

Tokoroa Transfer Station opens at a welcome time

Council officially opened the Tokoroa Transfer Station to the public in late October and it is now operating as normal.

The decision to construct the Tokoroa Transfer Station came following public consultation in early 2019.

Council committed to closing the Tokoroa Landfill, building the transfer station at the Newell Road site and transporting rubbish out of the district to the Hampton Downs Landfill for final disposal.

For Council's Assets Group Manager, Ted Anderson, the new transfer station came at a welcome time considering the impact waste has on a global and national scale.

"Waste management and recycling is a priority for our community and now that the Tokoroa Landfill has reached full capacity and the end of the resource consent timeframe, constructing the transfer station was in the best interest of our local residents and ratepayers."

Over the last two decades there has been a significant change in the way waste is viewed and managed both nationally and globally.

There has been a shift from numerous small landfills to

fewer large landfills (327 landfills in 1995, to 43 landfills in 2017). The increased focus on environmental performance and costs have been the biggest driver in this happening.

The opening of the Tokoroa Transfer Station signalled the end of the nearby landfill. All waste will be directed to the new transfer station for rubbish and recycling.

Final closure of the Tokoroa Landfill is underway, with intermediate capping, general tidying of the site and other remediation works.

Council acknowledges the work of contractor DG Waste that has managed the landfill site over the past several years.

Furthermore, Council extends its thanks to contractors CH Construction that constructed the transfer station building and Civil Construction Services that were responsible for the civils and associated site work. This project was completed within budget and on schedule.

The support Council received from EnviroWaste and the South Waikato Achievement Trust (SWAT) is worth noting and has made this transition from the landfill to the transfer station in Tokoroa as seamless as possible.

Opening hours don't differ from the previous Tokoroa Landfill hours. Fees and charges too have not changed and are clearly shown at the facility and on our website.

Staff have produced a video on how to use the Transfer Station. It is accessible via our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-services/rubbish-and-recycling.

Check it out before your next visit.



IN brief

- Council has committed to the CouncilMARK programme for 2021. This is an accreditation run through Local Government New Zealand that provides external and independent validation for quality of work, governance and management.
- Council's tree maintenance programme continues.
- A spate of vandalism in our parks and reserves is disappointing; and costs ratepayers money to repair and replace.
- The floors in the toilets in The Dog have been sealed and repainted.
- There are 45 people on the pensioner housing waiting list.

IN side

- 2-3 Kōrero mai
Mayor's message
- 4-7 Council activity news
Forestry Symposium
- 8-9 Water & stormwater
District reserve news
- 10-13 Community news
Recycling improvement
- 14-15 Facility xmas hours
Be a good neighbour
- 16 Summer pool safety
Councillor contacts

IN house

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

Editorial:

Kerry Fabrie
Renee Renata
Anthony Momoemausu
07 885 0340

Print: GASP Designs

What is Council's Long Term Plan ?

And why is it so important?

The LTP is Council's Long Term Plan. The next LTP looks out ten years from 2021 to 2031.

It outlines Council's direction for the future, including the services and projects planned and the issues and challenges facing our district and community.

It is a contract with the community about what Council is going to do over the next 10 years to make the South Waikato a great place to live, work and play.

We have already been speaking with you through the town concept plans, reserve management plans and other workshops and engagement sessions.

You've given Council some great feedback and ideas to **SECURE TODAY**.

Your feedback is helping to develop the LTP to **SHAPE TOMORROW**.

This is our journey together for a **STRONG FUTURE**.

SECURING TODAY. SHAPING TOMORROW. STRONG FUTURE.

Look out for the LTP Consultation Document in March/April next year.

There will be specific consultation issues/topics that Council is seeking feedback on, as well as seeking general feedback on any other issue, activity or service Council delivers.

It's likely to look something like this (not yet final, so could change).



Voting System & Māori Seats

Council has resolved to retain First Past the Post as a voting system and not introduce Māori seats. The community can demand a poll on each of these topics.

Representation is the governance arm of Council. It affects how people in our community are represented by Elected Members at Council.

The Local Electoral Act 2001 requires Council review its representation every six years. There are six parts to a representation review: voting system, Māori seats, the concept of communities of interest and appropriate representation - wards, numbers of Elected Members and community boards.

The Consultation Document covers Council's resolutions made regarding the voting system and Māori seats. This information is also available on our website and from Council offices and libraries.

HOW TO MAKE A POLL DEMAND

A valid demand for a poll on each of the two issues – Māori seats and/or voting system - must be:

- Made in writing.
- Signed by at least 5% of eligible electors of South Waikato District Council. This will require a minimum of 760 elector signatures. Every elector who signs a demand must also include his or

her full name, and the address for which he or she is qualified as an elector of the South Waikato District Council.

- Delivered to the South Waikato District Council office, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa by 5pm Monday, 22 February 2021.

CURRENT SITUATION

Currently in the South Waikato:

- We use the First Past the Post (FPP) voting system.
- We don't have specific Māori representation through a Māori seat/ward.
- We have one Mayor elected at large over the district.
- In terms of communities of interest:
 - We have three wards represented by ten Councillors – Tirau (one Councillor), Putāruru (three) and Tokoroa (six).
 - We have one community board, the Tirau Community Board.

IS COUNCIL PROPOSING ANY CHANGES?

No, Council has resolved no changes to the current voting system nor Māori seats and has resolved to not hold a poll on

either of these issues. Council also doesn't intend to make any representation changes to wards, numbers of Councillors and community boards, however a demand for a poll could require Council to review its intention.

Why? Elected Members believe that there has always been good representation at Council both in the past and currently, communities are appropriately represented, and the voting system works well and is easily understood.

Our community can lodge a demand for a poll for the voting system and/or Māori seats.

WHAT IS FAIR AND EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION?

Council must consider if its community is fairly and effectively represented and identifies communities of interest. Council believes that current representation reflects appropriate communities of interest and fair representation across our district's varied demographic.

For more info visit our website www.southwaikato.govt.nz and download the document.

**People have until Monday 22 February 2021 to demand a poll.
Visit: www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Click on Community Engagement**

End of year message from the Mayor

Well what a year 2020 has been! Fair to say, in all my 19 years on Council, this past year has certainly been the most unusual.

Without doubt the biggest impact on our community – and Council, has been the COVID-19 pandemic. New buzz words like lockdown, bubbles and alert levels became everyday language. Hand washing, social distancing and contact tracing became the norm.

The impact of COVID-19 on our businesses and our community is huge. As a community we did what we always do, we stepped up, we teamed up, we stood together. The impact of the pandemic will be felt for many years to come. Council is working through this recovery hand in hand with our community, partners, stakeholders and other Government agencies.

Amid the complexities of COVID-19, Council had a big year too. Reflecting on our highlights made me proud of what we have achieved together, especially given the unusual times.

Highlights:

- Improved relationships with community, partners and stakeholders to further collaboration.
- Developed community Concept Plans for Arapuni, Tokoroa and Tirau alongside our community.

- Provided a zero percent rate revenue increase for our community.
- Progressed Putāruru re-zoning for growth. New development coming soon.
- Started, completed and opened the Tokoroa Transfer Station.
- Started the Tokoroa basketball court in collaboration with the Tokoroa Lions. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be open for play.
- Progressed the Tokoroa CBD.
- Launched the Space to Grow initiative to encourage business and economic growth.
- Participated in community events such as Matariki and Festival of Cultures.
- Improved sector partnerships such as forestry, community and education.
- Started the \$9.6 million Tokoroa digester build.
- Added new playgrounds and other leisure facilities, including opening the Tirau Domain.
- Partnered with others to secure significant central Government funding for projects in our community.
- Encouraged our people to support local businesses through the Spend Local campaign.

- Received awesome positive district news coverage in mainstream media, TV and a range of sector magazines.
- Moved Council's loan funding to the Local Government Funding Agency to secure loans at reduced levels.
- Council and the community coming together to organise a Christmas promotion.

A list of highlights wouldn't be complete without mentioning our fantastic community groups and individuals that provided support to our people during COVID-19 – my sincere thanks to all our community heroes.

Lowlights are hard to focus on, but the lowlights often bring learning for the future and I am pleased that we rose to the challenges and despite all, still had a good year.

Our challenges were:

- COVID-19 and the ongoing economic impacts on our businesses and community.
- COVID-19 related deaths that have touched our community.
- No ANZAC Day.
- Delays on the Tokoroa CBD project.
- Lengthy SH1 works.
- Poor behaviour around recycling and illegal dumping.

I want to end off by wishing everyone a wonderful and peaceful summer holiday with whanau and friends.

Ma te rangimarie, ma te atawhai, me te whakapono, ka ora ai te hapori.



WHAT'S HOT



Photo compliments of Arthur H Hiscock

Above and right: Our South Waikato Sport and Events Centre hosting some pretty cool events – regional Tainui Waka Kapahaka, the Motorhome Association and a Christmas market (organised by Lions).

Working with Arapuni Village residents on Civil Defence planning to make the community more resilient. Awesome involvement from the community through the Association, which has been critical in developing a tailored plan.

Warmer weather, summer is coming.

Awesome feedback from our community on the first round of engagement on our parks and reserves future development for the next ten years.

Being thanked on social media by Central Kids Balmoral Kindergarten for our contribution to the new sunshade over their swings. You're very welcome. Hope the tamariki enjoy the benefits of the shade over the sunny summer months!

Below, right: South Waikato Community Health Transport (SWCHT) is transporting people in the community to medical appointments if they have no other means to get there. This service was previously run by the Putāruru Red Cross, but a change of strategic direction by New Zealand Red Cross meant its discontinuation of community transport. Members of Putāruru Red Cross formed the SWCHT to continue this important service for South Waikato communities. Bookings are essential and donations are appreciated. For bookings, please ring the coordinator on 07 883 6022.



Below: Super recycling habits from our community. Pictured is the Tirau recycling site looking very neat and the emptied coloured glass containers at the Tokoroa Transfer Station... fantastic sorting!



Photo compliments of SWCHT

Above, right: Cute-as (☺) babies at Lake Moananui... not so cute is being chased off by very protective parents! Sorry mum and dad, we were just looking at your adorable wee bubs!



Above: Awesome to have Tainui Waka Primary Schools Regional Kapahaka held in our district.

WHAT'S NOT

Delays at summer roadworks... but let's remember we all want the end result! Please be patient and kind to the team on the ground.

Below: Continued poor behaviour from a handful of people at the recycling drop off zones, especially mussel shells in the cardboard container... really!



Tokoroa digester takes shape



Progress on the Tokoroa wastewater digester project is going well.

The external walls of the largest tank (on the right in the main photo) are complete, with internal works underway, including mechanical fixtures and creating the sloping floor. This tank is the largest component of the total project.

The sludge blending tank (smaller tank in the main photo and far right) is also underway.

Construction on two additional tanks has yet to start; with parts already delivered to site.

In the new year, an interesting milestone will be the installation of the roof on the main tank. This will require significantly complex crane operations.

"It is pleasing to see the entire site starting to take shape," said Paul White, Council's Project Manager. "The project has tracked smoothly to date, is on

budget and sits comfortably with the original time frame of an August 2021 completion date."

The total budget for this project is \$9.6 million.

The new digester will deliver efficiencies not possible from our old digester that has reached the end of its useful life. It will also ensure we can cater for our growing communities into the future.



New basketball court at Tokoroa skate park

By the time this edition of In Touch hits mailboxes, the basketball court at the Tokoroa skate park will have been unveiled to the public.

The Tokoroa Lions Club has been instrumental in many community projects since being formed in 1962 and have volunteered countless hours

to the construction of the new basketball court.

Murray Scarlett, who has been a Lions Club member for over 30 years, mentioned that the Club is delighted to be a part of this project and has had several skilled members involved who all love to support community initiatives.

Often their work goes unnoticed and many people are unaware of their voluntary involvement in projects.

They prefer to roll up their sleeves and continue to give back to their community. Council wants to ensure the Club's involvement in this project is well known.

Powerco update

Powerco is investing over \$78 million in the South Waikato to future proof power delivery.

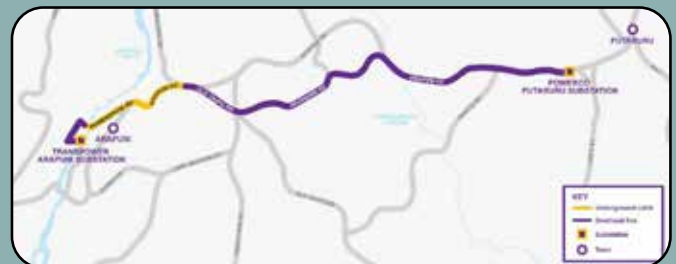
One of their projects is the construction of a new connection to the national grid. They're investing over \$33 million to build a new circuit between Transpower's Arapuni Substation and their existing Putāruru Substation.

Currently the Putāruru, Tirau and Hinuera areas are supplied

by a single Transpower line between the Karapiro and Hinuera Substations.

When this Transpower line experiences an outage or needs maintenance there is complete loss of power to 11,500 customers.

Once complete, the new circuit will improve reliability and increase capacity by providing a new source of supply to Powerco's Putāruru Substation.



This is a Powerco project, not a Council project, however there is a high level of interest from our communities in the north of the district, so we thought we'd include this short story.

For more on the project visit Powerco's website here: <https://powercodelivering.co.nz/projects/south-waikato-national-grid-connection/>.

Service delivery in the north

Bringing the Tirau i-SITE back under the management of Council has provided the opportunity to improve and increase the services offered in Tirau. The facility is open seven days a week, from 9am to 5pm (summer hours). This is unique to other towns in the district because the Council agency doubles as an i-SITE that is required to be open every day.

“This is a big bonus for the Tirau community,” said Ebony Curtin, Council’s Customer Service and Library Manager. “Not only is the facility open seven days, but the number of services we offer has increased.”

In the past, Tirau residents could purchase rubbish bags and crates and pay rates and dog registrations, all via a manual receipting system. The i-SITE is now fully integrated with Council’s systems with access to up to date account information and service requests.

Books and more...

The space provides for a small range of around 130 books and some DVDs for adults and children. The full range of books is accessible on search and the books are transferred from our larger libraries, usually overnight. The Book-a-Librarian service is increasingly popular. This service provides assistance on e-readers and tablets, online services, computer basics, creating a CV, Government information and rates rebate applications, among many others.

“We have added student i-SITE assistant roles to our weekend rosters so that we can provide suitable cover,” continued Ms Curtin. “We’re pleased to be able to provide both employment and opportunity to three local school students.”

The library holiday programmes, including the Summer Reading Programme and the STARS programme are also delivered from the Dog which means participants no longer have to travel to Putāruru to do a report in or participate in these initiatives.

On top of the Council services, is the i-SITE service that assists locals and visitors with business and tourist queries. In this way, Council is better able to support local businesses.

And out of Putāruru...

The services offered from the Putāruru office/library has always been similar to those



offered from our main office in Tokoroa, except perhaps technical staff availability for drop in callers.

“People can call the office and book an appointment in Putāruru with our technical staff so they don’t have to travel all the way to Tokoroa,” continued Ms Curtin.

Ms Curtin highlighted that there are still a number of people in our community who may be eligible for a rates rebate; and encourages people to call in to enquire.

There is a JP Service running out of the Putāruru office every Friday from 10am to noon and Mayor Jenny Shattock is available every fourth Thursday of the month at 10am.

Putāruru also hosts a number of other groups and organisations

with activities and services for the community.

A reminder too, that the Library’s Books-2-U housebound service is available across the district for people with mobility issues, either long term or short term.



Central North Island Wood Council

Wood councils across New Zealand are active in promoting forestry careers and training at schools and in the wider community. They are also the conduit between the industry, its stakeholders and the Government.

The Central North Island is responsible for one third of New Zealand's forest assets and employment.

"We're very excited to have our own wood council representing the sector given that around 25% of employment in the district is directly or indirectly related to this sector of the economy," said Paul Bowden, Council's Economic Development Manager.

Several people and organisations have driven or supported this project:

- Prue Younger, Forest Industry Contractors Association
- Brent Donaldson, Hancock Forest Management
- Amanda Hema, The Stakeholder Agency
- South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT)
- Ministry of Social Development (MSD).

In March 2019 Mayor Jenny Shattock and Council hosted nearly 80 stakeholders from across the Central North Island forestry industry at the South Waikato Forestry Symposium. The main aim of the symposium was to explore growth opportunities for the region afforded by the Government's massive One Billion Trees programme.

Mayor Jenny wanted Council to take a more active role in supporting this sector given the significant opportunities that existed to grow employment locally, as Mayor Jenny stated, "forestry and timber is in the DNA of our community, both our heritage and our future".

Fast forward to November 2020.

In October, Council hosted the third Forestry Symposium, rather appropriately at the New Zealand Timber Museum in Putāruru. This featured the launch of the Generation Programme and the Central North Island Wood Council as well as hearing from a range of industry professionals including

Dennis Neilson from DANA, Paul Gamble of Waratah and representatives from Te Uru Rakau.

Generation Programme

The Generation Programme is a real-world learning experience that combines training and hands on work experience. It starts with a 12-week base camp designed to get participants work ready before introducing them to a range of training and employment opportunities throughout the forestry industry, from nurseries through to pulp and paper production.

Having operated successfully in Gisborne for three years, this program is being established

in Tokoroa to support young people from across the Central North Island to take up careers in the forestry sector.

Students earn while they learn and there is flexibility for them to move mid-stream to other parts of the industry.

The program is delivered in partnership with Toi-Ohomai Institute of Technology in Tokoroa. Participants are also assisted with supported learning, pastoral care and regular reviews to ensure they can transition successfully from the program into employment with local companies, initially in the district and then throughout the Central North Island.

Check out Council's Online Mapping Tools



Did you know that Council has a significant amount of geographic information available to the public via its IntraMaps website.

IntraMaps allows users to access Council's spatial data including property information, three waters service information (including stormwater modelling), the South Waikato District Plan, rubbish and recycling collection service and sites, information on our recreational spaces, community and education information, contour information and aerial photography.

Visit this link on Council's website: <https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-district/maps/online-mapping-tools>.

There is a helpful user guide link on the page too that will explain more about the various features available on the site.

The page also has links to the South Waikato and Waikato Regional Open Data Portals. These contain information about Council-owned datasets.

Council's smart switch to low interest rates



This year Council joined the New Zealand Local Government Funding Agency Ltd (LGFA) scheme, which allows local authorities to borrow at significantly favourable interest rates. The LGFA is a Council Controlled Organisation (CCO) which has 31 shareholders, comprising the New Zealand Government (20%) and thirty councils (80%).

Given the higher levels of loan funding required to take advantage of district and community growth over the next several decades, lending at favourable interest rates is an obvious key benefit for our community.

Council joined LGFA because it enables us to borrow at lower interest margins. These benefits outweigh any costs associated with the LGFA scheme. LGFA has a higher credit rating than any bank in New Zealand, second only to the New Zealand Government, so risk of being involved with the fund is low and the benefits high.

South Waikato Water Supply Series - Arapuni

Wrapping up our water supply series in the South Waikato is the beautiful township of Arapuni.



The Arapuni drinking water supply provides water to a population of approximately 300 people in Arapuni and is therefore classified as a *small* supply under the Health Act.

The Arapuni bore is located on the south-western side of Arapuni adjacent to the Waikato River.

The catchment consists of farmland with a mixture of exotic and native trees along the Waikato River.

The scenic Waikato River Trails also run through the catchment alongside the river. This trail is fenced to prevent people wandering into the farmland and to keep them away from the water supply assets.

The water sourced from the Arapuni bore is pumped through a greensand filter, cartridge filters, UV light and then chlorinated prior to entering the Arapuni Reservoir, from where it is pumped to the network.

Significant investment has been made in recent years into the processes, monitoring instrumentation, storage, and process controls to improve the final water quality and safety of the supply.

The Arapuni township is the most affected in the South Waikato whenever water restrictions are imposed.

Residents will soon see special water conservation signage installed at town entrances.

The water restrictions are enforced as a part of Council's resource consent. As part of this consent, Council is required by Waikato Regional Council to have approved conservation plans.

The aim of these plans is to ensure there is plenty of water all year round for all residents.

Protect our stormwater systems

When it rains, water comes into contact with many surfaces that it cannot soak through. These include roofs of houses, sealed roads and footpaths.

When rainwater cannot soak away, it can pond and may eventually cause flooding in some areas.

Therefore, water runoff must be managed correctly. One effective way to dispose of stormwater is draining this into the ground through a process called soakage.

Stormwater runoff can contain materials that have been washed off the ground, roofs and streets. The quality of stormwater and its effects on the environment, such as land erosion and waterway pollution, will differ depending on where the stormwater has drained from.

Stormwater and wastewater systems are quite different. Stormwater often goes directly into waterways.

Stormwater generally enters the network through sumps

or by direct connection to the pipes from properties.

We have to protect our stormwater system by not discharging anything other than stormwater to the system.

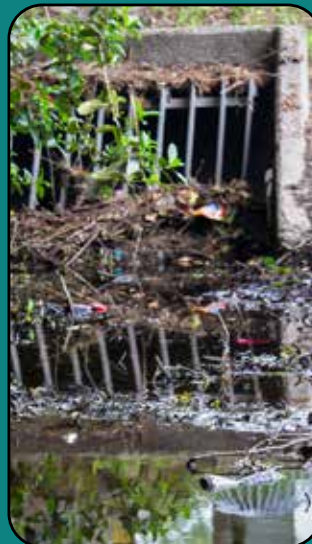
It is everyone's responsibility to prevent unwanted debris from entering the stormwater pipes.

Council must be informed as soon as possible about any prohibited material entering the stormwater system, so that our team can get out and sort it.

We also need to make sure that the open drains that drain the stormwater away, are kept clear of rubbish. So please don't dump your rubbish over the fence, if you happen to live beside one of these open drains.

If you see poor behaviour that could compromise our stormwater system, report it.

Keep it clean South Waikato!



Putāruru Summer Pools

Now open for the summer. Will close in March 2021. Entry fees apply.

Located: 84 Reservoir Street, 12 noon to 6pm.

Tirau Summer Pools

Now open for the summer. Will close in March 2021. Entry fees apply.

Located: 11 Goodwin Street, 12 noon to 6pm.

Putāruru Christmas Parade

Bring the family, come along and enjoy the annual festivities that Putāruru has to offer. Float parade travels up and down Princes Street ending at Glenshea.

*Friday 11 December 2020
Hours: 5 - 9pm*

Twilight Christmas Block Party - Tokoroa

Come and join the community for a Block Party celebration in Leith Place.

Good music, live entertainment, range of market stalls, great food, lots of giveaways and so much more! Bring your chair or picnic mat!

Late night madness market, Rosebery Mall from 4pm

Christmas Parade, Bridge Street from 5pm

Block Party, Leith Place from 6pm

Saturday 12 December 2020, 4pm to 8pm, Tokoroa CBD.

Check out Council's website for more events:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

Anyone can submit an event using the blue SUBMIT EVENT button on the right of the Events Calendar page to display their event here.

Get out and enjoy what the South Waikato has to offer

The holiday season is here. While many people may have written 2020 off, for residents in the South Waikato it's a chance to enjoy the great outdoors and still take in what a Kiwi summer has to offer.

There is plenty to do for everyone in our picturesque reserves, where friends and whanau can soak up the summer sun, relax around a sizzling BBQ or swim the waters for hours on end.

Whakamaru Reserve is one of the South Waikato's more popular rural reserves. Situated on the edge of Lake Whakamaru with a boat ramp located at the north end and a small beach at the south end, it's a lovely spot to pitch a tent.

Dunham's Point located east of Whakamaru Reserve on Ongaroto Road is a popular location where visitors can park up and enjoy the scenery and be amongst nature.

Jones Landing remains another camping spot that attracts locals and visitors. Close by is the Arapuni leg of the Waikato River Trails, which provides rewarding views of the Waikato River and gets the heart pumping.

Little Waipa, on Horahora Road, rounds out the main river side reserves and is an ideal spot where holiday goers can exchange noise for peace.

In addition to our reserves, a visit to Te Waihou Walkway and Blue Spring is a must. Over time we've noticed a significant improvement of the vegetation in the riverbed and on the banks. Swimming continues to be discouraged in the Blue Spring environment. This taonga is special and beautiful. Let's all try to keep it that way.

For bush walks through natural forest with an abundance of birds and native trees, Jim Barnett reserve is a must do.

The Putāruru and Tirau summer pools are open and the Indoor Heated Pools in Tokoroa remains open over summer.

If you're looking for a bit of quiet time, the South Waikato libraries will have a plethora of activities and programmes to cater for all ages.

Whatever you and your family get up to these holidays, enjoy the festive season in the South Waikato at our local parks, reserves and leisure facilities.



Note: If you plan on camping in the South Waikato, you do need a permit. Apply online at www.southwaikato.govt.nz.

Permits are free.

Have your say on our parks and reserves



Council is now into its second phase of consultation with the community and calling for written submissions and/or objections to the draft Reserve Management Plans (RMPs) before we adopt and implement them from 2021.

The Consultation Document (CD) invites members of the public to view the draft RMPs compiled by the Parks and Reserves Manager and offer any written suggestions or objections.

A Council hearing will take place in 2021 where submitters will have the opportunity to speak to Council on their submission. This is a chance for the public to have their say on how our reserves are managed, and the options put forward for the further development of our reserves over the next 10 years. The RMPs will then be reviewed and adopted by Council.

Draft RMPs have been streamlined into Rural, Urban and Sportsground Plans, and an overall strategic/policy Reserve Management Plan. They include future development options for each park, reserve and sportsground.

Results from the first consultation showed some key findings that our communities hope to see improved in the future, including:

- Dog parks
- Basketball court
- Skate park items
- Court resurfacing
- Shelters
- Seating

Consultation closes on Monday 18 January 2021. Head to our website for information on how to submit or obtain the CD and draft RMPs.

Recycling bins for Forest View High School

In 2019, Forest View High School became the first secondary school in the district to sign up to the Enviroschools programme. Every Wednesday students participating in the school's Akoranga programme, have been involved in a range of school and community environmental projects. The school-wide recycling project has already begun and will be an important focus throughout 2021.

Council is proud to support the recycling project and recently gifted new recycling bins for use at the tuck shop area.

Some of the other projects the school is involved in include planting over two hundred natives trees thanks to Council environmental funding,

doing restoration projects with an emphasis on Matarawa stream and Lake Moananui, gathering seasonal data on the water quality, clearing rubbish from the lake and supporting

farmers with riparian planting programmes on both the Matarawa and Pokaiwhenua streams. All these projects will continue into 2021 with NCEA credits for all three levels.

Forest View High School acknowledged Council for the environmental funding, the Enviroschools coordinator Camilla Carty-Melis and most importantly the positive approach from the students.



Kerbside clean up – well done South Waikato!

Since kicking off the recycling education campaign in July this year, contamination levels in household urban crates is nearing zero! This is a fantastic effort from our urban households.

Data for the first Monday in November from the recycling collection run in Arapuni and Tirau revealed close to zero contamination. What a great effort. But it's not just a great effort from Arapuni and Tirau, Putāruru and Tokoroa residents are showing similar near zero contamination levels.

"We know it's been a bit of a rough road for our residents, and there have been numerous frustrated calls to Council while residents get to grips with the new recycling rules," said Phil Burt, Council's Infrastructure Maintenance Manager. "These rules are necessary to ensure that our recycling isn't rejected by the processing plant."

These results speak volumes for the tremendous collective

effort of our urban residents and the high levels of care and responsibility almost everyone is taking regarding their recycling.

In the early days of the education and more stringent sticker regime upwards of 800 household crates district wide were stickered in a fortnight period. Compare that to the last fortnightly cycle in October when only 31 crates were stickered across the district!

The key contamination issues continue to be lids, tops and caps, incorrect plastics and unwashed products. For a recap of the rules see the box alongside.

Also on the positive side is the significantly lower levels of

contamination at the recycling drop off zones in Tirau, Putāruru and Tokoroa. Tirau's move to its new site and limited hours with the education officer on site has reduced contamination levels significantly. The new Tokoroa Transfer Station has also seen huge improvement, with near perfect coloured glass recycling.

Unfortunately continued abuse at the rural stations resulted in the Te Waotu and Kuranui stations closing. Council will be looking at possible alternatives for rural recycling.

Rural residents are encouraged to coincide their normal shopping trips into town with the urban recycling drop off zone opening days and times. These are on our website.

Key issues

LIDS, CAPS, TOPS

Remove ALL lids, caps and tops on plastics, glass and tins. These items – regardless of plastic type – are too small to process through the machine. For those wondering about this change - our recycling used to be sorted manually, but it isn't anymore. Small tops jam the machines and cause considerable downtime. Please put them in the rubbish.

DIRTY PRODUCTS

Dirty, unrinsed and unwashed recycling contaminates the rest of the recycling. Clean all products. If that is not possible, put them in the rubbish.

PLASTICS

ONLY plastics 1s and 2s can be recycled. Key issues that continue to cause confusion are margarine containers, yoghurt pots, ice cream containers, soft plastics like lettuce bags, chip packets and plastic wrap – all of these need to go in the rubbish. OR, as in the case with ice cream containers that are quite durable, reuse them for leftovers, lunch boxes or craft/toy containers.

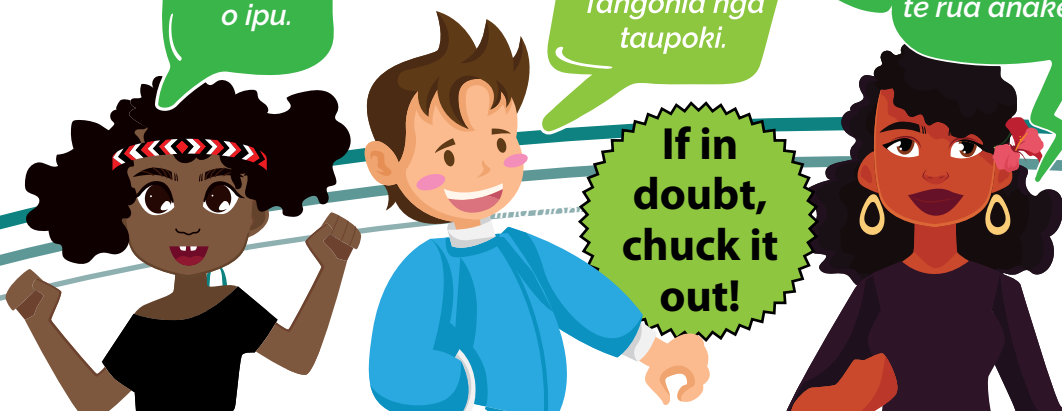
Please rinse containers.
Horoi o ipu.

Remove lids and caps.
Tangohia ngā taupoki.

Only plastics 1 and 2.

He kirihou tahi me te rua anake.

If in doubt, chuck it out!





Shontelle Wilson

South Waikato Mayoral Scholarships awarded for 2021

Mayor Jenny Shattock is proud to announce the recipients of the two Mayoral Scholarships and one Mayoral Merit award at the schools' respective prizegiving ceremonies held recently.

Congratulations to Colin Phayer of Tokoroa High School and Shontelle Wilson and Deklin Taumata of Forest View High School who were the successful candidates.

Mr Phayer and Miss Wilson were each awarded a \$10,000 scholarship, payable at \$2,500 per year for a maximum of four years, depending on their course of study. Mr Taumata received a special Merit award of \$5,000, a one-off payment for his first year of study.

"We received numerous applications this year from exceptional students of South Waikato families," said Mayor Shattock. "Every year I say the same thing - deciding which students to award these scholarships to is one of the toughest jobs I have to do as Mayor."

Applicants indicated interest in a range of degrees such as medicine, surveying, management, engineering, law, science, nursing and the arts. Students were shortlisted and interviewed by the panel of Mayor Shattock, Deputy Mayor Bill Machen, Council's Human Resources Manager Sue Brown and Gateway Coordinator Dianne Collins.

"It is always one of the best days at the office when we get to interview such fantastic young people," said Mayor Shattock. "The students all displayed such confidence, determination and ability."

"Special congratulations to Colin, Shontelle and Deklin. You all interviewed exceptionally well and have all the credentials. You will surely do yourselves, your school, your Council and your district proud.

"If the calibre of these young people is anything to go by, we can all rest easy that our future is in extremely capable hands," concluded Mayor Shattock.



Colin Phayer and Mayor Jenny



Deklin Taumata



Hancock Forest Management forest clean up!

For the second year running, Hancock Forest Management's forestry crews have done a massive clean up of public roads leading into Kinleith forest. This year, the most common items were bottles and cans thrown from vehicles. Sadly, there was an increase in dumped household rubbish bags. Picking up rubbish on the sides of roads poses safety issues for the crews, the risk of broken glass, needles, rotting food and the unknown. Thankfully all safety procedures and process in place kept the crews safe!

Unfortunately, the team barely scratched the surface in retrieving all rubbish from the roadside. Over ten trailer loads of rubbish were sent to the landfill which was such a shame! Council sponsored the landfill fees and DG Waste assisted with resource outside of normal operating hours.

A big thank you all Hancock forestry crews for their outstanding efforts this year. We look forward to the 2021 Hancock annual clean up.

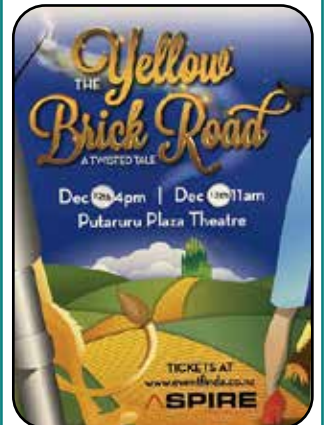


UP COMING EVENTS

Aspire Dance Academy - Mini Show - Sat 12 Dec, 11am - Tickets available through Eventfinda. Witness the cuteness of young performers as they imagine and dream, through dance and drama, about what they want to be when they grow up.



Aspire Dance Academy - Big Show - Sat 12 Dec, 4pm and Sun 13 Dec, 11am - Tickets available through Eventfinda. The Story of Scarecrow, Tin Man and The Lion who are looking for their heart, courage, brain and a belief in themselves.



Be brave... be kind... be you! - A performance featuring our students from eight years to adults as they showcase their drama, hip hop, jazz, ballet, tap, acro, musical theatre, and lyrical pieces.



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

Chorus cabinet art is spreading throughout district

The Chorus cabinet art initiative began in 2010 to try to reduce the amount of vandalism on cabinets. It proved so successful they have extended it throughout the country and now complete on average 100 murals a year. Four cabinets, one each in Tokoroa, Arapuni, Putāruru and Tirau, were chosen for beautification and painting is either complete or underway.



Arapuni - Louis Mikaere

Korimako - these birds are painted to raise awareness on the effects we have towards our natural world.

Why Korimako for Arapuni? It reflects the kaupapa/purpose of the wildlife sanctuary (Maungatautari) in the background.



Putāruru - Dylan King

Kotahitanga Tiki signifies unity of two. Dylan has tribal links to this area.

Why Kotahitanga Tiki for Putāruru? Because it signifies unity of cultures, man and woman and earth and sky.



Tirau - Sarah Kolver

Tirau at sunrise - this design focuses on bright colourful shapes and tones, with the central front image being a Kingfisher sitting on a wire at sunrise.

The sunrise colour continues through the sides and back of the cabinet, where cubist shapes merge and join to create optical illusions.



"I would love this cabinet to be a celebration of colour that embraces the vibrancy of the Tirau township," said artist Sarah.

Why Tirau at Sunrise for Tirau? As Sarah suggests, it celebrates the vibrancy of the town.



Arapuni Hall turns 50!

Mark Brawn, local Arapuni artist in front of his mural in the hall.

Over 70 mostly ex-residents of Arapuni attended the recent 50th birthday celebration of the Arapuni Hall.

The weather played ball as guests visited the hall, bowling club and enjoyed a few walks around the village and a bus tour to the dam and surrounds; likely a trip down memory lane for many people who attended.

Thanks to Neville Ormsby who drove one of his busses and long-time resident Dean Gittings for sharing his vast knowledge of Arapuni.

Organiser Trish Murray commented that the tour guides probably learnt more about the village from the attendees than they themselves knew!

Lunch options included local business Rhubarb Café or the Bowling Club; which was a popular option probably due again to memory lane.

Hats off to Trish and her organising committee for recognising the significance of this milestone so that users and ex-users of the hall could enjoy this celebration.

"Judging by comments on the day and the emails I have since received, it seems people really appreciated the event," said Trish. "I also want to acknowledge the generous support from local businesses and the effort of the volunteers."



The cake cutting was done by the guest from the furthest away Kirsty Garner (right) who drove up from Lawrence and the oldest guest Shirley Briggs (left) who is now living at Rangiuira Village.

What a difference a week makes in Spring

The Spring Event at the Putāruru Community Garden planned for 8 November was postponed due to an unsettled forecast.

Seven days later a perfect Sunday brought people along wanting to make the most of a big selection of plants and second hand tools at good prices - there are some seriously keen gardeners in Putāruru!

All age groups over a busy couple of hours meant the organisers

took a healthy profit to put towards their fixed running costs.

The Putāruru Community Garden hold monthly sales. The next one is on Tuesday 29 December, from 9.30am to 10.00am. Some fresh vegetables are available for sale, when spare.



Council grant allocations benefit many

Many people may not be aware that Council funds and supports a large number of organisations in the South Waikato with programmes, events, administration, office support and other projects. These projects add considerable value to the social fabric of our communities.

Council funds the Community Development Grants and administers the Creative Communities Scheme on behalf of Creative New Zealand.

The respective Allocation Committees recently met to decide which applicants were to receive project funding.

The aim of the Creative Communities scheme is to increase participation in the arts at a local level, and increase the range and diversity of arts available to communities.

This year, over \$27,000 was requested and considered for five projects ranging from murals, productions, carry pillows and market decorations.

Due to funds available only \$11,313 was allocated to support these requests.

The Community Development Scheme provides support for a wider range of initiatives.

The Community Development Grant allocation for 2020 was

\$60,000. The aim of this scheme is to help organisations with a range of initiatives, such as helping to get an event or programme started, helping organisations become self sufficient, upgrading existing facilities to improve the safety and wellbeing for users and supporting projects that benefit a range of groups.

This year alone over \$120,000 was requested by 14 groups and organisations.

Council was able to contribute and support requests such as:

- Kindergarten shade sails
- Kitchen upgrades

- Marae capital rebuild
- Purchase of new van
- Establish a kindergarten mara kai (garden)
- Venue hire for convention
- Educational resources
- Project delivery
- Building improvements and equipment
- Safety upgrades to sports arena.

More information on grants can be found on Council's website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz

Whakahaumarū Aotearoa 2020

Whakahaumarū Aotearoa - New Zealand ShakeOut is our national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi.

This year ShakeOut was held on 15 November. It's a great way to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake — Drop, Cover and Hold — and to practice a tsunami hīkoi (evacuation) if in a coastal area.

Every year thousands of people around the country participate. A number of organisations in the South Waikato participated this year too.

We snapped a few photos of Council staff and received more photos from South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWIPICS).

Here we are practising the Drop, Cover and Hold exercise and other more obscure methods to ensure safety like doorways, bubble wrap and mind power.





South Waikato District Council

COUNCIL OFFICES

The Council offices in Tokoroa and Putāruru* will be closed from 3pm on Thursday 24 December 2020 and will re-open again at 8am on Tuesday 5 January 2021. Council can be contacted 24/7 through the holiday period via the main office 07 885 0340 or Putāruru office 07 883 7189. *Reports via Antenna will continue to be logged into the Service Request System, but only once a day, not as they come in.*

Putāruru Library opening hours are below.

	THURS 24 Dec	FRI 25 Dec	SAT 26 Dec	SUN 27 Dec	MON 28 Dec	TUES 29 Dec	WED 30 Dec	THURS 31 Dec	FRI 1 Jan	SAT 2 Jan	SUN 3 Jan	MON 4 Jan	TUES 5 Jan
SW Sport & Events Centre	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tokoroa Library	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Putāruru Library	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open	open	open	closed	closed	closed	closed	open
Tirau i-SITE (Library Link)	open	closed	open	open	open	open	open	open	open	open	open	open	open

POOLS

The South Waikato Heated Indoor Pools are open during the festive season from Monday to Friday from 5.30am to 8pm and on weekends and public holidays from 7.30am to 8pm, except for:

- Open on Christmas Eve (Thursday 24 December 2020) closing at 3pm
- Closed on Christmas Day (Friday 25 December 2020)
- Open on New Years Eve (Thursday 31 December 2020) closing at 3pm
- Open on New Years Day from 12 noon (Friday 1 January 2021)

The seasonal pools in Tirau and Putāruru will be closed on Christmas Day, and open every other day from 12 noon to 6.00pm.

URBAN CONNECTOR

The Urban Connector bus service will run as normal during the Christmas period - Monday to Friday, normal times. The only days the service won't be running is on public holidays such as Friday 25 December 2020, Monday 28 December 2020 (ie Christmas) and Friday 1 January 2021 and Monday 4 January 2021 (ie, New Years).



Every year thousands of people suffer from food poisoning. Most of these cases occur in homes just like yours. You can help prevent your whānau from becoming ill by following the 3Cs - clean, cook, chill.

Clean

Before you prepare food and after handling raw meat:

- Wash hands, chopping boards, dishes and utensils (like knives) in hot and soapy water.
- Dry them properly - preferably air dry (not with a towel).

Cook

- Cook food (especially chicken and mince) thoroughly all the way through until the juices run clear.
- Reheat until hot. Warm does not kill bacteria, hot does.

Chill

To stop bacteria contaminating or growing in your food:

- Don't leave food out of the fridge for too long.
- Cover and keep in the fridge.
- Keep cooked and raw food separate.
- Refrigerate within two hours or bin it. If in doubt, throw it out!

For more information on food safety this summer visit:

www.mpi.govt.nz

Noise, neighbours and

With summer holidays and the festive season upon us, we're all settling down to a Christmas break with whānau and friends. The days are longer. The nights warmer. Christmas celebrations are underway. These get togethers and celebrations can come with a bit more noise than usual.

Here's some tips regarding noise, neighbours and respect this festive season.

- Let your neighbours know if you are having a party that is likely to run late into the night. Most people are okay with the odd party.
- Be respectful of your neighbours with music and merriment noise levels. Loud music and noisy boisterous behaviour fuelled by an abundant supply of

Council Christmas Closure Hours



RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

ONLY Christmas Day and New Year's Day collections are affected. These are the ORANGE areas in Tokoroa.


If your normal collection is Friday 25 December and Friday 1 January, your collection will move to the following days, *ie, Saturday 26 December and Saturday 2 January. These are the DARK ORANGE & LIGHT ORANGE collection days on the recycling calendar.*

NO OTHER COLLECTION AREA IS AFFECTED.

Residents - please note the Tokoroa and Putāruru Transfer Stations will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

District recycling drop off zones are available on normal days. See our website. These sites will be cleared daily or as required over the Christmas period.

Recycling drop-off zone customer behaviour. PLEASE:

- Flatten and fold cardboard boxes. Unflattened boxes fill the cages too quickly.
- Put the right colour bottles in the right coloured bins.
- All recycling must be clean. Rinse plastic, glass and tins. Remove food scraps. If it can't be cleaned put it in the rubbish.
- No lids, caps or tops.
- ONLY plastics 1s and 2s can be recycled. Look for these symbols: 

	THURS 24 Dec	FRI 25 Dec	SAT 26 Dec	SUN 27 Dec	MON 28 Dec	TUES 29 Dec	WED 30 Dec	THURS 31 Dec	FRI 1 Jan	SAT 2 Jan	SUN 3 Jan	MON 4 Jan	TUES 5 Jan
Tokoroa Transfer Station	open	closed	open	open	open	open	open	open	closed	open	open	open	open
Putāruru Transfer Station	open	closed	open	open	closed	open	closed	open	closed	open	open	closed	open

PUBLIC TOILETS at the Impact Hub space in Leith Place, Tokoroa

The public toilets in Leith Place will be open (seven days a week) during the festive season from 9am to 5pm, except for Christmas Day (25 December 2020) and Boxing Day (28 December 2020); and New Year's Day (1 January 2021) and Monday 4 January 2021.

and respect over Xmas

alcohol can be annoying to those in your neighbourhood who are trying to sleep.

- When the party is winding down, it can sometimes spill out on to the street as we say our goodbyes. It's a nice gesture for your neighbours to keep goodbyes on the footpath short and quiet.

Got a noise complaint?

For those who are having issues in the night with loud party noise, you can report this through to the on-duty After Hours Noise Officer. Here's some clarity into how noise complaints work. It is best to call 07 885 0340. If the call is made after-hours, follow the voice prompts to be put through to the after-hours contractor.

While you are welcome to contact Council via Facebook and Antenna, please note that these mediums are not attended 24/7, so immediate action won't always happen.

You're welcome to use these methods to let us know of concerns you have, but calling 07 885 0340 is the best way to get quick action.

If there are any follow up queries regarding noise control services or complaints made, please contact the Environmental Health team for further information; again by calling 07 885 0340.

Council Officers can investigate noise complaints and, under legislation, can require the noise to stop. Ultimately however it is the responsibility of the occupier of a property to control or limit noise.

Be respectful of your neighbours this Christmas.



IN brief

- There are two multi-day events at the Tokoroa airfield in December. See website for details.
- South Waikato road repairs by Council and Waka Kotahi are underway.
- Work to fix the vehicle and pedestrian bridge at Te Waihou is complete.
- Site preparation for the Tirau wastewater wetland is set to start by Christmas.
- Community feedback on the changing face of the Putāruru waterpark has been extremely positive. Next step is the detailed design phase.
- Over 50% of the budget for the Warm Homes Clean Air programmes is committed.
- The after-hours call centre service continues to show efficiencies.
- The 2020 STARS school holiday programme is complete.
- Library Lovers sessions have resumed at the Tokoroa Library for our avid readers.
- Keep up with contact tracing for COVID-19.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with council information via:

www.southwaikato.govt.nz

[www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)

Download Antenna FREE

or email
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter via email contact: kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.



Keeping our temporary pools safe for our tamariki

More information, visit Council's website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz

Keep our tamariki safe this summer by ensuring that you follow some basic safety guidelines for your pool that contains less than 400mm of water. Most often these are the pools that aren't installed all year round but are purchased from retailers for our whanau and friends to enjoy over the hot summer holidays... well at least we hope it's going to be hot!

If you do buy a pool that can hold more than 400mm then you may need a building consent for its installation which may include the provision of compliant barriers, fences, gates etc. ***This is a significant cost that is often overlooked at the time of purchase.***

Pools that can't hold more than 400mm of water don't need to be fenced and therefore registered with Council, however there are some sensible practices around their use. The following is important for the safety of our community.

Don't place these pools in an open front yard. You have no control over other children finding their way into your pool. This could have tragic consequences.

Some more great hints:

- Always supervise children in or near your pool.
- Maintain garden fences and keep gates and other means of access in good condition.
- Always make sure the gate to the yard is safely shut and can't be propped open.
- Set rules of behaviour around the pool and teach your children water safety, swim and survive skills.
- Empty the pool when not in use.
- Clear away toys and flotation aids from the pool area when not in use (these can be super tempting for littlies).
- Learn first aid and resuscitation.

TALKING ROAD SAFETY

With the weather warming up and the sun shining (sometimes!), here are a few reminders for those about to hit the road over the holiday.

Warm weather means a warm car. Check that your cooling system is working well. An overheated car can cause expensive damage and ruin your holiday. Check cooling fluids are at the correct level and your radiator is clear. Modern car radiator fans no longer run continuously so can be hard to find fault. When in doubt talk to your mechanic.

If you plan on towing a boat or caravan a good cooling system is especially important!

Remember both your boat trailer and caravan need to have a current warrant of fitness so don't leave it too late. Check the tyres on both and ensure that all the coupling devices, tow-ball, safety chain and brakes (if fitted) are working and corrosion free.

Don't forget you and your family (and pets) need cooling too! Ensure you have plenty of fluids with you (non-alcoholic) and don't forget to plan your journey stops to flush out the fluids.



Mayor Jenny Shattock

0274 416 230
Jenny.Shattock
@southwaikato.govt.nz

Tokoroa Ward



Bill Machen
Deputy Mayor
0274 715 899
Bill.Machen
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Arama
Ngapo-Lipscombe
0275 339 988
Arama.
Ngapo-Lipscombe
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Thomas Lee
0273 321 292
Thomas.Lee
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Marin Glucina
0210 284 3214
Marin.Glucina
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Hamish Daine
021 125 9225
Hamish.Daine
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Alex Jansen
0279 581 906
Alex.Jansen
@southwaikato.govt.nz

Putāruru Ward



Sandra Wallace
0210 291 3702
Sandra.Wallace
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Hans Nelis
0210 552 306
Hans.Nelis
@southwaikato.govt.nz



Gary Petley
0274 836 809
Gary.Petley
@southwaikato.govt.nz

Tirau Ward



Peter Schulte
021 434 933
Peter.Schulte
@southwaikato.govt.nz