

# IN touch



South  
Waikato  
District  
Council

A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 21 - March/April 2015

We want **your** feedback

# HAVE YOUR SAY

## Long Term Plan

Council produces a Long Term Plan every three years. The plan we are currently consulting on looks out 10 years from 2015 to 2025. It looks at the wide range of Council services and activities and also sets out the strategic direction of Council which underpins all of what we do.

Council has to provide services at levels that the community want and ensure that they are affordable. It is often a difficult balancing act.

The rate revenue increase for the coming year 2015-16 is a low 1.3%. Indeed the average rate increase over the next years is only 2.45% per year.

This is your opportunity to have a look at our plans and let us know what you think. We have produced an easy to read Consultation Document that highlights the key strategic issues and main consultation points.

These can be obtained at our website or from our offices, libraries, Tirau Information Centre, Indoor Pools or the Events Centre.

**Have your say!**

## Long Term Plan 2015-25

### Wed 18 March to Mon 20 April

[www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz)  
[strategic@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:strategic@southwaikato.govt.nz)

Freepost Authority 201, SWDC, Draft Long Term Plan Submission, Private Bag 7, Tokoroa, 3444

[www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz)

## 0800 DRAFTS

How to make a submission:

More info?

## IN brief

- Of Council's 45 Key Performance Indicators, we are on track with 40 of them. One is not achieved - complaints about toilets. Complaints about the Leith Place toilet facility are the main the issue. Four KPIs are slipping, which is requiring some careful focus over the coming months.
- Council has received 731 rate rebate applications; 634 of these have been approved by the Department of Internal Affairs, amounting to some \$342,075.90.

## IN side

- 2&3 \$5 million fund project updates
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## IN house

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

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Print: GASP Designs

# \$5 Million Fund - Project Updates

Readers may recall that last year Council funded 15 community and economic development projects through its \$5million fund. This article is an update on some of these projects, featuring in depth articles on the new welding course at the Tokoroa Trade Training Centre (page 3) and the Rangiora Retirement Village expansion project (below).

**Tokoroa Road Rail Terminal**  
Work progresses well and management agreements for the operation are in the final stages. An unexpected saving has been made by using rhyolite from Lincoln's adjoining site on the new site. This saving is welcome and offsets an increase in developing the infrastructure services. At the time of writing the project was on track for completion in April.



**Leith Place Redevelopment**  
A Steering Group of Council staff and Councillors will assess the Tokoroa Revitalisation Assessment Report (economic impact) and a preliminary Tokoroa Town Centre Framework (architectural) to decide the direction of the development.

**Pensioner Housing**  
Discussions have started with the South Waikato Pacific Island community in regard to developing accommodation for older people in partnership with other stakeholders. This is planned to enable a more targeted, sustainable and larger project than a Council-only driven initiative with operational and capital funding predicted to come from other sources. The team are investigating purchasing and renovating suitable units in Tokoroa so that we can get

maximum benefit from the funding available. Other options rather than buying land and building new units are also being investigated so as to achieve maximum benefit.

**Cougar Park Upgrade**  
Activities and KPIs have been set and work on stage 1 – an eight kilometre loop track with a beginner's skills trail and BMX track will kick off in April.



**South Waikato Motocross**  
Work is progressing well with the removal and replacement of rotten flooring from the clubrooms, including the kitchen area. The exterior has been water-blasted ready for painting; this will be done by volunteers to save on labour costs. Excavation and digger work is underway to improve the drainage of the tracks. This will make way for the construction of the new marshal hut.

**Tirau Walkway**  
Setting timeframes for this project and any development hinges on approval from Kiwirail for the railway crossing, which we are still waiting for.

**Tokoroa Hospice equipment**  
As reported previously this project is complete and equipment is being well used. ✓

## Rangiora, a superior aged care model

Walking around the Rangiora facility is a humbling experience; the quality of care, genuine concern and homely environment is quite overwhelming. The drive of the Rangiora Board has successfully created an environment that doesn't just 'take care' of their residents and tenants, it radiates genuine compassion.

Given the importance of providing for the elderly people, dementia residents and those needing respite care, providing \$650,000 towards an expansion was a relatively easy decision for Council to make

as part of the \$5 million fund application process.

The Trust's vision for a \$4.5 million upgrade to cater for the district's aging population has kicked off with the first stage of a three-stage development. The first stage will see eleven new rooms with en-suites along with a dining and lounge area for the new wing; as well as an upgrade of the hall kitchen, a new library, bath aroma therapy room, hairdressing room and sluice room.

Work started on the project in mid-November last year; and is expected to be complete by

mid to late May, with an official opening planned for early June.

The Rangiora facility now boasts 85 villas in three villages, an 18-bed dementia facility, a 55-bed rest home/hospital and a day care facility.

"Without the support from community fundraising efforts, donations and business support like Council's funding input, Rangiora would not be able to create the homely and caring environment it is today," said Henry van Dyk, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for the past eight years. "Our residents and tenants are more than just

residents and tenants to our staff, they are family. It is this family environment that makes Rangiora's model of resident and elderly care something that other facilities strive to achieve."

While this particular project ticked the 'community development' project box of the \$5 million fund, there has of course been an economic spin-off too, given that over ten local contractors and some 32 people have been employed on the site. The new wing will also mean a further 12 to 15 permanent jobs.



### Lake Moananui Re-vegetation

A Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of a Friends of the Lake volunteer group has been written. An inaugural meeting is planned. Once the group is up and running, work on identified projects can begin.

### Tokoroa High School Academy

As reported in a previous edition of In Touch, this project is now complete and working well. ✓



### Nutrient management study

This study has shifted to focus more on water allocation issues as opposed to nutrient run-off into waterways as this area is already being progressed by other organisations. Neither the timeframes nor specifics have been defined.

### St John Youth Hall alterations

The building project – the ambulance centre – is complete and operating well. Stage two – the upgrade of the old Masonic Lodge is underway.

### Te Waihou Upgrade

Some good track improvements and plantings have been made to the track. The construction of the retaining wall at the blue spring to reduce local erosion is progressing slowly due to consenting requirements. Some delays have been experienced with the Leslie Road car park and safety improvements.

### Public Transport

The Steering Group has defined the scope for a four to six month trial for a Tokoroa circuit (three times a day, five days a week), a Tirau-Putaruru-Tokoroa return circuit twice a day, five days a week and an information service to promote the trial. The project hit an unanticipated hurdle when it was discovered that only the Waikato Regional Council can subsidise public transport in the region. Meetings with WRC and the New Zealand Transport Agency to progress over this hurdle are underway.

## Welding workshop opens at Trade Training Centre



From left: Welding students, Pita Ruka, Nikau O'Donnell, Kate Morunga and Marie Daniel stand in front of the new welding booths.

The brand new welding workshop at the Tokoroa Trade Training Centre officially opened on 4 March.

Council unanimously voted to contribute \$120,000 to the new qualification, a contribution that Kevin Uncles, Waiariki Dean of the Faculty of Applied Technology & Primary Industries, said showed Council's dedication to the future of the South Waikato.

"The Trade Training Centre is a true partnership between Council, industry and Waiariki. We know that if you invest in our young people you will get results. It's great to see Council continuing to back the Trade Training Centre."

The Tokoroa Trade Training Centre launched in 2008 after a skills gap strategy was developed to help retain our district's youth and improve growth and economic stability. A number of key stakeholders signed on to take action and Council agreed to support the development of the centre.

Initially the centre offered only an engineering qualification, but it's

grown to include courses for automotive and now welding.

The welding workshop is already proving to be a popular programme, with 17 students enrolled in the course.

"It's awesome," commented welding student Pita Ruka, "The equipment is top of the line and it makes coming in everyday more enjoyable. We're always really busy and learning heaps."

Kate Morunga, another student on the welding course says it's not only the equipment that makes the work enjoyable.

"The tutors and other students are awesome, we're always working to help each other out, so we're learning other stuff too, like how to work in a team."

The greater chance of work in the future is another incentive that helps drive the students. Great successes have already come out of the Trade Training Centre and Frank Aerts of South Waikato Precision Engineering Limited knows this better than most.

"Nine of our apprentices have come out of the Trade Training Centre. This is a great asset for our community and businesses alike," he said. "There is a huge gap in the welding industry for

qualified welders so there are plenty of opportunities waiting at the end of this course. All the students need to do is turn up with a great attitude and make every day count."

And according to the tutors at the Tokoroa Trade Training Centre, they are turning up, eager to learn and very humble.

The Ministry of Social Development also saw the opportunity to support such a stellar project and have partially funded the building lease for the first year of the new programme.

So for 2015, both the welding programme and automotive and engineering courses are full of capable enthusiastic students ready to make a difference and contribute to the productivity of the South Waikato engineering sector.

Mayor Neil Sinclair spoke at the opening and cut the ribbon along with Frank Aerts, Kevin Uncles and John Walls, also from Waiariki.

"The Tokoroa Trade Training Centre has been a tremendous success for the South Waikato district and will continue to be so," commented Mayor Sinclair, "The ownership of the project by all stakeholders is second to none and as a Council we are extremely proud of the success of the initiative on a wide variety of levels."



From left: Frank Aerts, John Walls, Mayor Neil Sinclair, and Kevin Uncles official open the new welding workshop.



# Meet the South Waikato Youth Leadership and Advisory Board

The South Waikato Youth Leadership and Advisory Board (YLAB) has hit the ground running after their re-establishment in July of last year. Referred to as the Youth Council in its earlier days, the new recruits felt the name YLAB better reflected their purpose.

"We held a bit of a discussion to define what we would be trying to achieve as a group, and we felt that a 'Council' didn't sum us up quite right," said YLAB member Jared Kennedy, "We see ourselves as leaders for the South Waikato youth, who care about our district and want our young people to have a voice in what goes on in our towns and communities. We feel that YLAB fits us better and gives us a refreshing new feel."

And the name isn't the only change they've seen, the foundation of the group has been refreshed too. To join the original 'Youth Council', members needed to be nominated by their school, a group or an organisation.

"We found that the students who were being nominated were those who already had plenty of responsibilities on their plates, and often had trouble finding time for the Council. So, we opened it up," commented Amanda White, Community Resource Co-ordinator.

Now if you want to be a part of YLAB all you have to do is ask, (and be between the ages of 12 - 24 / live in the South Waikato district).

"This way we're only getting those who are keen to be actively involved in the group and are committed to providing our district and Council with a voice from our youth."

In under a year since being re-established, YLAB have had a hand in most Council organised events, such as the Lake Celebration, the Hello Sailor Concert, Junior and Senior School of Zen, Children's Day, and Neighbourhood Parties.

"They're always there from start to finish, helping set up and pack down, organising activities, taking photos, and out talking with the community encouraging people to join in. Their input into these events has been unmeasurable," said Amanda.

And it doesn't end there, YLAB even organised their own event to celebrate Waitangi Day in the South Waikato earlier this year.

"Waitangi is an important day that needs to be acknowledged, but we hadn't had something in the district for a really long time," commented Jared, "With the support of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Raukawa, and many local businesses we

put together 'The Signing', a concert to acknowledge this day and celebrate all the talent in our district."

The day was opened by Raukawa kaumatua Nigel Te Hiko and saw performances from local musicians, including popular band Birds of the Balcony. The stage was also opened up for an open mic session with cash and prizes up for grabs. Kids from across the district turned up and wow'd the crowd with their musical abilities. The concert was later closed with a Haka 4 Life.

"It was a really special day, and YLAB did a fantastic job," commented Amanda.

Council Representative for YLAB, Councillor Tua Numanga said it's been a privilege to take part in the group and have a bit more insight into what makes our future leaders tick.

"The fact that they have put their hands up voluntarily to help lead and develop projects for the youth of our community, speaks volumes about the sorts of young people we are growing throughout the South Waikato. They give us know-it-all adults a younger perspective of what our youth are 'into' these days and we can focus projects in those directions based on their input."

YLAB is currently putting together four submissions for the Long Term Plan, to ensure that the future of the South Waikato reflects what is important to its youth.

"And what's important to our youth, is important to us," said Mayor Neil Sinclair "We're extremely proud of YLAB for all of the time and effort they've put into their district over the last nine months. Any and all submissions they put forward for the LTP will be appreciated and taken into consideration."



# Tackling the **HOT** topics

There are always a couple of issues raised in the community that become hot topics. Three of these recently are the Leith Place toilets, speeding in our urban areas, and swimming and dumping at Lake Moananui. Here's what Council has to say on these issues:

## Leith Place toilets

Council believes it has done what it can regarding cleaning the Leith Place toilets given its current age. The facility is cleaned three times a day at appropriate times, the ceiling has been painted white to brighten and lighten the facility, the floor has been given a deep scrub and buff for minimal cost and we are looking at incorporating this into the regular cleaning schedule.



In the long run, as part of the Leith Place development, these toilets will be replaced. All of the issues, like wet floors, lighting, baby changing table and other points raised will be addressed at this time.

A public toilet is only ever as clean as the person who used it last, leaves it.

## Speeding

Concern has been raised about speeding on our urban streets. Council has a Speed Indication Device (SID) that is deployed around the district to record speed data. This data is collated and sent to the police when excessive speed patterns are noticed. At the time of writing, the SID is stationed in Dalmeny Street, and data for the first week shows:

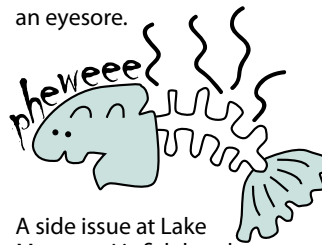
- an average speed of 40kph
- 86% of vehicles were travelling at or below the 50kph speed limit.
- 1.24% vehicles were travelling above 60kph

## Lake Moananui

The No Swimming/Do Not Enter signs have been erected at Lake Moananui to tell people not to swim in the lake around the dam wall. Council is aware they are being ignored and worse, the signs (and fencing) are being vandalised, removed and trashed, costing additional funding to replace and repair. There are two reasons why Council doesn't want people swimming in the vicinity of the dam wall.

The liner on the dam wall that has recently been installed could get damaged and this would be costly and time-consuming to repair; and to restrict access to the valve.

Council is not resourced to stake out Lake Moananui to monitor and enforce this and relies on the community to take heed of the signage. Council is not keen on fencing off the entire area to restrict access as this would be an eyesore.



A side issue at Lake Moananui is fish heads being dumped in and near the rubbish bins. Material that quickly becomes rancid and smelly should never be put in a public rubbish bin - no emptying regime will stop this from smelling bad. Please double bag the remains, freeze it and add it to your rubbish on refuse day. Double bagging stops it from leaking into your freezer and freezing stops it from smelling!



## ANZAC WEEKEND COMMEMERATIONS:

Wednesday 22 April, screening at 2pm, free admission - a documentary on NZ greatest war stories.

Saturday 25 April at 9am, the 100 Year Centenary Civic Service - morning tea will follow at the Putaruru RSA (next door to the Plaza).

Saturday 25 April 7pm, gold coin donation - Putaruru Theatre Players present "Remembering The ANZACS - Our Tribute". This production was performed in 2014. Please join Putaruru Theatre Players again and bring your friends who may have missed the show. There will be a bus from Tokoroa for this performance, contact Amanda W on 885 0340 for pick up points and times.

Sunday 26 April 2pm, movie screening Chunuk Bair - a 1992 New Zealand film based on the play 'Once on Chunuk Bair' (1982) by Maurice Shadbolt. Set in 1915, the film tells of the Wellington Regiment, part of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force present at Gallipoli during World War I. On 8 August 1915, the Regiment took and held Chunuk Bair, one of the Turkish hills. Free admission.

And on to something different - that will have the Plaza ROCKING! Sunday 10 May, QUEEN 'It's A Kinda Magic', 7:30pm, \$39 per ticket - a night of nostalgia with many of the bands greats hits 'We Will Rock You', 'Bohemian Rhapsody', 'We Are the Champions' and 'Fat-Bottomed Girls'. Tickets available from I-sites in Tokoroa and Putaruru.

The Plaza has a range of rooms that are available for hire for events, functions and meetings. Visit The Plaza website: [www.plaza.org.nz](http://www.plaza.org.nz).



## Cemeteries - what's permitted and what's not

In order to ensure that maintenance operations and future interments are not obstructed, the items below are not allowed in our cemeteries:

- No covering graves with materials such as stones, pavers, timber edging, glass beads, artificial turf.
- No glass at all in the cemetery. This includes vases, ornaments and empty drink or alcohol bottles following a visit to your loved one. Glass

is a safety hazard for both visitors and contractors.

- No shrub, tree or groundcover.
- No permanent seating. If you choose to bring a seat with you to use during your visit, please take it away with you when you leave.

In addition items should be limited in number so as not to impinge on the lawn area or encroach on adjoining plots.

Items on the grass cause significant maintenance issues

when it comes to keeping the cemeteries neatly mowed and are an obstruction during the preparation of new sites.

Some grave sites have an abundance of items that are spilling on to neighbouring sites which causes distress to the visitors to those sites.

**All cemetery visitors are reminded that our Lawn Cemeteries are public spaces for all people from our wonderfully diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.**

## Keep up to date with Council news



[www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz)



[www.facebook.com/southwaikatodistrictcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/southwaikatodistrictcouncil)



@SouthWaikatoDC

## Water restrictions lifted

Thank you South Waikato for your water restriction efforts.

While we are still a little dry and in need of some good steady rain, due to the slightly lower autumn temperatures water use is no longer at its peak, so restrictions are lifted.

## Getting to know our staff...

Hi my name is Leleina Tolovae and I am the Programmes Coordinator for the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.

I've been working for Council for going on 11 months now and really enjoy working at the Events Centre. The variety of events and activities the public use the centre for is awesome, one of the best parts of my job is seeing the community enjoying and making use of this great facility.

Having the Kia Magic team play at our centre has been one of the highlights of my job so far. Being a keen netball fan, and having watched the Magic play since I was very young, it was awesome to be able to give our community an opportunity to see them play here in our town. I'm sure seeing the team up close and personal would have inspired many of our young netball players.

I think the South Waikato is great place to work and live. There is so much on offer in terms of outdoor and recreational activities, from the Waikato River Trails to all of the different clubs and sports that you can be involved in, there really is something for everyone.

Growing up in Tokoroa, one of my favourite things about our town has always been how down to earth the people are and how tight knit the community is. It's never hard to find someone who can lend

a hand when you need it, it makes living here very easy and enjoyable.

...

Hi my name is Sina Tolovae and I work for Council as the Communications Officer.

Like many of my colleagues I am a born and bred Tokoroaian, having spent only a few years out of the South Waikato District for study.

Tokoroa has been home to my family for many years and after moving away for study, I made the decision to come home so that my daughter could be raised here too. I think the schooling in Tokoroa is fantastic, and living in a small town that has such great community support is a real privilege.

It's unfortunate that our town is often known for the negatives, especially when the positives of Tokoroa greatly outweigh those

- so I'm thrilled to be working in a position that enables me to help boost our town's image.

I've been in my role at Council now for just over two years and I love working here. I am one of the faces behind Council's social media pages and this publication, along with my manager Kerry. Having the ability to connect with South Waikato communities through mediums such as Facebook and In Touch is awesome, I like knowing that I'm contributing to keeping people informed about what Council is doing and it's great to see people take an interest in Council's work.

I'm also a member of the Youth Leadership and Advisory Board (YLAB), being just young enough to still be considered 'youth'. It's so cool to see so many young kids getting involved and helping shape the future of the South Waikato.



*Sisters Leleina (left) and Sina (right) grew up in Tokoroa and now work for Council.*

## Okoroire/Hetherington intersection opening soon



The new road alignment for Hetherington Road is open to the public and Downer are concentrating on uplifting the old road metal from the old road alignment which is being reused on the new road construction areas. During March Okoroire Road was closed to through traffic between Patetere Street Tirau and Hetherington Road with detours in place so that Downer and Council could cut Okoroire Road down 1.2m to the new road level. This detour is now open and we will be laying the new road material on Okoroire Road and laying the new kerb and channel around the new intersection, before sealing. At the time of writing the project is due for completion in mid to late-April.

## 10 tips for better recycling...

1. **Reduce and Reuse!**  
Reducing and reusing are just as important as recycling. By reducing the amount we consume, and finding constructive uses for 'waste' materials, we will see our landfill-destined waste dwindle fast.
2. **Know what you can and can't recycle**  
Check out the recycling education flier on Council's website for an up-to-date list of what can and can't be recycled in our district.
3. **Wash...**  
Always remember to rinse out your recyclables. Removing food residue will ensure everything gets another life (it also helps with bad odour!).
4. **...and squash**  
Can it be flattened? This helps create more space in the bins.
5. **Recycle your robots**  
There is an E-Waste recycling centre, located on Thompson Street. Drop your unused electronics here so they can be recycled safely.
6. **It all counts**  
Take packaging apart to recycle the bits you can.
7. **Food waste**  
Recycle your food and green waste at home by using a compost bin.
8. **Recycle on the go**  
If you can't find a recycling bin when you're out, take your rubbish home with you.
9. **No hazardous waste**  
eg, pesticides, oil or toxic chemicals containers. Facilities are available at the waste disposal sites.
10. **Know where and when**  
Know your recycling collection dates! If you have too much recycling for your bins you can take it to the Tokoroa landfill in Newell Road, Croad Place Recycling Centre in Tokoroa, Depot Street in Tirau, or the Putaruru Transfer Station.

## Waratah give back with annual community day

Every year all Waratah staff volunteer a day off work to go out into the South Waikato and lend a hand with community projects. This year they were at a number of locations including Lake Moananui, where staff were freshening up the scenery by giving the picnic tables, gazebo area and bridge a repaint. Other staff members were also doing various painting and gardening jobs at James Higgins Park, ATC, St John and the Rangiuira Resthome.



## What's **O**

Mark your calendar

### The Generator

Saturday 18 April - brought to you by the Waikato River Trails team. Be part of this new multi-sport event in the South Waikato - event can be done as an individual or a team. Visit [www.wrt-thegenerator.com](http://www.wrt-thegenerator.com) for more details.

### ANZAC Day

Saturday 25 April - dawn service in Tokoroa and Putaruru, civic services in Tokoroa (parade from court house to Council building) and Putaruru (parade in Kensington Street to the Plaza) at 9am, and in Tirau (at Tirau Hall) at 10am

### Warm Homes Clean Air EXPO

Saturday 9 May, South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, 10am

### Youth Week

Saturday 23 May to Sunday 31 May, district wide youth activities and an Honouring Youth Awards night - watch social media and networks

## Ever wondered what to plant and where?

The glorious Kowhai is arguably New Zealand's most beautiful native tree. It's fern like leaves and pendulous flowers add vibrant colour to any garden or landscape. Native birds such as the Tui are drawn to the nectar that this tree provides so if native birds are your thing too, the Kowhai is an exceptional addition to your garden.

Kowhais prefer free-draining, moisture-retentive soil and are frost tolerant, which is good for South Waikato gardens. They flourish when sheltered from cold, drying winds. There are a number of varieties suited to our climate here.

A small variety that is ideal for an urban garden is the Sophara 'Dragon's Gold'. This small compact shrub has bright green leaves and vibrant lemon-yellow flowers that bloom in winter to early summer. It grows to around a metre by a metre.

The Sophara microphylla is a larger variety probably best suited to either a large urban garden or a lifestyle property. Growing to a height of ten metres, its branches arc and spread gracefully with golden yellow flowers.

The Sophara tetraptera again is best suited to lifestyle properties, forming a small spreading tree with the typical golden yellow flower of the Kowhai family. This tree doesn't go through a juvenile stage, becomes an adult quickly and so flowers within a few years.

*Photo compliments of Leafland - Sophara microphylla*

## Our Neighbourhood Parties 2014 - 15

We've had another successful round of Our Neighbourhood Parties for the 2014-15 year, with nine parties being held across the district in total. That's three more than last year, as the Community Team added three extra parties to the list - one to celebrate the

work at Lake Moananui and the Pink Walk while another two were held in Tirau and Lichfield.

And Council couldn't be happier with how they have gone, feedback from those who have participated in the events has been fantastic and support from community groups has grown.

Our first neighbourhood parties were held in 2011, with a driving incentive to help our people get to know their neighbours, grow community pride, learn about the community services on offer and get residents out using our fantastic parks and reserves.



## IN brief *continued...*

- In February and the first half of March:
  - Ten resource consent applications were received; four were approved and six are still being processed.
  - Ten Liquor Licensing Manager licenses were renewed and three new ones issued.
  - Council's noise contractor attended 84 afterhours noise call outs and staff attended 16 during working hours. There was one seizure, but there was general compliance to reducing the offending noise.
  - 108 dogs were impounded, two have been rehomed, two more are fostered waiting for a rehome, 33 were claimed by owners, 42 were euthanized, leaving 28 in the pound. The team received 205 complaints. All complaints that are KPI related (rushing, attacks, stock on roads) were attended to within the timeframes.
- From 1 July to date, 256 building consents have been issued amounting to some \$19million.
- Council currently has 1,042 likes on its Facebook page and 134 followers on its Twitter account.

## 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 Bill Machen

We are now halfway through the term of this Council and those of us who were new boys at the last election (2013) have now got to grips with what we can do and what we can't do as your representatives.

We cannot for instance just knock down unsightly buildings or shops around our communities without going through a lengthy and costly process.

What we have been able to do is closely examine all Council expenditure to ensure rate payers are receiving value for their rates. Some difficult decisions have had to be made in regard to the Tirau library, the Putaruru I-site and the Bonaly Street Restrooms. Your Councillors have not shied away from these issues.

The district's Long Term Plan is now out for public consultation and I urge all citizens to attend the public meetings or make submissions on matters that may affect them. Strathmore Park is one area that I would like to see comment on from Tokoroa rate payers as is the decision to base a refuse transfer station in Croad Place. This is a decision that I personally disagree with. These matters need public input to guide Councillors in making the right decisions for our towns and communities.

Personally I am enjoying Council work and the many interesting and challenging issues put before us. I am always willing to talk with ratepayers and local citizens about matters which concern them and their neighbourhood.

## Councillor Column Adrienne Bell

It's hard to believe that a quarter of this year has passed already. A concerning note is the number of traffic accidents in, and around, the South Waikato during this period. Please take care on the roads out there!

On a lighter note, we're lucky to live in such close proximity to the many attractions and events which are bringing all of these folk to our region and hopefully encouraging some to consider relocating.

The Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival, Rotorua's Blues Festival, Tauranga's Jazz Festival and Taupo's Medieval Faire are just some that attract many Aucklanders who, as technology allows more and more people to work from home, might consider moving south for a quieter lifestyle.

On that note, it's been wonderful to see a number of recent articles, in various national publications, promoting our local attractions to a nationwide audience.

I've had the opportunity to talk about the benefits of living here at a number of social and media events in Auckland and Hamilton recently and many are surprised to hear of the inexpensive cost of housing and the ease with which one can visit Auckland and our other major cities from here in the South Waikato.

On Facebook, Council's page is one of many that are promoting the district and we are building up an impressive calendar of local motorsports, cycling and other events which are promising to see us become a destination in our own right.

The outlook is indeed positive!

## IN touch

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