

Putāruru Growth Plan nears next stage

The Putāruru Growth Planning project will soon be starting the formal stages for re-zoning under a District Plan review.

Interest in the Putāruru Growth Plan has been positive. Council is fortunate to have the enthusiasm of Putāruru Moving Forward (PMF).

"Council reminds readers that 1,300 sections are not going to be available tomorrow!" said Sam Marshall, Council's Community Group Manager.

A District Plan review will start soon looking to re-zone land for additional housing and will take many months to complete.

The Growth Plan looks out 30 years and if all areas identified for re-zoning actually happen, Putāruru will see roughly 43 new sections per year, dependent on factors like market demand.

A group of passionate people are driving this project through

PMF, believing that growth for Putāruru is a must.

PMF Chair Stu Edmeades believes the relationship PMF shares with Councillors and staff has ensured a complete union with one goal.

"We are fortunate in having a supportive community that is passionate for progress to

“ Council is fortunate to have the enthusiasm of Stu Edmeades and his PMF team. ”
Jenny Shattock, Mayor

be made, as not only will it give first home buyers an opportunity to settle in a caring community but will also attract high end housing."

Population growth goes hand in hand with business growth and we are promoting the strengths of Putāruru - and the wider district to foster continued economic development.



Find out what Council does with the handy enclosed booklet

Check out the enclosed booklet that outlines Council's 21 activities or services.

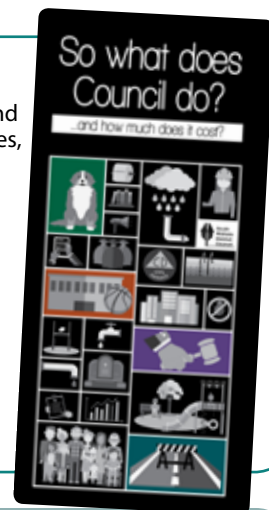
The booklet describes each activity and why Council does the activity. It could be because we have to under certain legislation or because of community need.

We outline the funding ratio of each activity. Some activities are solely rate funded like Economic Development and Civil Defence. Some activities are funded by targeted rates like water supply and wastewater which is only funded by those ratepayers (largely urban) who are hooked into our reticulation system. Some activities are funded by a combination of rates and user charges. Examples of these are Animal Control, Libraries and Pools.

A portion is paid for by the ratepayer and a portion is funded through user charges, ie, dog registration fees, library book issues, pool entry charges.

The booklet also details what each ratepayer pays for the service per week. The activities are colour coded and in order from least costly service (cemeteries) to most costly service (wastewater).

We hope it helps explain what Council does, why and how we pay for it all.



IN brief

- The Amisfield tree harvesting project was completed in mid-June and the area has now since been replanted, again with Pinus Radiata. The harvesting netted \$211,829.72.
- The design and build contract for the Tokoroa Skatepark closed at the end of June. Three tenders were received and the steering group is assessing these.
- A Te Waihou landscape hui has been scheduled with Raukawa for August.

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IN house

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

Editorial: Communications staff, Kerry Fabrie and Sina Tolovae, 07 885 0340

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Potholes are a 'hole' heap of trouble

Potholes have certainly dominated social and mainstream media over recent months. And it seems everyone has their view on how they form, why they form and the workmanship before, during and after... so we thought we would provide a few road engineering facts.



Roads age and deteriorate over time. Potholes are a type of road failure. Potholes are caused by a combination of water and traffic loading. Water seeps into the underlying pavement structures and weakens the supporting materials. Traffic puts pressure on the poorly supported seal surface and potholes result - the seal breaks completely and the weakened substructure is scattered over the road. Potholes commonly occur where there is poor drainage, at utility crossings under roads, joints with other roads and on old seals.

Pothole patching methods fall into two categories - temporary patching and semi-permanent repairs. There is no 'permanent' repair category.

Temporary Patching

Temporary patching is done to make the pothole safer during weather conditions that doesn't allow for a semi-permanent repair. Temporary pothole repairs look unfinished and often leave people thinking - and saying - what a poor repair job it is. It isn't poor workmanship, it is just temporary. The contractor uses cold mix or road material to temporarily fill the hole to assist user safety.

During heavy rains, these temporary fixes can easily blow out again. This does not mean they were repaired to a sub-standard; it is simply now a weak point and until a more permanent repair can be done (in dryer weather) it will always be a weak spot. On a positive note, these temporary repairs are at no charge to Council (or the ratepayer). The cost is carried by the contractor as part of the road maintenance contract.

Semi-Permanent

Semi-permanent repairs require good weather over a longer period (ie, the substructure material needs to dry out too). The contractor uses hot mix or other matching seal type. This repair requires clearing out the hole, reconstructing the underlying substructure in the failed area and blending the top seal to the surrounding area. Both the substructure pavement material and the seal are replaced. Semi-permanent repairs cost Council and the ratepayer under the road maintenance programme. This is a budgeted programme of works - budget for the 2017-18 year is \$80,000 and includes other general repairs.

There is no permanent repair for potholes. Once the cost of maintaining a stretch of road starts costing too much, the entire stretch of road is either re-sealed (just the top seal) to protect the underlying pavement or rehabilitated from the substructure material to the top seal. Roads are a living asset and they succumb to weather conditions.

Heavy rains cause potholes described above; in the same way that extremely dry hot weather can cause the seal to crack and substrate material to escape.



There are a number of ways to combat road deterioration:

- Conduct regular inspection of the network.
- Provide appropriate drainage and regular cleaning of the drainage structure (like stormwater systems).
- Ensure utility crossings are replaced to optimal standard.

And finally, the question of who is responsible for what. The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) is responsible for all state highways; including the portion that runs through townships. Council is responsible for all local and rural roads. NZTA and Council work collaboratively on projects when and where they can. Both NZTA and Council have contractors that carry out the work to the level of service that is outlined in the respective contracts. In the South Waikato, the roading contractor for both Council and NZTA is Downers; which could be why some people get confused as to which organisation - NZTA or Council - is responsible for what. NZTA is a central government agency funded by taxes. Council is a local government agency funded by rates.

Residents are encouraged to contact Council to report potholes on local and rural roads. We are also happy to take calls about potholes on state highways - we simply pass these on; or you could phone 0800 4 HIGHWAYS (0800 4 44449) direct.



Local book launch a success at Putāruru Timber Museum

It was great to see throngs of people - locals and further afield - flock to the Timber Museum in Putaruru for the recent successful book launch of local author Lance Duncan's book "Louie and his Hard Case Buggers" in mid-July.

200 signed copies were sold on the day and some 400 people visited the Timber Museum. Her Worship the Mayor Jenny Shattock and Hayden Woolston, son of publisher Trevor Woolston said a few formal words before opening up the floor and it was at that point that a number of great tales were told by all.

Books are available from the Timber Museum and Louie the Logger's Cave in Putaruru. Enquire at the Timber Museum for more details.

About the book... well known local forester and hunter Lance Duncan tells the story of his life through numerous yarns from many years - full of humour and written as Lance tells it, the book will have you in stitches. Not a read for the faint-hearted!



WHAT'S HOT

While Council continues to monitor the footpaths in the Tokoroa CBD, we are over the moon to report that we have not received a single report of someone slipping on the footpaths that were treated with the non-slip coating last year. Some areas need a little maintenance which we will get on to when the weather dries up, but the product is certainly working well!

Antenno - 337 installs and counting! If you haven't already installed Antenno on your mobile phone, please download free from Google Play or the App Store, save the places you care about and sit back and wait for notifications direct to your phone relevant to your places of interest. Never miss out on recycling days again, be made aware of road closures and traffic incidents, learn about events, and much more.



Our WiFi provider Wireless Nation has indicated that on average we have 31 devices per day using our free WiFi in the Tokoroa CBD. This will likely increase dramatically once we get our signage up. But yay for now for those logging on!

Volunteer hours by the Big Weekend Committee over the years to bring the Big Weekend to our Tokoroa community.

The Events Centre welcoming Cherie Pascoe to the team while Leleina Russell is on maternity leave.

Five staff members from the Pools attending a swim instructor conference in July and bringing back some great new ideas to incorporate into their Learn to Swim programmes.

At the time of writing, the 2,586 dogs in our district who are registered for the coming year. Nicely done dog owners!



The new exercise equipment at Lake Moana nui, some of which are suitable for mobility users. Five new pieces have been installed interspersed between the existing stations to add to the exercise route around the lake. The new equipment includes a combination wheelchair press, bicep curl and squat machine, a seated overhead shoulder press, a shoulder grinder (basically a bicycle for arms), double monkey bars and a scramble net. Council is thrilled that so many in our community are out using the equipment.



WHAT'S NOT

Potholes and more potholes. These are difficult to manage given the consistently wet weather. Potholes cannot be repaired when the ground is wet. We caution our community to take care on the roads through this wet winter period. A reminder state highway are not Council.

The wet and rainy weather is definitely NOT hot! We're all a bit over soggy grass, muddy verges and the rain!

Dog owners who haven't paid their annual dog registration fee required under the law!

Antenno feedback - "we like it!"

Council's new mobile phone app Antenno is proving useful to those who have installed the app.

A survey conducted recently in our district by Antenno developers Datacom indicates high levels of usefulness and satisfaction with the product.

Survey results show that the app is easy to install and simple to get started.

Topics rated most useful were roadworks and road closure information, followed by recycling reminders. Overall a consistent majority reported posts to be somewhat useful or very useful.

Top comments from respondents include:

- The rubbish and recycling reminders are great
- Really awesome. Love having instant notifications of what is going on around the area
- A great service offered by Council
- It's a great way to get information out very quickly
- Love it. Have recommended it to friends.

According to the survey people mostly hear about Antenno via Facebook, followed by word of mouth.

Only dog control information was reported as being 'not useful' to some users, not surprising given the notification went to the entire district and not everyone has a dog!

Feedback also indicated that we need to pay more attention to 'road now open' notifications following road closure or under traffic management notifications... good point, fair enough!

When asked if people in the community would use Antenno to notify Council of potholes or roaming dogs, results were very positive. This feature is not yet available but will be soon!

Install Antenno!

Antenno is simple, easy to use free and no personal information or log on details are required.

Antenno will alert you to recycling days, events, road closures and much more.

Install from the App Store or Google Play. Save places you care about, such as your home, work, rental property or school. Antenno will notify you when something relevant to your chosen place(s) arises.

Antenno is FREE.



Antenno

Be informed. Get involved.



Haven't got it?! Download now from Google Play or App Store.

\$150! That's an expensive piece of plastic... or is it...

Every year Council picks up the same complaints and comments regarding dog registration fees... so this year we thought we would explain why that little piece of plastic dog owners purchase for \$150 (normal fee) costs what it does.



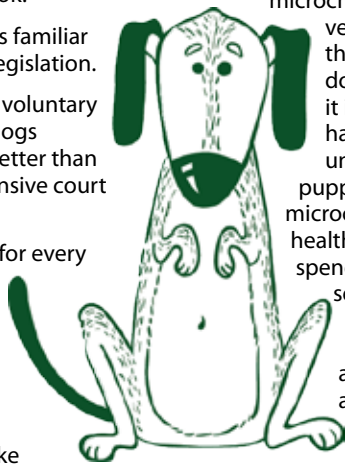
The simple answer is: you're not just paying for the piece of plastic, that would be fair outrageous!

... let's have a look at the total Animal and Compliance service BEHIND the tag...

- Fit-for-purpose vehicles - patrols and response, fuel, maintenance, branding and equipping to ensure Officers can ensure public safety.
- Heavy duty, fit-for-purpose protective uniforms for a professional look.
- Trained Officers familiar with relevant legislation.
- Negotiation of voluntary handovers of dogs costs, but it's better than potential expensive court costs!
- Property visits for every complaint to educate, investigate and/or uplift.
- Dog poo bag dispenser and free bags at Lake Moananui in Tokoroa (coming soon to other areas) - including maintenance and filling.
- Education and support for people struggling to properly care for their dog.
- Door to door programme in August looking for known registered dogs that have not yet renewed their registration.
- Pound management - keeping it clean and hygienic, feeding, watering the dogs twice daily, seven days a week; rotating dogs in the exercise yards and walking the dogs.
 - Public, and dog owner, safety - by getting roaming and aggressive dogs off the streets.

Welfare - because there is no longer an SPCA Inspector working in the South Waikato, our staff field well over 100 calls a year from concerned residents about 'the dog next door'. These are investigated and education support provided. If the situation doesn't improve, the dog is uplifted and held either for seven days or longer depending on the dog's behaviour and temperament. The team put a huge amount of time and effort into animal welfare because animal cruelty is distressing for people.

Adopt a dog programme - all dogs are desexed, microchipped and vet checked so that when the dog is adopted it is unable to have (potentially unwanted) puppies, is legally microchipped and healthy. Many dogs spend longer than seven days in the pound too. Our team put time and effort into assessing dogs for suitability for rehoming. Indeed other members of staff offer to walk the dogs during their lunch breaks too.



In addition

- Officers are on call 24/7 to ensure public safety - largely around dog attacks, aggression and stock on roads.
- The service isn't just about dogs. The team enforce our Bees, Poultry and Animal Bylaw which covers a range of animals, mostly around stock on roads that need to be dealt to within an hour as a matter of serious public safety. And the team enforce various other bylaws like the Public Places bylaw and do parking infringements. This is all covered in the cost of the service (rates component too).

But wait there's more...

- Discounted Selected Owner Policy (or SOP) - apply between 1 March and 31 May. Officers will inspect your property, review your file to check history and a few other criteria. SOP is half of the standard fee, at just \$75. SOP is a privilege not a right.
- The proportion of dangerous or menacing dogs in our district in comparison to total dogs is high. Managing dangerous dogs is essential to public safety, the safety of other dogs and their owners.
- Automatic payment option - to spread payments throughout the year (means additional administrative costs).
- Credit in rates account - this can be transferred to your dog account.

So you see... there's much much more to the Animal and Compliance Service than meets the eye...



About those fees...

Our Council has one of the highest dog registration fees in the country. We acknowledge that. There are several reasons for this and many are outlined in this article. In a nutshell, we deliver a higher level of service to our community than many other councils. Some councils for instance don't investigate door to door every complaint - they simply write letters or do nothing. Some councils don't put time and effort into rehoming suitable dogs that have been found or handed over and no owner has claimed them - they simply wait the seven days under the law and then euthanize the dog. Some councils don't split the service into 60% to users (ie, dog owners) and 40% on rates - they put more of the cost of the service on to rates, which means ratepayers who don't have dogs pay a larger proportion than what they do in our district.

Owning a dog...

And lastly... owning a dog comes with responsibilities and costs. You have to feed it, water it, exercise it, vaccinate it, provide a kennel, love, hugs, play and the odd treat. Under the law you also have to register it - this costs money - and is a dog owners' responsibility. Simply put, owning a dog comes with costs - careful consideration of all costs and responsibilities is essential before getting a dog.



Feeding the community



Source your fresh, chemical free, affordable vegetables from the Tokoroa Community Gardens

Looking for a local source of fresh, chemical free and affordable vegetables? Look no further than the Tokoroa Community Gardens, located on 10 Braeside Avenue, Tokoroa (behind the Waiariki campus).

The Tokoroa Community Gardens have been operating locally since 2003, originally starting out as facility to teach organic gardening in our community, with just a truckload of potting mix and a shed.

Now they have expanded to five hectares of well loved garden plots growing fresh vegetables for all to enjoy.

And they don't just sell vegetables, the Tokoroa Community Gardens sells everything from vegetables, to shrubs, succulents, native trees, horse manure, pellet boxes... the list goes on.

But according to Lynn Wilson, Tokoroa Community Garden Chairperson, one of the best things they have on offer are the friendly faces of the garden volunteers and the helpful advice they can provide.

"The best part about being out at the gardens is meeting all the people and getting to know

our community. We have heaps of regular customers who have specific needs that are met here at the gardens, and it's great to be able to provide that," commented Lynn.

The Tokoroa Community Garden is volunteer run, and they are always looking for more helping hands, so if you have a love for gardening then the gardens are the place for you.

"When I started volunteering here my health wasn't so great, but since being here, eating the fresh produce and getting out in the fresh air - I feel so much better," continued Lynn.

Along with providing affordable vegetables to the Tokoroa community, the gardens also donate food to the local food bank and Ka Pai Kai.

"That's what we're here for - feeding the people - and it's what we hope to continue for many years to come."



Help your kids get a good start in school with a healthy lunch from Ka Pai Kai...

Ka Pai Kai is another Tokoroa based community organisation with a focus on healthy eating - this time, it's for the kids.

Back in 2015 Sarah Turpitt, Tokoroa Hospital Food and Environmental Services manager started a Ka Pai Kai school lunches "pilot" scheme in Tokoroa, partnering with Amisfield Primary School and its principal Bex Kilgour.

Turpitt and Kilgour saw the need for healthier yet still affordable school lunches for Tokoroa kids and together they developed a menu of nutritious and appealing lunches that families can enjoy at reasonable prices - all under the Ka Pai Kai initiative.

In 2016 the Waikato DHB decided it was time for the Tokoroa community to take the reins and lead the project forward, and so stepped up Amanda Rewi who is now Ka Pai Kai Head Chef and Coordinator.

"We're really proud of what we are doing here and that we have been able to continue this programme for the children of Tokoroa" said Amanda Rewi.

Ka Pai Kai now operates out of the Tokoroa Club upstairs kitchen, and during the week

you can find Amanda along with other volunteers preparing the healthy meals to deliver to the schools in time for lunch.

Ka Pai Kai is now available in almost every primary school in Tokoroa, including Tokoroa Intermediate and two kohanga reo.

"Feeding our kids a nutritious lunch isn't just good for their health, it's also great for their schooling," commented Ka Pai Kai Chair Person KC Maaka. "A healthy diet can make a huge difference in a child's reading, writing and comprehension skills."

But not only are they providing healthy lunches, Ka Pai Kai is also helping secondary school students on the Gateway programme learn about food and business.

The menu includes items all approved by the Heart Foundation, including chicken wraps, fruit cups, sandwiches, fresh vegetables, and there are even gluten free and vegetarian options - all priced between \$2 and \$6.

"Our aspiration is to get our menu down to a gold coin donation for our families," said Amanda.

Volunteers Welcome!

Both the Tokoroa Community Gardens and Ka Pai Kai are always on the look out for passionate volunteers! If you are interested you can contact:

Lynn at the gardens on: 027 701 1126
Or Amanda Rewi at Ka Pai Kai on: 0800 Ka Pai Kai



Burn wise this winter

Tokoroa's air quality is an ongoing issue in the winter months. This winter so far we have had ten PM₁₀ and/or PM_{2.5} exceedances (tiny particles contained in smoke that are bad for our health).

There are several causes of air pollution, such as vehicle exhaust fumes and industry. However, research has shown us that the main source of air pollution in our district comes from non-compliant woodburners in our homes and the burning of wet wood, contributing 78% of the problem.

But you can help... by burning only dry, seasoned wood, keeping your woodburner and flue clean, not burning treated, painted, green or wet wood, plywood or particle board, or recyclables.

And we can help you... Enquire about one of the many Council schemes to replace old wood burners with new compliant heating.

The end of winter is approaching but the cold days aren't over yet! If you have run out of dry wood for burning, Council has several Burnwise suppliers who are committed to providing good wood in the community! They also have plenty of information on how to burn better. Find your local Burnwise supplier below...

BURN WISE

GOOD WOOD
from GREAT SUPPLIERS

- Tokoroa Firewood Ltd
0508 367 9663
- Balmoral Firewood Supplies
07 886 7550
- Central Bay Firewood
07 886 6387
- South Waikato Achievement Centre
07 886 8941

Matariki planting

Council and Raukawa joined together in early July to celebrate the coming of Matariki with a planting day at Te Waihou. This is the third year we have joined together to celebrate the Māori new year, and this year we had help from Fonterra, Waikato Regional Council, land owner Mike Keir, as well as parents and children from local kohanga reo and kura kaupapa.

It's a special day all round and enjoyed by everyone involved.

"Raukawa and Council come together to work on various projects throughout the year - but on this day, we put the work aside, pick up a shovel and join together to celebrate the coming of the Māori New Year, and take a moment to be thankful for the relationship we have built together. Our Matariki planting is something really special, and it's a tradition we know will continue on in the years to come," said Mayor Jenny Shattock.



Footpath etiquette

Footpaths are a fantastic invention. They get you where you need to go without the worry of trudging through grass or getting rundown by a car.

However, that doesn't mean that a footpath is without peril, there are many ways in which a footpath can facilitate an accident or two. It's important for everyone to remember that footpaths aren't just for walkers - we can and do share our footpaths with mobility scooters, prams, skateboards and rollerblades, wheelchairs, dogs, runners, and even the occasional Segway.

With so many different users it's important that we understand and respect the needs of each other to ensure that everyone is safe and comfortable while on our footpaths.



Coming up at The Plaza:

Sue Nicholson – Wed 6 Sep 2017, 7pm-9.30pm. The star of the new Sensing Murder Series Sue Nicholson presents her sensational live show 'Answers from the Other Side'. Sue's abilities have been seen on TVNZ's 'Sensing Murder', the 'Good Morning' show and 20/20. Her incredible gift helps to create a communication link between those who have passed over to the spirit world and the living. Restricted age group R13 to R18 accompanied by an adult. Tickets from Eventfinda (www.eventfinda.co.nz or 0800 289849) - \$64.95.



Modern Maori Quartet, Sat 16 Sep. Kiwi crooners Modern Māori Quartet return for a national tour with their debut album "That's Us!". The Quartet are guaranteed to entertain with their signature blend of off-beat comedy, stage routines and an array of original songs, New Zealand classics and traditional waiata. They will be joined by Annie Crummer, local superstar and Pacific Music Awards "Lifetime Achievement" recipient and MMQ collaborator Awhimai Fraser, making this a Kiwiana-show not to be missed.

Phone (07) 883-8596
Email theplaza@plaza.org.nz
Web www.plaza.org.nz
Facebook : Plaza Putaruru



Urban CONNECTOR

Tokoroa Circuit

The South Waikato public transport service - the Urban Connector - is proving hugely successful since it was introduced in 2015.

Council receives largely positive feedback from its community about the service and usage figures increase steadily every month as more people take advantage of the service.

As a result of some of this feedback we have added two new stops to the Tokoroa Circuit.

These two stops are located outside the Tokoroa Club on Chambers Street (Stop 3) and outside the Senior Citizens Hall on Papanui Street (Stop 25).

Adding these stops has altered the route slightly, however none of the original stops have been affected other than the stop numbers changing.

You can pick up a new map from Council offices or your local i-SITE or access it online on Council's website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz. If you have any questions you can free call our information line on 0800 SWurbanc (0800 798 722).



Timetable...

The Tokoroa Circuit departs from the Tokoroa i-SITE six times each week day at 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm and 2pm.

It is best to be at your stop at least 15 minutes before the bus is expected to arrive.

The Urban Connector will be at:

Stops 1 - 5 between the times of:

- 9am - 9.10am
- 10am - 10.10am
- 11am - 11.10am
- 12pm - 12.10pm
- 1pm - 1.10pm
- 2pm - 2.10pm

Stops 6 - 10 between the times of:

- 9.10am - 9.20am
- 10.10am - 10.20am
- 11.10am - 11.20am
- 12.10pm - 12.20pm
- 1.10pm - 1.20pm
- 2.10pm - 2.20pm

Stops 11 - 15 between the times of:

- 9.20am - 9.30am
- 10.20am - 10.30am
- 11.20am - 11.30am
- 12.20pm - 12.30pm
- 1.20pm - 1.30pm
- 2.20pm - 2.30pm

Stops 16 - 21 between the times of:

- 9.30am - 9.40am
- 10.30am - 10.40am
- 11.30am - 11.40am
- 12.30pm - 12.40pm
- 1.30pm - 1.40pm
- 2.30pm - 2.40pm

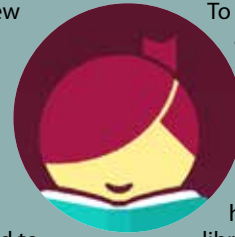
Stops 22 - 28 between the times of:

- 9.40am - 9.50am
- 10.40am - 10.50am
- 11.40am - 11.50am
- 12.40pm - 12.50pm
- 1.40pm - 1.50pm
- 2.40pm - 2.50pm

Meet Libby.

The one-tap reading app from your library

Meet Libby, a new app built with love for readers to discover and enjoy eBooks and audiobooks from our library.



To use this app, you must be a member of the South Waikato District Libraries.

You will need your library card number (with a B in front) and a PIN number. If you don't have a PIN, please contact library staff.

Libby is designed to get people reading as quickly and seamlessly as possible.

It's easy, fun and convenient! Why not give it a go?



libby

Happy Reading



Big Weekend - book the dates

Don't forget to mark the first weekend in December for the Tokoroa Big Weekend event. This year may be the last ever A&P show in its current format, so be sure to come along and enjoy the last of such an historic long-standing event.

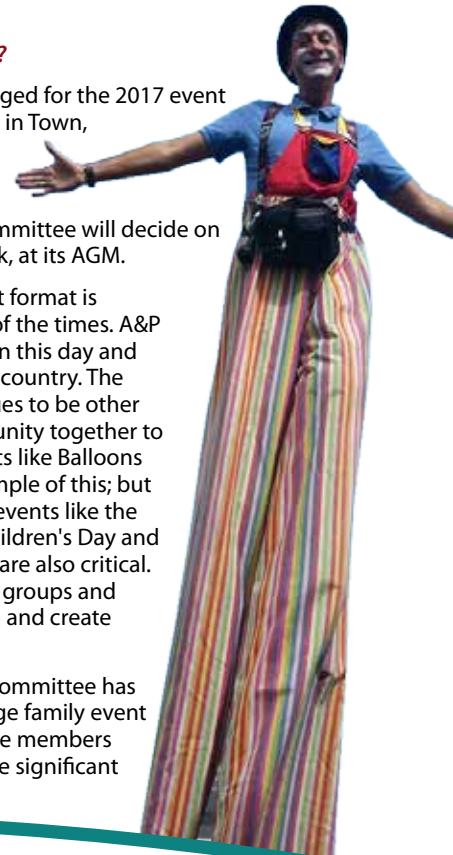
- **Carols in Town - Friday 1 December, 6pm to 9pm**
- **Christmas Parade - Saturday 2 December, 11am (starting at Kindergarten Street)**
- **A&P Show - Saturday 2 December, gates open at 9am, entertainment starts 12noon**

Is the A&P show coming to an end?

The Big Weekend remains unchanged for the 2017 event coming up this December - Carols in Town, Christmas Float Parade and A&P Show. However, this year may be the last Tokoroa A&P show as it has historically been. The A&P Committee will decide on its future, possibly a refreshed look, at its AGM.

Losing the A&P Show in its current format is disappointing, but indeed a sign of the times. A&P shows are part of our history but in this day and age they are being lost across the country. The key is to ensure that there continues to be other opportunities to bring our community together to create cohesion. Council led events like Balloons Visit South Waikato is a good example of this; but community and organisation led events like the Pink Walk, ANZAC Ceremonies, Children's Day and The Taniwha among other events are also critical. We are fortunate to have so many groups and organisations that foster cohesion and create community pride.

Over the years the Big Weekend Committee has worked very hard to bring this large family event to our community. A&P Committee members have worked tirelessly and deserve significant accolade for their efforts.



IN brief continued...

- The new online building consent system went live on 10 July; feedback has been positive.
- 71 business case meetings were held in the 2016-17 financial year. Business type is varied, as is stage of progress.
- 178 after hours noise call outs were responded to in April, May and June with staff attending 10 during working hours.
- There are 3,934 known dogs in the district, registered to 2,675 owners.
- Council achieved 50 of its 63 Key Performance Indicators for the 2016-17 financial year. Staff are reviewing our KPIs in preparation for the Long Term Plan.
- 776 Rate Rebate applications have been approved by the Department of Internal Affairs, amounting to some \$426,875 worth of rebates for ratepayers in our community.
- Council staff issued 19 Managers' certificates during the April - June quarter.
- The building control team issued 462 building consent applications during the 2016-17 financial year, with a total value of \$31,518,228.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:
www.southwaikato.govt.nz
[www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

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

Councillor Column Gray Baldwin

There is an old saying "Everyone wants to go to Heaven, but no-one wants to die". This is a very apt analogy when considering the impact of Healthy Rivers proposed by Waikato Regional Council. We all want clean water, but the economic costs give some of us heartburn. The potential impact of this plan on the South Waikato cannot be overstated. Both dairy and drystock farmers potentially face significant restrictions on their activities. The forestry industry will face restrictions on both harvesting and processing activities. Most draconian of all is proposed rule 3.11.4.3 Land Use Change which, is effective from 22 October last year, prohibits land owners changing the way they use their land without Council consents. Forestry land can't be converted to dairy, neither can sheep and beef land. If you own a dairy farm you can't start growing vegetables on it. This is nonsense. My grandfather cleared forestry land in the 1950s to farm sheep. My father kicked the sheep out and put dairy cows on it. I've still got cows, but am also growing maize on flat areas. Farmers are not stupid - we have to change land use to survive the economic conditions we face. But we're happy to do our bit to clean up the river.

So let's think carefully about this Plan Change. I want to see the Lichfield Fonterra factory full of milk and employing people. I want to see Kinleith rebuilt and prosperous - for that the owners will want to see fair consent processes and a plentiful supply of logs. Councillors and staff have put considerable effort into putting a submission to the WRC on this proposed plan - you can see our submission (and the 1,032 others) on their website. Tell us what you think, more importantly tell the Regional Council what you think. Let's not sit on our backsides and be regulated out of our own back yards.

Councillor Column Marin Glucina

As a Councillor, I am often approached by people in our community regarding new initiatives, ideas or concerns that people want Council to look at. Many of these ideas are useful and innovative with some excellent benefits for our community. We, myself and other Councillors, feed these ideas into our long term planning and annual plan processes. We won't get around to doing them all tomorrow and indeed some ideas may never come off the ground due to priority and funding constraints, but it is the role of the Councillor to hear ideas and concerns and bring them to the Council table for discussion. Please keep your ideas coming. This is what governance is about and what Councillors are here for. I am always more than happy to hear from you.

I also get approached by people who have an issue or concern with individual Council staff members. It could be that they are dissatisfied with the service or outcome of an issue. Effectively they are wanting me 'to do something about it'. It is perhaps useful to understand that in these circumstances it is best to liaise direct with staff or if necessary refer to Council's Chief Executive. The Mayor and Councillors employ one person - the CE; and the CE employs everyone else. This means that as Councillors we cannot direct staff - nor should we be able to; as this blurs the line between governance (our role) and operations (the CE's role using Council staff). Councillors are not really the best place to take such issues and concerns to.

There could perhaps also be situations where people in our community feel that keeping a formal record of conversations and liaison with Council staff is useful and this is perfectly acceptable. It is important to let Council staff know you are doing this to ensure good record keeping and open and honest communication.

Mayor Jenny Shattock

Phone: 0274 416 230
Email: jenny.shattock@southwaikato.govt.nz



Tokoroa

Wendy Cook

Phone: 021 719 093
Email: wendy@pockets.co.nz



Jeff Gash

Phone: 021 974 327
Email: jeff.gash@outlook.com



Marin Glucina

Phone: 021 284 3214
Email: glu@hotmail.com



Thomas Lee

Phone: 027 332 1292
Email: lee.whanau@clear.net.nz



Bill Machen

Phone: 027 471 5899
Email: lilyandbill@xtra.co.nz



Arama Ngapo-Lipscombe

Phone: 0275 339 988
Email: arama@nll.co.nz



Putāruru

Gray Baldwin

Phone: 027 239 0497
Email: baldwin@xtra.co.nz



Adrienne Bell

Phone: 027 471 2404
Email: adriennejb@yahoo.co.nz



Herman van Rooijen

Phone: 027 246 6601
Email: vanrooijen@xtra.co.nz



Tirau

Peter Schulte

Phone: 021 434 933
Email: peter@otobahncoffee.com

