

# IN touch



South  
Waikato  
District  
Council

A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 33 - March/April 2017



Council and Balloons over Waikato hosted their third Balloons visit South Waikato event on Friday 24 March at the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground, and although the weather put a stop to the balloons going up, it couldn't put a stop to the fun our community had on the night.

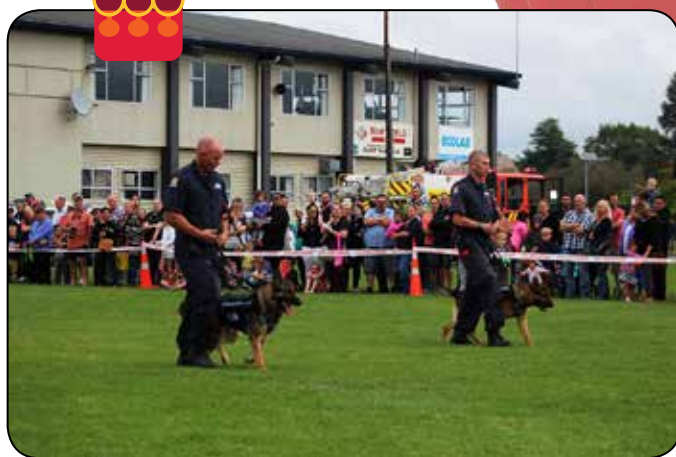
Event goers enjoyed kite flying - kites provided free by Council, fun and games - such as a four-way tug-o-war hosted by Sport Waikato, meeting adorable Adopt a Dogs with Council's Animal Compliance team, face painting, food stalls, and a special display from the Bay of Plenty Dog Handlers Squad. There was plenty of excitement and fun all around.

"We were of course a little disappointed that the weather didn't permit all the balloons to be on full display - but safety always comes first," commented Craig Hobbs, Council's Chief Executive. "However, I'm sure the crowd enjoyed seeing Oska and Sweet Pea make the attempt to go up, and we are, as always, thankful to the balloonists for making the trip down to our district."

Council would also like extend thanks to everyone who made this night possible, from the event volunteers to community groups and stall holders. We look forward to bringing you this event again next year - let's just hope for better weather!

## Road sign change coming soon...

We are currently working through the process of changing the intersection control at the Old Taupo Road and Galaxy Road intersection. The end result of which is likely to mean that the current four give way signs will be replaced by two give way signs with traffic on Old Taupo Road having priority over all traffic on Galaxy Road. We will keep the community updates as the project progresses. It is still several months away. Any questions or queries contact Robert Cathie on 885 0340.



For more images from Balloons visit South Waikato see page 4

## IN brief

- The installation of wireless wifi in Tokoroa is almost complete. One new CCTV camera in Putāruru is operational. The three outstanding cameras will be installed once the poles are installed. The CCTV cameras in Tokoroa are also almost complete.
- The Tokoroa Skatepark scope has been revised following confirmation of additional budget. Designs of other skateparks are currently being investigated for a design build option.

## IN side

- 2&3 Economic upturn  
Healthy Rivers
- 4&5 Balloons Visit SW  
What's Hot, What's Not
- 6&7 Disability Dogs  
Lake Moananui Ducks
- 8 Snippets  
Councillor contacts

## 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

Print: GASP Designs



## Economic profile on upward trend

The most recent report from Infometrics shows that for the second year in a row, more than 100 jobs were introduced to the South Waikato labour market, after two years of decline prior.

This trend was echoed with an increase in economic gain by 0.9% to December 2016.

"Council will continue to support this positive trend through our business friendly and solutions focussed approach, changing perceptions of our district by showcasing the many business and lifestyle opportunities and working with training providers and industry leaders on successful programmes like South Waikato Trade Training," said South Waikato Mayor Jenny Shattock.

The quarterly report also shows that traffic flows are up 6.3%, compared to 4.5% nationally, which is a positive indication that the investment Council is committing to the Tokoroa CBD upgrade will have increased reach and capture to feed into continued economic growth for businesses in our town centre.

South Waikato house prices in December 2016 were 31% above their 2015 level. While this is a sign of positive growth for the district, it does create significant pressure on the housing market across the district. Council has identified residential growth planning in our Annual Plan that will help address land and housing supply pressures in the mid- to long-term.

Over the last quarter, a further 8.6% increase in residential rental prices in the district has reached an eight year high in rent price inflation.

"This correlates with the local feedback we are getting from social service providers including TCOSS and the Overdale Centre in Putāruru regarding a major shortage of affordable rental accommodation," continued Mayor Shattock. "We have a significant opportunity to encourage people to both live and work in the district, but we need more housing stock.

"Our residential growth planning project will address this issue," continued Mayor Shattock.

Prices in the primary sector have improved over recent months, particularly for the forestry and dairy sectors which collectively account for over 25% of employment in the South Waikato. Data from AgriHQ showed log prices also rose to a record level in February. The total dairy payout (excluding dividends) in South Waikato looks set to be around \$356m in the current season, based on Fonterra's current \$6.00/kgms farmgate milk price forecast, up from \$232m in the 2015/16 season.

## UV installed at Lichfield Water Supply

Council's Services Team has recently coordinated the installation of Ultra-Violet (UV) and micro-filtration at the water supply unit in Lichfield as part of Council's continued improvements to deliver even safer drinking water to residents.

The Lichfield water supply services around 50 people and a few businesses.

Nationally, each water supply is assessed by the local Department of Health and given a rating based on assigned risk. Mitigation measures for the Lichfield supply identified installing UV and micro-filtration as a second disinfection method. The Lichfield supply is already chlorinated.

"When chlorine is added to the water it destroys

potentially dangerous bugs and remains in the water from the headworks to the tap," explains Andrew Pascoe, Council's Services Manager. "UV and microfiltration provide a one-time treatment that neutralises harmful protozoa that could potentially be present in the supply as it comes from the bore."

Going forward the scheme will require calibrating and standard maintenance like replacement of filters. The scheme cost \$130,000 to install.

Staff from Filtec were onsite to install the UV and microfiltration system. The system, together with chlorination, provides Lichfield residents two disinfection barriers in accordance with the National Drinking Water Standards.



## Council seeks changes to Healthy Rivers

The South Waikato District Council has called for the Waikato Regional Council to reconsider its Healthy Rivers plan due to the detrimental effect it will have on the South Waikato community.

South Waikato Mayor Jenny Shattock says while South Waikato District Council supports the aspirations of Healthy Rivers and what it's trying to achieve, the Council is seeking "specific and important changes to this plan from Waikato Regional Council to ensure positive outcomes for South Waikato".

The vision and strategy for the river catchments focuses on ways to improve water quality to make it safe for swimming and a sustainable food source.

Mayor Shattock says this is an inter-generational goal to attain over an 80-year period, but the plan change lacks a clear pathway to achieve this.

Our Council has asked for a 'science and technology gap' to be bridged before sustained environmental improvements can be achieved beyond the first 10 years.

"It is unclear around what happens after 10 years and there is a high risk of the goalposts being moved in 10 years' time.

"We need to make sure the methods to achieve the plan are fit for purpose, provide efficiencies and will ultimately be effective once implemented," she says.

Mayor Shattock says South Waikato has a unique economic and community profile and the adverse economic and social

costs if the current plan is implemented will hit the district hard.

Given the current demographic, for example an ageing population, Council believes the Healthy Rivers Plan Change in its current form is unrealistic, unachievable and unaffordable for South Waikato to implement.

The potential impacts on the district such as job losses and affordability of infrastructure like wastewater treatment would be "significant".

"Employment in dairy farming will be hugely impacted and this will cause a knock-on effect in the wider district which relies heavily on dairy farmers to survive," continued Mayor Shattock.

Other areas of concern included the lack of certainty for land owners and managers and penalising them rather than supporting them to improve the way they use their land and be more sustainable.

"Section 32 of the Resource Management Act 1991 states that the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) has a duty to provide understandable, practical, cost-effective and fair methods to implement resource management framework. We believe WRC has failed to do this."

Mayor Shattock and South Waikato District Council Chief Executive Craig Hobbs handed over the South Waikato District Council's submission on 7 March.

### What is Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1?

Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora: Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 is a response to addressing the complex issue of water quality facing the Waipa and Waikato rivers.

Nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and bacteria levels are rising in NZ waterways. We need to tackle these issues now to ensure the health of our rivers into the future.

The notification of the Healthy Rivers (Wai Ora): Proposed Waikato Regional Plan Change 1 triggered the community's opportunity to have their say on the proposed plan change. The Waikato Regional Council received over 1,000 submissions.

The proposed plan change is required to give effect to Government legislation on the management of fresh water and Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (The Vision and Strategy for the Waikato and Waipā rivers) which was introduced by Government as part of Treaty Settlement legislation.

### Trees to be harvested

Council owns and maintains the large pine trees adjacent to the Tokoroa Airfield site. They are over 40 years old and need to be harvested. They will be replanted. We anticipate the works will begin in late April, through May 2017. The project is expected to take between four and five weeks from start to finish.

Road closures and traffic management will be in place. Crews will be working to a two tree length safety perimeter at all times.

No access will be granted to the area for public recreation or firewood gathering. Barriers and signage will be in place.

Council is liaising directly with neighbouring householders and airfield users.



### You Say...

It's a shame that in some cases the animal pays the price for the mistake or irresponsibility of the owner. It's great that this council puts up these posts to keep reminding people. I wish all councils were as proactive.

*Lara Solomon on the Animal Compliance service, Facebook*

Welcome to Tok. NZ's best kept secret.

*Jasmine Simpson on our new Citizenship Ceremony, Facebook*

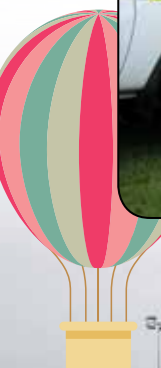
Everybody was so awesome for being so patient :) well done Tokoroa thank you...

*Mackie Renee, on the broken down rubbish truck, Facebook*



**Balloons**  
visit **South Waikato**

FRIDAY 24 MARCH  
5PM - 8PM | TOKOROA MEMORIAL  
SPORTSGROUND



# WHAT'S HOT

Toddler Tadpoles classes reintroduced at the Indoor Pools in Tokoroa for mums and babies, dads and babies, grandparents and babies... yes, it's all about babies learning water safety and building water confidence. Interested? Thursdays during school term time, from 10am to 11am. Pool entry fee applies.

Council's new mobile phone app Anteno. Download FREE from the Play Store or App Store, save the places you care about and we'll let you know when something comes up!



Mayor Shattock and Chief Executive Hobbs visiting Waikato Regional Council with our Healthy Rivers submission. Way to take a stand South Waikato!

150 new students at Putāruru High School and Intermediate combined this year.



Council's continued focus on footpath repairs around the District, including extending the footpath on Browning Street in Tokoroa.

SWDC hosting the Local Government Zone 2 meeting on 9 June when Mayors from the Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Poverty Bay come together for a day of meetings and to view initiatives in our district like South Waikato Trade Training and the road rail terminal.

The awesome comments regarding the painting exhibition in the Council office foyer in Tokoroa.

Ultrafast Fibre coming to Putāruru!

Putāruru turning on the weather for the recent Water Festival.

The excellent job by the Community Development with the Our Neighbourhood Series this summer.



A newly introduced Friday Night Fun at the Events Centre for our 9 to 14 year olds makes sure kids get active with some sporting fun playing basketball, gymnastics, volleyball, badminton and lots of games. Every second Friday of each month (except Public Holidays). \$4 entry with heaps of prizes to be won. Get your kids along!

Council meetings being held out of the Tokoroa office Chamber - a couple of meetings are being held in Tirau and Putāruru.

The LED lighting on Main and Princess Street in Putāruru.

The periods of good weather that has allowed Council's contractor to catch up on the roading programme that was delayed due to the uncharacteristic rains.

Our very own Building Control Manager making the BOINZ (Building Officials Institute of New Zealand) magazine for his efforts inspecting homes following the Culverden earthquake on the South Island in November last year. South Waikato deployed three of our staff to help our our fellow Council and community.

# WHAT'S NOT

The warm weather providing good condition for growth... of weeds! Council continues to address vegetation through additional mowing and chemical weed spraying.

Broken weighbridges.

Dead ducks.

Road works! Due to the improved patches of weather both Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency are undertaking ongoing resealing of State Highways and local roads. Please take care and allow time for delays.

## FREE sterilisations offered NOW for menacing dogs!

A change to the Dog Control Act will require all menacing dogs, as categorised under the Act, to be neutered. This change is expected to be included into the legislation in the latter part of this year. Once this happens, all menacing dogs in New Zealand will be required to be neutered. This programme is part the national strategy to reduce the risk and harm of dog attacks.

Council has successfully secured funding from central government so that residents with menacing dogs can get their dog neutered at no cost to themselves. Once the legislation is formally enacted, people will need to pay for the sterilisation themselves.

"Council reminds residents that the Dog Control Act is central government legislation that we are required to enact," continued Mrs Beckett. "Our Council is communicating directly with registered

owners of menacing dogs, but for those who own a menacing dog that is unregistered, we encourage you to contact Council to start the process of registering your dog so that you can apply for this free funding for sterilisation."

"Sterilisations can cost up to \$250," added Mrs Beckett. "You can get your menacing dog sterilised at no cost to yourself, but you must act now."

**People are encouraged to contact Council on 07 885 0340 or 07 885 0774 and ask to speak to one of our Animal Control team members.**

## What's happening to our Lake Moananui ducks?

There has been considerable concern in our community regarding the dead and dying ducks at Lake Moananui this summer.

Council has received 17 service requests since 1 January 2017 from the community and coupled with the three times a week check by the contractors, a total of 78 ducks have been picked up in recent months in the park surrounds and lake edge. Eight ducks have been picked up from in the lake (ie, too far in for the contractors to reach from the shore). We note that this is a significant increase over previous years.

We appreciate that this is distressing to lake users. Sadly this is a common occurrence throughout New Zealand at this time of year and is often determined as botulism.

Council sent a dead duck away for testing in February. We have discovered that the botulism toxin cannot be tested. The autopsy looks for possible ways that the duck could have died; if the autopsy is inconclusive it is ruled by default as avian botulism. In the case of the duck we sent for autopsy no conclusive cause of death was identified, other than the fact that the duck had no fat reserves; non-conclusive means, the autopsy rules as avian botulism by default.

Council continues to appreciate that many in our community are being really helpful reporting sick and dead ducks when they come across them. Please continue to contact Council. Leaving contact details so that we can confirm the area if we're unclear would also be useful.

*Pictured here are some happy and healthy ducks in Lake Moananui.*

*The paralysis suffered by the ducks that have contracted avian botulism could be the reason that Council has received reports from our community that the birds are 'stuck' in the weed in the lake. They may well not have been 'stuck', they could have contracted avian botulism and were in fact suffering from paralysis.*

### What is avian botulism?

- It is a disease causing paralysis and death in ducks.
- The disease is caused when the bird eats toxin produced by *Clostridium botulinum* bacteria. This bacteria occurs naturally in soils found in ponds and wetlands. It is harmless until the right environmental factors occur.
- Eliminating avian botulism is difficult because the toxin producing bacteria occurs naturally.
- Most avian botulism outbreaks are caused by ducks eating maggots that have fed off dead birds.

### How can the community help reduce avian botulism?

- Avoid feeding the ducks, it is better to encourage waterfowl to forage naturally.
- Don't feed the ducks bread, it rots in the lake and promotes the growth of botulism causing bacteria.
- If you do feed the ducks, please feed them on land. Seeds and grains are best for their diet.
- Call Council when you see a sick or dead duck - detailing the specific spot is useful information. We appreciate that many in our community are being really helpful in this respect. Leaving contact details so that we can confirm the area if we're unclear would also be useful. Council continues to appreciate it when people call up to report dead ducks as it can be a distressing sight.

### Is avian botulism a threat to humans?

- Enquiries last year with health officials established that there are no cases of Avian Botulism in New Zealand being transferred to humans; accordingly the risk is minimal.
- People are encouraged to make sure pets don't eat dead fish or birds.



Come along to The Plaza and enjoy 'An Evening with the Modern Māori Quartet' on Saturday 6 May at 7.30pm.



Tickets are \$45, available from The Plaza, Eventfinda, Tokoroa i-SITE and Diamond Jewellers in Matamata.

The suave crooners from the award-winning Modern Māori Quartet (MMQ) invite you to enjoy a fresh take on the classic Māori showbands of yesteryear. Their signature cabaretstyle show promises a trip down memory lane as this talented foursome bring a fresh twist to Kiwi golden oldies and a unique spin on recent international hits.

With sublime harmonies and universal humour, Toi Whakaari NZ Drama School graduates James Tito, Maaka Pohatu, Matariki Whatarau and Francis Kora mix old school charm with modern quirk, spiced with Māori culture for an unforgettable evening of waiata (song), stories and fun.

Suit 'em up in their number ones, shine their shoes, hand them a guitar or two and they'll have you melting like golden syrup on a piece of fresh hot fried bread with their signature brand of hearty Māori entertainment.

Facebook: Plaza Putaruru  
Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz  
Phone: 07 883 8596  
Website: www.plaza.org.nz



### Ever wondered why some dogs are allowed in public places when most dogs aren't? In places where you wouldn't expect to see dogs, like a library, at a restaurant or in your local bank?

The dog could be a disability assist dog and they are helping the person they are with. Hearing dogs ensure that others in public engage with the disabled person in an appropriate way by drawing attention to the partnership, generally because assistance dogs wear special jackets identifying them.

Chances are we're all familiar with traditional guide dogs for the blind. They have been around for years and are easily identifiable as an assist dog because of the special harness they wear and/or because they are golden labs. But disability assist dogs are now commonplace for a number of different disabilities and across many dog breeds that are perhaps harder to distinguish.

In New Zealand there are six organisations that can certify dogs for legal public access which means the dog can go with the owner into areas where most dogs can't. These areas

could be libraries, government buildings like the court house, restaurants, motels, dairies etc. The organisations are Hearing Dogs New Zealand, Assistance Dogs NZ, Mobility Dogs, Guide Dogs, Epilepsy Assist and Perfect Partners. The first four organisations have international accreditation.

Assistance dogs are trained depending on the disability of the person they are minding and their role is improve the lives of their owner who lives with a disability. The dogs are trained to do specific tasks to mitigate the impact the disability has on its owner. For example a guide dog for a blind person is trained to walk out front, ahead of the person and alert them to stop and go. A hearing dog is trained to alert its owner to smoke alarm, phones, doorbells, text messages etc. A diabetic alert dog is trained to sniff low blood sugar on the breath of the person they are minding. Mobility dogs help

## Weighbridge repairs underway

Many readers will be aware that the Putaruru Transfer Station weighbridge is currently not operating. One corner of the foundations had settled and Council removed the weighbridge structure on Monday 27 March in preparation for repairs. During the repairs vehicles will be diverted around the opposite side of the Kiosk until the weighbridge can be reinstated. This is expected to take several weeks.

Council appreciates the cooperation of users during this interim period. We understand this issue has created a significant amount of concern. We do have a manual charging system in place that we feel is reasonable. The operator is not able to deviate from these set charges. Any concerns, please continue to contact Council on 07 885 0340.

the person they are with do simple things such as passing a shop keeper the person's card if needed, or opening doors.

In the South Waikato disability dogs are allowed in dog prohibited areas.

"It is important the people in our community understand that there are a number of different types of disability assist dogs and that they are a crucial link to improving the quality of lives of disabled people," said Mayor Jenny Shattock on meeting with local Roger Drower and his new hearing dog Harper.

If you are in doubt as to why a dog is present where it normally shouldn't be, it is best to ask to see the passport identification for the dog which should be carried at all times. Often the dog has a special identification tag too and is wearing a branded jacket.

A range of dogs are used as assistance dogs with a preference for some disabilities for Labradors and Golden Retrievers. These dogs have been specially bred and are proven successful both in terms of health of the dog and temperament. These dogs are also recognised world-wide as service dogs. However as you can see from our poster pooch Harper, other breeds are used too.

If you are unsure about disability dogs and the rules of access, you can visit these websites for more information:

- [www.hearingdogs.org.nz](http://www.hearingdogs.org.nz)
- [www.assisteddogstrust.org.nz](http://www.assisteddogstrust.org.nz)
- [www.blindfoundation.org.nz/guide-dogs](http://www.blindfoundation.org.nz/guide-dogs)

*Acknowledgement - Assistance Dogs New Zealand, Hearing Dogs New Zealand, Drower family*



## Get community alerts about places you care about!

South Waikato District Council is pleased to offer Antenna, a free mobile app that sends you notifications and alerts about places you care about.

Antenna is simple, easy to use and no personal information or log on details are required. No need to check multiple sources of information either - Antenna sends information directly to you.

Antenna will alert you to:

- Rubbish and recycling days so you don't forget
- Exciting Council events happening around places you care about so you don't miss out
- Road closures so you don't get caught out

...and so much more

All you need to do is install the app from the App Store or Google Play and save places you care about, such as your home, work, rental property or school. Antenna will notify you when something relevant to your chosen place(s) arises.

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Follow the prompts and we'll let you know when something comes up!



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## IN brief continued...

- Council reviewed 13 Bylaws. These will be available for public consultation in due course.
- The Urban Connector continues to track well so hats off to South Waikato for its continued fantastic use. The numbers of passengers using the district circuit - Tokoroa, Putaruru, Tirua has just about doubled from numbers at this time last year. And there has been a 20% increase in passengers for the Tokoroa circuit.
- Council has 64 Key Performance Indicators. Of these 53 are on track, five are slipping, two are not achieved and due to changes in process four are currently not able to be measured.
- A massive 26 resource consent applications are currently being processed.
- The Environmental Health team processed 36 liquor applications during February.
- The Building team processed 32 building consents during February.
- The Animal Control and Compliance team impounded 96 dogs in January and February. Thirty two were euthanised, seven were rehomed, 45 returned to owners, leaving the remainder in the pound awaiting processing.

## IN the know

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

## 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 Peter Schulte

Greetings everyone. Isaac Newton once said " what goes up must come down" - I am certain he couldn't have meant taxes or rates! Our Mayor, Councillors and staff have worked hard to keep the 2017-18 budget at a modest rate increase while ensuring growth. During the Elections, candidates heard from ratepayers about improving Council maintenance of footpaths, roads, parks, reserves, town centres and other areas. Council agrees and has committed extra funding for maintenance in a number of areas.

A toilet at the top of the hill in Tirau has been long awaited and I know I'm not the only person to be thrilled to see the new toilet installed. Public toilets across New Zealand often come under fire from users. We are certainly fortunate in Tirau to have excellent toilets maintained in The Dog and now our brand new old-style yet modern Tirau Outhouse is sure to attract tourist attention and local pride. As the new Tirau Ward Councillor I am grateful to everyone involved in the project. It is yet another outstanding Tirau icon that is sure to create fun for visitors.

A tour of the new Lichfield dryer showcased the size and state of the art technology of this impressive build. The economic impact the construction had for local contractors that worked on the build was equally positive. When large companies like Fonterra and others such as Blue Pacific Minerals, BP, Z, Farmlands invest in our district the economic impacts are huge and put us on the map in terms of the place to invest in.

I have enjoyed the first six months on Council and look forward to continued positive relationships with the Tirau Community Board, community members and other organisations that have passion and commitment for both Tirau and the district.

## Councillor Column Thomas Lee

Hello everyone. Since the Elections, Councillors along with staff have been busy getting the Annual Plan underway. This started with a workshop to find out what our aspirations were for our District and continued with Christmas reading during the holiday break, more workshops and public meetings. At the end of this process we will know what projects ratepayers would like included in the plan, what Council requires to run the District and also what it will cost us as ratepayers. We will then be moving into long term planning, where we will be looking out three, ten and thirty years.

Since the start of this term we have welcomed many new citizens into our community, which we normally do as part of a regular Council meeting. We had to hold a special ceremony at the Events Centre because we had so many to do at one stage. We seem to be experiencing an economic upsurge, which is great to see and the numbers of new citizens is just one indicator for Council.

We have also had a rise in vandalism within our District, which has a cost implications to our rates. We need to show more pride in our community, like the young man who cleared away the overgrown foliage around the 'Welcome To Tokoroa' sign north of Tokoroa. What a great example to our young people.

Council is in the process of lifting our levels of service within the District to make it look cleaner and tidier.

Everyone can help by 'Biffing it in the Bin' and not throwing it on the ground. Let's be proud of where we are living and who we are.

## Mayor Jenny Shattock

Phone: 0274 416 230  
Email: [jenny.shattock@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:jenny.shattock@southwaikato.govt.nz)



## Tokoroa

### Wendy Cook

Phone: 021 719 093  
Email: [wendy@pockets.co.nz](mailto:wendy@pockets.co.nz)



### Jeff Gash

Phone: 021 974 327  
Email: [jeff.gash@outlook.com](mailto:jeff.gash@outlook.com)



### Marin Glucina

Phone: 021 284 321  
Email: [glu-@hotmail.com](mailto:glu-@hotmail.com)



### Thomas Lee

Phone: 027 332 1292  
Email: [lee.whanau@clear.net.nz](mailto:lee.whanau@clear.net.nz)



### Bill Machen

Phone: 027 471 589  
Email: [lilyandbill@xtra.co.nz](mailto:lilyandbill@xtra.co.nz)



### Arama Ngapo-Lipscombe

Phone: 0275 339 98  
Email: [arama@nll.co.nz](mailto:arama@nll.co.nz)



## Putaruru

### Gray Baldwin

Phone: 027 239 049  
Email: [baldwin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:baldwin@xtra.co.nz)



### Adrienne Bell

Phone: 027 471 240  
Email: [adriennejb@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:adriennejb@yahoo.co.nz)



### Herman van Rooijen

Phone: 027 246 660  
Email: [vanrooijen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:vanrooijen@xtra.co.nz)



## Tirau

### Peter Schulte

Phone: 021 434 933  
Email: [peter@otobahncoffee.com](mailto:peter@otobahncoffee.com)

