

# IN touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 53 - August (Hereatarikōkā) / September (Māhuru) 2020

## New \$14m Integrated Trades Training Centre!

**Tokoroa will have a brand new \$14 million Trades Training Centre by 2022 catering for up to 500 students a year thanks to a Government grant of \$10.84 million announced recently.**



The new Trades Training Centre is being co-funded with one million dollar grants from each of Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, Trust Waikato and the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT).

SWIFT has facilitated and driven the project, including buying the one-hectare site for the centre on Chambers St near the northern entrance to Tokoroa, doing the preliminary design, engineering and costings for the project and applying for the Government funding.

The new Trades Training Centre will bring together three separate existing Toi Ohomai training sites in Tokoroa into one purpose-built campus catering for the key local sectors including farming, engineering, construction, manufacturing and logistics.

SWIFT Economic Development Manager Francis Pauwels said

a survey of South Waikato companies operating in five major industry sectors found they were planning for 850 new staff over the next five years.

"These companies say their number one preference is to employ locals because they stay local and contribute to the community.

"About 60 per cent of the people who could be employed in these jobs will be new trainees and especially young people. About a fifth of people aged 18-25 years in South Waikato are not in employment, education or training (NEETS) – and we are confident this initiative will be the catalyst to get these young people into training and employment. We also expect to have a lot of second chance learners coming through the centre."

Toi Ohomai Chief Executive Dr Leon Fourie said SWIFT and

Toi Ohomai have worked closely together since the initiative began in early 2018 to decide what a purpose-built facility would look like.

"This Government funding will enable us to realise a vision we have been working towards for the last two and a half years."

South Waikato District Mayor Jenny Shattock said the Government investment in the new training centre is the result of patient collaboration and engagement between Toi Ohomai, SWIFT, Council and Government.

"This is an excellent example of the education, business, local government and community sectors in the South Waikato

working together to help the district thrive and grow economically and socially."

SWIFT Chairman Bruce Sherman said South Waikato is in a prime geographic position and is now

in growth mode. "This new training centre will provide a much needed path to skilled employment not just for Tokoroa, but Putāruru, Tirau, and Arapuni.

"SWIFT is proud to work with Trust Waikato, Toi Ohomai and Council in delivering this outcome for the South Waikato. We have more exciting projects in the pipeline so this is the

first step in many to achieving lasting and positive change for our communities."

*"... excellent example of the South Waikato education, business, local government and community sectors working together..."*

*Mayor Jenny Shattock*

## IN brief

- Council will soon be consulting on its Representation Review. Keep an eye out for this.
- Council recently adopted a Road Naming Policy which outlines criteria and a process for road naming in the District to ensure Council meets the requirements under the Local Government Act, iwi have input into the process and adequate community consultation as required.
- The Procurement Policy was recently reviewed to ensure clarity and guidance around the purchase of goods and services.
- The After Hours Call Centre service has now been outsourced.

## IN side

2-3 Three waters reform  
Celebrating Matariki

4-7 Understanding Council  
Services

8-9 Tokoroa Digester  
Recycling Clean Up

10-11 Facility update  
Contact Council

12 Councillor columns  
Councillor contacts

## IN house

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

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# South Waikato water reform funding totals over \$3.5m

On 8 July, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Local Government announced a three-year programme for reforming three waters\* service delivery arrangements, to be delivered in parallel with an economic stimulus package of Crown investment.

A joint Central/Local Government Three Waters Steering Committee has been established to provide oversight and guidance to support progress towards reform, and to assist in engaging with Local Government, iwi/Māori, and other water sector stakeholders on options and proposals.

*\* three waters includes water supply, wastewater and stormwater*

While the Government's starting intention is for publicly-owned multi-regional models for water service delivery (with a preference for local authority ownership), final decisions on a service delivery model will be informed by discussion with the local government sector and the work of the Joint Steering Committee.

The move of asset ownership and the delivery of water, wastewater and potentially stormwater services from councils to large multi-regional organisations will have a significant impact on the operations of the South Waikato District Council because these services make up a significant portion of work that Council does for the community.

The Government has committed to investing up to \$761 million to improve NZ's water,

wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, support local authorities to improve three waters service delivery and support the establishment of a new water services regulator.

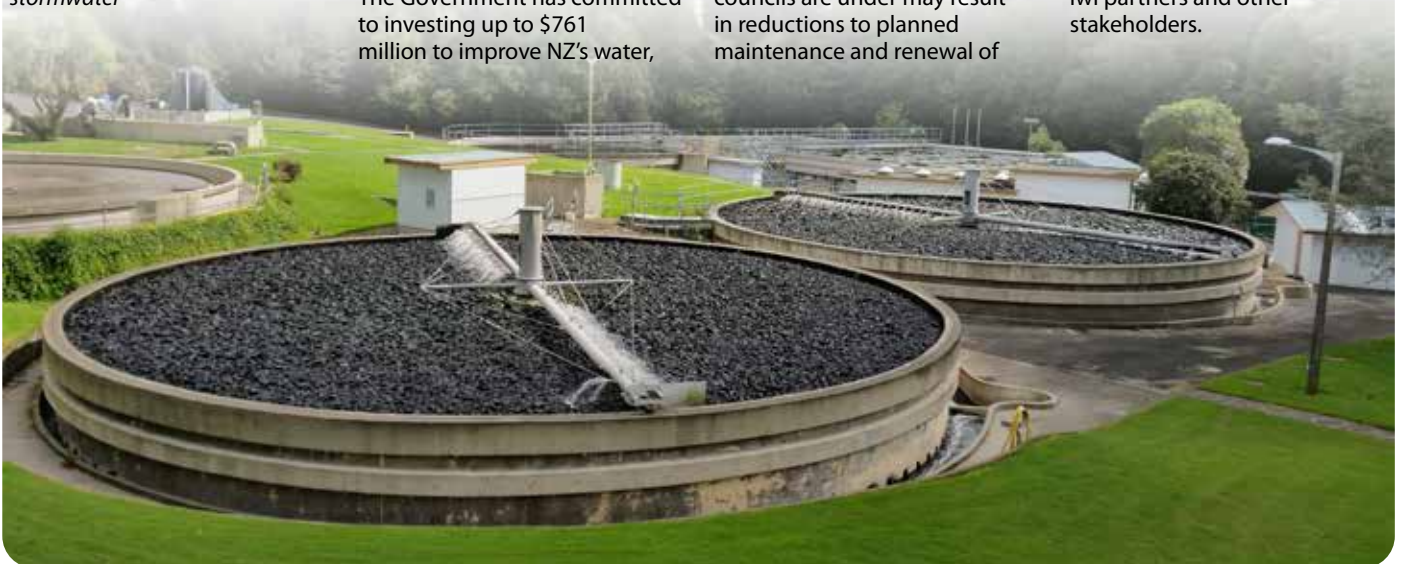
The South Waikato District Council has been allocated \$1.94 million. Waikato as a region has been allocated \$33.3 million, of which a percentage will be used within the South Waikato; bringing the total amount of funding for the South Waikato to over \$3.5 million. Funding has been allocated based on population and land area.

The design of the investment package recognises that COVID-19 has put additional pressure on local government, and that the financial pressures councils are under may result in reductions to planned maintenance and renewal of

infrastructure precisely when the economy needs a boost to protect and create local jobs.

The package recognises that local authorities are best placed to direct this investment to where it is most needed, provided it is used to maintain, increase and/or accelerate investment in core water infrastructure renewals and maintenance. The Government is also looking to use this opportunity to accelerate progress on reform of water services delivery.

Funding is pending Council signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This decision was pending at the time of signing In Touch off to print. If this goes ahead, Council will work with our iwi partners and other stakeholders.



Unite against COVID-19

**Contact tracing**  
Protect yourself, your whānau, and your community

A graphic for the Contact Tracing app. It features a central icon of a person with arrows pointing outwards, symbolizing contact tracing. The text 'Unite against COVID-19' is at the top, and 'Contact tracing' is in large bold letters. Below it, the tagline reads 'Protect yourself, your whānau, and your community'.

## Keep track of where you've been, download the app!

Fast and effective contact tracing is one way we can all work together to prevent any further spread of COVID-19 in New Zealand.

### How contact tracing helps

To stop any future spread of COVID-19, we need to trace the contacts of anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and break the chain of transmission. Recording people's movements helps us to do this quickly and efficiently.

### How to keep track of your movements

Use the NZ COVID Tracer app if you can, otherwise use whatever method works for you. Encourage your family, whānau and friends to do the same.

It's easy to download via Google Play or App Store, just follow the install instructions and set-up.





## Celebrating Matariki 2020

During this year's Matariki celebrations, South Waikato District Council collaborated with various community organisations to host a range of exciting activities and events across our district.

Our local libraries hosted Matariki themed arts and crafts activities, our SW Sport and Events Centre hosted twilight badminton games and ki-o-rahi games which proved popular among the community. But the grand finale of the week-long celebrations was the inaugural Matariki Night Market held on Roseberry Lane. It was a huge success thanks to the community who came out in force to support local arts and crafts, kai stalls and entertainment! Well done everyone!

Matariki is the Māori name for the cluster of stars also known as the Pleiades. It rises in midwinter and for many Māori, it heralds the start of the Māori new year.



# 2020

TE WIKI O TE REO MĀORI

14-20  
MAHURU

MĀORI  
LANGUAGE  
WEEK

14-20  
SEPTEMBER  
2020

## 2020 Language Weeks

Tonga Language Week: 6 - 12 Sept

Māori Language Week: 14 - 20 Sept

Tuvalu Language Week: 27 Sept- 3 Oct

Fijian Language Week: 4 - 10 Oct

Niue Language Week: 18 - 24 Oct

Tokelau Language Week: 25 - 31 Oct

For more information visit [www.mpp.govt.nz](http://www.mpp.govt.nz)  
or [www.tewikiotereomaori.co.nz](http://www.tewikiotereomaori.co.nz)

# 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 4 to 7 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.

\*CPW = Cost Per Week

ASSETS

REGULATORY

CORPORATE

COMMUNITY

1

## Cemeteries

CPW \$0.20

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 80 burials and 40 ash interments each year. Council maintains all cemetery grounds and keeps records of all plots, searchable online via Council's website – [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) – Our Services - Cemeteries.



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

2

## Emergency Management

CPW \$0.29

In emergencies that go beyond the capabilities of emergency services such as Police, Fire 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.



A recent example of a Civil Defence response that Council played a role in was the nation-wide COVID-19 during March and April.

Funded: 100% by rates.

3

## Animal Control and Compliance

CPW \$0.47

Our Animal Control and Compliance Officers are responsible for complaints regarding dogs, stock, parking in the Central Business District and urban parking issues, urban property maintenance, reserve patrols, freedom camping, litter, animal, poultry and bees enforcement, dealing with busking, begging and window washing in the CBD and they also handle dog registrations and manage the dog pound.



There are 3,995 dogs registered to 2,726 owners. In the last 12 months, the team has responded to 2,732 service requests.

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

4

## SW Sport and Events Centre

CPW \$0.53

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 is a popular venue for events and activities and achieves consistently one of the highest customer satisfaction ratings across all facilities.



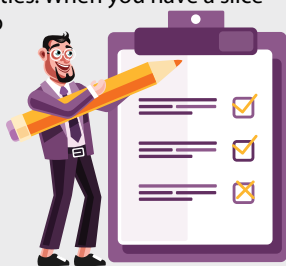
Funded: 55% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 45% by rates.

# 5

## Health Services and Monitoring

CPW \$0.61

The Environmental Health Team (which includes alcohol 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 the 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 alcohol licensed premises are inspected. The team has other other duties, including, but not limited to:

- Responding to over 1,300 nuisance complaints each year, such as noise, vermin, long grass, insanitary conditions, smoke complaints, to name a few.
- Visiting licensed premises offering workshops and assistance with information about current legislation.
- Interviewing people who apply for a Manager's certificate and people who are wanting to take over or start a new licensed premise.

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

# 6

## Building Control

CPW \$0.65



Council is an accredited Building Consent Authority (BCA) which processes, inspects and certifies 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 any application, inspecting building work during construction, issuing code 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.

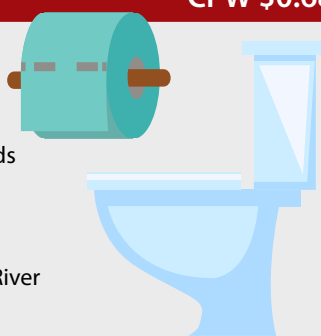
# 7

## Public Toilets

CPW \$0.68

Council owns and maintains 34 public toilet blocks or single public toilets across the district. These are found in our CBD, Council buildings, sportsgrounds 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.

# 8

## Other Community Facilities

CPW \$0.70

Council owns and manages a number of community facilities including Council buildings, The Plaza, Tirau War Memorial Hall, other community halls, airfield, and others.

Community facilities foster community cohesion and provide for performing arts, events and other activities.

Many venues are regularly used by community groups for weekly or monthly sessions, such as Over 50s.

Venues can also be booked for private functions.



Funded:

Community halls - 5% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 95% by targeted rates (only those in the hall rating area).

Property Management - 10% by users (ie, fees and 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.

# 9

## Economic Development

CPW \$0.71

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.

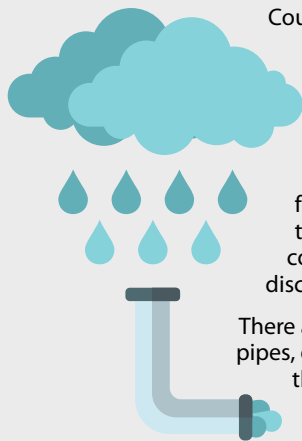
We work collaboratively with the South Waikato Investment Trust (SWIFT) to actively support local businesses to capitalise on growth opportunities. We focus on sustainable growth, increasing employment, reducing unemployment and improving household incomes.

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

Council advocates to the Government, Members of Parliament and Ministerial officials to raise the profile of the district and for increased government investment in support of local economic development projects and initiatives.



Funded: 100% by rates.

**10****Stormwater**  
CPW \$1.25

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 and property damage from stormwater ponding for long periods and to mitigate the environmental effects of contamination of the stormwater discharge.

There are 118.28 km 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 safely into the environment.

Funded: 100% by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only).

**12****Planning and Monitoring**  
CPW \$1.29

Resource consents are processed for activities such as establishing a new business development eg, poultry farming or subdividing properties. They 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 100 resource consents are processed each year, mostly for land use and subdivisions.

District Plan Reviews (every 10 years) and Plan Changes are processed to meet the district's growth strategies. Environmental projects and strategies are implemented to address local indigenous biodiversity.

We are currently conducting two District Plan Changes in Putāruru so that our District Plan can better support growth and development. With Putāruru almost complete, Council will be focussing on growth in our other towns.



Funded:

35% (of consent processing) by users (ie, fees and charges) and 65% by rates.

100% of policy planning and environmental monitoring is funded by rates.

**Pensioner Housing**  
CPW (to ratepayers) \$0

Council also owns and manages 84 pensioner housing units, located throughout Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau. These are 100% funded by users, ie, tenants, so there is no rate effect, but it is a service that we deliver in our community.

Funded: 100% by tenants (no rate input).

**11****Swimming Pools**  
CPW \$1.28

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 Aquafit, Woggle, Learn to Swim and Tadpole classes are run at the indoor pool facility. Learn to Swim classes are held during the summer at the Tirau Pool and Woggle fitness classes with baby classes run at the Putāruru Pool.

Funded:

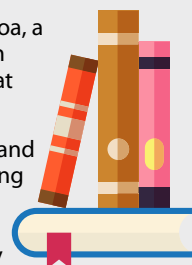
South Waikato Indoor Heated Pools - 20% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 80% by rates.

Seasonal Pools in Putāruru and Tirau - 10% by users (ie, fees and charges) and 90% by rates.

**13****Libraries**  
CPW \$1.62

The South Waikato has a main library in Tokoroa, a combined library and council service centre in Putāruru and a Library Link service in Tirau that operates out of the i-SITE (The Dog).

Our libraries offer a wide range of collections and services. The libraries provide scanning, copying and free services including internet, WiFi, Book-a-Librarian and housebound services, and more. The library team run school holiday activities and reading programmes aimed at supporting literacy, and celebrations of national promotions, such as Māori Language Week and Matariki, just to name a couple.



Funded: 7% by users (ie, fees and cahrges) and 92% by rates.

**14****Other Community Support, Contracts and Grant Funding**  
CPW \$1.83

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, including Information Centres, Waikato River Trails, TCOSS, Pride in Putāruru, Overdale Community Centre, Graeme Dingle Foundation, Hamilton Waikato Tourism, Plaza, Sport Waikato and event funding. This area also funds the Community Development Grants that support community groups and their volunteers through 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 community support is funded by rates.

100% of grants is funded by rates, other than TCOSS (which is funded 15% by users and 85% by rates).

# 15

## Governance and Corporate

CPW \$2.13

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 and infrastructure planning, communications, human resources, community engagement, risk and quality management, health and safety, procurement, legal support, financial and information services, IT and corporate support.

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 (ie, Tirau Ward ratepayers only).

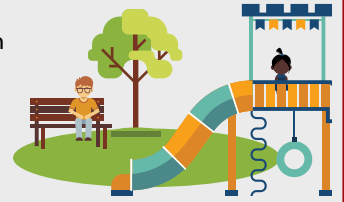


# 16

## Parks, playgrounds, sportsgrounds and reserves

CPW \$3.66

The South Waikato is a beautiful place to live, work and play, with around 285 hectares of parks, reserves, sportsgrounds and playgrounds on our doorstep. These include:



- 48 urban reserves varying in size from 500m<sup>2</sup> to 2ha
- 8 esplanade reserves (lakeside, river or stream)
- 3 sportsgrounds in Putāruru and Tokoroa
- 4 cemeteries
- 14 playgrounds located in Tokoroa, Putaruru, Tirau, Arapuni and Jones' Landing
- 3 skateboard areas (Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau)
- 5 scenic reserves
- 10 rural reserves
- Te Waihou Walkway
- Te Kohatu o Hatupatu (Hatupatu Rock) site, SH1
- a large number of plantation strips, road berms, street gardens and small beautification areas

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

# 17

## Roading

CPW \$5.05

The South Waikato has 425km of rural road and 115km of urban roading, 181km of footpaths, 48 bridges and large culverts, 43 stock underpasses, 4,124 signs and 2,644 streetlights.

To ensure that travel around the district is as safe as possible, these assets are regularly maintained. State

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



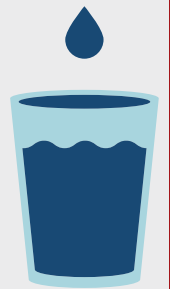
Funded: 100% by rates (after subsidies).

# 19

## Water Supply

CPW \$7.69

Water is used for drinking, showering, swimming and a whole lot more. It is the one thing we can't live without! Council provides a safe and reliable supply of water to residential, industrial and commercial properties. Water also plays a role in supporting community safety through the provision of fire-fighting capability via fire hydrants. We have six water treatment plants. Council reports on the quality of its drinking water to the Ministry of Health.



Funded: 100% by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only).

# 18

## Rubbish and Recycling

CPW \$5.17

The two key aspects with waste management are rubbish collection and disposal and recycling collection and processing.

Council owns and manages a rubbish transfer station in Putāruru and a landfill in Tokoroa. The landfill in Tokoroa will be closing in October 2020 and is being replaced with a new transfer station that is currently under construction.

Council will be transporting rubbish out of the district to a consented landfill.

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

We manage five recycling drop-off stations across the district with recycling being processed at a regional processing centre near Hamilton.



### Funded:

Landfill - 80% by user charges (ie, fees and charges) and 20% by rates

Recycling - 100% by rates

Rubbish Collection - 50% by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only) and 50% by bag sales.

General litter collection in CBD areas - 100% by rates.

# 20

## Wastewater

CPW \$7.74

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 wastewater from all urban households and treat it to a standard that renders it safe enough to be discharged into the environment, either into a waterway or to land. In the future, discharges to waterways will be replaced with treated discharges to engineered wetlands. The first wetland will be constructed in Tirau this year. A new digester is also currently being constructed at the Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plant. 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, in Tirau, Aprauni, Putāruru and Tokoroa.



Funded: 100% by targeted rates (urban ratepayers only).

## South Waikato Water Supply Series - Tīrau

Continuing with our water supply series across our South Waikato townships, Tīrau is next up.

The intention of the water series is to highlight how we source our water in each of our townships across the South Waikato. Across the district, there are reasons for many decisions that are made by our water services team which residents at times don't understand the reasoning.

We're hoping this series will make things a little clearer (no pun intended) on the topic of water supply in our lovely slice of Aotearoa.

In Tīrau, water is extracted from the Oraka Spring at an intake

off State Highway 1. It is drawn from the spring at a peak rate of 25 litre/sec. The spring is adjacent to and above the level of the stream.

The water drawn is then pumped through cartridge filters, UV light and chlorinated on the way to the reservoirs, where it gravitates to the network.

The catchment consists of an area of exotic trees and shrubs running along the stream with the remaining area of the catchment being farmland. Because the Oraka headworks

extracts raw water from the Oraka Spring, the primary water quality concerns are microbiological - protozoa, and bacteria or viruses.

There has been significant investment made in recent years into the processes, monitoring instrumentation, and process controls to improve the final water quality for our Tīrau urban residents.



*Spring and pump building located in Tīrau. The Oraka Stream is pictured in the background.*

## Tokoroa Wastewater Digester Project

Council's largest single capital works project kicked off in July with a blessing, site clearing and initial earthworks at the existing Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plant site in Whakauru Street. At a budget of \$9.6M, the digester is the largest component of a district wide \$30 million wastewater upgrade project.

The existing digester has served the Tokoroa community well since it was commissioned in 1979, but due to technology and engineering improvements and environmental requirements, it is due for replacement. Once the new digester is completed in August next year, the existing digester may be able to be upgraded as a back-up.

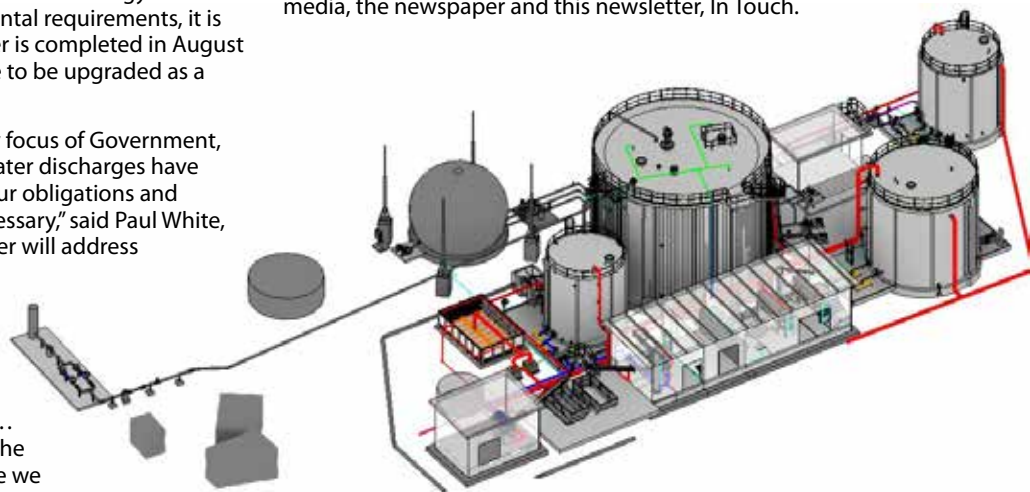
"With cleaning up our waterways a primary focus of Government, resource consent requirements for wastewater discharges have become more stringent. In order to meet our obligations and consent conditions, improvements are necessary," said Paul White, Council's Project Manager. "The new digester will address improved environmental protection, deliver a more effective and efficient service to our community and enable growth through these efficiencies."

So what does a digester actually do? Well like the name suggests, it 'digests' material... human waste and other grey water solids; the nasty stuff we don't like to think about once we flush the toilet!

Essentially it heats the contents, turning around 150 kilograms of solid waste into about 30 kilograms. It reuses the gas produced, to run the digester so is a very clean and circular process.

The upgrade will also provide for improved telemetry, transfer of information, central control, system diagnostics and monitoring.

Council will be doing regular updates via our website, social media, the newspaper and this newsletter, In Touch.







The Plaza is a performing arts venue, movie theatre and home to numerous community groups, as well as a facility for your private functions. Get in contact to discuss your needs.

### UP COMING EVENTS

**St Mary's Wearable Arts**, 17 & 18 Sep, time TBA.

**Aspire Arts Academy** - When I Grow up production, 19 Sep, 11am, tickets available from Eventfinda.

**Adam McLean** - Coming Home to the PUT concert, Sat 26 Sep, 7.30pm. This show is in honour of all the good people of Putāruru and its surrounding neighbours. Doors open at 7.30pm, music from 8.30pm to 11.30pm. Tickets available from TicketFairy.

**Te Moana Glow Show** - Wed 14 Oct, 10am & 11.30am. A giant scale puppet show for tamariki with glow-in-the-dark characters from Māori myth and legend. Tickets are available from Ticketek.

**Queen Tribute Show** - Madsen Production - Sat 14 Nov, time TBA. Paul Madsen as Freddie Mercury, along with his session band.

One thing is for sure... they "will Rock You"!



**Dancing Queen** - ABBA Tribute show, Tues 17 Nov, 8pm. It's time to secure your seats to the ABBA show that everyone loves and adores! Tickets on sale now from Eventfinda.



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

## Cleaning up contaminated recycling

The stricter stickering campaign with contaminated household crates is tracking reasonably well. There are a number of properties that haven't quite got the recycling rules quite right, and will have had their crates stickered. However there are also a number of households that are doing an exceptional job with their recycling. Well done to those people. To those who are still putting out contaminated recycling, please access our recycling education material that is available.

Council's stricter stickering regime now means that our good, clean uncontaminated recycling is again being sent for recycling processing.

Since lockdown ended, contamination levels in the household crates have been so bad that we have been unable process the plastic, tin and cardboard recycling. These crates have been emptied into the same truck as the rubbish and taken direct to landfill.

"Because the team has started stickering contaminated crates, we are now able to again correctly process the plastic, tin and card recycling we do pick up, because contamination levels have reduced drastically," said Phil Burt, Council's Infrastructure and Maintenance Manager. "Glass has been

collected and taken to the recycling facility for several months now."

Council wants to thank those people in the community who are making the extra effort with their recycling. We know it has been upsetting for keen recyclers watching their efforts go into the same truck as the rubbish. Unfortunately the large number of heavily contaminated crates ruins the good recycling efforts of some people. Now that Council's contractor is being very firm on contaminated crates, the efforts of conscientious recyclers is no longer wasted effort.

"Households that have produced good recycling crates are being rewarded with a free rubbish bag," continued Mr Burt. "We know it's a small gesture

of appreciation. We would love to give some people a full pack of five because the crates are exceptional, but we need to be mindful of the promotion costs that we are funding through our waste education budget."

There has been some concern from our community regarding Council asking people to separate cardboard out from plastics and tins and then it all goes in one truck. All three of those products do go in the same truck, however there are two compartments within the truck – one for cardboard and one for plastics and tins. Plastics and tins are further separated at the recycling centre.

If your recycling is not contaminated, we're very happy to take it away!

### Contamination issues

- Contains **non-recyclable material**. Examples of products that can't be recycled include: plastics 3-7\*, polystyrene, soft plastic bags, fabric, dirty nappies, fastfood bags (with or without leftovers), broken household items (chairs, buckets etc).

**Put these items in your rubbish.**



\* **only plastics 1 and 2 can be recycled, check for the recycling symbol**

- Contains items that were dirty, **unrinsed** or had food waste on it. Examples of these are unrinsed milk bottle containers, unwashed dog food cans, pizza boxes with food sticking to the cardboard, fastfood packaging that is greasy and has food scraps. **Rinse items or if that is not possible, put them in your rubbish.**
- Contains **lids/caps/tops**. **Remove these and put them in your rubbish.**
- Not in an **official** Council crate. Only official Council crates will be emptied.
- Contains potentially **hazardous** material.
- Not placed at **kerbside**.
- Too full, **over-flowing**.

**If in doubt, chuck it out!**



## Basketball Court coming to Tokoroa Skate Park

Activity around the Tokoroa Skate Park has ramped up in recent weeks with the Tokoroa Host Lions Club on hand volunteering their time to construct a new basketball court within the area.

The Tokoroa Lions have been involved in many community projects since being formed in 1962 and the new basketball court is another project they're delighted to be a part of.

"We're always looking for community projects for the group to take part in," Lions Club member Murray Scarlett said.

Mr Scarlett who has been a Lions Club member for over 30 years and a Tokoroa resident for 60 plus years mentioned that the club has several skilled members who all love to support community initiatives.

Often their work goes unnoticed and many people are unaware of their voluntary involvement in projects, but they prefer to roll up their sleeves and continue to give back to their community.

"There is a vast collection of expertise within our group and we've had a good track record



Members of the Tokoroa Host Lions Club are constructing the basketball court at the Tokoroa Skate Park. The final plan of the court is also pictured above.

over the years of being involved in projects and volunteering."

Initial planning of the basketball court began back in December 2019 and when the country was hit with Covid-19 it delayed the start of works.

However, members of the club remain committed to the project and are giving up afternoons throughout the week, volunteering their time and skills to ensure the community can have this court fully constructed.

There has been no official timetable set for the completion of the basketball court. We will aim to provide updates through social media on its progress and inform once near completion.

## Tokoroa Transfer Station construction on track

You may have seen in our previous issue of In Touch that the earthworks and construction were underway and appear to be tracking well at the Tokoroa Transfer Station.

Project Manager Ejas Nazar believes despite the recent issues around COVID-19 and the delays it has caused, the project has continued as per planned and everything seems to be in control and on track, weather permitting.

"The end of October is the scheduled date for completion of this new facility," he said.

We have two contractors working together on this project with CH Construction responsible for the building which will be created on site and Civil Construction Services Ltd is overseeing the civil works for this project.

To date planting to cover the swale area (for stormwater) is now complete and further planting will happen soon to cover the entrance area.

There are a couple of other areas yet to be completed with

the kiosk and fire fighter tanks set to be constructed in the upcoming weeks.

The addition of the weighbridge will be installed by the time this issue has gone to print.



Coming along: The works at the Tokoroa Transfer Station continue to develop. Pictured below is the transfer station building and photo to the left is an aerial view the overall site

## Reserve Management Plans

We're still seeking written suggestions on our Reserve Management Plans (RMP) as we prepare a draft RMP for Council to adopt to go back out for public consultation later in October.

The first of two consultation documents is open for public consultation from Wednesday 22 July to Wednesday 23 September 2020.

We would still love to hear from our communities about the future of our parks, reserves and sportsgrounds.

Head to our website under the Consultation button to find out further information and to have your say.

## SH1 Cambridge to Piarere Update

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been continuing their efforts and investigations about implementing safety improvements for road users driving along SH1 between Cambridge and Piarere.

Later this year Waka Kotahi will deliver additional safety improvements on SH1 between Fergusson Gully Road and Maungatautari Road.

While back in January, the NZ Upgrade Programme announced \$58 million of funding to upgrade the SH1/29 intersection to a roundabout.

As a result, the business case for the Cambridge to Piarere corridor, which was

placed on hold as part of the Government's re-evaluation in 2018, is being completed.

The new roundabout needs to be designed to allow connection with a potential future Waikato Expressway extension from Cambridge. Completing the business case will enable us to have a clear plan for the future of the corridor.

The SH1/Karapiro Road Intersection layout is also being considered, and any future improvements (including timing) for that intersection will be determined as part of the business case finalisation which is anticipated by the end of the year.

## How to use flush medians

Flush medians are white diagonal lines, painted down the centre of some urban and semi-urban roads, marking an area about one-car-width wide.

They're called 'flush' because they are not raised, just painted on the surface of the road. Sometimes, however, there will be raised islands on the median to provide extra protection for pedestrians.

It's alright to drive on a flush median for a short distance if you're turning into or out of a side road or driveway. You can use them to slow down before making a right-hand turn, or to merge left into a gap in the traffic flow.

If you're using the flush median to make a right-hand turn you

should indicate, then steer gently onto the median rather than at an abrupt angle. Use the median as an area to slow down and brake. This way the following traffic doesn't have to slow down rapidly to avoid you.

Carry out a similar manoeuvre if you're using the flush median as a refuge before merging into traffic on your left. Remember to indicate and check your mirrors, accelerate, and move gently into a gap in the traffic.

When you're using a flush median, always remember to watch out for pedestrians, other vehicles using the median and any raised islands.

Don't use flush medians as an overtaking lane or a place to park.



Source: NZTA

## TALKING ROAD SAFETY

**As our population ages, a greater number of South Waikato residents are using or planning to use mobility scooters to help keep mobile. Here are some tips and thoughts to help those who use scooters and those who interact with scooter users.**

Before you get a scooter ask yourself these questions.

- Can I judge distances well, look around and react quickly if something happens?

- Do I have good eyesight and hearing (with or without glasses or aids)?

Check with your doctor if you answer no to any of the questions or if you think any medication you are taking may be an issue.

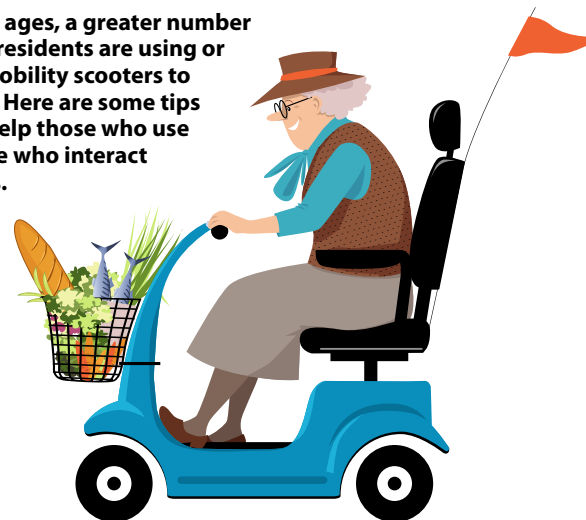
### The law

- You must ride your scooter in a careful and considerate way.
- You must ride it on the footpath whenever possible.
- You must travel on the footpath at a speed that is safe for other people.
- You must not let anyone else stand or sit on your scooter while you're using it.
- If you're involved in a crash you must stop and see if anyone is hurt and report the crash to the police within 24 hours.

- You shouldn't ride your scooter if you are affected by alcohol, drugs or medication that could affect your ability to control the scooter.

### Be mindful of others

- Don't travel faster than other people around you.
- Watch out for children who may run out in front you.
- If you are travelling slowly, allow room for others to pass.
- If you have a horn or bell, try not to startle other pedestrians.



- If you stop to talk to someone turn off your controls to prevent accidental movement.

### Handling tips

- Don't drive up or down steep slopes.
- Keep your scooter in gear when on a slope (not in neutral).
- Be careful when turning. Slow down when you are turning on sharp corners or slopes.
- Always carefully check the way is clear when crossing the road.
- Try to cross at a pedestrian crossing or at an intersection with stop or give way signs.
- Before you start to cross always check that you will be able to get back onto the footpath without having to drive over the kerb.
- When you park your scooter be considerate of other footpath users.

### Tips for other footpath users

- Give way to scooters where possible on the footpath. Remember it's easier for you to step on the grass than it is for a scooter to ride on the grass.
- Don't park on the footpath or block the footpath. It's not only mobility scooters affected, but pram and pushchairs users, as well as ordinary pedestrians.

# What do you think of us?

Council undertakes a Perceptions Survey every year, delivered in quarterly snapshots throughout the year. The survey is used to help Council improve the way it delivers its services and determine levels of service for our activities. The levels of service that we decide are then used to determine our performance measures/KPIs.

Currently each quarter just over 400 landlines are called. We are changing this to a mixed method approach to address the lower numbers of people with landlines. 4,000 residents will be selected randomly during the course of the year and will receive a postal invitation to participate in the survey online during any given year.

A hard copy survey form will be included for those who prefer not to participate online. This new method will ensure that trend data can continue and provide an opportunity for a greater proportion

of the population to participate. Other expected benefits include improved engagement, improved quality of results and an online survey is more suited to the survey type, providing people more time to consider their responses.

Demographic data play a part so that we get an appropriate mix of age, ethnicity, gender and geographic location within the district.

We survey a number of services and activities. Satisfaction results are outlined in easy to read boxes below.

**Overall water management**  
80% satisfaction 😊  
Same as the last survey →  
Down from 2019 (84%) ↓  
This includes taste, odour and reliability of water, reliability of wastewater and management of stormwater flooding.

**Overall waste management**  
81% satisfaction 😊  
Same as the last survey →  
Down from 2019 (85%) ↓  
This includes kerbside collections, drop off zones, Croad Place, green waste and littering.

**Overall road management**  
71% satisfaction 😐  
Up from the last survey ↑ (65%)  
Down from 2019 (77%) ↓  
This includes maintenance of rural roads, urban roads and footpaths, safety on roads, mobility access and cycleways.

**Overall parks and reserves**  
93% satisfaction 😊  
Down by 1% over the last survey ↓  
Same as 2019 →  
This includes satisfaction with sportsgrounds, other parks and reserves, playgrounds and cemeteries.

**Overall community facilities**  
90% satisfaction 😊  
Up by 7% over the last survey ↑  
Down from 2019 (94%) ↓  
This includes libraries, swimming pools, public toilets, community halls and the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.  
The Events Centre is our top performing service at 98% satisfaction. 😊

**Overall value for money**  
69% satisfaction 😐  
Up by 7% over the last survey ↑  
Down from 2019 (75%) ↓  
This includes ease of making payments, rates being fair and reasonable and fees for other services being fair and reasonable.

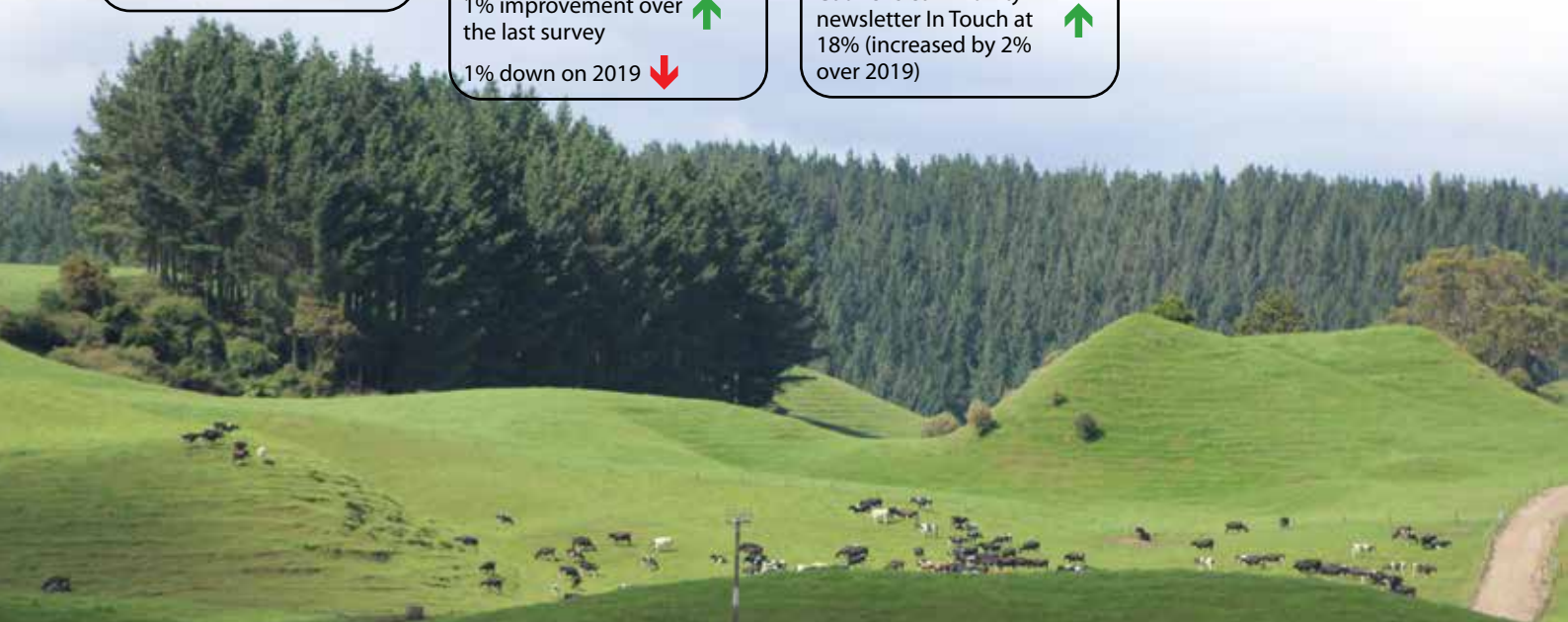
**Overall reputation management**  
77% satisfaction 😐  
Up by 9% over the last survey ↑  
Down from 2019 by 1% ↓  
This includes leadership, trust, service delivery and financial management.

**Regulatory services** are hard to capture accurately in a broad survey because quite often people surveyed don't have first hand experience of the services.  
This is because only a small proportion of the community builds a house in any given year, or applies for a resource consent.  
These numbers are deemed too low for quality statistical analysis.  
However they are provided for completeness.  
Overall satisfaction with regulatory services is 80% 😊  
Up by 5% over the last survey ↑  
Down from 2019 (83%) ↓

Of the total number of respondents, 35% had made contact with our customer service team at some point over the past three months, with 95% ranking their engagement as courteous and respectful. 😊

**Overall satisfaction with keeping the community informed**  
77% satisfaction 😐  
Same as the last survey →  
Increase over 2019 (74%) ↑  
**Satisfaction with participation in decision making**  
68% satisfaction 😐  
1% improvement over the last survey ↑  
1% down on 2019 ↓

**The source of information** that the community relies on for information about Council is:  
South Waikato News at 28% (down by 11% over 2019) ↓  
Council's Facebook page at 20% (an increase of 11% over 2019) ↑  
Council's community newsletter In Touch at 18% (increased by 2% over 2019) ↑



# WHAT'S HOT

Local business leader Larry Sullivan making super positive headlines in the Herald and a segment on Seven Sharp... way to sell Tokoroa and the South Waikato Larry!

South Waikato District Council's website is now a Safe Searching website. The Shielded Site Project from Women's Refuge means that victims of domestic abuse can seek victim assistance via other websites (like Council), so searches don't show up in their browser history.

Putāruru's Volunteer Fire Brigade's brand new shiny fire truck is a welcome addition to the station and the crew.



Council was treated to an extra special visit from Forest View High School's Porinetia Fa'atasi students during Cook Island Language Week. The beat of island drums, dancing, singing certainly brightened the day for Council staff, some of whom tried a spot of dancing themselves... with mixed success!

Redevelopment of the waterpark area in Putaruru to encompass a bold display of Māori mythology, the Matariki star cluster, Waihou River and Blue spring. Drawing together a growing interest in Matariki and the existing connection to water brings heaven and earth together to tell an authentic story. Designs and public consultation coming in September.



# WHAT'S NOT

Above - dumping rubbish is not hot. Spotted, photographed and infringed – two locals dumping down a public embankment. Your rubbish. Your issue. Why make it someone else's issue (and cost) to clean up after you?

Continued recycling crate and drop off zone contamination. It is unfortunate that some people are not recycling properly. When people recycle poorly, their dirty and incorrect recycling contaminates others' recycling efforts, who are doing a great job!



Pretty stink when our tamariki's playground equipment is stolen! Tokoroa tamariki were without a spinning basket seat, swings and springer item for several weeks following an incident of theft and damage at the Lake Moananui Reserve's Junior playground. The cost of replacement is also not hot - \$14,000 all up for new equipment, replacement, repair and installation! Costs are high because public playground equipment need to be made and installed to a higher standard than private setups in home gardens.

## Eligible for a rate rebate?

There are many people in our community who are already taking advantage of the Government's Rate Rebate Scheme. But there are probably more in our community who are eligible and don't know they are! You could get over \$500 from the government towards your rates, depending on your circumstances. Visit the website link here to find out if you are eligible.

We encourage you to apply now - don't leave your rate rebate application to the last minute.

Application forms are available from Council offices. Applications must be made before 30 June 2021.

<https://www.govt.nz/browse/housing-and-property/getting-help-with-housing/getting-a-rates-rebate>

## Rates invoices by email...

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

It's easy as to set this up. Simply email your details to [rates@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto: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!

## Zero percent average rate revenue increase!

Due to the financial pressures of COVID-19 on ratepayers, Council was determined to deliver a zero percent average rate revenue increase for the 2020-21 financial year. This means that the majority of ratepayers saw a small decrease in rates (more than 7,800 properties), while 2,100 properties saw an increase, most moderate. 95% of properties had changes between -3% to +4.7%

# Why you should spend local...

'Spend Local' is much more than a catchphrase. Investing in local businesses is the best way you can support the South Waikato community and our local economy following lockdown. Spending locally is great for our district's employment, your shopping experience, socio-economic sustainability and most importantly for South Waikato people.

It's as simple as buying a cup of coffee. You may not think this quick and harmless routine purchase is the key to economic recovery, but it is! Behind that deliciously hot beverage is a supply chain of workers from many industries going back to the forestry-worker harvesting the wood to produce the paper cup. Therefore, your purchase helps businesses involved continue to operate into the future while a sustainable socio-economic environment can create jobs that employ local people.

Buying products from your local clothing retailer, fruit and veg shop, bakery, hardware store or secondhand shop means that your coin continues to circulate after you have made your purchase. Studies show that local businesses are more likely

to keep profits in their area as they spend at these places too. Sports teams, community events and local charities are also more likely to be sponsored or supported by local business people which overall is good for our district community.

Spending locally is an invaluable experience when compared to shopping at a franchise. The key difference being that local retailers know and understand you, their customers! This means they know what products to stock and how to interact with you since they're familiar with our district's easy-going culture. All this combined creates the memorable South Waikato sales experience, that we all know and love. It's important to remember that small businesses operate by selling on a small scale and we are their small

scale, therefore the personalized sales experience can only exist if we continue to support them.

South Waikato towns each respectively have their own unique sense of community which retailers and service providers tap into. One-of-a-kind retailers are the cornerstone of this expression of town individuality and what makes our shopping experiences special so we must protect these businesses. With your help, this can happen, and our unique town retail areas can prosper into the future.

By choosing to spend at your local beauty salon, butchery, sports shop, furniture store or restaurant you are supporting



locals in every sense of the word. Your spending habits in our district is what will help rebuild the South Waikato economy. We all benefit from spending locally, investing in our people and our future.

**So, Spend Local, since it really is a South Waikato thing!**

## Spend local and win

As part of Council's continued focus on its Spend Local campaign we recently ran a couple of competitions to drive engagement from our community with our local businesses. To cater for all generations, we ran a colouring competition for our tamariki and a spend local initiative for our adults.

Adults were to buy something from a local supplier and comment on the Space to Grow and Council Facebook posts, tagging the business they purchased their item at. Sharne King and her family had an enjoyable time at Wawa Café in Tokoroa and were the lucky winners, drawn out of the 48 participants. Congratulations.

Twenty six tamariki participated in the colouring competition, made available from our libraries and i-SITES; and nine year old Nellie took the top prize. Well done!

Mayor Jenny Shattock was on hand to present the lucky winners with their prizes.



Above: Sharne King was very complimentary about her family's dining experience at Wawa Café recently.

Right: Young nine year old Nellie did an exceptionally creative job on her colouring.

"It was great to see so many people spending local. Every cent we spend with our local businesses is critical to their continued success," said Mayor Jenny. "Council kept the spend

local too, with both of these prizes being 100% sourced in the South Waikato."

**Summer SIZZLER**  
Waikato River Trails  
**9TH JANUARY 2021**  
22KM - 11KM - 6KM  
**FUN RUN/WALK EVENT**

ENTER NOW AT  
[WWW.WRTSUMMERSIZZLER.COM](http://WWW.WRTSUMMERSIZZLER.COM)

Check it out! Sizzler 2021 is back, registrations are now open, so get in quick.

It promises to be another great event that goes along our beautiful Waikato River trail.

You can enter in: 22k, 11k or 6k (walk or run). Or grab a couple of mates and enter a team for a fun-filled day!

For more info or to enter visit:  
[www.wrtsummersizzler.com](http://www.wrtsummersizzler.com)

# Ever wonder what's going on at South Waikato District Council?

As a South Waikato ratepayer or resident, there are several ways you can hear about what's happening, what projects Council has on the go, what we're consulting on and what the important issues are.

## In Touch

Our community newsletter comes out six times a year and is delivered to every household in the South Waikato. This newsletter contains news and information about Council, projects, events and district news. It is also available on our website and you can sign up to receive copies via email too.

## Facebook

We post links to media statements, advertisements and announcements, as well as other news and happenings from across the district. Like us at: [www.facebook.com/southwaikatodistrictcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/southwaikatodistrictcouncil).

Or you can follow our Space to Grow Facebook page too here: [www.facebook.com/southwaikato.spacetogrow](http://www.facebook.com/southwaikato.spacetogrow). This page is specifically geared towards attracting new investors and people to the South Waikato.

## Instagram

You can follow us on Instagram here: @southwaikatodc. We use our Instagram account to celebrate our outstanding district environment, community events and other key happenings.

## Council's main Website

Visit [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) for information about Council, the district and our services. Make this a favourite site!

## Council's Space to Grow Website

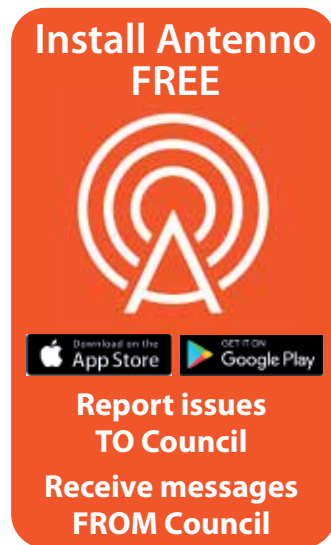
Our Space to Grow Website is aimed at attracting investors to the South Waikato. Visit [www.swnz.co](http://www.swnz.co).

## Antenno


Antenno is a free mobile phone app that can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play.

Log your address and we send you notifications relevant to your address. Things like recycling collection reminders, water outages, traffic management incidents, events etc.

You can also use this app to report issues to Council like leaking water mains, potholes, overgrown vegetation, among other things.



**Install Antenno FREE**



Download on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

**Report issues TO Council**

**Receive messages FROM Council**

## Email

You can email Council on [info@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:info@southwaikato.govt.nz) or use the contact forms for both staff and Elected Members via our website.

## Phone

We can be contacted by phone from 8am to 5pm on 07 885 0340 (Tokoroa office) or 07 883 7189 (Putaruru office) or The Dog in Tirau on 07 883 1202.

## Pop in

Our Council offices in Putaruru and Tokoroa are open Monday to Friday from 8am to 5pm.

The Dog in Tirau is open from 9am to 4pm during winter non-daylight saving, and 9am to 5pm once we start daylight saving at the end of September.

The Dog is open weekends too.

## Fresh produce

The Putaruru Community Garden is now well established in the Grey Street Reserve. Council staff and community volunteers are working hard to keep the gardens growing and looking good, weeding, tidying and making sure the garden is attractive to users.

The Trust wanted to specifically mention the mown grass and weed eating that was done by an anonymous volunteer; a huge thank you to that person!

The garden provides fresh vegetables to needy people - a great community initiative. The garden continues to be maintained during the current COVID-19 recovery period, and is considered an essential service by the Ministry of Social Development, so will continue to operate through any potential escalation of Alert Levels.



## Councillor Gary Petley

Kia Ora Tatou. Welcome to this issue of In Touch. It has been a busy period for all compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic which has impacted us all both globally and nationally.

For all those affected by the latest resurgence of COVID, I wish you a speedy and quick recovery.

As a Council we have tried to adopt a business as usual policy. We have worked hard to reduce the financial impact on ratepayers where we have been able to. Some projects have been put back and the completion of others delayed. This is not ideal. We accept that, but in the current climate hard decisions needed to be made.

Personally it has been a huge learning curve for me and I can assure you that myself, Hans Nelis and Sandra Wallace continue to be a collective voice for Putaruru - Arapuni and the South Waikato. We look forward to the completion of the Putaruru Waterpark Project and the establishment of a fit for purpose skateboard park/basketball facility for our youth. These are nearly ready for public consultation.

Recycling continues to cause concern. We need to be more proactive around this matter.

In closing thank you all for your support. Collectively we can make our District BE something special.

## ARE YOU READY?

**GET READY TO Shake Out**

OCTOBER 15TH 9.30AM

OUR NATIONAL EARTHQUAKE DRILL AND TSUNAMI HIKOI

SIGN UP TODAY SHAKEOUT.GOVT.NZ

## IN brief

- The 2020 S.T.A.R.S programme is running well with a total of 78 children registering and 84 participants involved in the craft sessions.
- There was a 10% uptake of the payment plan offered to dog owners for paying dog registration fees.
- 780 service requests were processed during July 2020, 140 more than July last year.
- The LibraryLink service in Tirau now has a selection of popular titles available at the facility.
- The Tirau i-SITE facility is open seven days a week, 9am to 4pm. Tirau residents have access to limited Council services over the weekends as a result (such as purchasing crates, paying rates).
- Two new poles depicting the parents of Raukawa (Tūrongo and Māhina-arangi) are being carved currently. They will be installed in the Talking Pole Forest in Leith Place.
- New CBD rubbish bins will soon be installed.

## 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 Antenno FREE

or email  
[info@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:info@southwaikato.govt.nz)

## IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email contact: [kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz).

## Councillor Thomas Lee

Kia ora everyone,

As I'm writing this, we as a country are once again on the brink of a resurgence of the virus that paralysed us during March/April/May. With the testing and tracing hopefully it will be a small blip on our radar, so stay safe and use all the correct protocols to protect yourself and others.

I'd like to acknowledge the residents who are out walking in our beautiful district and who carry their bags and pickup rubbish that has been dropped by people who don't seem to have any pride in how our district looks. Thank you and keep up the great work.

Elected Members and Council staff are in the process of doing the LTP or Long Term Plan. This is our opportunity and the communities opportunity to put forward ideas on what we'd like to see happen in the next 10 years. Put forward your ideas/submissions to Council on how you think our district can look.

Last week we received some great news that the Government is contributing to the new Trade Training Centre. This will help the young people in our district to be able to learn and train, and hopefully stay and work locally to grow our economy. Our youth need JOBS and this centre will help them achieve their potential as homeowners and ratepayers.

Finally, a big thank you to every person in the district who got behind the Spend Local campaign which has really helped all of our businesses across the district that struggled during and after the lockdown.

Stay Safe.

## Councillor Hamish Daine

A big Kia ora, Kia orana, Talofa lava and Hello to you all,

Firstly, I would like to sincerely thank you for your commitment to getting through the COVID-19 lockdown. That period was full of uncertain times and as a district and a community we stuck together and got through it very well – thank you.

I would like to highlight the fantastic response that Raukawa provided through their iwi lead response around the COVID-19 testing stations. It was awesome to see everyone working together from South Waikato Pacific Island Community to South Waikato District Council staff and Councillors. Also to the organisations that got out there delivering food parcels and checking on our vulnerable residents, you are all heroes - once again the Tokoroa spirit really shining through.

As we enter into the recovery stage whilst still managing returning residents and any further escalation of the pandemic, we need to really focus on housing and employment. Yes Council has delivered a zero average rate increase this year, however this is OUR opportunity to rebuild our community - we are all in this together.

Some great events have been taking place here in Tokoroa. Examples include the Matariki Night Markets by Nic Waea, and a range of great events held by The Event Girl, Rebecca Garner, along with numerous other events run by our small clubs and groups. Well done to you all. Talk about never waste a crisis! You are all doing it!

As we work our way through winter, please keep safe, keep warm, and if you have anything you need to discuss please feel free to contact me. It is a pleasure advocating for you.

Ma te wa, Meitaki Maata



**Mayor Jenny Shattock**

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

## Tokoroa Ward



**Bill Machen  
Deputy Mayor**

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**Arama  
Ngapo-Lipscombe**

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**Thomas Lee**

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