

Wheelie bins coming... start date Monday 6 September

Wheelie bins will be arriving at urban properties around the district during July and August.

In November 2019, Council resolved to introduce a 240 litre wheelie bin (yellow lid) for recycling and a 120 litre wheelie bin (red lid) for rubbish for its urban kerbside household waste collection service.

This followed significant public consultation

during September and October 2019 where we received 546 submissions, with 407 submitters opting for the wheelie bins we will soon be rolling out.

Council was very pleased with the level of engagement. The number of submissions received was very high for our district and community; and provided a good steer for Council.

Through the submissions it was clear that wheelie bins were favoured because of minimising animal activity, easier

and safer to handle, large families and convenience.

The new service was due to be introduced last year but was postponed to 1 July this year due to COVID.

Unfortunately COVID had not quite finished creating headaches for our wheelie bin journey and continued to impact Council and our community by delaying the rollout of the wheelie bins for a second time. The new start date will be Monday 6 September 2021, meaning a two-month delay.

Staff made every effort to work around bin production and shipping delays, but due to slippage in critical areas out of our control, including shipping movements, in late May Council staff made the difficult decision to move to Plan B and postpone the start date.

Green bags will continue to be collected from urban kerbsides during the two-month delay. Green bags will be supplied free of charge to urban properties. At the time of writing Council was still working through a system for this and likely at the time of reading, we will already have issued further information as to the system.

Council knows many in our community are very much looking forward to moving to wheelie bins.

Council's promotion on wheelie bins will take a back seat until around mid-July again where we will once again raise the profile of the wheelie bins.

Council will continue with its extensive information campaign during July, August and in to September.

See more on pages 6 & 7.



For more information visit www.thewastecollectionproject.co.nz

IN brief

- The Benalder Reserve has been renamed Butler Reserve in recognition of the Butler family that was instrumental in providing land for the development of the Strathmore suburb in Tokoroa.
- In addition, the Mountbatten Reserve was renamed Edinburgh Reserve because most of the frontage of this reserve is actually on Edinburgh Street.
- Commissioning of the new Tokoroa digester has started.

IN side

- 2-5 - Community news
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IN house

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

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WHAT'S HOT

The Tokoroa airfield user group meetings - great to see.

Receiving 146 submissions on the LTP from our community who covered 353 submission points – great feedback!

Two days of LTP hearings, listening to 28 submitters present their feedback, ideas, views and suggestions.

Wheelie bins for urban kerbside collections.



Above - re-opening of Te Waihou Walkway following a one month part closure due to tree felling. All open again now. Thank you to users for their patience and cooperation.

Below - Pink Shirt Day. Standing up together and speaking out against bullying. Kōrero mai, kōrero atu, mauri tū, mauri ora.



Below - the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust's three great contract opportunities coming up in the next few months for South Waikato building tradespeople and building material suppliers, including the South Waikato Trades Training Centre, an office building in Tokoroa and a retail development in Putāruru. SWIFT is keen to have South Waikato tradespeople and suppliers tender for these three projects and hosted a well-attended Information Session at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre during May. For more info visit <https://swift.org.nz/>.



Above - the Mayor and Councillor visit to the Better Eggs Forest Free Range site in late May proved interesting and enjoyable. The group were keen to learn a bit more about the operation, picking their way through large numbers of happy, healthy, clucking free range birds.



WHAT'S NOT

Frosty mornings and windy days!

Delay of the wheelie bins due to shipping issues.

Vandalism of the Arapuni Dam toilets is not hot. Due to deliberate setting of a fire, the toilets will be closed until mid-June. Senseless waste of ratepayer money and the inconvenience of the conveniences being unavailable!

Welcoming new New Zealanders to Aotearoa

Council was thrilled to hold its first citizenship ceremony in well over a year. It's one of Mayor Jenny Shattock's most enjoyable functions and is always a special occasion when we get to welcome new New Zealanders. During May we welcomed eleven new citizens who now call Aotearoa home. They hailed from Germany, India, England, United States of America, Philippines and Tonga. A selection of photos is shown.



Where are we at with the Long Term Plan 2021-31?

South Waikato District Council was open for public consultation on its Long Term Plan (LTP) 2021-31 during March and April.

Council would like to thank the 146 people in our community who took the time to make submissions on Council's proposed LTP, raising 353 separate submission points.

During the hearings held on Monday 17 and Tuesday 18 May, we heard from 28 speakers.

After hearing from submitters, Council deliberated on Wednesday 19 May, but didn't finish deliberations.

At the time of writing Council was scheduled to continue deliberations and make final decisions on Thursday 25 May. Also at the time of writing final average rate revenue increase was not known nor the outcomes of the key issues proposed.

By the time you read this, Council would have put out a media statement capturing the outcomes and the average rate revenue increase.



New carpark at the Tokoroa Skatepark opens and new basketball hoops added

Following some incidents of vandalism at the Tokoroa Skatepark which involved rubbish bins being smashed and the basketball hoops being left in a unusable state, Council has now installed new spring-loaded hoops which look quite cool.

In addition, the new carpark has been a welcome addition for users.



It's storytime time... times two!

Books are an incredible way to entertain tamariki, keep our imagination alive, grow our love for reading and celebrate our beautiful languages. During May we had two lovely opportunities to celebrate both books and language.

The National Simultaneous Storytime is held annually in Australia and New Zealand, and further afield.

Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. Now in its 21st successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using

a children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas.

Our libraries supported the Symposium this year with six events across the district at the Tokoroa Library, Putāruru Library, Samoa Taumafai Aoga Childcare Centre, St Marks Community Preschool, Clyde Street Kindergarten and Paraonui Kindergarten.

The Simultaneous Storytime promotes the value of reading and literacy, the value and fun

of books, storytime activities in libraries and communities around the country and provides opportunities to involve parents, grandparents, media and others to participate in and enjoy the occasion.

Thank you to our own Animal Control and Compliance Manager Kerry Beckett and members of the community Trish Priscott, Jan Stobie, Patoa Tavai and Heather Rice for

bringing the story to life!

The book this year - Give me some space by Philip Bunting, told the story of Una and her fascination with space and wanting to be an astronaut.

Given the focus of the story, storytellers across Australia and New Zealand were joined by astronaut Dr Shannon Walker who was reading from the International Space Station - how cool is that!



As part of Samoan Language Week celebrations in the South Waikato, Mayor Jenny Shattock broadened her use of the Samoan language by heading to the Samoa Taumafai Aoga Amata to read a children's book completely in Samoan! Mayor Jenny chose the book Fe'ausi by Vaitoa Baker much to the delight of the tamaiti (children).

The tamaiti of the aoga (school) then performed songs to thank Mayor Jenny for coming in to visit. Our Pasifika community here in the South Waikato is one of our many strengths and one of the

reasons behind our district being such a special place. Ensuring we acknowledge our Pacific languages and cultures is important not just for ourselves today, but for our future generations. Schools, workplaces and churches would have no doubt joined in on the celebrations right across the country.

This year's theme for Samoan Language Week was *Poupou le lotoifale, ola manuia le anofale* which means *strengthen the posts of your house, for all to thrive*.





Warm + Clean Air = Healthy Home Expo tackles air pollution in Tokoroa

Tokoroa residents showed up in numbers as the Tokoroa Air Quality Group hosted the Warm + Clean Air = Healthy Homes Expo at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre in May.

The Tokoroa Air Quality Group which consists of Raukawa, Waikato Regional Council, Waikato District Health Board, South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services and Council organised the event to provide locals with vital information to make their homes warmer, dryer and healthier.

The event brought together 21 stall holders each offering a variety of different services and promoting the schemes that assist our community to swap over to clean heating and improve the air quality in Tokoroa.

Air quality has been an important topic for Tokoroa in recent years, where the air we are breathing at times becomes so dirty that it is a risk to our health and wellbeing - especially for young children, elderly, and those whose chest health is already fragile (such as asthma sufferers).

The main cause of polluted air comes from home heating (fires), especially the burning of wet wood, old wood burners and burning plastics. It was interesting to note a number of people were surprised to learn that they should not be burning plastics.

The pollution produces fine particles called PM¹⁰ which are small enough to get into your lungs and can cause serious health problems.

The Warm Homes Clean Air project was established back in 2007 by Waikato Regional Council and SWDC with the focus being on subsidising replacement of non-compliant wood burners with clean heat installations, providing education around burning dry wood, and correct operation and maintenance of wood burners.

Events like this Expo will hopefully see an increase in the uptake of clean heat replacement incentive schemes offered in the South Waikato and an improvement in understanding the communities' perspectives around community-led action for improving air quality in our towns.

While improvements have been made over the years, Council realises there is still plenty of room to improve the quality of our air in Tokoroa for all our residents.

If you think you may be eligible to replace your old wood burner with an energy efficient clean device, you are encouraged to visit our website and check out the WHCA Scheme Selector.



What can I do to help clean up the air?

Here are some ways you can help:

- Burn only dry, seasoned wood.
- Use your wood burner responsibly - clean your flue every year before it is used again, and keep your firebox clean throughout winter.
- Upgrade to a clean heating appliance if you have an open fire and/or a wood burner that is non-compliant (ie, not on the Ministry for the Environment database). For more information please check out the following link www.mfe.govt.nz/woodburners.



Wheelie bins... coming to urban towns

Council is pleased to be on the verge of rolling out wheelie bins for rubbish and recycling for urban kerbside collections. It has been a rocky road to get to this point, navigating COVID-19 impacts on bin production and shipping delays. Residents will have their wheelie bins delivered to their addresses by our contractor during July/August. Keep an eye on Antenno and social media for more detailed timings for specific neighbourhoods. And remember, the new service only starts on Monday 6 September. Please don't put your bins out on the kerb before then.

The bins will be delivered to your address by our contractor. Each bin will be geo-tagged (registered) to your address to avoid bins being stolen. An address label will also be included on the side of the bin for easy identification. Households will continue to use their existing crates for recycling, however they will only be for glass.

What do I do with my bins when I get them?

- Check on the bins for your address sticker. This can be found on the side of each wheelie bin. Remember too the bins are geo-tagged to your address. It is really

important that you have your correct bin(s). The tag will say RECYCLING on the bin with the YELLOW lid and RUBBISH for the bin with the RED lid.

- Put your bins in a safe place.

What do I do if I am missing a bin(s)?

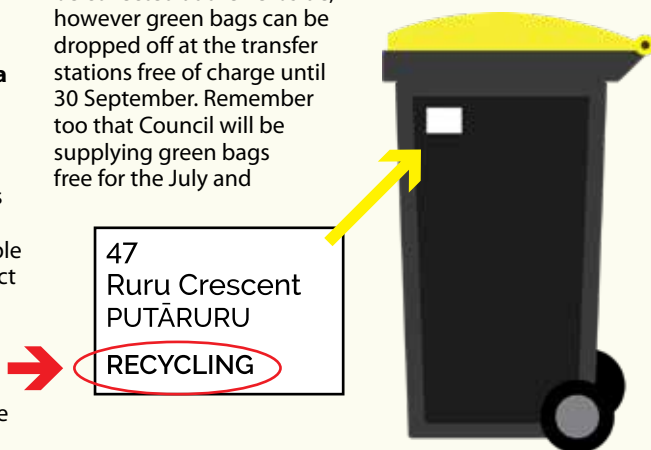
If your neighbours have bins and you don't appear to, first check with your neighbours as they may have been mixed up by mistake. If you are still unable to find your bins, please contact Council on 07 885 0340.

What about green bags?

It's a good idea to time your stock of green bags to coincide

with the start of the wheelie bins. Once the wheelie bin collection starts on Monday 6 September, green bags cannot be collected at the kerbside, however green bags can be dropped off at the transfer stations free of charge until 30 September. Remember too that Council will be supplying green bags free for the July and

August collections. Because of the free drop off period until 30 September, Council won't refund green bags



Who goes first?

The start date for the wheelie bin collection service is Monday 6 September, which means the first areas to roll the wheelie bins to the kerbside are Tirau and Arapuni (purple area in the recycling calendar). This day will be for rubbish and recycling collection.

Have a look at the table alongside to find out **your** first

collection day using wheelie bins (based on the existing recycling calendar colour codes). Remember that some people's first collection will be just rubbish and others will be rubbish and recycling. Check your week here: www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-services/rubbish-and-recycling/recycling-calendar.

First collection day	Coloured collection zone	Area
Monday 6 Sep	PURPLE	Arapuni and Tirau
Tuesday 7 Sep	BLUE	Putāruru
Wednesday 8 Sep	GREEN	central Tokoroa, Amisfield and Pellikan
Thursday 9 Sep	PINK	south Tokoroa
Friday 10 Sep	ORANGE	north and east Tokoroa

Changes to waste collection service

What DOESN'T change?

- Rubbish collection frequency DOESN'T change - rubbish is still collected weekly.
- Recycling collection frequency DOESN'T change - recycling is still collected fortnightly.
- Collection day DOESN'T change for any area. Eg, if your collection was Thursday in the past, it will still be Thursday.
- Rules around what can and cannot go in the RUBBISH (red lid) DON'T change. Please no paint, chemicals, concrete, broken glass, hot ashes.

Rules around how to be a recycling champion DON'T change. Please rinse all products; no lids, caps or tops (includes tin lids); flatten cardboard and paper; only plastics 1s and 2s.

Visit www.thewastecollectionproject.co.nz for more information. The rules around DOs and DON'Ts will also be provided in an information pack delivered with the bins and is on a decal in the lid of each bin.

What DOES change?

→ Rubbish goes in the small (120 litre) wheelie bin with the RED lid. Also you no longer have to buy green bags.

→ All recycling (except glass) goes in the large (240 litre) wheelie bin with the YELLOW lid.

→ Glass goes in the existing crates. ie, glass ONLY in both the green and maroon crates.



ns soon - starts Monday 6 September

What goes where - wheelie bins

Over the past 12 months Council has introduced changes to our household recycling. Contamination levels have decreased significantly and this is a credit to South Waikato householders.

From Monday 6 September:

- Recycled items including clean plastics (1s & 2s only), tins, cans, cardboard and paper go in the 240L wheelie bin (yellow lid).
- Other household rubbish goes in the 120L wheelie bin (red lid).
- The existing green and maroon crates will be for glass ONLY.

Product care:








All products must be clean. Plastic, glass and tins rinsed/washed AND cardboard (food packaging) free from food scraps.

No lids, caps, tops (including bottle tops and tin lids).


Only plastics 1s and 2s are acceptable. All other plastics must go in the rubbish. Look for the recycling symbol.

The DOs and DON'Ts alongside can be found on our website and are included in the information pack that will be delivered with the wheelie bins. They are also reproduced as decals in the bin lids.






RECYCLING BIN contamination guidance

 YES	 Tins/cans & aluminium	 Plastics 1s & 2s	 Cardboard & paper		
 NO	 Lids & nozzles	 Glass	 Batteries	 Hot ashes & liquids	 Plastics 3 to 7
	 Nappies	 Drink cartons	 Paper towels	 Soft plastics & cling wrap	

RUBBISH BIN guidance

 NO	 Batteries	 Hazardous materials	 Greenwaste	 Medical waste	 Hot ashes or liquids
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GLASS CRATE guidance

 NO	 Lightbulbs or fluorescent tubes	 Tableware	 Broken glass	 Mirror or window glass
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Respect others' efforts

Please care about how you prepare your recycling. If your bin/ crates are contaminated, it can contaminate an entire truck load. That means everyone else's efforts are wasted.

Three Strikes

The Three Strikes and You're Out system is being introduced as part of the new waste collection service. It is a common system throughout New Zealand to combat recycling contamination.

This system only applies to the recycling wheelie bin and glass crate(s).

The first time recycling contamination is noted, a yellow sticker will be stuck on the wheelie bin, reminding the resident of the recycling rules.

The second time recycling contamination is noted, an orange sticker will be stuck on the wheelie bin. An education officer will visit the household to chat about contamination to assist people on their recycling journey.

The third time recycling contamination is noted at your address, a red sticker will be stuck to the wheelie bin. A letter will follow explaining that the recycling collection service (not rubbish collection) has been suspended for a period of twelve weeks.

Remember that one wheelie bin of contaminated recycling can contaminate an entire truck load of recycling. This wastes the efforts of every other person. The Three Strikes system aims to protect the efforts of the many people who are doing it right!

the waste collection PROJECT - TIMELINE

May/June	July/August	Monday 6 September	Thursday 30 September
Information/communication campaign starts Keep an eye out for information in the newspaper, social platforms and your own mailbox! 	Wheelie bins delivered to households Put them in a safe place. Only start using them when the new service starts on Monday 6 September! Council's contractor can't pick the wheelie bins up until Monday 6 September . Only buy enough green bags to take you to the last bag collection in June! Remember Council will supply bags for free for July and August. Bags will not be refunded, but you can take them to the transfer stations until 30 September free of charge.	Wheelie bin collection service kicks off Council's contractor will pick the wheelie bins up for the first time from Monday 6 September . Don't put your new wheelie bins out until then. Remember from this day, your existing green and maroon crates will be for glass ONLY! Bag collections stop from this day!	No more green bags Council will accept green bags at the transfer stations for disposal until 30 September 2021. 30 September is the last day green bags will be accepted free of charge. 



Digital Support

The New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme (NZLPP) is an initiative funded by Central Government in association with the Department of Internal Affairs and the National Library of New Zealand.

Through the programme, New Zealand public libraries have been able to request funding by way of fixed-term staff secondments to assist with COVID-19 recovery in their communities.

As a result of a funding application, South Waikato District Libraries are thrilled to have Taylah Riki-Hamana, Patoa Tavai and Desiree Morunga seconded to the libraries to lead programmes across the focus areas of Digital Inclusion, Job-Seeker Support, and Community Engagement.

The first initiative launched by the team is the Tautoko Mamati – Digital Support sessions. These one-on-one sessions are designed to build online and digital skill and capability in our communities.

The team has been supporting users of the service with device set-up and troubleshooting, email and social media set-up and use, microsoft application use, online application forms, document formatting and conversion, navigating e-government services, downloading and using apps and much more.

These informal, customer-led sessions are available in Tirau, Putāruru and Tokoroa by appointment, are confidential, open to everyone and free. This service has become very popular, particularly in the Putāruru community where weekly Tuesday sessions are regularly at capacity.

The NZLPP team is also partnering with Council teams and local businesses to develop and deliver a series of workshops and education sessions in libraries that cover areas such as email and social media 101, online shopping, cyber security, coding and sustainable living.

For more information about Tautoko Mamati or NZLPP initiatives in libraries, please phone or pop in to your local library.

DIGITAL SUPPORT
TAUTOKO MAMATI

We offer FREE one on one digital support sessions:

Tokoroa library
Putāruru library
Tirau - The Dog

Want to stay connected?

JOIN TODAY!

BOOK A SESSION TODAY!

Annual pooch parties

The Annual Pooch Parties held at the Putāruru and Tirau summer pools are a resounding, lively and a noisy success. Dogs of all shapes and sizes, colours and breeds spent hours racing around the pool grounds, leaping into the pool, playing with toys and generally having a ball.

These pooch parties are a great way for our furry residents to experience the facilities that are not normally available to them. Every year these parties are proving more and more popular, and every year we enjoy snapping these photos.





Registering your dog

Every year Council picks up the same complaints and comments regarding dog registration fees...so this year we thought we would explain why that little piece of plastic dog owners purchase for \$169 (normal fee, up from \$4 last year) costs what it does.

The simple answer is: you're not just paying for the piece of plastic, that would be fair outrageous! ...let's have a look at the total Animal and Compliance service BEHIND the tag...

- Fit-for-purpose vehicles - patrols and response, fuel, maintenance, branding and equipping to ensure Officers can provide for public safety.
- Heavy duty, fit-for-purpose protective uniforms for a professional look and safety.
- Trained Officers familiar with relevant legislation.
- Negotiation of voluntary handovers of dogs costs, but it's better than potential expensive court costs!
- Property visits for every complaint to educate, investigate and/or uplift.
- Dog poo bag dispenser and bags - including maintenance and filling.
- Education and support for people struggling to properly care for their dog.
- Door to door programme in August looking for known registered dogs that have not yet had their registration renewed.
- Pound management - keeping it clean and hygienic, feeding, watering the dogs twice daily, seven days a week; rotating dogs in the exercise yards and walking the dogs.
- Public, and dog owner, safety - by getting roaming and aggressive dogs off the streets.
- Our staff field over 100 calls a year from concerned residents about 'the dog next door'. These are investigated and education support provided. If the situation doesn't improve, the dog is uplifted and held either for seven days or longer depending on the dog's behaviour and temperament. The team put a huge amount of time and effort into animal welfare because animal cruelty is distressing for people.
- Adopt a dog programme - all dogs are desexed, microchipped and vet checked so that when the dog is adopted it is unable to have (potentially unwanted) puppies, is legally microchipped and healthy. Many dogs spend longer than seven days in the pound too. Our team spend time assessing dogs for suitability for rehoming.
- Officers are on call 24/7 to ensure public safety - largely around dog attacks, aggression and stock on roads.
- Discounted Selected Owner Policy (or SOP) - apply between 1 March and 31 May. Officers will inspect

your property, review your file to check history and a few other criteria. SOP is half of the standard fee, at just \$84. SOP is a privilege not a right.

- The proportion of dangerous or menacing dogs in our district in comparison to total dogs is high. Managing dangerous dogs is essential to public safety, the safety of other dogs and their owners.
- Automatic payment option - to spread payments throughout the year (means additional administration time and resource).
- Credit in rates account - this can be transferred to your dog account.

Remember too that the total service isn't just about dogs. The team enforce our Bees, Poultry and Animal Bylaw which covers a range of animals, mostly around stock on roads that need to be dealt with within an hour as a matter of serious public safety.

And the team enforce various other bylaws like the Public Places bylaw and do parking infringements. This is all covered in the total cost of the service (in the rates component).

So you see... there's much much more to the Animal and Compliance Service than meets the eye.



Putāruru Rotary presents The South Waikato's Got Talent show. **Sat 26 June**, 6:30pm. Supper included. Tickets range from \$10 to \$40. Tickets and registration forms available at The Plaza, Van Dyks, Pride in Putāruru and Putāruru Rotary. Fundraiser. Prizes for adult and youth winner (\$500).

The Plaza Sunday movie - The Dry (M15+). **Sun 27 June**, 2pm. Tickets \$5 for students & \$8 for adults.

Waikato Country Music Awards. **Sat 3 July**, 7pm. Tickets \$5 (auditions, 8:30am) & \$10 (finals, 7pm).

IRON FISTS 11 PRIDE IN PUTĀRURU FIGHT NIGHT. **Sat 10 July**, 5pm. Various ticket options. Tickets limited. Book through NJE Promotions or Ace Fighters. More information at www.plaza.org.nz.

The Plaza School Holiday movie - Tom & Jerry (2021). **Wed 14 July**, 2pm. Tickets \$5 for students & \$8 for adults. Door sales only.

The Pinkies are back! (2021). **Sun 18 July**, 2pm. Tickets \$5 for students & \$8 for adults. Door sales only.

The Plaza School Holiday movie - The War with Grandpa (2020). **Wed 21 July**, 2pm. Tickets \$5 for students & \$8 for adults. Door sales only.



The South Waikato Music Society presents - The Aroha String Quartet. **Sun 25 July**, 2pm. Tickets \$25 for non-members, \$20 for members, students free. Door sales only.



07 883 8596/0276 559 715
www.plaza.org.nz
 Email: theplaza@plaza.org.nz
 Facebook: [theplazaputaruru](https://www.facebook.com/theplazaputaruru)

New cemeteries information feature in IntraMaps



IntraMaps is a GIS (Geographic Information System) Application that allows you to access Council's spatial data. It can be used to search, display and export geographic information.

Local residents might not be too familiar with IntraMaps but there are a number of features.

The latest feature which IntraMaps provides is the new information on our local cemeteries. Users can now search for a deceased loved one and find information including

an accurate map of where they rest within our cemeteries.

Users can also view where in the cemetery there are vacant plots.

You can use IntraMaps to view information on:

- Property
- Three waters services
- South Waikato District Plan
- Cemeteries
- Community services
- Education services

• Recreation services and facilities

• Rubbish and recycling collection sites and waste collection areas

• Contours (one metre and five metre)

• Flood hazard mapping

• Aerial photography

Be sure to head to our website, then click on the top task button named **Online Maps** (just under the search bar).

Autumn leaf fall blocks stormwater drains

Leaf fall can cause an issue for the stormwater system. Council currently sweeps the CBDs three times per week (Monday, Wednesday and Friday for Tokoroa, and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for Putāruru and Tirau). The rest of the urban streets are swept every three months. During this time of year, Council completes extra sweeps in areas where there is high leaf fall, on an as required basis, through the service request system. The CBD footpaths also have the leaves blown off three times per week. This is the level of service currently funded through rates.

Please remember not to add to leaves blocking stormwater drains by sweeping fallen leaves from private gardens onto the



road verge. This adds to the leaf fall already on the road and can negatively impact on the stormwater system. Staff also encourage the community to keep the drains and cesspits outside their properties free from leaf litter if they notice that

the leaves are building up.

Council seeks to work together with the community to keep the stormwater system clear of leaves during this autumn period to help keep water from flooding the roads and footpaths.

ANZAC Day celebrated

A year ago, New Zealanders were unable to celebrate ANZAC Day in its traditional form, holding instead Stand at Dawn private commemorations around the country due to COVID-19.

The ANZAC ceremonies this year took on the more traditional celebrations that we are accustomed to. Ceremonies across the district attracted large numbers of people.

Organised and run by the RSA (Tokoroa and Putāruru) and the Tirau Community Board (Tirau) with support from Council staff, the ceremonies once again gave New Zealanders the opportunity to gather in a day of shared remembrance and reflection for the brave men and women who served our country in conflicts around the world, particularly those who sacrificed their lives in the name of peace and freedom.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou. We will remember them.

Keep the COVID vigilance alive!

While many countries in the world continue to battle COVID-19, here in New Zealand it can be easy to forget that there is still a worldwide pandemic on.

Let's not get too complacent. Continue with our new normal – wash hands, sneeze/cough

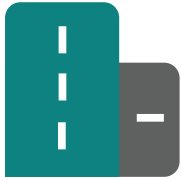
into arm, stay home if you are sick, be mindful of social distancing in public places, masks on public transport and contact tracing with Bluetooth.

These tactics are a great way to keep winter colds and flu at bay too!

These simple everyday actions are even more important as our borders open and we build bubbles with other countries.

We all need to work together to keep all New Zealanders – and our visitors, safe.





TALKING ROAD SAFETY



Using medication while driving

In 2019 medicines, alcohol or illegal drugs were a factor in 131 fatal crashes. The same year medicines, alcohol or illegal drugs were a factor in 432 serious injury crashes.

Even though a medicine may be legal it can still affect your driving by altering your thinking processes, changing your reaction time and can even affect your perception of reality. It is illegal to drive when impaired by any medication, this is because you increase your risk of causing death or a serious injury to yourself or other people.

Research carried out in 2020 showed that half of all drivers were unaware that it's illegal to drive while impaired by medication and two thirds of drivers had used medications that were likely to cause impairment. An impaired driver is someone whose body or emotions have been affected (usually temporarily) in a way that makes them an unsafe driver.

If you are taking any kind of medication and feel like it is affecting your ability to drive, stop driving and seek medical advice. Remember to keep taking the medication and contact your healthcare provider as soon as possible.

One in four prescriptions are for medications that are likely

to cause impairment. These include both medications bought in a pharmacy, health shop or from a traditional healer.

As we get older we tend to take more medications and multiple types which can interact with each other and increase the risk of impairment.

When alcohol or illegal drugs are taken alongside medication the risk of impairment increases and can cause any impairment to last significantly longer than usual.

Signs that you might be impaired include (but are not restricted to):

- Feeling drowsy/sleepy
- Blurred vision
- Headache
- Feeling weak
- Slowed reactions
- Dizziness
- Unable to focus or pay attention
- Being easily confused
- Slurred speech

If others around you tell you that they think you might be impaired, listen to them as sometimes being impaired means you can't recognise that you are impaired.

Report dumping to Council

There are still a number of people in our district who don't seem to care about the environment or take responsibility for their own rubbish.

As a result we still get a bit of dumping in public spaces around the district.

Dumping can be reported to us via Antenno, phone or email and now via our website on a newly created form.

This is available online on our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz. Click on the Do It Online button. The Report Illegal Dumping form can be found under the Say It section.

Council needs to know a number of details to send warning letters, infringe and/or prosecute. These include a description of what was dumped, the location, any photos you may have taken and your contact details (for record purposes only; these will never be disclosed).

If you witness the dumping and can safely obtain the vehicle registration details or even names (if you know the person) this is extremely useful.

Prosecuting successfully through the courts requires a high level of details.



South Waikato District Council Meetings

Most Council meetings (unless otherwise indicated) are open to the public and media. You are very welcome to attend. Meetings start at 9.30am at the Council Chambers, Torphin Crescent, Tokoroa.

Upcoming meetings:
Thursday 8 July
Thursday 29 July
Thursday 19 August

Tirau Community Board
TCB meetings are held every six weeks on a Tuesday evening at 5.30pm at the Tirau Hall.

Upcoming meetings:
Tuesday 27 July
Tuesday 14 September

Tautoko Mamati Digital Support
Did you know your local library offers FREE one on one support sessions to help you learn about and navigate the digital world. Book your session today!

For more info or to book a session please ring:
Tirau iSITE - 07-883 1202
Putāruru - 07 8837187
Tokoroa - 07-886 6574



S.T.A.R.S Holiday Activity Sessions
Every school holidays our local libraries and i-SITE hosts a range of fun and exciting activities
Tirau i-SITE - 07 883 1202
Putāruru - 07 883 7187
Tokoroa - 07 886 6574

IN brief

- The Waikato River Trails Trust is set to develop a new 5.6km section of trail from the Pokaiwhenua carpark to the end of Horahora Road.
- Arapuni Hall is set to see a new mobility access ramp installed.
- Six monthly sampling of all three closed landfills in the district has been completed.
- New street lights were installed in Raukawa Way to match the Leith Place lights.
- Works will soon start on the roundabouts in Bridge Street and Swanston Street at either end of Leith Place.
- Investigation work related to stormwater upgrades in Golf, Mountbatten and Reservoir Streets in Putāruru is underway.
- The design of the Oraka suspension bridge at the Tirau Domain is underway.
- Three new bus shelters will soon be installed at the Tokoroa Hospital, Victoria Rest Home and Pohutukawa Drive.
- The two Waste Free Living workshops were a huge success with 90% of respondents ranking it a 5/5 and the rest 4/5. 80% of participants also rated the free incentive packs a 5/5.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:
www.southwaikato.govt.nz
www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil
Download Antenna FREE
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz.

Councillor Peter Schulte

As I write this message, Anzac Day is behind us and I am absolutely stoked at the amazing turnout this year. Big thanks to all the organisers. It was good to be able to have the normal celebrations that brought us all together in one place, compared to last year's Stand at Dawn services.

It was good to see the large number of submissions on the Long Term Plan consultation. By the time you read this, the hearings will have happened and decisions made, but at the time of writing, not; so I will make some general comments about how much I enjoyed reading the submissions and am looking forward to the hearings. It is good to see the different needs and wants of our communities. As always the money goes only so far. In having said that we all try to get the biggest bang for our buck.

The Tirau Domain is on track and a suspension bridge over the Oraka Stream should be installed by Christmas. I am particularly pleased that this project is moving ahead. Use of the Domain is steadily increasing and the installation of the bridge connecting the upper and lower domain will only increase use more. A big thanks for the planting and mulching to our community. It also shouldn't be long before the CCTV is installed and the footpath renewal is on track too.

I would like to thank the Domain Action Group and our Tirau Community Board for the hard work they do behind the scenes. It is nice to see the vision for the Domain being realised.

In closing I would like to thank my colleagues, our Mayor, Council staff, the Domain Action Group and our Tirau Community Board for their help and advice. Take care everyone and look after each other.

Councillor Alex Jansen

What an eventful year it has been!

As you read this issue of In Touch, the wheelie bin rollout will be starting soon. After delaying the introduction of Wheelie Bins from last year due to COVID-19, it is great to see them finally on track for delivery in July and August, to start in September.

In conjunction with the wheelie bins, the Tokoroa Transfer Station was officially opened and is operating smoothly. It is a clean facility for disposing of waste and is being well used. The wheelie bins and new transfer station are steps forward towards our approach to how we dispose of waste.

Another project that has been completed is the Tokoroa Basketball Court. The basketball court is a well used addition to the youth park. The youth park continues to be a huge success, with all the play equipment being enjoyed. Plans for a new Skate Park for Putāruru is on the Council agenda. The youth in Putāruru are very excited for a new skate facility.

Leith Place was opened prior to Christmas, activating the space for public use during the successful night markets and Christmas parade. Finishing touches still need to be done, but the Leith Place upgrade looks fantastic.

Council is currently working on the Long Term Plan, which sets out our goals and projects for the next ten years. The LTP will be adopted at the end of June.



Mayor Jenny Shattock

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