

Council announces public Wifi in Tokoroa CBD

South Waikato District Council is pleased to offer its community and visitors public Wifi access in the Tokoroa town centre. There are six sites connected to the network, including the Tokoroa i-SITE, PostShop building, the TACS building, the pole on the corner of Swanston and Rosebery Streets, the pole on the corner of Bridge and Mannering streets and the pole on Bridge and Campbell streets.

Council's IT Manager Duncan Blair was impressed that

18 devices had connected to the public Wifi without any promotion. Following an invitation to Council staff to 'try' the connection, there are now 52 devices connected.

"We're fairly confident that now we have started promoting the service, it will become very popular," he said.

The public internet service is a secure 100Mbps fibre-optic internet connection provided by Wireless Nation. It is called

South_Waikato_Public_Wifi. This service is family friendly and terms and conditions apply on sign up.

The location and coverage of the Wifi is shown in the diagram below. According to the experts while people are in the shaded areas they should receive a strong Wifi signal, provided that there are no significant obstructions to the wireless signal, eg, a building or concrete wall may block a wireless signal.



Happy Wifi-ing
South Waikato!

Amisfield Tree Felling

The Amisfield tree felling has progressed well, despite the wet weather.

Council acknowledges the inconvenient moments and would like to thank residents and airfield users for their patience and support with the traffic management, road closures and especially residents when their properties needed vacating for a few hours.

Project updates are on our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Our Council - Major Projects - Amisfield Tree Harvesting.



IN brief

- The South Waikato Skills Gap project is making good progress. The project is on track for completion by the end of June. Results will be used to identify possible additions to the existing South Waikato Trade Training initiative.
- A Library Industry Association of New Zealand conference held at the SW Sport and Events Centre was attended by 65 people.
- Great to see around 1,500 people attend the dawn and civic ceremonies in our three towns this ANZAC Day.

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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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Te Kōwhatu o Hatupatu site upgrade

The South Waikato District Council is very proud to be a key stakeholder for the iconic Hatupatu Rock, situated alongside State Highway 1 just south of Tokoroa.

Mayor Shattock spoke in the morning before unveiling the cultural heritage marker. She acknowledged the collaborative efforts of Mana Whenua, the New Zealand Transport Agency, Mercury Energy, Heritage New Zealand and the Council.

"When people and organisations come together to achieve a common goal, the result is something we can all be proud of," said Mayor Shattock.

Hatupatu Rock or Te Kōwhatu o Hatupatu is a wāhi tapu site and is known as the place where the

legendary traveller Hatupatu sought refuge inside the rock itself after being pursued by Kurungaituku. The significance of the site means it is a popular stop for both domestic and international travellers alike.

"As guardians of our beautiful New Zealand we owe it to our tupuna (our past), our tamariki (our future) and ourselves in the here and now to ensure that places of remembrance like Te Kōwhatu o Hatupatu are preserved," continued Mayor Jenny Shattock.

The joint effort has seen the Transport Agency undertaking the construction work, Mana Whenua contributing native plants, landscaping materials and traditional narratives, Heritage New Zealand has provided storyboards and Council funded the cultural heritage sign marker and will be responsible for the site's ongoing maintenance.

The Mana Whenua Group has representatives from Raukawa, Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Te Arawa and Ngāti Tūwharetoa.

The site is designed to recreate the domain of Kurungaituku using native plants that provide a habitat for native birds. The selection of plants includes rongoā – traditional Māori medicine – and rākau toi plants that can be used for traditional Māori arts and crafts.

Most of the work was done early in summer with stakeholders gathering in April to complete the final planting and unveil the cultural heritage marker and storyboards.



The legend of Kurungaituku and Hatupatu

Te Kōwhatu o Hatupatu holds significance for many Mana Whenua in the South Waikato District and surrounding area.

The story below is an abridged version of 'Kurungaituku, He Wahine Ngākau Māhaki' and 'Te Matenga o Kurungaituku', two stories from Raukawa. You can find the full versions on Raukawa's website, as well as comparative versions of the Hatupatu and Kurungaituku story.

There once lived a gentle young girl named Kurungaituku who lived in a small village amidst the great forests surrounding present day Atiamuri and Tūaropaki. The birds of the forest had been watching over Kurungaituku from the time she was born as they knew that she was a very special child, destined for greatness.

Kurungaituku blossomed into a beautiful young woman and had many suitors who wished to marry her, but she was not ready.

However, one day as she was wandering through the forests near her home she came across young man named Te Rama. They returned each day to their meeting point and over time the two fell in love and the forest celebrated for Kurungaituku.

When her father heard of their love he became enraged as Te Rama was the son of his greatest enemy. He hid his anger from his daughter but sent her brothers to the lovers meeting point, Mangaharakeke, where they beat him to death.

Witnessing Te Rama's death the forest burst into life, the birds attacked the brothers and the men fled the forest for home.

Recognising that something was amiss and hearing the furor of the birds coming from Mangaharakeke, Kurungaituku feared that something had befallen her beloved Te Rama. She sped from the village only to discover her worse fears were realised.

Kurungaituku was filled with despair. For days she cried, the sound met by the sheer silence of the forest. Eventually, her tears abated, but she never forgave her father or her family for what they had done and she never returned to the village.

As time went on Kurungaituku learnt the magic of the forests. The birds taught her how to change her form and become a great bird, a protector of the forests and its inhabitants.

Many years had gone by when one day Kurungaituku heard the angry words of young men from the forest floor below. She flew down to investigate and saw a young boy who had been beaten and left for dead. Kurungaituku was reminded of her beloved Te Rama and took pity on the boy. She took him back to her home and nursed him back to health. This boy was Hatupatu.

When he recovered Kurungaituku told Hatupatu he was welcome to stay in the forest but there was one rule; never eat any of the birds. This rule was punishable by death.

As the days passed Hatupatu regained his strength and the trust between them grew, enough so that she felt comfortable leaving Hatupatu alone while she flew further afield as guardian of the forest.

But as Hatupatu's strength returned so too did his appetite and soon he grew wary of insects and plants. Overcome by gnawing hunger, Hatupatu caught, cooked and ravaged Kurungaituku's birds. Once satiated, Hatupatu realised his wrongdoing and the terrible fate that would befall him when Kurungaituku returned, and so he fled.

Kurungaituku flew home and discovered the remains of her birds. She called out to the great forest, "Who has done this?" and the reply came, "You have been betrayed by Hatupatu". Her heart sank. The young man who she had healed and befriended was now her betrayer. Fuelled by anger Kurungaituku searched the land for Hatupatu, finding him on the run near Pohaturoa mountain.

Hatupatu doubled his efforts and sprinted faster until he saw a large boulder. Having lived with a magical creature such as Kurungaituku, Hatupatu shouted the incantation "Mātītī, mātātā". And with that, the rock opened and engulfed the fleeing man. Just as he entered the enchanted rock, Kurungaituku swooped down in a desperate effort to grasp the young man. She missed him and the rock closed around him. In frustration, Kurungaituku clawed at the rock with all her might but was unable to open it. The claw marks of Kurungaituku can still be seen today on the sides of the rock.

WHAT'S HOT!

The Tirau Domain Concept Plan - collaboration between Council, Tirau Community Board and the community makes for good progress on the plan.



The new walkway from James Higgins Park into Matarawa Park.

The staff at The Warehouse for their clean up day down at Lake Moananui... awesome effort.

The Tokoroa Market and Community Gardens being featured on Cam's Kai on Māori TV. This can be accessed On Demand, so check it out if you want!

Healthier snack and drink options being introduced at the Indoor Pools.

Winter sports leagues that have the Events Centre pumping each week night.

The pools during winter - warmest place in the district.

Putāruru Growth Planning meeting - well over 150 people attended the public meeting, showing interest and asking great questions and making valuable comments. Hats off also to the Putāruru Moving Forward team that is doing a great job driving growth in Putāruru.

Big thanks from Council staff and contractors to all those who contacted us to report issues during the recent weather events. The many calls, emails and FaceBook messages mean we can deploy people to problem areas quickly enabling us to prioritise effectively.

And even bigger thanks to our fantastic contractors who were out there in the wet, cold and dark putting traffic management in place to ensure our safety and clearing slips and trees from our roads as quickly as you did. You did an awesome job.

103 installs of our new mobile phone app Antrenno - on ONE day!



The beautiful autumn colours around the district - Lake Moananui looking stunning!



Second chance for 28 dogs to date this year. These dogs would normally have been put to sleep but thanks to the wonderful people in our community who have adopted them through our Rehome Programme, these 28 pooches have found a new FURever home. And they have all been microchipped, registered and desexed.

WHAT'S NOT

All the leaves falling from the deciduous trees. Autumn leaves however do make fabulous compost so feel free this winter to redistribute fallen leaves on lawn, verges and gutters onto your compost pile! Turning a not so hot into a hot!

Poor uptake for free desexing for menacing dogs. A reminder to our community - if you have a menacing dog (categorised as such under the Dog Control Act) you will soon be required by law to have your dog sterilised. Much better to do it now and have the government pay for it, rather than be forced into doing it later and having to pay for it yourself!

Moisture damage found in the walls of the Indoor Pools during the annual maintenance shut.

Some of our young people pulling poo bags out of dispenser at Lake Moananui. It's a silly waste of staff time to clean it up and ratepayer money restocking it. We encourage anyone one knows who is doing this to report them to Council.



Coming to work and finding \$1,000 worth of smashed windows in the men's change room at the Indoor Pools... after a night of destruction by some youth.



Flooding, slips and downed trees.

Good things worth the wait!

Council is aware of the angst from some in our community about the time it is taking to get the CCTV cameras up and running. We appreciate that the delays associated with this project are causing frustration.

For us too!

At the time of writing all four cameras in Putāruru are working and two cameras out of six in Tokoroa. And by the time you are reading this, it is likely that all six cameras in Tokoroa will be installed, weather dependent.

Unfortunately the project has suffered several delays, many of which were not under Council's control, including:

- coordinating three separate contractors (network designer, hardware installer and camera security provider) to do these works - at times it has been necessary to have all three contractors working on site together.

- bad weather calling off scheduled works.

- the compounding issue of bad weather and re-coordinating three contractors!

- dovetailing the CCTV camera project in Tokoroa with the installation of the public Wifi initiative to ensure cost efficiencies.

- compatibility issues with the existing network, new Wifi and the cameras being more complex than originally anticipated. What has resulted from working through these compatibility issues is a system that is far more robust than originally planned and one that will deliver higher performance.

- the network installation in Tokoroa was then further delayed when the current CCTV camera system in Putāruru failed completely. Works in Tokoroa were refocused back to Putāruru as the Police were accustomed to having CCTV footage in that township; since Putāruru has had CCTV for a number of years.

We want to ensure our community that the delays have not increased costs. The budget allocated to this project is \$60,000 for Putāruru and \$80,000 for Tokoroa.

There are/will be six cameras in Tokoroa and four in Putāruru.

Council is excited about getting this project in both Putāruru and Tokoroa completed and working for the safety of our community.

WINTER DRIVING - SAFETY TIPS

Before you leave

- Check the weather forecast and road conditions.
- Consider if you really need to travel, especially if the weather is poor.
- If travel can't be put off, allow extra time for your journey.
- Dress for the conditions, carry additional warm clothes and keep a survival kit in your vehicle in case you get stuck.
- Check your vehicle is road worthy. Check tyres have plenty of tread. Check and clean all lights to make sure you can see and be seen clearly.
- Reduce dazzle from the low sun by keeping the windscreen clean inside and out. Ensure your wiper blades are working correctly.
- Clear your vehicle windows of any ice completely. Don't pour hot water on the windows as it may cause the glass to crack or shatter. Use cold water or an ice scraper.

On the road

- Drive slower than you normally would. It only takes a split second to lose control in wet or icy conditions.
- Avoid sudden braking or turning movements that could cause you to skid.
- Accelerate smoothly and gently.
- Drive at a safe travelling distance as it takes longer to stop on slippery roads. In winter especially in poor weather, double the two-second rule and leave a safe distance between you and the car you are following.
- When traveling in fog rain or snow, drive with your lights dipped for increased safety.

Spotting ice and snow

- Look out for shaded areas caused by high banks and tall trees where roads freeze sooner and ice may not thaw during the day.
- Frost is more severe at daybreak so be prepared for this after it becomes light. While it may not be frosty at 6am it could be an hour or two later.
- Black ice is especially treacherous because it's hard to see. If the road is dry but you are seeing spots of road that look dark and glossy, that is likely to be black ice.

If you see or encounter any icy roads contact the South Waikato District Council as soon as possible on 07 885 0340 or message us via FaceBook so the roading crews can deal with it and relevant messages can be pushed out over our networks.



Your

Tirau's Outhouse open for business

Tirau and tourist toilet goers will be relieved to learn the long awaited Tirau Outhouse is open and ready for business - and as far as public toilets go... this one really flushes out the competition.

The Tirau Community Board (TCB) came up with the idea for an 'outhouse' look and feel and Council contracted Corrugated Creations to carry out the design and build.

"We wanted something fun, and fresh, and completely different that reflected our town's uniqueness," commented Corrugated Creation's Sheryn Clothier. "And it's a real credit to the TCB and Council for getting behind this project and supporting something so unique."

One of the distinctive features of the Tirau Outhouse is the photo opportunity, sponsored by Corrugated Creations, that allows people to snap a picture on the 'loo' reading the paper

- without getting wiped out by traffic.

"We've noticed over the years that when people pass through Tirau, they of course want to take a photo with the Dog, Sheep and the Ram, but that they'd go out onto the highway to do this. We wanted to give people the opportunity to take a photo with the outhouse without putting themselves in harm's way," Sheryn commented.

Sitting atop the outhouse is a gorgeous little kereru, that pays homage to the kererus that would frequent the area many years ago to feast on the cabbage trees found in Tirau and for which Tirau was named.

Also included in the design is rusted corrugated iron, but users need not break into a sweat over the structural soundness of the building, as this is all part of the façade. The building itself is hidden beneath all the design work.

"We've been talking about a toilet at the top of the hill for years and it's great to see such an iconic loo developed," Mayor Jenny Shattock commented. "We've had really good feedback from visitors and locals."

The Tirau Outhouse opened its doors in late April, and is open from 7am to 5pm each day. It is located on Hillcrest Street, Tirau at the top of the hill and is wheelchair accessible.

Tirau Rail Crossing gets the go ahead

Work has begun on the Council funded upgrades to the pedestrian rail-crossing in Tirau and is expected to be complete by the end of June 2017, weather dependant.

This crossing forms part of the Tirau Walkway and having this work underway is a positive step forward in seeing this larger project complete.



Gathering for a photo outside the new Tirau Outhouse is Clive Collingwood (Tirau Community Board), Derek Keesing (TCB), Mayor Jenny Shattock, Deputy Chief Executive Ben Smit, Cassandra Robinson (TCB Chair) and Stephen Clothier (Corrugated Creations).



Tirau Ward Councillor, Peter Schulte snaps a sneaky pic outside the Outhouse.

You Say...



I must say a big thank you to tokoroa pound who were excellent to our dog and my husband and I you do a excellent job along with you great attitude you showed us many thanks guys...

Many thanks from Cyprus (our dog) for being kind to me and don't forget the staff at Tokoroa Council!

- Jenellen Tipu on Council's Facebook page



Ex-Mayor Neil Sinclair honoured at Government House

Our ex-Mayor Neil Sinclair was presented with his ONZM by Governor General Dame Patsy Reddy at Government House in Auckland on 26 April. This accolade - the New Zealand Order of Merit - was established by royal warrant in 1996 to recognise people who have distinguished themselves by providing outstanding service to the Crown and people of New Zealand in a civil or military capacity. Our long standing Mayor was first elected to South Waikato District Council as a Councillor in 2001. He was elected Mayor in 2004, serving four terms before retiring in 2016. Prior to serving on SWDC, ex-Mayor Sinclair served on the Putāruru Borough Council for 11 years. That adds up to a total of 26 years serving South Waikato communities... and this doesn't include the excellent service provided to South Waikato children and their teeth over his 40 year career as a local dentist!



Putāruru Growth Planning

After 20 years of population decline, we are now seeing an increase in population in our district. But that means we are experiencing a shortage of houses and land on which to build new houses... so what to do?

Council and Putāruru Moving Forward are working together on a Putāruru Growth Plan to help combat the lack of housing and land available for building. Council will be looking at growth plans for all towns, but is kicking this process off in Putāruru.

Common themes that came from the Putāruru Moving Forward community survey done last year suggested a desire from the community to see more housing and section choices and improved housing stock.

High property prices in places like Auckland, Hamilton, Cambridge, Tauranga and Rotorua have got people looking for alternative places to settle that are still accessible for schools and work. Putāruru and other South Waikato towns have noticed a dramatic increase in

people moving into the South Waikato.

Other Waikato towns/districts that have not traditionally experienced growth (like Otorohanga, Huntly and Ngaruawahia) are experiencing similar issues and are working on similar growth initiatives.

Following a very well attended open public meeting on Wednesday 10 May, the draft plan was further amended and made available to the community for further feedback. This feedback is currently being considered and the plan amended further.

There will be further opportunity for the community to provide more feedback, input and be engaged in the process. Ultimately this growth planning project will formalise into a District Plan Change - this

too will have engagement and consultation opportunities.

Why is growth planning important?

- Growth planning helps ensure we consider the future of the town and how it might look in the future so we avoid unplanned development, sprawl, poor design outcomes, etc.
- Growth planning involves looking at where we could provide for new subdivisions for houses to be built.
- Growth planning is essential to manage our infrastructure like water supply, stormwater and wastewater, in relation to a growing population.

The work done in Putāruru will provide a framework for similar projects in another towns in our district.



The Plaza Putāruru is the South Waikato's premium performing arts centre.

It is available to hire for small and large events - accommodating from five to 500 people for top performances, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, performances and many more.

The facilities include nine bar fly tower, full wheelchair access, full stage movie screen and amazing acoustics.

The theatre auditorium can comfortably accommodate up to 400 tiered seated patrons, with an additional 100 removable chairs on the floor to allow when removed 260m² clear floor space for exhibitions and displays.

The stage offers 12.8 x 7 metres with wings and full rear dressing rooms, named The Arthur Fountain Studio. The acoustics must be heard to be believed.

The front room of the venue is named The Pavilion and is perfect for small seminars, classroom or boardroom events.

The Plaza Putāruru is run by not-for-profit organisation, The South Waikato Arts Trust and boasts extremely reasonable hire costs.

If you're planning an event and need a versatile venue contact us to see what we have to offer.

Join our 'Friends of the Plaza' database (on the homepage of our website) or follow us on Facebook to keep up to date with events and special offers on at The Plaza.

The Plaza Theatre 50 Kensington Street, Putāruru
Phone: (07) 883-8596
Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz
Website: www.plaza.org.nz
Facebook: Plaza Putāruru



Annual Plan adopted

Council adopted the Annual Plan for the 2017-18 financial year at the Council meeting of 11 May. The final average rates revenue increase is 3.9%. Individual rate increases will fluctuate.

Elected Members and the community have brought great initiatives to the Council table. To keep our rates increase modest some of these initiatives will feed into the development of the 2018-28 Long Term Plan rather than be included in the recently adopted 2017-18 Annual Plan.

"Council is focussing on some key areas over the coming year," said Ben Smit, Council's Deputy Chief Executive. "These include increased attention to general maintenance in

our towns, especially our CBD areas, improved community engagement, development of town concept plans and residential growth planning."

Most of Council's Fees and Charges have increased by 3% inflation as per our previous Long Term Plan. However we have kept several fees at the current rate (ie, no increase). These include most of the fees at the libraries, South Waikato Sport and Events Centre and the pools as we recognise that keeping fees as low as possible for our leisure facilities is important. We have also included some new fees in the building control area, animal control service and council facilities.

"What is exciting for our community is that there is more engagement and consultation opportunities over the coming months so that we can further refine ideas and initiatives for the LTP," continued Mr Smit. "It is key to remember that our LTP further engagement will be happening much earlier in the process than normal."

The full adopted Annual Plan and the Fees and Charges for the 2017-18 year are available on our website www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Our Council - Strategies, Plans, Policies and Bylaws - Plans - Annual Plan 2017-18.



Council has put out the tender for the design and build of the new Tokoroa Skatepark, and we are so excited to check out the talent that comes forward.

However, that doesn't mean it's the end of the line for community involvement - we still want to hear from you.

The search for the best design/build team is a three month process and during this time we want to hear from our community. Do you, or anyone you know, have an awesome idea you think we should know about? Then make sure you...

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

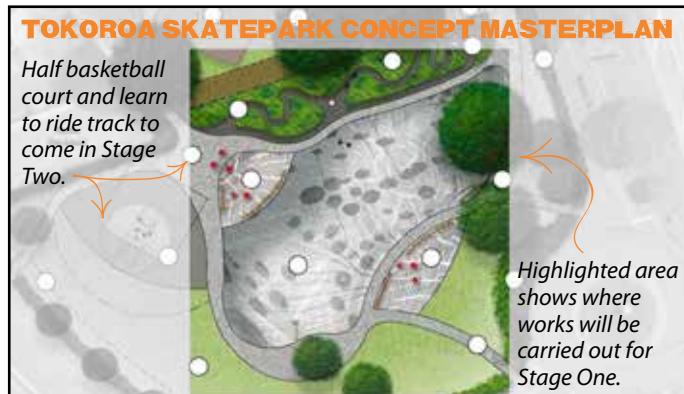
Send your contact details to sarah.flavall@southwaikato.govt.nz and we'll get in touch with you to let you know what to do from there.

It's important to remember that the Tokoroa Skatepark design and build is a staged project, and we are currently at Stage One. At this stage we are only looking for ideas on the skatepark itself, for example what equipment to you think we need, what features do you want to see included. Stage two will involve looking at a half basketball court and learn to ride track.

The new skatepark will be located next to the Tokoroa Youth Park across from Countdown. This land was purchased by Council for the specific use of a new skatepark, which came about after a number of submissions were received on the topic during the 2015 LTP.

Council has been making steps towards the build of this project since then and is very excited to see it come to fruition. It is Council's hope that the actual build will begin in November/December of this year.

We are looking to continue to engage with future users of the park in the design process for the skate element. This includes skaters, bmx and scooter users, as well as parents.



Building goes online



Council's building consent process is moving into the digital age and going online using a product called AlphaOne.

"We're very excited about this move," said Kevin Duthie, Council's Building Control Manager. "Besides the more obvious benefits of going digital, the key driver for this change is to improve the customer experience around building consents."

AlphaOne is an end-to-end online building consent system. It is a Council and client facing cloud based IT platform that is proven to transform building control workflow and service delivery to the public.

Currently customers phone in to check how their consent is progressing and sometimes an Officer is not available to answer their query. With the new online system, designers, builders, developers, registered users can log in to the portal, track their building consent down and watch the progress online in real time.

South Waikato District Council is not leading the charge in online building consenting but we're certainly at the forefront of the pack. Our online building consenting process goes live in July!

Assistance will be provided for the public during a transition period. The building team has been liaising with regular users like designers, builders and developers.

The online consenting process will save time for both staff and those in our community using the system, provide for superior recording, improved reporting, more visibility for users and staff, allowing clients to track their own consents when it suits them.

"We are thrilled to be on the brink of offering our community an end-to-end online building consent solution that will benefit our many stakeholders," said Kevin.

Get community alerts about places you care about!

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

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

Antenno 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. Antenno will notify you when something relevant to your chosen place(s) arises.

Antenno is FREE.

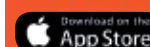
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Antenno
Be informed. Get involved.



Visit - www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/Pages/Antenno---mobile-phone-app.aspx

IN brief continued...

- Use of the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre continues to increase with year to date users for 2016-17 of 36,361 compared to 30,003 by this time last financial year. Pool visitors too have increased from 59,646 to 66,270, years to date.
- Hats off to the Jim Barnett Reserves Management Committee for completing its Memorial Shelter through fundraising and volunteer efforts. Tick. But not to rest there, the Committee are now starting work on the Memorial Wall which will include six historical panels.



- The Road Safety intersection survey resulted in 216 entries. Unfortunately only 48% of entries got all eight questions correct. There are many in our community who need to brush up on the road code before they cause an accident! Visit <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/resources/roadcode/roadcode-index/>.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:
www.southwaikato.govt.nz
[@SouthWaikatoDC](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 Herman van Rooijen

Tena koutou katoa. We live in ever changing and exciting times. Our district has entered a growth phase which just a few years ago we could only dream of. We now need to position ourselves so we can benefit in a way which our people are comfortable with, a way which will benefit young and old (and all those in between) and it needs to be sustainable in the long term.

As a Putāruru Councillor I was hugely encouraged to attend an information meeting at the Plaza with Council staff and Putāruru Moving Forward, attended by more than 150 residents and see the interest in exploring issues and opportunities. We heard from several sources about the demand for residential and industrial land. And I am confident that demand is district wide.

On the environmental front is the need to improve the health of our waterways, both rural and urban. The sewage systems in all four communities need upgrading in the coming years at very great cost. I would like to float an idea - the need to decrease nitrogen and phosphate and I will focus on the latter. Most phosphate in sewerage comes from soap powder and dishwashing liquid and it will cost many millions of dollars to remove through new investment and running costs, so the question is: would it not better to keep the phosphorus out in the first place. Alternative products are available, more expensive, but I propose, we as a community explore ways to save expenditure, improve our environment and take a lead.

We have a great Council under our new leadership. We face many exciting opportunities, but we are not in it alone.

We need your ideas and cooperation, particularly with the new Long Term Plan commencing shortly.

Kia ora

Councillor Column Arama Ngapo-Lipscombe

There is a Māori proverb that says: He taonga te tamaiti, ahakoa te ahakoa tiakina poipoia kia tupu kia puta kia ora." Loosely translated this means "A child is a treasure whomever may look after them, tend to them so they may grow they may live."

So what can our Council do to encourage our children and community thrive? In 2016, the Treasury Department published its statement on the Long Term fiscal position. It considers how our economy and the state sector need to evolve to respond to changing needs and basic living standards and the associated costs. The horrifying fact is that costs will increase and the social impact of this will affect our most vulnerable. The report identifies Māori economic development as significant. In a local context our partnership with Māori is vital to our district's growth and development.

Over the last six months Councillors have been challenged preparing an Annual Plan and soon the Long Term Plan. Since elected I have had the privilege of attending various community events, participating in robust and at times challenging discussions in the community and in Council. Issues such as - Do we place profit before people? Do we do enough for our community? What social and moral responsibility does our community owe each other? No doubt we will all have different answers however I am certain we can all agree if we want to create a healthy and vibrant South Waikato we need to respect diversity and encourage robust and respectful debate. We need to take personal and collective responsibility. We must be aware of the wider implications, obligations and responsibilities placed on us by National Government and our Country nationwide. Working collectively will become more important and growing and developing partnerships with Raukawa and other community stakeholders is vital.

Mayor Jenny Shattock

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



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