

Tokoroa CBD project ticked off!

South Waikato District Council is pleased to announce that all requirements under the Building Act have been satisfied for our unique i-SITE and public toilets building design. This means the building consent for the Tokoroa CBD project can be issued.

"We are thrilled that this has finally made it over the line," said Mayor Jenny. "We have received a lot of feedback from people in the community concerned that this project has stalled. I am sure these people will be pleased at this news."

"Essentially our innovative and very different building design added some complexities to the building consent process," said Craig Hobbs, Council's Chief Executive. "But we are through to the other side now which is fantastic news."

Mr Hobbs noted Council's appreciation to the project team and external building processors for their continued efforts to give this building consent the tick. Given Council is both the applicant and the regulatory we, were extremely careful to ensure that all Building Code matters were properly addressed in the standard way.

Mayor Shattock also noted the recent media coverage regarding landmark buildings boosting economic strength and growth. "Recently the Dog in Tirau was used as a great

example of how iconic buildings boost economic development."

According to Bayleys' national director commercial and industrial, Ryan Johnson, "visionary property developers — either as private individuals, corporate entities, or even local bodies — reap the financial benefits of being at the bow-wave of establishing 'landmark structures'!"

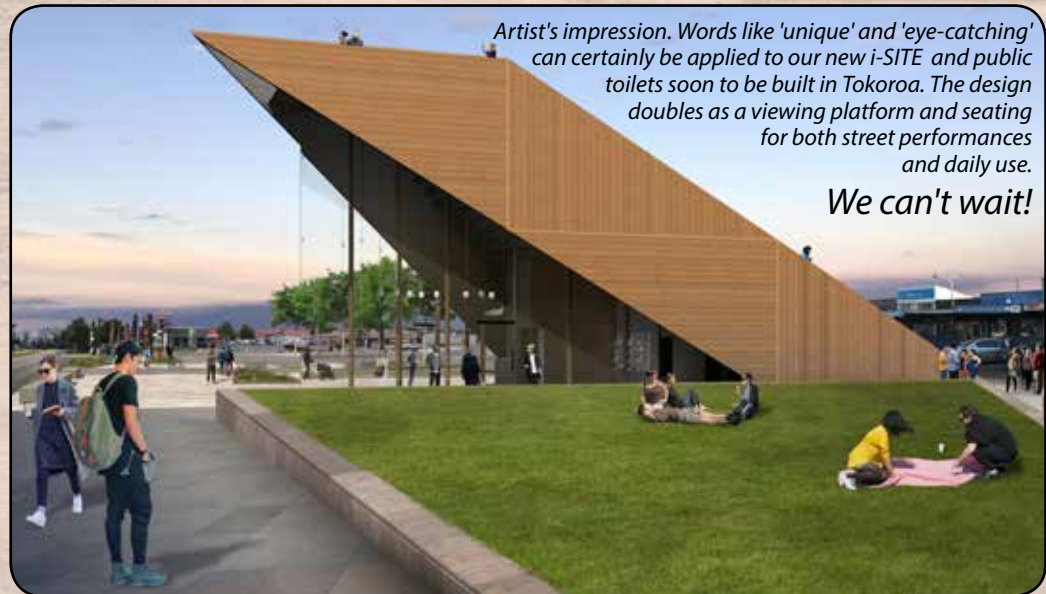
"We have The Dog in Tirau and the old Putāruru Post Office in Putāruru - both iconic buildings - and it is great to see Tokoroa is also getting an innovative and eye-catching building."

"Now we really can't wait to break ground!" concluded Mayor Shattock.

Works are expected to start in November and take approximately seven months.

TOKOROA CBD upgrade

This upgrade opens up Tokoroa to be a destination stop on Aotearoa's main road. It will provide our district with a space to be proud of and a place for our people to come together to enjoy the best of our town.



Artist's impression. Words like 'unique' and 'eye-catching' can certainly be applied to our new i-SITE and public toilets soon to be built in Tokoroa. The design doubles as a viewing platform and seating for both street performances and daily use.

We can't wait!

IN brief

- A warm welcome to Holly Blair who was elected unopposed to the Tirau Community Board following a by-election.
- The new pensioner housing units are complete and tenanted.
- Sports turf assessments have been completed and spring renovation works booked in with the relevant suppliers. The annual tree planting programme is also nearing completion.
- A platform at the Grey Street pump station in Putāruru was upgraded to improve its safety.

IN side

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IN house

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

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Council farewells CE Craig Hobbs

It was with mixed feelings that staff, Elected Members and community and business leaders across the South Waikato gathered to farewell Council Chief Executive Craig Hobbs.

Craig started with Council in May 2013. He is leaving Council to join his family who moved to Auckland a couple of years ago. Craig will soon be starting a new local government role, at a slightly larger Council, Auckland City; managing its regulatory arm.

Mr Hobbs admits that he struggled with this decision as he has thoroughly enjoyed his time at South Waikato District Council and being part of this wonderful district.

"Working in local government has been hugely rewarding, at times challenging. Until you work in this sector you have no idea of the complexities of local government," said Mr Hobbs. "Working in a role that makes a significant difference in people's lives has been immensely fulfilling.

"I am very proud of what we have achieved in the last five years and the future of the

District is looking very positive," continued Mr Hobbs. "The decision in the end came down to having an opportunity to move to Auckland where my family is now based. Without doubt, I will miss both the staff and Elected Members at this Council, the many stakeholders and people I have met during my time here; and the beautiful South Waikato community."

Mayor Jenny Shattock expressed sadness over Mr Hobbs' resignation, along with sincerest of well wishes for his exciting new challenge.

"Mr Hobbs has made a significant contribution to the South Waikato District and the Council," said Mayor Shattock. "His passion, people skills and his advocacy for our District has been immense.

"His vision has helped make the South Waikato the best community we can be and his solutions focussed and customer-centric philosophy has lifted our game as an organisation."

During Mr Hobbs' tenure Council has marked several milestones - significant progress was made on the Tokoroa CBD upgrade, the Tokoroa Skatepark was completed, the Road Rail Terminal was developed, new pensioner housing units constructed, facilitation of several business developments that increased our economic profile (such as the Fonterra dryer), stakeholder relations have been improved, the District Plan Review was completed, the Balloons over Waikato event visiting the South Waikato, amongst many other accomplishments.

"The effort and passion that Mr Hobbs has invested in profiling the South Waikato in local government circles has opened their eyes to the significant opportunities our district has to offer," continued Mayor Shattock. "For me personally in my role as Mayor, I want to thank Mr Hobbs for his positive outlook, vision and drive. His tremendous support and guidance to me has been unwavering."

Other speakers

Maria Te Kanawa, Raukawa Charitable Trust, "We have appreciated your openness and willingness to work collaboratively with Raukawa, always in a positive and constructive manner; and ever mindful of our views and values."

Akarere Henry, SWPIC, "Your support for what is important to the Pacific Island people has been tremendous. Our community here has been fortunate and blessed to have been part of your journey. We wish you a bright future."

Mathew Cooper, Sport Waikato, "Craig has made a significant contribution to sport across the region not just in the South Waikato. He has provided the Council and district with authentic and genuine leadership."

Hugh Vercoe, Waikato Regional Council, "Craig came fresh into local government from the private sector, which can be challenging; but he punched above his weight."

Alan Livingstone, Waikato Regional Council, "Coming from the private sector, Craig had to earn his stripes amongst local government Chief Executives. He did earn his stripes and earned them well. You are held in high regard by your peers."

Special mention to the South Waikato District Council Waiata Group who performed several songs as part of the celebration, including a haka.



Illegal dumping takes food parcels from those in need

Illegal dumping in public places - reserves, roadsides, the Putāruru Transfer Station - is an issue that Council has to deal with from time to time; it is an unfortunate and unnecessary function. However this story is not about Council, nor public places... it's about the effect dumping has on our local op shops.

The team of volunteers at these op shops appeal to our community to remember that the backs of these charity organisations are not a dumping ground for rubbish that should go to landfill.

These charities cater for people in our community who have limited income and are in great need of good quality, reasonably priced, second hand goods. They also provide food parcels and help with bills, medical costs and other expenses for those people in need. When they have to pay dump fees, it affects their ability to help those in need.

The volunteers sift through material for items that can be on-sold. This can be messy and unpleasant work, especially if items have become rain soaked and ruined; and/or were literally rubbish to start with.

The team takes all items that can't be on-sold to landfill. This means this charity then has to pay the dump fee... this can

be up to \$50 a time... and it's a weekly occurrence. Every time this happens, several families don't get food parcels. During July and August, one charity, the Salvation Army - spent \$800 on dump fees. That is over five tonnes of rubbish.

The group has pooled their resources and will be coordinating trips to the dump. Council has provided some no dumping signage to assist with some 'please don't dump here' messaging, and other assistance, including financial assistance with landfill fees for a short term and promotions/ education.

But mostly, it's over to the people who dump stuff outside these premise. Please don't.

If you do have material that you think the op shops can use, the team(s) encourage people to drop items off when the shop is open so that the volunteers at hand can assist in deciding what can be accepted and what really is of no use to them.

Super effort South Waikato Keep it up!

Due to changing world markets, Plastics 3 - 7 can no longer be recycled. In July Council started promoting this issue with our community asking everyone to help us by only putting Plastics 1 and 2 in to your recycling crates/recycling drop off facilities.

And you're doing a super job! Keep it up!

There has been a significant reduction in plastics 3 - 7 in our household crates. Still more work to be done, but a brilliant start.

You are super!

Unfortunately not that much change at the recycling drop off zones so something for users to focus on going forward.

Please either stop buying Plastics 3 - 7 or put these plastics in your general waste. Council appreciates that this increased volumes in the green general rubbish bag. The issue with Plastics 3 - 7 is not under Council's control.

TOP TIPS

- Use the cloth reusable shopping bags.
- Use the reusable cloth bags for your fruit and veg.
- Use alternatives to plastic wrap, such as lilybee wrap.
- Identify one product a month that you use regularly, check out each brand, buy the brand that is a plastic that can be recycled. **Consumer power rocks!**

For more information on Plastics recycling please visit Council's website www.southwaikato.govt.nz
- Our Services - Rubbish & Recycling



Maria Bradshaw and some of her team from St Vincent de Paul are pictured outside the back of their shop where the 'no dumping' sign is clearly displayed.



True story - while these wonderful volunteers were sifting through a pile of material recently, they found used nappies... yes, you read that right... USED nappies...!

Road Sense for our Youth

The annual Young Driver Expo aims to bring home some harsh realities to young drivers from our three local high schools.

The young drivers moved around stations that covered a range of subjects and demonstrations such as what it's really like inside the booze bus and what happens in there; a reversing demonstration and practical session that highlights the lack of visibility while reversing particularly when your car is packed with people; car crashes and high impact effects on cars and bodies; a quick recap of the road code; what ambulance workers and paramedics deal with

on a daily basis; what if scenarios ; and the somewhat fun, but rather sobering practical exercise wearing drunk goggles (designed to simulate being 'over the limit'. Scary!

The Young Driver Expo is hosted at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre and is only possible each year because of the continued support from our wonderful emergency services including Police, Ambulance, St John, Fire and Rescue; supported by Council through its road safety programme. The photos show Putāruru College Year 12s having some fun while learning some stark facts.



Take Key

Stay until I find a Sober driver who is ~~eligible~~ allowed to drive

Stop them no matter what and make sure they get a safe ride home



Event excitement - Take a Kid Fishing, Taniwha, Sizzler...

The South Waikato offers a heap of fun and serious events for its community... all you have to do is sign up, join or participate.

Take a Kid Fishing

A popular event, with over 300 participants last year.

For more information and how to register come down to Tokoroa's Lake Moananui and look for the Tokoroa Sports Fishing Club's Marquees near the dam. Registration begins from 3pm Friday 2 November to 10am Sunday 4 November. Entry is a gold coin donation. Prize giving starts at 12noon on the Sunday.

As part of the Take a Kid Fishing event, there is a free community public fireworks display at the lake on the Saturday (3 November), blasting off at 8.30pm. The Take a Kid Fishing event is Drug and Alcohol free.

Bring a blanket and turn up early to enjoy the evening festivities and food on offer.

The Taniwha

This event has something for everyone - walking, running, biking and distances from 7km to 85km.

The event will be held on Saturday 3 November.

For more information and to register visit www.thetaniwha.co.nz.

Summer Sizzler

A walking and running event with a choice of three distances - 6km, 11km, 22km.

The event will be held on Saturday 12 January 2019.

For more information and to register visit www.wrtsummersizzler.com.

The Taniwha and Summer Sizzler hosted by Waikato River Trails

Swimming Pools to get Safer

New legislation around swimming pool fencing means a few changes for South Waikato residents who have swimming pools. Our community needs to be aware of these changes and their responsibilities under the legislation.

These regulations apply to both permanent and seasonal pools:

- permanent professionally installed swimming pool (or spa pool) in the yard (or in the house); and
- seasonal plastic temporary pool purchased from Bunnings or the Warehouse or other similar providers.

Permanent pools (including spa pools)

There are around 500 registered pools in the South Waikato. These require inspections which staff are working their way through.

Pool fencing inspections must occur every three years.

There is no fee for the first inspection for which staff will check barriers such as gates, fencing, windows and doors if applicable and ensure details on the register are correct.

Should changes/improvements be required, people will get a period of time to fix the issue. If staff come back for a second inspection and all is sound, there will be no further fee. However if the issues have

not been remedied within the agreed timeframe, there will be a \$135 fee charged for the second inspection.

Continued failure to fix may result in escalating monitoring and infringement costs.

Council is mindful of working with home owners to ensure our swimming pools are safe.

If you have a permanent pool or spa pool and suspect you are not on our list, please contact Council on 07 885 0565.

Don't forget - all new pools require a building consent for both the pool and the barrier (fencing).

Temporary pools

The legislation is also applicable to temporary pools that can hold water of 400mm. These pools don't need to be registered.

Temporary pools that sit above ground with smooth vertical walls that are 1,200mm or more high, with no permanent steps or objects that would enable a small child to climb into the pool do not require a barrier, however the following

is important for all temporary pools.

- Don't place portable pools in an open front yard.
- Don't place them next to trees or any other climbable object such as trees or pipes.

- Take the steps/ladder away when not in use.

- Be mindful of objects nearby that can be moved/dragged to the side of the pool on which to climb, such as outdoor furniture.

You can cut the risks from swimming pools even further by:

- always supervising children in or near a pool,
- maintaining the fence and gate in good condition,
- always making sure the gate to the pool is safely shut and NEVER prop it open,
- setting rules of behaviour around the pool and teaching your child water safety and swim and survive skills,
- clearing away toys and flotation aids from the pool area when not in use,
- learn first aid and resuscitation.

Check gate latches are functioning properly. This one pictured here has rusted, so much so that it doesn't latch automatically when the gate swings shut. This seemingly minor issue can have serious consequences.



Only fun in the pool this summer!



For more information please visit Council's website - www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Our Services - Building Consents and Information - Swimming Pool Fencing

WHAT'S HOT



↑ Over 2,000 people in the South Waikato will - in the next day or so - be doing the Drop-Cover-Hold as part of the national Civil Defence exercise ShakeOut. On 18 October there will be* an earthquake and hundreds of people in the South Waikato are participating. So a massive ShoutOut to those are participating. Hope you have fun! Post your photos to Council's Facebook page, we will share them. * We're not clairvoyant - this is a drill, a practice, an exercise, NOT real!



Thank you for your compliments. This is our thank you to people in our community who take the time to email, call or post compliments about quality service from our staff - it is always appreciated and shared amongst staff and managers. It can certainly make our day!

Big shout out to Blue Pacific Minerals for its donation of half a pallet of mineral sponge to Civil Defence to be used in conjunction with the three South Waikato Volunteer Fire Brigades - Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau for assisting in cleaning up oil spills at accidents and other emergencies.

Another shout out to Bunnings Putāruru for donating a six-burner BBQ to the Civil Defence Emergency response trailer. The trailer is being revamped. Many in our community will be familiar with this trailer, as we use it often during our Neighbourhood parties.



↔ Seasonal pools in Putāruru and Tirau will be opening soon. The Putāruru pool will be opening on Saturday 17 November at 12noon with free entry on that day. Wahoo! It means Summer is on its way. Tirau pool users will be enjoying a spot of maintenance prior to opening this season with a grinding, resurfacing and painting of both pools. So the opening of the Tirau pool will be delayed a few weeks. We'll keep you posted.

WHAT'S NOT

Work pressures in some of our teams at Council - we appreciate the patience of our community as our staff work within existing tight resource levels, while several recruitment processes are completed to get us back to full complement!

The car window washers on Leith Place with their intimidating behaviour and general annoyance to the public. The local police and Council staff are working together to help keep behaviours acceptable. The community and shop owners are encouraged to continue to report unacceptable behaviour as soon as it happens.

Potholes, that are associated with wet weather, continue to appear on the roads. Staff are proactively inspecting and repairing them.

People disrespecting facilities is not hot. Council receives continual complaints about dumping at the Putāruru Transfer Station. Clearing this dumped material away costs thousands of dollars of ratepayer funding each year. We have had reports of similar bad behaviour from Te Waotu Recycling station. And of course we have all read recently about the dreadful large scale dumping outside the op shops around the district (page 3). Council encourages everyone - if you know who is doing this, or see them, please note licence plates. To those in our community concerned about this behaviour, good on you, so are we. Just so you are aware, we do sift through material to find identifiable material which is good for follow up.



Book-a-librarian

The Book-a-Librarian service is available to everyone in the community and is tailored to meet individual needs.

The library teams aim to provide information and support to people requiring assistance with technology, but who don't have internet access or know-how.

Bookings can be made in person, online through our website or by phone (Tokoroa 886 6574) (Putāruru 883 7187).

A booking guarantees 15 – 30 minutes of staff assistance and instruction.

The team can help customers with:

- E-readers and tablets
- Library catalogue and online services
- Copying/scanning know-how
- Email/Facebook/Google
- Computer basics
- Creating a CV
- Readers' Advisory
- Rates rebate application scheme (Putāruru only)
- Locating e-Government forms/information

Conditions of booking:

Only one booking may be made per time slot.

15 or 30 minute time slots available.

Bookings can be made no more than one week in advance, and are subject to postponement or cancellation due to unexpected events.

On the spot bookings can be made during Book-a-Librarian session times, if a slot is available.



Sunday 18 November, 2pm – *The Messy Magic Adventure*. The best of circus, slapstick and magic combine in this very special adventure for primary school aged children and their families. Tickets: \$10-\$18 from The Plaza or Eventfinda.



Sunday 18 November, 7pm – *Seven Deadly Stunts*. A nail-biting experience, inspired by the life and times of Harry Houdini, including escapology, chainsaw juggling, walking on broken glass and other famous feats. Tickets \$15-\$28 from The Plaza and Eventfinda.



Saturday 19 January 2019, 7:30pm - David Brighton's Space Oddity - *David Bowie Tribute Show*. For the first time in New Zealand, direct from Los Angeles, performing with a full live band. Tickets \$40 from The Plaza or \$43 from Eventfinda.



Money talks

Direct Debits

Council has added weekly and fortnightly direct debit options to our existing monthly, quarterly and annual service.

Weekly and fortnightly direct debits will operate on Thursdays.

Direct debits are adjusted annually by Council to ensure that the correct amount of rates is paid, removing the need for ratepayers to change their automatic payments themselves every year.

Contact Council on 07 885 0340 for more information or to set up/amend a direct debit.



Rates Rebates

The government's Rates Rebate Scheme assists low income home owners to pay rates.

Applications for rates rebates can be made through Council offices in Putāruru or Tokoroa.



Applications for the 2018-19 year can be made from now to 30 June 2019, but we encourage qualifying ratepayers to apply now rather than leave it to next year.

For more information and to see if you qualify visit: www.ratesrebates.govt.nz or phone: Council on 07 885 0340

Email Rates Notices

Did you know that Council can email your rates invoice to you in place of posting a paper copy?

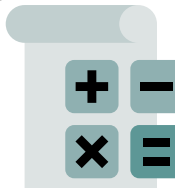
To set this up, email your details to rates@southwaikato.govt.nz.

Council has made this change for convenience and in the interest of environmental sustainability. Besides, it's quicker from us to you too!

Rating Valuations

All properties in the South Waikato will have their rating valuations updated this year with new valuation notices scheduled to be sent out in mid-November.

Please email your details to rates@southwaikato.govt.nz if you prefer your rating valuation notice to be sent by email.



IN brief continued...

- The Pelikan Place temporary walkway was completed in mid-September as part of a community workshop to ensure safety of children walking to and from school.
- To date Council has received 200 service requests related to roading activities compared to last year's 210 for the same duration. Of these 200 requests, 100% were resolved within their required timeframe.
- Work has started on the Concept Plans for our towns.
- Three 'Wrap My Home' workshops were held with twenty participants signing up.
- Women's Suffrage was celebrated at Tokoroa Library. A panel discussion held on Wednesday 19 September was attended by approximately 35 people.
- Patronage at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre is slightly increased over year to date last year.
- Pools patronage is similar, with a slight increase.
- A tablet has been installed at the Tokoroa Customer Service counter which will enable immediate feedback from customers about their experience with Council and the service provided.

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 Wendy Cook

This is my second term on Council and I can confirm the job doesn't get any easier.

My experience as a Councillor and a community orientated person has helped me with a lot of decisions, but there is always something new and exciting going on and new projects that are very dear to some people and not so dear to others.

You must learn to prioritize and understand it's not possible to please everyone all the time.

There are eleven Elected Members sitting around the table who vote. At times we don't agree... however we are all individuals and difference of opinions is a fact of life.

The key to having different opinions lies in healthy, respectful debate. This avoids anyone feeling they are a victim of personal attacks, but rather ensures everyone feels a part of the team. This creates a great working environment!

Our district is in growth mode and we must be prepared for this. I'm not sure everyone really understands the work that goes into 'being prepared', but I'm sure we all agree that it is something we as Councillors and Council staff must take into consideration at all times.

I would rather be part of a team that is **proactive** rather than **reactive**!

Good luck to all the nominees at the upcoming sports awards. I look forward to the wonderful night that showcases the many talented sports people, Clubs and sports organisations in the South Waikato.

NEVER QUIT

If you stumble get back up. What happened yesterday... no longer matters. Today is another day...so get on track and move closer to your Dreams & Goals

YOU CAN DO IT!

Councillor Column Bill Machen

Kia Ora to all

A big cheer from me for the final approvals being given for the Leith Place i-SITE and toilets upgrade being granted building consent at long last. Although not an initial supporter of this grand plan (I preferred a minimalist scheme) the plan was approved by a majority of Councillors and I sincerely hope that the new building is as spectacular as promised by supporters. I have been wrong before!

Council sometimes gets it right (despite the naysayers) and the new skateboard park opposite my residence is a case in point. Hundreds of children and parents are enjoying this excellent facility on a daily basis and it has also attracted large numbers of out of town visitors as well. Many I have spoken with give it high marks for its design and placement – it was constructed within time and under budget as well

Likewise the Kindergarten street pensioner flats which are now finished and occupied have been given great reviews by senior citizens who have visited.

But - Council still has some big issues to confront on our wastewater and solid waste strategies and plans going forward. Public submissions will be called for on both of these necessary and expensive issues. Both will be multi-million dollar projects. Our landfill (dump) is reaching final capacity and new legislation requires us to upgrade all sewage plants, so be sure to make your feelings known to Councillors on both of these matters; and make a submission when we are out for consultation.

Lastly, as I write this it is a beautiful sunny spring Sunday in Tokoroa, the skate park is buzzing and the South Waikato is still one of the best places to live in the world. A happy upcoming summer to all.

Mayor Jenny Shattock

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