

IN touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 39 - March (Poutā-te-rangi) / April (Paenga-whāwhā) 2018

LED lights up our world

Lighting up the streets in the South Waikato just got a whole lot cheaper for ratepayers.

This is thanks to the efforts of the roading team in securing significant funding from the Government's accelerated renewal programme to replace all of our urban street lights with LED lights.

And when we say significant, we mean SIGNIFICANT! We secured 85% of the funding for the total project, which means Council (ie ratepayers) are only paying 15% towards this \$2.2million project. And most of it we had already budgeted for. We just added a little to meet the threshold.

Because we were part way through a programme of LED street light replacement we presented a robust business case to have conversions across the district completed by end June this year.

The project started in Tokoroa and will roll out across the district. Our existing streetlight contractor, Hamilton-based McKay has committed three crews to ensure the programme is delivered. As a result the team has set up a depot in the South Waikato.

"We're asking our community to assist McKay with the installation by not parking cars on the street or footpath close to the power poles when you notice the team working in your street," said Gordon Naidoo, Council's Roading Manager.

LED lights have matured in the market place and trials around the world have shown significant reduction in both energy consumption and maintenance costs and improved quality of lighting that assists us to achieve our road safety and community safety aspirations. With lower ongoing costs, the benefits of this project are not just about the capital cost, it's ongoing operational savings too.

This project doesn't include off-road lighting like carparks and walkways. Council will address those as part of another project.

LED lights come with several additional features that will soon mean we can brighten and dim the lights as required. We may, for instance, dim the lights on a week night after midnight to avoid bedroom glare issues or we could brighten the lights around a sportsfield during a training session or match.

LED lights, not just bright, clever too!

The subsidy from NZTA is \$2,210,000 with Council contributing just \$390,000.

The upgrade has started in the Tokoroa CBD and collector roads and will continue through March in the southern part of town. Tirau and Arapuni will be done in April, Putāruru in May and the team will be back in Tokoroa in May and June doing the central and northern parts of the town.

Each installation takes about two to three hours.



McKay contractors and Council staff on site. From left Ryan Van Vuuren (McKay), Rashid Siddiqui (Council) and John Cane (McKay).



The new LED lights are much brighter, improving both visibility and safety.

IN brief

- 21 native planting projects were supported through the South Waikato Environmental Initiatives programme, at a cost of \$58,000. These projects will see over 20,800 native plants along waterways in the South Waikato.
- Congratulations to the graduates of the ACTIVATE and INCUBATE business mentoring programmes. The wealth of knowledge and learnings can only make the South Waikato business community stronger.

IN side

- 2&3 Balloons visit SW Community events
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IN house

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

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Balloons visit South Waikato

The South Waikato community didn't let a little wind stop the fun at this years Balloons visit the South Waikato event.

Unfortunately the wind did mean that the balloonists weren't able to inflate their balloons but there was still plenty of fun to be had. In fact, the wind made the kite flying especially exciting this year.

Thank you to everyone who made the Balloons event such a blast, particularly to the balloonists who came down to visit us - we're sorry we couldn't put on the weather

for you but we hope you enjoyed your time in the South Waikato!



Balloons
visit **South**
Waikato

FRIDAY 23 MARCH
5.30PM ONWARDS

TOKOROA MEMORIAL
SPORTSGROUND



Our Neighbourhood

Stormy weather meant cancellations for our Tokoroa and Putāruru Our Neighbourhood events this year, but fortunately it didn't rain on Tirau and Arapuni's parade!

A big thanks to all our community members and organisations who turn out for these events and lend a hand - we couldn't do it without you. And of course thank you to our community team for organising these events year after year - you guys rock!



Photos from the Arapuni Our Neighbourhood event.

Community Cleanup

It takes community-minded, caring people to give up their Sunday to do a rail corridor cleanup.

What a great community volunteer effort on Sunday 25 March following the leadership from Daniel Patterson who has taken a Kiwi can-do attitude to cleaning up rubbish around Tokoroa.

Armchairs, bikes, TVs, stereos, clothing, plastics, glass, metal... stuff that had been there for so long it was un-identifiable! You name, we found it! Fantastic pitching in and getting the job done by everyone involved. Special appreciation to the team from KiwiRail who collected the mountains of rubbish in their rail truck for disposal at landfill.

Going forward, let's all make the effort to keep the rail corridor clean!



Dynamo Cycling flies through Tokoroa



Two race days in the Dynamo Cycling Series were again held in Tokoroa this year. The Dynamo Cycling Series covers six race days in total.

The most recent race day attracted sixty-five teams with over 400 riders and a number of support crew.

It was great to see the numbers of visitors flocking to our district and enjoying the beautiful surrounds at the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground and South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.

The Professional Category are the country's elite cyclists who compete internationally in

events like the Tour de France and Olympics. Feedback from many of these riders is that they love coming to Tokoroa because of private, well-sealed forestry roads empty of traffic and no dodging vehicles; some saying that the Tokoroa race days are the best in the series. ***We say, of course they are!***

Local cyclists from Forestland Wheelers did pretty well. This highly competitive series attracts top class athletes so hats off to Forestland Wheelers that rode strong alongside the world's best.

This Council supported event keeps our motels booked and eateries buzzing.

Poos, wees and wastewater Oh, and pillowcases

There are various items that Council's wastewater system is designed to process - dirty water, poos, wees... and there are a number of items that get it all blocked up!

Our wastewater system recently overflowed into our stormwater system because the pipe was blocked with stones, hose fittings and pillowcases.

You would think those items not being put down the loo or drain is a bit of a no brainer, wouldn't you...

The correct place for such items is the landfill.

Our wastewater system is for grey water from washing machines, sinks, showers etc and our number ones and twos from the toilet.

When we have an overflow into our stormwater system Council investigates the incident and provides a written report to the Waikato Regional Council. If the incident is particularly bad or if overflows are too frequent, we could receive an abatement notice and a fine. Such fines are paid by the ratepayer. Too many overflows can also affect our ability to obtain compliance under our consent. This can have serious consequences.

Wastewater blockages cost ratepayer money to fix. For example clearing the blockage in this particular incident took 12 hours of staff time and cost \$2,500 to remedy.

Our community will be pleased to know that since the removal of the offending objects, the pipeline has been monitored and is now flowing freely.

In recent months we have noticed an increase in people dumping rubbish on rural roads across our district, dumping waste at the entrance ways to our landfill and transfer station, dumping in alleyways and service lanes, putting sharp and dangerous waste in neighbourhood bins... and now putting items that are obviously meant for landfill down the loo or into a drain.

See strap alongside for the most common offending items.

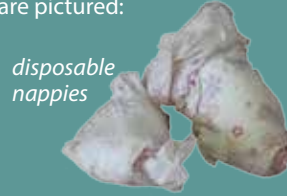
Please help us keep our wastewater system running well by disposing of items correctly. If in doubt, give us a call on 07 885 0340 or ask on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil.



The wastewater system is no place for fabric, stones or hose fittings...

Bin it, don't block it!

The most common items that cause serious blockages are pictured:



disposable nappies



nappy wipes



sanitary products



cotton buds



fats, oils and grease from cooking

But wait, there's more... more items that are a problem for our wastewater system.

In case you're wondering, every single item on this list below has, at some point, been found at the wastewater treatment plant.

Cleaning wipes, contraceptives, cotton wool, razors, toothbrushes, contact lenses, incontinence pads, hair, colostomy bags, plasters, medicines, dental floss, strong chemicals, wood, rocks or concrete, plastic wrapping, children's toys, surgical gloves, towels and rags, clothing, underwear, engine oil, bandages, syringes and needles tights and pantyhose and cigarette butts.

Please help us keep our wastewater system running well, by only putting grey water, poos and wees down the loo and drain.

Keeping mobility mobile

Next time you fancy parking your vehicle in a local street over the footpath, spare a thought for people who use the footpath to get around.

By foot, it is not so much of a problem to wander round the vehicle on to the grass verge, but for people pushing prams, the elderly using walkers and mobility scooter drivers, it's a little more difficult, particularly in wet and slippery weather.

To help out those in our community who have mobility concerns, let's park our cars in the street rather than block the footpaths.



Putāruru Growth Plan - Update

The Putāruru Growth Plan Re-zoning project continues to move ahead.

The three-waters modelling work to assess current infrastructure has been done and staff and consultants are now working through requirements and possibilities.

Iwi liaison continues with support for the project from Raukawa and Te Arawa River Iwi Trust (TARIT). Conversations are also necessary with Ngāti Haua and Ngāti Koroki Kahukura.

Plan Change documents are starting to take shape!

Keep up to date with the Putāruru Re-zone Project by visiting our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz/Our-Council-Major-Projects-Putāruru-Growth-Plan.

Tokoroa CBD Upgrade

In the last issue of In Touch we unveiled the plans for the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade and Council is very pleased to see that our community is getting behind the project.

Here's what you had to say...

"Exciting! The plans look great. Well done. I can't wait to see this exciting development take place."

"Its been a long time coming. We need to architecturally move with the times, Raukawa is one of the first, hopefully many more to follow. [It will] make people want to stop."

"Brilliant idea to have someone active in the CBD to keep the business owners in the area, and the general public, accountable for any rubbish or damage created. Looking forward to seeing the upgrade take place."

"Great to see improvement plans for the town. Hope to see the Leith Place store fronts also tidied up in the process; Mangakino village has done a great job of it as an example."

"Love the whole concept it will modernise our town and complement Raukawa House and TWAO two great buildings."

"Change can be hard sometimes, but as part of positive growth the council will be updating things. This is a good thing."

"So nice to see some beautification happening in Tokoroa."



What's next?

TREE REMOVAL

Council's contractors plan to begin this process on Wednesday 4 April. This work is expected to take approximately two weeks, dependant on fine weather.

Contractors will be carrying out the work between the hours of 5pm to 10pm to cause as little nuisance to retailers and shoppers as possible.

Please note: During this time you will not be able to park in Leith Place. On days when work is taking place, please have your vehicle out of the Leith Place car park by 4.30pm. Council will have signage in place to remind our community of this during the work.

SH1 CHANGES

Towards the end of April NZTA will begin the roadmarking for the one-laning of State Highway 1. This is an exciting project that is working in with Council and the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade to make the section of SH1 that passes through Tokoroa safer and more efficient for both locals and state highway users. Council and NZTA will keep you updated on this.

If you have any questions about the the Tokoroa CBD Upgrade you will likely to find an answer on our FAQs page on our website. Or feel free to stop into Council and talk to us, we also have a 3D model of the plans available at the Tokoroa Office.



We're thrilled with how quickly the build for the Tokoroa Skatepark is coming along. AMC is making quick work of this project and we're getting very excited about seeing the first kickflip in this park - time to start pulling those skateboards out of the storage and dust off those wheels!

If you haven't seen what the finished skatepark will look like, you can check it out at Rich Landscapes website: www.richlandscapes.co.nz.



Bylaw Update following recent review

In December 2017, following public consultation and hearings, 13 bylaws were adopted by Council. We thought we would give our community a very brief summary of the key changes across these Bylaws.

Bylaws Administration Bylaw 2017



- Council now has a timeline of 25 working days to respond to an appeal and consider submissions by any person who claims to have been unfairly or adversely affected by a decision, order or direction.

Cemeteries Bylaw 2017



- Items are permitted to be placed on grave areas to a maximum length of one metre from berm edge only. No items to be fixed to ground, no timber or pavers and individual items not to be less than 50mm.
- A restricted alcohol ban is in place at all cemeteries - alcohol is prohibited between the hours of 7pm and 8am.
- Private seating is permitted, but must be of sound construction, seat no more than two people, and be light enough to be uplifted by one person.

Dog Control Bylaw 2017



- A definition of disability assist dog is now included.
- Extension of prohibited dog area beyond the CBD in Tokoroa.
- Lifting of prohibited dog areas in Putāruru and Tirau CBD.

Freedom Camping Bylaw 2017



- A person may now freedom camp for a maximum of four weeks (increased from 12 nights) at the following reserves - Dunham Point, Lake Whakamaru, Jones Landing and Little Waipa
- Along with self-contained campervans, caravans are now included as permitted in restricted camping areas which includes Glenshea Park, Putāruru CBD, Duxfield Reserve, Lichfield Hall carpark, Arapuni Hall, Lake Moananui carpark, Dunham Park carpark, Tokoroa CBD and Memorial Sportsground carparks.

Keeping of Animals, Poultry and Bees Bylaw 2017



- The definition of poultry has been amended to exclude aviary birds such as budgies and canaries as it isn't necessary to include these birds.

Land Transport Bylaw 2017



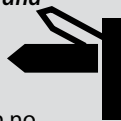
- Increased time limited parking from 60 minutes to 120 minutes on both sides of Leith Place Central to support parking in Leith Place.
- Increased time limited parking from 15 minutes to either 30 minutes or 60 minutes along Bridge Street from Leith Place to Rosebery Street.
- The provision of additional disability parking.
- Adjustment to speed limits on sections of Leslie Road along the carpark (100km to 50km), Domain Road from SH1 to Harris Road (100km to 80km).

Property Maintenance and Nuisance Bylaw 2017



- An additional note to refer to the Bylaws Administration Bylaw in regard to the serving of orders and notices, and the Right of Appeal was included.

Prostitution Location and Signage Bylaw 2017



- Increase in distance (from 100m to 200m) with no person being permitted to establish or use land as a brothel or commercial sex premise within 200 metres of any sensitive site such as a school, licensed early childhood centre, place of worship, cemetery, public playgrounds and marae.
- Increase in distance (from 100m to 200m) to erect signage within 200 metres of a Ministry of Education site.

Public Places Bylaw 2017



- Extension of the Alcohol Prohibited Area beyond the Tokoroa CBD.
- Inclusion of a restricted alcohol ban map at district cemeteries with alcohol now being prohibited between the hours of 7pm and 8am
- The prohibiting of horses in public places to include Tokoroa and Putāruru town centres, Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau urban areas and Arapuni Village.

Solid Waste Management and Minimisation Bylaw 2017



- The management of healthcare waste/ medical waste has now been included with waste being disposed of as per the New Zealand Standard NZS4304:2002 (Management of Healthcare Waste).

Trade Waste Bylaw 2017



- The inclusion of a definition of trade waste.

No specific changes were made to the Cultural and Recreational Facilities Bylaw and the Hostels Bylaw.



All of Council's Bylaws are available on our website - Our Council - Strategies, Plans, Policies and Bylaws. Follow through to Bylaws.

Bylaws allow Council to exercise some control over practices in the district, such as deciding where dog off leash areas are, setting urban speed levels, advertising signage rules, freedom camping rules, and a host of other controls. They are put in place for several reasons, such as protecting public health and safety, allowing for enjoyment of public places, coping with nuisances, setting operational standards, among others.



The South Waikato Arts Trust is delighted to announce a new free bus service from Tokoroa to The Plaza, Putāruru for people to view our monthly Sunday movies.

The bus will collect patrons along the Urban Connector route from 12noon on Sunday 22 April throughout autumn and winter 2018, and make a return trip.

Big thanks to the Len Reynolds Trust for its generous grant.

Tea and coffee available to purchase before the movie which starts at 2pm. Movie admission cost is \$8 for adults or \$5 for students.

Coming up on Sunday, 29 April, 2.30pm – Scottish Fiddle Orchestra.

Three of Scotland's finest traditional musicians are coming to NZ and you can catch them at the Plaza.

Gordon Gunn has been described as "one of the most exciting and innovative fiddle players of the times."

Angus Lyon is a member of both Blazin' Fiddles & The Halton Quartet that has recorded and performed alongside Paul McCartney, Matt Costa and many more!

Gregor Borland has also toured and recorded with many great bands and artists - Kathryn Tickell, Davy Steele, Jim Malcolm and Burach, to name just a few.

Tickets on sale from The Plaza: \$20 adult, \$15 children and seniors, \$35 family.

Events and Movies will all be listed on The Plaza's website (www.plaza.org.nz) and our Facebook Page (The Plaza).

Contact us:

- theplaza@plaza.org.nz
- 07 883 8596, 0276 559 715



WHAT'S HOT



Ultrafast Fibre Limited (UFF) building the new fibre broadband network in Putāruru! Register for streamlined fibre installation at www.fibreiscoming.co.nz.

SOP is pretty hot! A reminder to all our urban doggie owning people (who aren't already on SOP*). If you want to pay registrations that are half the price of the standard fee, apply to Council to become an SOP dog owner before the end of May. * *Selected Owner Policy*

The Putāruru Rave at the Putāruru Pools at the end of February. Great clear night under the lights with heaps of kids and the Putāruru Swimming Club on the bbq. Roll on next summer's fun.



WHAT'S NOT

Drivers on rural roads cutting corners, over the centre line, on blind corners. Visitors? Or locals who have become complacent about minimal traffic on our

rural roads? Complacency while driving can spell tragedy.

The seasonal pools in Putāruru and Tirau are closed for the winter. Another summer done

and dusted with some great warm pool temperatures experienced throughout our balmy summer.

Civil Defence community outreach

We don't normally introduce new staff in our In Touch newsletter, but for some roles it's important because of the community interface and the nature of the role.

With that it's great to be able to introduce our new Emergency Manager Stuart Aston. Stuart has been on board for a month. He is working closely with Julie Nicholson, also new, on a short term contract to get the ball rolling in the Welfare space.

Stuart and Julie are keen to meet with groups and organisations in the District.

"If you belong to a community organisation or group, school, kindergarten, marae, church, or club, we would love to meet you, and get some contact details so we can

better work with you if we had an emergency," said Stuart.

"We will also be out and about promoting Civil Defence preparations, so come and say hi at events like the Our Neighbourhood events."

"We would be delighted to make a presentation to your group too."

Julie is focussing on helping groups create their own

Community Response Plan. Are you interested?

Each community knows its own situation best, so it is important to us that you have a say in the plans that we in Civil Defence create for your community.

Feel free to contact Council on 07 885 0340 if you have any questions or want the team to come along to your next meeting.



Council recently adopted an Easter Sunday Trading Policy, that allows retailers to trade on Easter Sunday if they wish.

The Policy applies across the District and across all shops.

Council is pleased to be able to give retailers the choice without fear of being fined.

While this Policy came into affect prior to Easter this year, the timing meant that some retailers who would perhaps have been keen to open, were unable to because of employment agreement clauses. Next year, perhaps.

This Policy does not mean retailers *have* to open, nor does it mean that staff in retail are required to work on Easter Sunday.

The Policy has no effect on Good Friday.



Julie Nicholson, Emergency Management Community Coordinator/ Welfare Officer and Stuart Aston, Emergency Manager are keen to get out and about into the community.



WHAT'S THE PLAN STAN?



IN brief continued...

- The footpath trimming/maintenance that is being done across the district is nearing completion. Just a few more streets to do in Tokoroa.
- Have your say on the Long Term Plan and Waste Management and Minimisation Plan. Visit our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Say It (orange button).
- There are still a number of food premises across the district that have yet to transition to the new Food Act registration. Staff are following up with individual premises.
- Get 'need to know' information direct to your phone. Install Council's mobile phone app - Antenno. Free from Google Play or the App Store. Log addresses important to you and we will send you notifications relevant to your addresses. Look for this icon.



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 Thomas Lee

Greetings Everyone

We are into the second quarter of the year. Council has been busy with the Long Term Plan (LTP), which is assessed by Auditors to ensure we have done everything correctly. By the time you read this, we will be open for submissions. Following that, Council will hear submissions, deliberate and adopt the LTP. If you would like to submit on the LTP, paper forms are available at the Council office and Libraries or if you prefer, the online form on the website. So get cracking.

At the last meeting Council adopted an Easter Sunday Trading policy, so if a shop would like to trade on Easter Sunday they are able to do so without the threat of a fine hanging over their heads. Council was divided and the vote was close in the end.

We have a few projects underway. The new Tokoroa Skatepark is progressing well, with the design taking shape. Due to be completed later in the year, skate boarders and scooters riders will be waiting for the hand over to get in and try it out.

The blessing for the start of the Tokoroa CDB upgrade has been done with the Leith Place area the first to get started. Removing the trees is the first step; once this is done the project will begin to ramp up.

The last pensioner housing unit in Kindergarten Street is progressing towards completion and then all five new units will be available for their first tenants. This project took a bit longer than anticipated due to problems with the build contractors, but is coming to an end.

The silt trap at the top of Lake Moananui is being emptied and should be completed in a few weeks; once this is done the lake will be refilled.

Councillor Column Peter Schulte

There are a lot of roadworks on the go and travel through our district can be a bit frustrating. We need to remember that warm weather is the time for roadworks and the results mean improvements for everyone; so drive with care and patience. Download Council's mobile phone app Antenno as we push notifications about roadworks out over this. This can be helpful when planning trips, avoiding certain roads etc.

If you see areas on our local roads that need repair, please call our Council or fill out a 'Request for Service' online - www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Orange button 'Request It'.

There has been notable traffic increase on State Highways 1 and 5 since the Cambridge bypass opened. This is great news for businesses in our district. As a Council we are actively working on projects like the Tokoroa CBD upgrade and town concept plans to further attract passing traffic.

Central Government puts more pressure on councils with the Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora legislation. Our Council is supportive in principle of the objective of Wai Ora - to clean up our rivers - but we are very concerned about the cost of this on our community. For this to work, it has to be affordable and in its current state, it is simply not.

I would also encourage all food businesses to change over to the new Food Safety System as soon as possible. The process may be a little more onerous but public health is paramount for retailers in the food and beverage industry. We need to keep our communities safe.

Lastly, please do engage with Council on the Long Term Plan - open right now for public consultation, closing undecided at the time of writing. Be part of shaping our future as we take on the many challenges of a growing district. Have your say.

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