

# IN touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 48 - September (Mahuru) / October (Whiringa-ā-nuku) 2019

## SWDC embraces cultural language weeks

Over the past two months, the South Waikato District Council has thoroughly enjoyed and embraced Epetoma o te Reo Māori Kūki 'Āirani, Tongan Language Week and Te Wiki o te Reo Māori.

At Council, we value the diverse cultures we have in our district. Vital to a flourishing culture is the importance of maintaining the language.

Language enables us to share our traditions. It sets us apart from other ethnicities. Language is what we need to ensure culture is preserved and passed down to future generations.

This year's events were fantastic and brought vibrancy and excitement to our organisation. We can't wait for next year's events. But we are also reminded that learning and utilising our languages isn't limited to these special weeks - we can celebrate language all year round.

*From top to bottom: SWDC was treated to amazing performances from the students at Te Wharekura o Te Kaokaoroa o Patetere, Forest View High School and Tokoroa High School during the recent language week celebrations.*



## Kia ora, Kia orana and Welcome to our new Council

By the time this issue of In Touch finds its way into your mailbox, we will know who our new Elected Members are.

Unfortunately, we signed this issue off to print before the outcome was known.

In Touch will feature profiles and a few snippets of each of our new Council in the November/December issue of In Touch.

### Well done to all successful candidates.

And to all those people in our community who voted, good on you to for taking the time and the opportunity to have your say on who represents you for the coming three years.



## IN brief

- Good progress is being made on the roading maintenance projects for the year.
- Resealing SH1 through Tokoroa is expected to be finalised over the next three months.
- The design for the new digester and associated infrastructure at the Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plan is progressing well and the upgrade costs are expected to be finalised by year end.
- Water conservation plans are underway.

## IN side

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## IN house

Produced in-house for the South Waikato community by the SWDC Communications Team.

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# UNDERSTANDING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Every year South Waikato ratepayers make an annual rates contribution to Council. This contribution pays for a wide range of activities from core services to community activities and assistance.

In this article on pages 2 to 4 we have broken each service or activity down into a cost per week. Figures are based on an urban property that is valued at \$218,000. This value house is the median house value in the South Waikato. The cost per week figures fluctuate depending on property value; it is impossible to illustrate this for every single ratepayer.

Activities are listed from lowest funded activity to highest funded activity. Each activity provides what it costs per week, a summary overview and how the service or activity is funded. We have also colour coded them to illustrate which activities or services fit together in our Council groups.

\*CPW = Cost Per Week

## ASSETS

## REGULATORY

## CORPORATE

## COMMUNITY

start  
here  
↓

### Cemeteries

1 CPW \$0.09



There are four cemeteries in the South Waikato, one in Tirau, two in Putāruru and one in Tokoroa. Local authorities have a legal responsibility to provide public cemeteries. We perform around 75 burials and 30 ash interments each year. Council maintains all cemetery grounds and keeps records of all plots, searchable online via Council's website.

**Funded:** 60% by the users (ie, fees and charges) and 40% by rates

### Emergency Management

2 CPW \$0.29



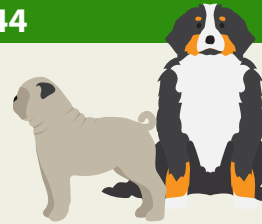
In emergencies that go beyond the capabilities of emergency services such as Police and Ambulance, Council helps to access more resources and co-ordinate support to assist in protecting people and property. Council staff volunteer and train for specific Civil Defence roles during emergencies.

**Funded:** 100% by rates

### Animal Control & Compliance

3 CPW \$0.44

Our Animal Control and Compliance Officers are responsible for complaints regarding dogs, stock, derelict vehicles, they handle dog registrations and manage the dog pound. There are 3,575 dogs registered to 2,606 owners. In the last 12 months, the team has responded to 3,249 service requests.



**Funded:** 55% by the users (ie, fees and charges) and 45% by rates

### Health Services and Monitoring

4 CPW \$0.56

The Environmental Health Team (which includes liquor licensing) covers a vast array of activities.

When you have a slice of cake, purchase a bottle of wine, go for a haircut or visit other businesses like motels, camping grounds, funeral directors, restaurants or bars – the team has already made sure that particular business maintains good standards of hygiene and follows government legislation and regulations.

About 140 health and food premises are visited each year and approximately 48 liquor licensed premises are inspected.

The team has a number of other duties, including:

- Responding to over 1,300 nuisance complaints each year, including but not limited to noise, vermin, long grass, insanitary conditions to name a few.
- Visiting licensed premises offering workshops and assistance with information about current legislation.

**Funded:** 20% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 80% by rates

### Sport & Events Centre

5 CPW \$0.58

Situated at the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground, the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre is the district's flagship event and sporting facility.

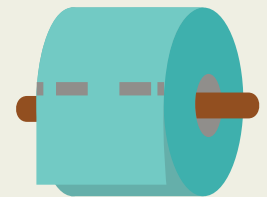
The facility has a two court arena and two function rooms (or one large), and changing facilities for up to four teams.

It has proven a popular venue for events and activities with one of the highest satisfaction ratings across all facilities.

**Funded:** 20% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 80% by rates

### Public Toilets

6 CPW \$0.60



Council owns and maintains 33 public toilet blocks or single public toilets across the district.

These are found in our CBD, Council buildings and reserves. Public toilets are an important part of our tourism attractions, particularly along the Waikato River Trails and Te Waihou Walkway.

**Funded:** 100% by rates

### Economic Development

7 CPW \$0.62

Council promotes the District to potential investors, residents and visitors from within New Zealand and overseas, as an attractive location to establish a business, raise a family or spend time enjoying our amenities. We work collaboratively with the South Waikato Investment Trust (SWIFT) to actively support local businesses to capitalise on growth opportunities. We focus on sustainable growth, increasing employment, reducing unemployment and improving household incomes.

Council's Business Case Management service aims to help investors navigate our regulatory processes through a single point of contact.

**Funded:** 100% by rates



# ... and what they cost each week

## Building Control

8 CPW \$0.63

Council is an accredited Building Consent Authority (BCA) which manages, processes and inspects consented building work.

The Building Control Team administer this process, which is designed to ensure that buildings within the district meet the Building Act 2004.

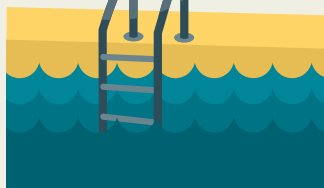
This can be anything from processing the application, inspecting building work during construction, issuing code of compliance certificates and administering building warrants of fitness. Around 500 building consent applications are processed each year.

**Funded:** 50% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 50% by rates



## Swimming Pools

11 CPW \$1.34



Council provides safe hygienic pools for recreation and sporting activities. Public swimming pools are located in Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau.

The South Waikato Indoor Pools in Tokoroa are heated and operate all year round.

The outdoor pools in Putāruru

and Tirau are seasonal, open during summer months only.

Programmes such as Woggle classes and Learn to Swim classes are run at the indoor pool facility.

The pools are one of Council's highest rated activities.

### Funded:

- Tokoroa Indoor Pool - 20% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 80% by rates.
- Seasonal pools in Putāruru and Tirau - 10% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 90% by rates.

## Other Community Facilities

9 CPW \$0.80



Council owns and manages a number of community facilities including Council buildings, The Plaza, community halls, airfield, and others.

Community facilities foster community cohesion and provide for performing arts.

### Funded:

- Community Halls - 5% by users (ie, fees & charges) and 95% by targeted rates (only those in the hall rating area)
- Property Management - 10% by users (ie, fees & charges) and 90% by rates
- The Plaza and Tirau Hall - 100% by rates
- Airfield - 50% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 50% by rates

## Other Community Support, Contracts and Grant funding

12 CPW \$1.58



Community support covers many activities including arts, events and culture that strengthens our community cohesion and community pride.

Council encourages youth development through initiatives with other organisations, advocates on behalf of the community, manages social development contracts and funds and coordinates events such as Anzac Day celebrations.

Council grants funding to a number of organisations. Funded through this area are the Information Centres, the Waikato River Trails, TCOSS, Pride in Putāruru, Tokoroa Big Weekend, Overdale Community Centre, Hamilton Waikato

Tourism, the Plaza, Sport Waikato and event funding.

This area also funds the Community Development Grants that support community groups and their volunteers through a number of recreational, cultural, welfare and social activities. Financial assistance is given directly from Council or administered by Council on behalf of other parties.

### Funded:

- 100% of the community support is funded by rates
  - 100% of grants are funded by rates, excluding TCOSS\*
- \* TCOSS is funded 15% by users and 85% by rates

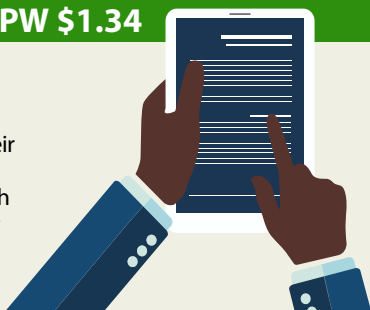
## Planning and Monitoring

10 CPW \$1.34

Every day people apply for resource consents for activities such as building a new business development or subdividing their properties. Resource consents are processed in accordance with Council's District Plan and under the Resource Management Act (RMA).

The RMA promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources such as land, air and water. Council's duty is to ensure rigorous assessment of resource consent applications.

Around 70 resource consents are processed each year, mostly for land use and subdivisions.



### Funded:

- 65% (of consent processing) by rates and 35% by users (ie, fees & charges)
- 100% of policy planning and environmental monitoring is funded by rates.

## Libraries

13 CPW \$1.66

The South Waikato has a main library in Tokoroa



and a combined library and council service centre in Putāruru. Our libraries offer a wide range of collections and services.

The libraries provide free internet, WIFI, scanning, copying, Book-a-Librarian and housebound services, and more. We have a Library Link outreach service in Tirau that operates out of the i-SITE (The Dog).

The library team run school holiday activities and reading programmes, and celebrations of national promotions, such as Māori Language Week and Matariki, among others.

**Funded:** 8% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 92% by rates

## Stormwater

14 CPW \$1.95



Council's role in stormwater drainage is to provide effective drainage and disposal so that the roading network can function effectively and safely, reduce the risks to people from stormwater ponding for long periods and to mitigate the environmental effects of contamination of the stormwater discharge.

There are 118.28km of stormwater pipes, open drains and watercourse in the urban stormwater network.

Stormwater drainage is also to prevent flooding of private property and to take stormwater from properties and road surfaces in pipes and open drains and disperse it into water courses.

**Funded:** Fully funded by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only)

## Governance & Corporate

15 CPW \$2.08



Corporate costs include a share of all the administrative and management functions that support the governance and strategy development of Council, like general management, corporate planning, communications, community engagement, financial and information services.

Governance costs include elections and Councillor remuneration and expenses.

### Funded:

- 100% of the district governance and corporate management activity is funded by rates
- 100% of community governance (ie the Tirau Community Board) is funded by targeted rates (Tirau Ward ratepayers only)

## Refuse and Recycling

17 CPW \$4.17



Waste management involves a number of activities. Council owns and manages a transfer station in Putāruru and a landfill in Tokoroa.

We do an urban household weekly refuse collection and an urban fortnightly recycling collection.

We manage five recycling stations across the district and the main Croad Place recycling facility in Tokoroa.

### Funded:

- Landfill - 80% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 20% by rates
- Recycling - 100% by rates
- Refuse Collection - 50% by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only) and 50% by bag sales
- General litter collection in CBD areas - 100% by rates

## Parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds & reserves

16 CPW \$3.50



The South Waikato is a beautiful place to live, work and play, with 280 hectares of parks, reserves, sportsgrounds and playgrounds on our doorstep.

These include:

- 48 urban reserves varying in size from 500m<sup>2</sup> to 25 ha
- eight esplanade reserves (lakeside, river or stream)
- three sportsgrounds in Putāruru and Tokoroa

- four cemeteries
- 13 playgrounds located in Tokoroa, Putaruru, Tirau, Arapuni and Jones' Landing
- three skateboard areas (Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau)
- five scenic reserves
- 10 rural reserves
- a large number of plantation strips, road berms, street gardens and small beautification areas
- Te Waihou Walkway
- Te Kohatu o Hatupatu (Hatupatu Rock) site, SH1.
- Putāruru Timber Museum grounds

**Funded:** 5% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 95% by rates

## Roading

18 CPW \$5.23



The South Waikato has 540km of roads, 170km of footpaths, 45 bridges and large culverts, 38 stock underpasses, 3,030 signs and 2,158 streetlights.

To ensure that travel around the district is as safe as possible, all of these assets are regularly maintained and improved upon.

State Highways are maintained by the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA).

**Funded:** 100% by rates (after subsidies)

## Water Supply

19 CPW \$7.57



Water is for cleaning, drinking, showering, swimming and a whole lot more. It is the one thing we can't live without!

Council aims to provide a safe and reliable supply of water to residential, industrial and commercial properties. It also plays a role in supporting community safety through fire fighting capability. We have six treatment plants.

**Funded:** Fully funded by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only)

## Wastewater

20 CPW \$8.50



Ever wondered what happens when you flush the toilet? Ever thought where the water from the dishwasher goes? Council's role in wastewater is paramount to public health and safety.

We collect, remove and treat wastewater from all urban households to make it safe to discharge into the environment, either into a waterway or land.

Council adheres to resource consents that are issued by the regional council to ensure our discharge has minimal effect on the environment.

Council has four wastewater treatment systems.

**Funded:** Fully funded by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only)

## Young Driver Expo highlights real road issues

Young drivers were back again this year for the annual Expo held at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre with the aim of educating our young people about the dangers they face when and before they get in behind the wheel.

Students from all three of our local secondary schools moved around a number of stations during the two days covering a wide range of subjects and demonstrations.

They were provided with simulated experiences like what

happens inside the booze bus, 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.

Other stations saw 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')

The annual Young Driver Expo is only possible each year because of the continued support from our wonderful emergency services including Police, St John, Fire and Emergency; Tokoroa Council of Social Services (TCOSS) and supported by Council through its road safety programme.

*Getting road smart. Students from Forest View High School taking in the information provided by local services on the importance of road safety.*



## Putāruru Waterpark update



South Waikato District Council, Pride in Putāruru and Putāruru Moving Forward are delighted to announce that we have partnered with Gray Matter - a civil engineering design consultancy based in Hamilton - to develop the designs to upgrade the Putāruru Waterpark area.

Gray Matter won this contract through a competitive selection process and excited us with their ideas, thorough working practices, innovation and past successes.

We look forward to working with them through the concept stage, sharing the concept design and getting the Putāruru community as excited about the possibilities as we are.

## Tokoroa CBD Upgrade update

Works in Leith Place kicked off in March 2019 and by the time readers receive this issue of In Touch, weather dependent (!), STAGE 1 will be complete. Yay! The Talking Poles and gardens will be re-established during October, which is the final part of STAGE 1.

STAGE 2 - the bus shelter, toilets and plaza area - is expected to start upon STAGE 1 completion.

Stormwater works on SH1 should also be complete as you are reading this. The NZTA pavement rehabilitation (laying new asphalt) is planned to start mid-October and will last approximately three to four weeks.



The Plaza continues to be a hive of activity with numerous community groups using the venue as well as performing arts events and movies.

They have availability to host more community groups, events, movie screenings and private functions.

Get in contact to discuss your event - you'll be surprised at what the team can offer and their competitive rates!

### Upcoming Shows:

**The South Afreakins** - Arts on Tour NZ : Friday, 1 November, 7.30pm, \$20 from The Plaza and Eventfinda.



The South Afreakins is a dark, razor-sharp comedy performed solely by Robyn Paterson. It focusses on displacement, immigration and finding that home cannot only exist within places, but also within people.

**Aspire Arts - The American Dream:** Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December

### Movie Screenings:

Yesterday: Friday, 18 October, 8pm, \$5-\$8.

Sometimes Always Never: Sunday, 28 October, 2pm, \$5-\$8.

Celia: Brain Research Centre Fundraiser: Thursday, 14 November, 7pm, \$15 (first drink and nibbles provided)



07 883 8596/0276 559 715  
www.plaza.org.nz  
Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz  
Facebook: theplazaputaruru

now we're talking...



# household wastecollection

## Got something to say about the household waste collection? Wheelie bins? Rubbish bags?

Council is currently open for public consultation on options for the household waste collection service. Hopefully readers have already seen this advertised in South Waikato News and on Council's Facebook page and via Antenna.

Consultation closes on Friday 8 November. This will be followed by hearings and decisions.

"Our community is very engaged in discussions around waste management, rubbish bags and wheelie bins and we are looking forward to receiving a large number of submissions on this topic," said Kerry Fabrie, Council's Communications Manager.

Council is proposing three options involving a combination of bags and wheelie bins of varying sizes and types, both for recycling and/or rubbish. See option blocks alongside.

"It's an exciting proposal that a lot of people will have a view on. We would love to hear from you through this formal submission process," she continued.

Consultation documents can be collected from the Council offices in Putāruru and Tokoroa, The Dog in Tirau and the Tokoroa Library. The proposal, including an online submission form, is also available on our website at [www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/consultation](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/consultation).

Council's new engagement team will be out and about in the community at offices, libraries, recycling stations and other high foot traffic areas talking to residents about the options.

Please do take the time to have a chat to one of the team and take a submission form away with you to complete.

Staff have ordered samples of the bins so that people can see exactly what the options are. We hope this will help people to select their preferred option. Council will consider all submissions during hearings that are expected to be held towards the end of November. **IF** the decision is to introduce wheelie bins, these have about a six month delay between order and delivery.

The options are outlined here. Either pick up a submission form from one of the offices or submit online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/householdwastecollection2019](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/householdwastecollection2019).

## Option 1

### Status quo - bag for rubbish, existing crates for recycling

Glass only in the green crate.  
Plastic and tins in the maroon crate.  
Cardboard stacked to the side.



## Other consultation considerations

As part of this consultation process, Council is also interested in the community's feedback on type and size of bags, IF we stay with bags for rubbish.

There are several products on the market, each with advantages and disadvantages: normal plastic bags, oxo-degradable bags or fully biodegradable bags.

Some of these products release chemicals when they break down, some break down to nothing, some don't break down at all and some break down into tiny fragments of plastic. Some of these products might not be the solution we perhaps think they are. Have a read of the consultation document and answer the specific submission question.



**Get  
firewood  
early!  
Dry it!  
Stack it!  
Cover it!**

**Burning dry  
wood creates  
less pollution.**

**Firewood takes  
from four to six  
months to dry.**

Tips for better burning:

- Split the wood and open stack it in a crisscross pattern for maximum air circulation.
- Ventilation and warmth are more important than cover.
- Cover the top, but not the whole pile. Air flow is good to keep seasoned wood dried out.
- Keep seasoned, but rain wet wood inside to dry out for a couple of days before burning.
- Buy or gather more wood than you think you will need - you can always use it next year!

Burning wet wood is expensive, bad for your burner and bad for our health.



## Option 2

**New 240 litre wheelie bin for all recycling except glass, existing crates for glass only recycling and either a 120 litre OR 80 litre wheelie bin for rubbish**



## Option 3

**New 240 litre wheelie bin for all recycling except glass, existing crates for glass only recycling and retain bag for rubbish**



Council is also seeking feedback on introducing a smaller bag option for those people who don't produce much rubbish or who are perhaps a single person household. This of course, is only **IF** we stay with bags. Council is seeking your feedback. Again, have a look at the submission form and full consultation document.

Council also wants to highlight that some of these options will shift the funding from user pays (when we purchase the green bags) to rates. There are a number of people in the community who currently opt for a private service, which is fine; but if the option ultimately chosen is one that is funded by rates, these people may want to revisit their private service, as essentially they will be paying double.

From the full consultation document, please go to our website at the address below, have a read, and complete a submission form, either hard copy or via the online version. Consultation documents can also be collected from the Council offices, the Dog in Tirau or the library.

Council is very keen to hear from you.

**[www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/consultation](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/consultation)**

## IN brief

- Annual spray along rural roads will start in October.
- Boulders on the roadside berm adjacent to Roslin Street and Aotea Crescent have been installed to stop vehicles from crossing the berm.
- During August and September 5.5 kilometres of unsealed roads were graded and aggregate applied where needed.
- Work on a Development Contributions Policy is underway.
- The Libraries supported Genealogy Month with a large display promoting family history and one on one family history help sessions offered.
- Following the closure of the Tokoroa i-SITE, Council staff are taking over the information service previously offered by the team.
- The top 10 service request reports for August were: dogs roaming (65 reports), recycling queries (61), water leaks and repairs (52), dog registrations (50), health licensing (23), animal control general enquiries (20), street lighting (18), general property enquiries (15), planning (14) and parks maintenance activities (14).

## IN the know

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

# WHAT'S HOT

Hats off to Hancock Forest Management and contractors for removing a massive 6.26 tonnes of waste from the forest access roads and gateways during the recent Keep New Zealand Beautiful week.

Our forests and their public access roads are the offices of our forestry crews. They are not a dump site. Let's respect these work spaces and recreational areas.

Council applauds the initiative of HFM and its contractors. We were excited to support this initiative through sponsoring the landfill fees. And big thanks also to DG Waste, our landfill contractor that opened the landfill on a day it is normally closed, at its own cost.

We all need to respect our beautiful environment.

Council encourages people to dispose of waste responsibly.

Let's Keep New Zealand Beautiful... it's everyone's responsibility.

Care more. Dump less.



# WHAT'S NOT



Left: Dumping asbestos in our public bins in our reserves is extremely dangerous behaviour. Bags of building material containing asbestos have been dumped in the reserve bins in late September. We believe the material was dumped by one individual. The material has been removed by a qualified contractor at a cost of \$1,000 to ratepayers.

Asbestos is extremely dangerous. Our tamariki and whanau use these reserves!

Below: Dumping is not hot. Many people say people dump because our landfill fees are too high or the bags cost too much. Council does not make a profit from bags or fees, the cost of the landfill and the cost of the bags is what it costs to manage our waste. The cost of managing waste is ever increasing.



We simply need to take more responsibility for our own waste. If it's your waste, dispose of it properly.

Once again, photos of our overflowing recycling drop off facility. Council is looking at alternatives to the current system.