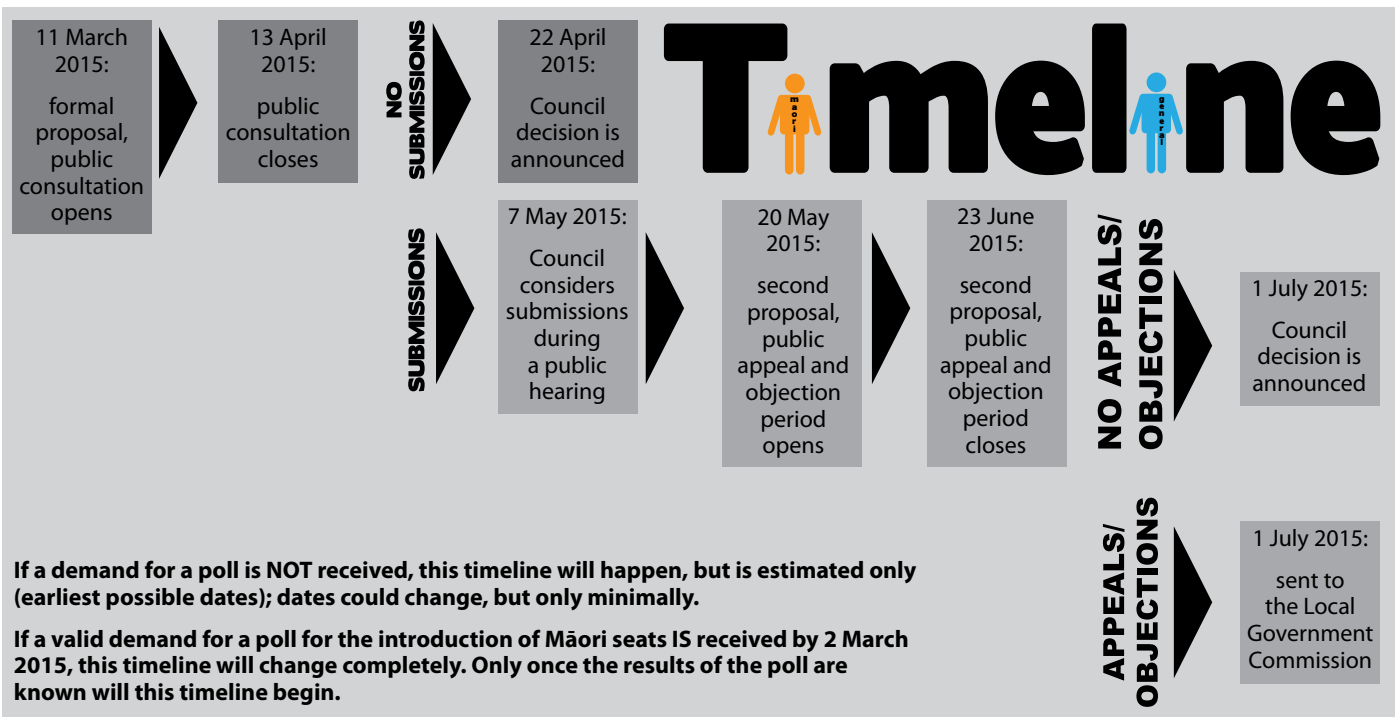
If no valid demand for Māori seats is received by 2 March 2015, Council will decide on a formal proposal. This proposal will be publicised and you will be asked to submit on it. This is the formal consultation period.

### Second proposal

Council will consider all submissions and put out a second proposal. This second proposal will either be the same as the first (ie, no change) or it will differ (depending on the submissions received). Objections or appeals against a Council decision, may be made on the second proposal.

### Decision/Outcome

If there are objections or appeals against the second proposal, the decision is then made by the Local Government Commission (LGC). Its decision may be the same as what Council proposed, the same as what individuals opposing Council's proposal want, or it could be something entirely different. If the decision goes to the LGC, the decision of how we are represented is taken out of our hands.



## CONCLUSION

For more information please contact Richard Fisk, Council's Electoral Officer on 07 885 0340, or speak with your local Councillor - their contact details are available on our website: [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) and on page 12 of this issue of In Touch.

Over the coming months Council is asking the community to think about how they would like to be represented. You can let us know what you think by writing to the Electoral Officer or via the feedback link on the 'consultation' page of our website (link: [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) - Click on the 'Our Council' tab - Click on 'Consultation').

This information spread is not formal consultation; it is to get the community thinking about representation. If you would like your feedback to be considered by Council in making its formal proposal, we need to receive your thoughts by Monday 2 February. If no valid demand for a poll is received, Council will be considering its formal proposal in early March. This will be available for formal public consultation (see timeline above).

# Fire management - who does what?

Fire management in the South Waikato can be complicated. The reason for this is that the South Waikato District is split into several different fire districts.

The New Zealand Fire Service looks after the urban areas and the South Waikato District Rural Fire Authority, Pumicelands Rural Fire Authority and the Department of Conservation (DoC) are responsible for the rest of the district.

The South Waikato Rural Fire District restricted fire season started on 1 October and normally finishes around 30 April. If we are having a particularly dry summer we can extend this restricted fire season. Council will notify its community should this happen.

The South Waikato is covered by large portions of forestry so we normally follow the same restricted fire season as what the Pumicelands Rural Fire Authority puts in place.

Often readers see and hear in our local paper and on radio a number of adverts about rural fires; it's not duplication and can

be confusing - it's just different fire authorities. Normally one message will be for the South Waikato Rural Fire Authority and one will be for Pumicelands Rural Fire Authority. They may even have the same message, which is unfortunate but both authorities are required to advertise publically under the Forest and Rural Fire Act.

Council has noticed a steady increase in the number of rural permits being issued.

In the 2011-12 year Council issued 289 permits. In the 2013-14 year, the number issued was 338. This is good to see as it likely indicates that people are becoming more responsible about obtaining a fire permit, as opposed to an increase in fires. In a restricted fire season all open fires in the rural fire district require a rural fire permit. It is an offence under the Forest and Rural Fires Act for a person to light a fire without a permit.

All fire permits are issued free of charge, and are normally issued within a few days. To speed the process you can now go online and request a permit, the process

is very easy. Visit Council's website at [southwaikato.govt.nz](http://southwaikato.govt.nz), click on the orange 'Apply For It' button on the right hand side and fill in the details.

Another important aspect to think about if you live in the rural area; please make sure you have the correct insurance cover. If you light a fire and it gets out of control, you will be responsible for the cost of putting the fire out.

Every year fire services around the country attend more than 3,500 house fires. In 80% of the fatal fires the teams attend smoke alarms are either not installed or not working.

Working smoke alarms are the best way to make sure you and your family get an early warning of a fire so you can get out alive.

Installing smoke alarms in the wrong place can cause nuisance alarms. Don't install a smoke alarm in your kitchen. Smoke and heat from cooking (and the toaster) can activate the alarm. For the same reason smoke alarms shouldn't be installed in the bathroom, or laundry either.

## Have you got enough wood?

**We know, it's too warm to light your fire, right? Well yes, you're right, it is... but we're not talking about wood for now, we're talking about wood for next winter!**

Preparing your wood for winter NEEDS to be done in spring and summer.

Here are some key tips:

- Collect your wood for the coming winter NOW.
- Stack it in a dry place, all ready for use.
- DRY SEASONED wood not only burns better, but it releases considerably less PM<sub>10</sub> 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)

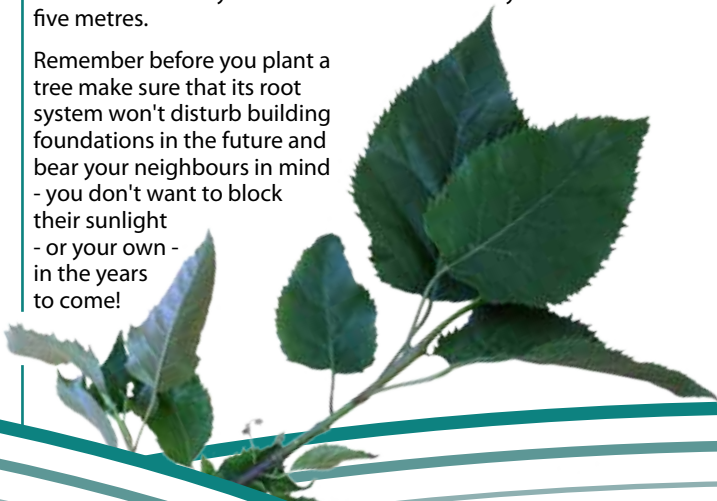
Balmoral Firewood Supplies  
07 886 7550

South Waikato Achievement Centre  
07 886 8941



The next tree in this series that we take a look at is the Wineberry or Makomako (*Aristotelia serrata*). The Wineberry is endemic to New Zealand and is a small tree that grows fairly upright, not sprawling. In colder areas the tree is deciduous, and in warmer areas it retains some foliage during winter. For residential gardens it is ideal as a fast growing tree for backgrounds or to provide light shade for other plants. The Wineberry is beautiful in spring when leaves appear and branches are covered with rosy coloured flowers followed by dark red fruit. The Wineberry can reach around five metres.

Remember before you plant a tree make sure that its 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!



## Ever wondered what to plant and where?



# Congratulations to our Mayoral Scholarship recipients

**Congratulations to this year's joint recipients of the Mayoral Scholarship, Chloe Tupou-Fairoa Herman, of Tokoroa High School, and Cameron Pearce of Forest View High School.**



Council has been awarding the Mayoral Scholarship to South Waikato Students for eight years now and this is the first time it has been split between two students.

"We couldn't see any other way around it," commented His Worship the Mayor Neil Sinclair "This year was tougher than any we've had before. The applicants were all outstanding and I would have been proud to award this to anyone of them."

The Scholarship is valued at \$20,000. Chloe and Cameron will be receiving \$2,500 per year for a maximum of four years each to go towards their studies.

"I'm happy to be receiving the Mayoral Scholarship, even if it is only half," laughed Chloe. "It's great to get financial support for my studies from Council."

Chloe and Cameron are both attending Waikato University next year. Chloe will be doing a Conjoint Degree in Law and Management studies; Cameron a Bachelor of Arts and Science.

Council received 15 applications this year from South Waikato students. Six of those students were shortlisted and interviewed by the committee made up of Mayor Neil Sinclair, Deputy Mayor Jenny Shattock, Human Resources Manager Murray McAlister and Gateway Coordinator for the South Waikato secondary school cluster Cath O'Connell.

The first ever South Waikato Mayoral Scholarship was awarded in 2006 to Lee Kuizinas. Lee received an Honours Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Canterbury and is

now based near York (England) as an Officer and Troop Commander for the British Army.

In 2010 Council resolved to award the scholarship annually, with the exception of 2013. A total of eight students have now received this scholarship from Council.

"We believe we are the only Local Government body to offer a scholarship of this sort to aspiring students," says Mayor Sinclair. "This initiative aligns strongly with Council's commitment to supporting local youth in furthering their education."

Year	Recipient	School	Degree
2006	Lee Kuizinas	THS	Engineering
2010	Marnie Rydon	FVHS	Social Sciences
2011	Ross Gardiner	THS	Environmental Planning
2012	Rachelle Anderson	PC	Science
2014	Jerreau Tonge	THS	Teaching
2015 <i>(joint)</i>	Chloe Herman Cameron Pearce	THS FVHS	Law and Management Arts and Science

## Lawn cemeteries and maintenance

There are four cemeteries in our district. All of the cemeteries in the district are Lawn Cemeteries so that Council and its contractor can keep them easily maintained. We have noticed recently that there are a number of visitors who are extending their tributes to their loved ones and seating beyond the berm. This is creating maintenance issues. Council asks visitors to respect the rules so that we can keep our Lawn Cemeteries neat and tidy for everyone.

Council is very mindful of the many cultures that we have in the South Waikato and that people here are thoughtful in expressing their continued love for those departed; however we do need to still keep our cemeteries tidy for both maintenance and mutual respect for everyone.

If tributes extend beyond the berm, they have to be physically moved by our contractors when they are mowing the lawn and that is upsetting to the person who has placed it at a grave site, which in turn is upsetting to staff and contractors. Sometimes these items are broken by other people, family and pallbearers for instance, who are laying their own loved one to rest and the space is constrained by tributes that are overflowing onto the grass area.

The seating is becoming a significant problem too. Council provides some seating and appeals to residents to remove private seating from the cemetery. We know that some families especially on special

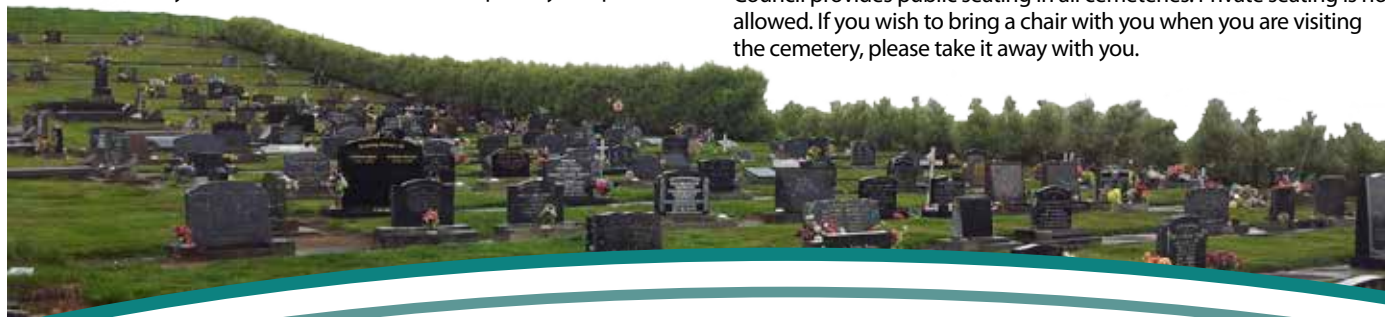
occasions like birthdays and christmas often picnic in the cemetery to spend time with those departed, which is absolutely fine, just remember to tidy up all your belongings and take any seating away with you when you leave.

Council is appealing to the community to remove private seating by year end. Council will reassess in the new year and see if the situation is being resolved or if further measures are required.

Everyone needs to take responsibility to keep tributes to the berm area and keep the lawns free of seats.

Just as a reminder to the community, the following applies to our Lawn Cemeteries:

- Covering graves with materials such as stones, pavers, timber edging, glass beads and artificial turf is not allowed as this can obstruct our maintenance operations and future interments in adjoining plots.
- Items (but no glass for safety reasons) placed on the berm should be limited in number so as not to spill over onto the lawn area or adjoining plots.
- Planting shrubs, trees or other vegetation groundcover is not allowed on any plot.
- Council provides public seating in all cemeteries. Private seating is not allowed. If you wish to bring a chair with you when you are visiting the cemetery, please take it away with you.





## The drain is just for rain

In our towns there are open drains which are designed to channel excess water away from our roads and houses. If these open drains are used as rubbish dumps they block up, creating a dam effect because the water cannot escape as it should. When this happens our roads and houses can flood creating dangerous situations for many residents in our community.

Please be thoughtful and remember the drain is just for rain - take your rubbish to the landfill.



The good...



... the bad...



... and the ugly!

## What's

Mark your calendar

**SuperSport**  
20, 21 and 22 February 2015

**Youth Leadership Advisory Board (YLAB) Waitangi Day Concert**  
Friday 6 February 2015  
Come and see the cultural celebration and entertainment from our local youth. Food stalls too, at the Youth Park in Tokoroa.

**Neighbourhood parties**  
There are three dates set in Tokoroa, 11, 18 and 25 February, from 5.30pm to 7pm. Games, fun, sausage sizzle, entertainment and more... Venues to be confirmed.

**Putaruru Waterfest/A&P show**  
21 February, Glenshea Park in Putaruru  
Come along and enjoy the day - stalls, fun pool events, rides and the last Putaruru A&P Show.

**Children's Day**  
Sunday 1 March at the South Waikato Indoor Pools and Youth Park.

**Neighbourhood parties**  
Wednesday 4 March in Arapuni, Pioneer Reserve and Wednesday 11 March in Tirau at the Tirau Village Green. All parties start at 5.30pm and finish at 7pm. Games, fun, sausage sizzle, entertainment... be there!

## Welcome to Talking Poles, Nga Hau E Wha

Who remembers painting tiles last year, hosted by the Talking Poles Trust? Do you remember what they were for?

Yes, that's right, our newest talking pole, Nga hau e wha (which means 'The Four Winds') has been a long time in the making, but was finally installed at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre in November.

The Trust was blown away by the number of people in our community who came to paint tiles, 484 community tiles in total; so much so that they had to quickly come up with a plan to cope with all the tiles! Every single tile was used - thank you to everyone. The boards include eleven sponsor tiles, so all up 495 tiles, 55 tiles per board.

Four panels were incorporated into the Talking Pole as per the original design. And the

remaining five panels have been installed back to back on three adjoining panels, along with a board that tells the story of both the poles and the tiles.

Nga hau e wha was designed by John Paki and was made from Totara sponsored by the Pouakani Trust.



## Summer water consumption

Summer is here and Council encourages people to conserve water to help protect the aquifer. The aquifer is where the water is stored below ground. It is where our town water is pumped from before it gets treated and goes into the storage tanks ready for you to use.

If too much water is pumped from the aquifer each year it means the aquifer is not able to replenish itself fast enough resulting in less water available for future use.

Typical water use at home is 25% in the bathroom, 25% in the kitchen and laundry, 30% for toilet flushing and 20% outdoors - there are water-saving opportunities everywhere.

When running the water to get it hot, collect it in a container, let it sit, then use it to water plants.

Promote shorter showers and shallower baths.

If the toilet leaks or a tap drips, fix it right away.

For cool drinking water, fill a jug and keep it in the fridge. Running water to cool it down can waste up to 10 litres a minute.

# water saving TIPS

## Time to plan...

Every three years Council does a new plan for the coming 10 year period. And the next one is happening next year.

We've already begun, setting budgets, identifying priorities, developing new performance indicators and taking a look at all our services, what we offer and at what level.

In March next year this plan will be available for public consultation. This is where you can have your say on what Council spends money on over the next 10 years.

Keep an eye out in 'In Touch' and in the local paper South Waikato News for when and how you can get involved.

# Christmas and New Year Council facility opening times

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 Wednesday 24 December and will reopen again at 8am on Monday 5 January 2015. Council can be contacted for all queries on 07 885 0340 (water, sewerage, noise, building, 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 19 December 2014 until Monday 5 January 2015, urgent call only to 07 885 0340.

## Pools

The South Waikato Indoor pools are open during the festive season from Monday to Friday from 6am to 8pm and on weekends and public holidays from 7.30am to 8pm, except for:

- Christmas 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

The seasonal pools in Putāruru/Tirau are closed on Christmas Day and open every other day from 12noon to 6pm.

## Refuse and recycling

Collections for the Christmas/New Year period are affected; some collections will be the day AFTER normal. Refer below:

- Thursday 25 December will be collected on Friday 26 December
- Friday 26 December will be collected on Saturday 27 December
- Thursday 1 January will be collected on Friday 2 January
- Friday 2 January will be collected on Saturday 3 January

This information is on the recycling calendar distributed to all households and on Council's website.

All landfill and transfer station sites are closed on Thursday 25 December, Friday 26 December and Thursday 1 January.

At Christmas time there is usually an over-abundance of recycling from an increase in bottles, containers and cardboard. Don't forget that recycling can be dropped off at the urban recycling facilities in Tirau (Depot St), Putāruru Transfer Station (State Highway 1) and the Tokoroa landfill (Newell Road) at all times, and at the new recycling facility in Croad Place (off Sloss Road, Tokoroa) weekdays from 8am to 4pm and weekends 9am to 1pm. The Croad Place facility will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

**All Council facilities\* will close on Friday 19 December at 3pm for a staff/family Christmas gathering. The normal after hours service will be in place. Urgent matters will be attended to.**

\*except all pools, these will remain open, serviced by casual staff



	Wed 24 Dec	Thurs 25 Dec	Fri 26 Dec	Sat 27 Dec	Sun 28 Dec	Mon 29 Dec	Tues 30 Dec	Wed 31 Dec	Thurs 1 Jan	Fri 2 Jan	Sat 3 Jan	Sun 4 Jan	Mon 5 Jan
SWSEC	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	open (9am - 3pm)	open (9am - 3pm)	open (9am - 3pm)	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tokoroa Library	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Putāruru Library	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tirau Library	open closes 3pm	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	open

## 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, which means fridge space can become tight. In addition, summer brings higher temperatures that 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 such as a chillibin or thrown out. Often food borne illness is caused by improper storage of prepared meals and leftovers.

Longer daylight hours, holidays and extra opportunities to socialise sometimes mean 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, enjoy the beautiful walks we have in the South Waikato, and above all drive safe, play safe and stay safe.

# Lake Moananui Celebration

The Lake Moananui refurbishments are all but complete! To celebrate Council threw a Neighbourhood Party at the lake for the whole town to enjoy.

Despite the bad weather, people turned out in their hundreds to the Lake Moananui Celebration Party and made the most of all that was on offer. At least 600 people attended the party, our biggest neighbourhood party yet!

The lake celebration was combined with the Pink Walk for breast cancer and over 400 people walked around the lake in support of this cause raising just under \$700, an awesome effort.

Everyone had a great time, enjoying the free activities, games, food, music, Youth Leadership and Advisory Board (YLAB) photobooth and facepainting, and special entertainment from the MCs - Teokotai Tarai and Council CE Craig Hobbs.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make the event such a success, and stuck out the bad weather to show our community a great time. Special thanks to SWPICS, Sport Waikato, YLAB, Services Academy, Limitless, WERA, Craig Hobbs & Teokotai Tarai (Chookz), Ian Wellings, Parks & Reserves

staff, Community Development team and Watermark.

You can view the photos from the YLAB photobooth on YLAB's Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/swylab](http://www.facebook.com/swylab).

Work on Lake Moananui is now finished for the year. Early next year The Fishing Club will be reinstalling the jetty, and a community meeting will be held to discuss what happens with the lake in the future. Everyone is welcome to attend so keep an eye out on Council's website and Facebook page for details and dates.

Council's Our Neighbourhood Parties have started back up, with three having taken place already in Putaruru. As always thank you to our Community Team for organising such wonderful parties and to all the fantastic volunteers who help out on the night.

Our Neighbourhood Parties in Tokoroa, Tirau and Arapuni will be coming next year to a Neighbourhood near you. Keep an eye out for dates and venues.



*Above: Community Resources Co-ordinator Amanda White, Group Manager Community Amanda Hema, and Deputy Mayor Jenny Shattock brave the rain to join in on the fun at the Lake Celebration.*

*Below: Community members of all ages dressed in pink and walked around the lake to show their support for South Waikato residents living with breast cancer.*



*Photo from YLAB Photobooth*



*Photo credit: Joseph O'Sullivan*

## IN brief continued...

- Council is disappointed at the behaviour at the South Waikato Indoor Pools recently resulting from defecation in the both the main and toddler pools. We appreciate it is inconvenient for others. We have put some measures in place to curb the behaviour, but it does rest with individuals.
- Council's Annual Report 2013-14 was adopted by Council in November. It is available on our website.
- Council is looking for community feedback on our representation review. Visit our website at southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on 'Our Council'. Go to 'consultation'. Read the information and complete the feedback form.



Council wishes our community a safe and happy **CHRISTMAS**

If you are travelling on our roads, please drive safely.

To a joyful present and a well remembered past.

Happy Holidays and a magnificent New Year.

## 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).

## Getting to know our staff..

Hi, my name is Marnie and I am a Graduate Planner/Business Case Manager at the South Waikato District Council. I was born and bred in Tokoroa, attending Tokoroa North School, Tokoroa Intermediate and Forest View High School. In 2010 I was awarded the Mayoral Scholarship to go towards my following years of study at Waikato University. The scholarship was such a big help towards my fees, and I was also able to gain work experience through Council during summer breaks. After completing my Bachelor of Social Sciences a planning position came up at Council, and so of course I jumped at the opportunity to apply.

I have been working here at Council for just over two years and it's great to be able to give back to the organisation that helped me through my years of study.

The best part of working for Council is the people. Council staff are a great bunch of people, and they all really care about what is best for the South Waikato community.

One of my proudest achievements while working here has been the work I contributed towards the District Plan Review, it was really cool to be a part of organising the Hearings.

In my spare time I play social volley ball and touch, and I enjoy socialising and walking my dog Brisco. I love getting out and walking the beautiful Waikato River Trails when I can too.

Hi, my name is Jenny and I work for Council as a Licensing Inspector reporting to the District Licensing Committee. I was born in Tokoroa and other than the four years I spent in Auckland studying towards my Business Degree, I have been here all my life. Tokoroa is home. I have so many fond memories of growing up in Tokoroa, I loved attending community events such as Midnight Madness and the A&P Show.

Given my role at Council, I am involved with various community groups that focus on protecting our community and encouraging safe and enjoyable drinking environments.

Two years ago, the decision to join the workforce at Council was an easy one for me, I wanted a good job in Tokoroa and I knew that Council was a well-respected organisation with values that aligned with my own.

During my time at Council I have also worked as the Building Control Administrator and Environmental Health Administrator. I thoroughly enjoyed both of these positions, and it's great to get to know different areas of Council, as it helps to give you an overall understanding of what we do.

The people that I have met internal and external to this organisation are a fine example of what our community is - strong, focused and idealistic. I am proud to work and live in this district and I see a true future here.



Marnie (left) and Jenny (right) were both born and bred in Tokoroa and think that it's great to be able to work for Council and give back to their community.

## IN touch

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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.