

IN touch



A bi-monthly newsletter from your local Council - Issue 60 - November (Whiringa-a-rangi) / December (Hakihea) 2021

Unpacking SWDC take on Three Waters

The three waters reform has proved to be significantly challenging and time-consuming. Simply put, SWDC Mayor and Councillors raised a number of concerns in their submission to central Government. None of their concerns have been addressed. They remain. Briefly the key points are:

We are disappointed in the Government's announcement to mandate the reform.

There has been a complete lack of community input to date and it appears there won't be any going forward.

The reforms have been rushed. Information in the public area is inconsistent, poorly understood and inaccurate.

The question of ownership is confusing. The government is now saying that councils will

retain ownership of the assets but will have no ownership rights. That makes no sense.

The approach by central Government to implementing inter-related reforms including Resource Management reform and the Future of Local Government reform is disjointed.

The impact on the workforce delivery and capability must be considered.

There are risks around rural water schemes (estimated

around 500 in the South Waikato) that will become the Council's responsibility should they fail.

The Government has indicated that it is committed to working with the sector to refine its proposed model to take local government feedback into consideration. We need to hold Government to account on this point.

The local government sector has spoken out loud and clear that the proposed model needs significant work.

We need to focus our efforts on achieving the best financial position for our community and the very best possible outcome

for efficient and effective service delivery going forward.

"Quite simply, the current offering is not good enough for the people of the South Waikato," said Mayor Jenny Shattock. "At a recent Council meeting, Council resolved to sign a Memorandum of Understanding jointly with a large number of other councils across New Zealand. The goal is to push back on the reforms as a sector. Being part of this consortium is costing \$15,000, but we feel that we have to at least try to put as much pressure on central Government as we possibly can. And standing together makes us a stronger force."

"Changing the opt-in/opt-out scenario presented initially, to mandatory, is a bitter pill to swallow and does nothing to foster a relationship of trust."

Mayor Jenny Shattock



For detail on the three Waters Reforms please visit our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz - Our Council - Major Projects.

IN brief

- Difficulties with COVID-19 alert levels and supply chains is impacting project delivery.
- Jones Landing Reserve is again open, with portable toilets on site. Work on the new septic tank continues.
- The Urban Connector bus service continues to be used steadily.
- The talking pole Tallulah's Whale, located in the youth park is having its fin repaired.

IN side

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IN house

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

Editorial: Kerry Fabrie, Renee Renata and Anthony Momoemausu, 07 885 0340

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Message from the Mayor

As Mayor of the South Waikato, this will be the last time I say “pew, what a year...” to the South Waikato community. And what a year it has been.

Council has delivered a number of large projects and initiatives this year, on top of all our business as usual service delivery that our community deserve and expect from their local Council.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Led by the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT) and Toi-ohomai, supported by Council and other funders, the local community secured a \$14 million investment from central Government to construct a new South Waikato Trades Training Centre at the northern gateway to Tokoroa.
- The WorkIT programme was launched with the goal of getting local youth into education, training and employment. Mayors Taskforce for Jobs takes the lead in this programme with funding from the Ministry of Social Development.
- Economic development initiatives continue to pay off for the South Waikato, with a number of new business ventures underway. Council's advocacy at central Government is paving the way for investment and business interest in the district.
- Council prepared and consulted on its Long

Term Plan 2021-31. The key consultation topics included options for a library and pool in Tokoroa, increased funding into the already planned Putāruru skatepark to upgrade the facility, pensioner housing rental increases and rate ratio funding. We received 146 submissions that raised 353 submission points.

- We finally got the wheelie bins rolled out, 16,200 bins to 8,100 properties in just four weeks. This followed two delays due to COVID-19 related impacts, from production to shipping and additional snap lockdowns. The team is to be commended for managing the rollout under trying circumstances; and a huge thank you to our community for the patience showed.
- We removed, refurbished and reinstated our beloved and iconic Pine Man. We were fortunate to have the original artist work on the refurbishment and we're super pleased to see the Pine Man back up for all to see alongside State Highway 1.
- We have awarded \$10,000 Mayoral Scholarships to two students, \$2,500 each year for four years. We also awarded a \$5,000 Merit Scholarship to a third student. At the time of writing we are keeping mum

on the recipients because these will be announced at the respective schools' prizegiving events.

- Overall, the South Waikato has increased in value from \$6.9 billion to \$8.6 billion, an increase of \$1.7 billion. Increased property values are exciting news for property owners. Our economic profile is on the lift and increasing district values are a key indicator of growth and development.
- We opened a new Impact Hub in Tokoroa in collaboration with SWIFT. We are now part of a global community of more than 100 Impact Hubs in over 50 countries. This flexible space offers co-working options, meeting kiosks, workshop rooms and access to mentors, guidance and support that will nurture budding entrepreneurs throughout the South Waikato.
- Design work has continued on the Putāruru waterpark development and works are expected to get underway in the new year.
- The dog pound upgrade has increased capacity, enhanced the outdoor area and made the facility warmer and safer.
- The Tirau Domain development is underway, with contractors working on earthworks and foundations for the various elements that our community can look forward to there. These works will connect the Lower Domain to the Upper Domain via a new bridge over the Oraka stream.
- The Tokoroa digester is nearing completion. This is the single largest component – at \$9.6 million, of a \$30 million district wide wastewater upgrade.
- We enhanced the skatepark and basketball facilities with a new carpark and we upgraded the basketball hoops to necessary spring loaded more robust units.
- The New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme (NZLPP) was launched to deliver enhanced digital support to our community. This is a collaborative project funded by central Government in association with the Department of Internal Affairs and the National Library of New Zealand.





WHAT'S HOT



Above - shout out to the Tokoroa Mountainbike Club - feedback from two riders is that the Rotorua tracks are maintained by paid employees of the Trails trust but the pair can not believe the consistent world class standard of our tracks in Cougar on the back of pure volunteer efforts...

Hot Spring days in the lead up to hot Summer days!

The adoption of the Annual Report.

Successful accreditation as a Building Consent Authority. The team is audited every two years to retain its accreditation. This year, the team had the added complication of being audited during the recent snap lockdown. Being accredited ensures Council can continue to deliver a cost-effective building control service to residents and ratepayers. Numbers of consents are on track to be higher than last year by 12%, and the projected value increase will be almost 40% more than the previous year.



Left - Forest View High School (one of our Enviroschools) has been monitoring the water quality and rubbish in/at Lake Moananui. They recently collected and surveyed this rubbish. Top three items found are plastic bottles, fast food wrappers and disposable face coverings. There are 13 bins around the Lake and these are emptied by our contractors daily, before they are 80% full. Litter round the lake - there really is no excuse!

Left - tagging at Lake Moananui, pointless waste of ratepayer money to clean it up!

Below - recycling bins that are used as rubbish bins.



- We've been talking about growth for well over four years and now with the developments in Putāruru, it's not just talk anymore. The Maple Drive subdivision is nearing completion with house construction imminent.
- We have installed free WiFi in Tirau which at the time of writing was not yet hooked up and running, but I know it's not far away.
- Amid all of these projects Council either delivered or supported other organisations and community groups to deliver a large number of events that have strengthened our community cohesion; and that we all managed to pull off amid COVID-19 restrictions and snap lockdowns. These include the Putāruru Waterfest, Festival of Cultures, Young Driver Expo, Warm Homes Clean Air Expo, holiday programmes and ANZAC Day.

You have just over six months to cement your thoughts one way or the other. Working for Council can be challenging, but it is also extremely rewarding.

COVID-19
COVID-19 continues to challenge us both in business and in our personal lives. The snap lockdowns impact everyone, regardless of whether the South Waikato is locked down or not. We have whanau, friends and colleagues in these locked down areas. Lockdowns impact supply which has a flow on effect to our project delivery. I want to acknowledge the community groups that have delivered testing and vaccination opportunities to our community. Your work has been tireless and exceptional. You are true community heroes.

THREE WATERS
The three waters reform has proved frustrating and challenging. I won't go into detail here because this has been covered on page 1 of this issue of In Touch.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS
I want to end off by wishing everyone a wonderful and peaceful summer holiday with whanau and friends. May our holiday period be negative (in terms of COVID-19) and positive (in terms of everything else).

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

Mayor Jenny Shattock

TEAMWORK

I do want to acknowledge that Council and Councillors have been subjected to some negative media coverage of late. We know this can distract our community from the many great projects and initiatives that Council delivers to and for its community. I want to assure our community that we continue to work really well around the table when we are discussing, deliberating and making decisions. We are all passionate about working for our community. We also have differences. We all want to deliver the best we possibly can for our community now and into the future. If we weren't passionate about this community, this district, this job, we wouldn't do it.

ELECTIONS

On that note, we have local government elections next year. If you are thinking that this job is for you, then now is the time to starting seriously considering standing for Council next year.



Conversations + collaboration + connections = Impact Hub

A new Impact Hub opened in Tokoroa last month with support from Council and the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT).

This flexible co-working space will nurture budding entrepreneurs across the South Waikato, offering workshops, meeting spaces, mentoring and support.

Mayor Jenny Shattock said councillors were so impressed when the Impact Hub concept was presented to Council that they resolved to fund the venture by \$120,000 over the coming two years. The South Waikato Investment Fund Trust has also committed \$150,000.

The Hub's first Open Day in November showcased artwork, photography, videography, social media, canvas/t-shirt art, tattooing and 3-D printing.



**Impact Hub
hopes to
hold monthly
events... so
watch this
space for
more exciting
innovation and
opportunities.**

Tokoroa Pine Man returns after restoration project

Our iconic Tokoroa Pine Man that was removed mid-July has been reinstalled following a three-month restoration.

"We're thrilled that the restoration has gone as well as it did," said Phil Parker, Council's Parks and Reserves Manager. "Having the original artist Peter Dooley do the restoration was beneficial and Council is very appreciative for his time and care."

Raukawa kaumatua blessed the Pine Man prior to the re-installation.

"Our thanks to the following people and local businesses involved, including – Damel Traffic Management, Todd McPhee Crane Hire, Treestyle Ltd, Clothier Properties Limited, Tokoroa Firewood, ING Engineering, Triangle ITM, Sign Magic, Stihl Shop Tokoroa, Clifton Court Motel, Goldpine Industries, Holster Supply, Les O'Leary Ltd and local hardware stores. Many of those involved either donated or heavily discounted their involvement as their way of

ensuring the South Waikato community got its beloved Pine Man back," continued Mr Parker.

Damage was more extensive than originally thought. Holes drilled for oiling had become entry points for moisture that lead to internal rot, which required timber to either need replacing or filling and then treating. He had also developed some significant cracks due to exposure to the elements. His left arm and shoulder, sections of his head, the rear of his torso and under his left boot had to be completely re-built during the restoration.

Commissioned by the Rotary Club of Tokoroa, the Pine Man (sometimes referred to as the Chainsaw Man) was originally carved by Peter Dooley and installed in 2004. He has stood pride of place in Leith Place for 17 years. Since the Leith Place upgrade project, he stands overlooking the newly developed Talking Pole Forest.

"For those wondering about the green colour... it's not because he's still feeling a little off-colour

– he's quite healthy! It's because he has been re-tanalised to ensure he is protected into the future and can stand pride of place in our Talking Pole forest for another 17 years," smiled Mr Parker. "The green will fade over the coming months and, once the tanalisation has been absorbed, he will be given a fresh coat of brown stain."

The restoration cost was just under \$29,000 which Council

feels is well worth it, given how popular and well-loved he is.

Council staff are currently reviewing the Talking Pole Strategy to update maintenance and condition assessments of existing poles, development of new poles, removal of older poles and end of life options as poles reach the end of their natural life.



Fresh exterior and interior changes to Tirau i-SITE

The Tirau i-SITE has undergone some new repairs that has brought a fresh look to one of our more notable landmarks here in the South Waikato.

Often known as *The Dog*, contractors were brought in to give the iconic building a new coat of paint.

In addition to the repairs on the exterior, there are a number of notable interior changes with a new reception/counter area and improvements to the lighting in the building. There will also be an extension to the library and community space too. Exciting!

The project, which was originally planned to begin back in August, had been delayed due to the most recent COVID lockdown. However the works are still ongoing and is sure to excite the passionate locals as well as bring new life to the Tirau i-SITE.



Get fired up with the Warm Homes Clean Air scheme

Tokoroa has an air quality problem during our winter months. Our poor air quality leads to an increase in respiratory issues for many people in our community.

For the past fifteen years, South Waikato District Council has offered schemes to encourage homeowners and landlords to swap their polluting, non-compliant wood burners for cleaner heating options. There are three schemes available, making it easy for people to find a good fit with at least one of the schemes.

"If you have not taken advantage of one of these schemes, now is a great time to do so in preparation for next winter," said Cherie Pascoe, Council's WHCA coordinator. "The *On the House* scheme is a great option for people who want to switch to a cleaner heat option, but who simply don't have the cash to make the change."

Aimed at lower income households, this scheme provides energy efficient clean heating appliances into Tokoroa homes.

"The great news is that this scheme is fully funded by Waikato Regional Council," continued Mrs Pascoe. "There are a few criteria, including that the home must be owner-occupied, the owner must have had a community services card or rates rebate in the last two years, have a non-compliant wood burner and the home must be located in the Tokoroa airshed."

The *Split the Bill* scheme assists ratepayers (including landlords) within the Tokoroa airshed, to replace non-compliant fires in residential properties by providing 50% subsidy up to a maximum of \$2,000 and adding the remaining cost to rates over a nine-year period. As part of a heating upgrade, insulation may also need to be installed or upgraded.

Buy Now Pay Later assists ratepayers (including landlords) outside of the Tokoroa airshed but within the South Waikato district, to replace non-compliant fires in residential properties by adding the full cost to rates over a nine-year period. Again, insulation may need to be installed or upgraded.

"Non-compliant wood burners will be removed or decommissioned as part of the process," explained Mrs Pascoe. "In addition the ratepayer must own the property and rates for the property must be up to date."

For more information, visit www.southwaikato.govt.nz, or call (07) 885 0340.



Tokoroa digester project nears completion

Council's largest single capital works project is nearing construction completion including commissioning, before the year end.

Since construction began in July 2020 at the Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plant site, we've provided updates on this exciting project through In Touch and social media on the substantial progress made.

Over the last two months the digester site has started to take final shape and has been transformed with the inclusion of piping, ducting, mixers and electrical cabling extending its way to each of the tanks through the site and formation of the access road.

With a budget of \$9.6M, the digester is the largest component of a district wide \$30 million wastewater upgrade project and by the time this In Touch issue reaches mailboxes, it will be officially blessed and opened.

In addition to the finishing touches, the integration with the existing plant operation has also been completed and is ready for when commissioning starts.

The new power connection will be completed shortly and for many on site, signals that the end of the construction phase is close.

Despite the many challenges faced with COVID restrictions, supply chain and shipping delays, progress on site has remained steady thanks to the various and many contractors and subcontractors involved under the direction of the lead local contractor Spartan Construction.

The existing digester has served the Tokoroa community well since it was first commissioned in 1979. When the new digester is up and running, it will be decommissioned and an assessment will be done for refurbishment as a back-up.



Cabinet art brightens up the South Waikato



Another South Waikato Chorus cabinet has been given a makeover, with four more due before the end of summer. Local teacher Taumata Soloman has created a mural on Balmoral Drive in Tokoroa that celebrates Tokoroa born and raised professional rugby league player Joseph Manu.

Joseph played junior rugby league for Tokoroa High school before being signed as a winger and centre for the Sydney Roosters.

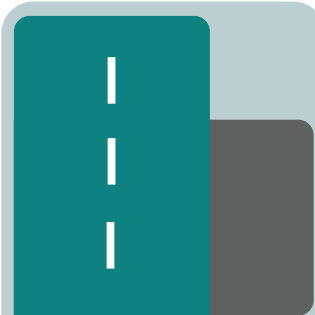
South Waikato Mayor Jenny Shattock says she is looking forward to seeing the remaining murals being completed in Tokoroa, Putāruru and Arapuni.

"The murals that were created last year have certainly brightened our streets and have become an asset for our community," she said. "With the past year being such a difficult one for all our community, it will be really heartening to see something so positive in our streets."

Chorus Community Relations Manager Jo Seddon says it has been wonderful to work with South Waikato District Council once again.

"It's very rewarding seeing the creativity that South Waikato artists have to offer, come to life on our cabinets," she said.

All finished murals are included on the Chorus website and become contenders for the annual Chorus Cabinet Art calendar, copies of which are sent around the world.



TALKING ROAD SAFETY

With summer here and the holidays fast approaching, one thing that happens a lot this time of year is dusting off the trailer to travel to the campground, pickup large supplies or taking refuse to the transfer station.

Here are some tips to help you do these tasks safely.

- First thing to look at is what is required for your trailer to be legally used on the road.
- It must display a current warrant of fitness and vehicle registration label
- It should have at least one red rear-facing light and if the trailer was registered after 1 January 1978 and is more than 1.5 metres wide it must have two rear-facing lamps.
- One or two pairs of stop lights if the trailer was registered after 1 April 2012.
- Two rear red reflectors fitted, one on each side.
- A white light illuminating the registration plate.
- Rear indicator lights if the trailer was registered after 1 April 2012.
- Regular maintenance is a must on all road vehicles but even more so on trailers which may not get regular use. Some things to look for include:
 - Tyres, check the pressure and look for signs of wear or damage.
 - Clean all the lights and reflectors.

South Waikato recycling ambassadors do their part to share knowledge



Binning it: Recycling ambassadors Doug Mitchell and Meena Sharma (absent from photo is Greg Ranger)

In recent months there has been a significant shift in the way we recycle and dispose of our household waste in the South Waikato.

Urban residents across our four towns will be aware of the Waste Collection Project which was launched by Council back in May and fully implemented in September. This saw the introduction of wheelie bins for our kerbside collections, allowing households to move away from the previous green single-use rubbish bags.

These new changes saw a few challenges for our communities, but Council was able to recruit recycling ambassadors with the help of funding received by Waste Minimisation Fund administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

As part of the Changing Waste Ways project, the recycling ambassadors came on board to assist and educate householders on the correct way to recycle to help change our behaviours toward waste, while raising environmental awareness.

For Tokoroa residents Meena Sharma, Doug Mitchell and Greg Ranger, becoming our district's recycling ambassadors has been a pleasant eyeopener.

"We are educating the community when we are at the transfer stations and when we do our checks at the kerbside," according to Mrs Sharma who admitted recycling is an important issue what we should all take seriously.

Having been in the recycling ambassador roles since late September, the team has found a substantial improvement in our recycling efforts.

The most common issues the trio encountered were that people had forgotten to remove all caps and lids from their bottles and ensuring that bottles were rinsed, in particular milk bottles.

Despite the issues, the majority of interactions with people were positive and many were genuinely surprised when kindly told about how their recycling could contaminate the efforts of everyone else.

"Ultimately, what we are doing with our waste, whether it's recycling, less contamination, less waste we are contributing to this planet's environment and to the next generation," said Mrs Sharma who believes that we all have our part to play as we adjust our behaviours towards waste.

For Mr Mitchell, who is a former tipface assistant at the previous Tokoroa Landfill site, he has found this role to be very enjoyable and doing his part to help others improve their recycling habits.

"It's quite interesting to see how the public don't know what they're doing with their recycling.

"It's been going quite well; we've got little cardboard tickets that we put in their letterbox if they've got it wrong. I put a little note on the back," Mr Mitchell said. "The public is happy with that; it just lets them know that it's got to be done."

Whakahaumarū Aotearoa - ShakeOut 2021



Annually we like to 'Drop, Cover and Hold' and this year was no different as SWDC staff proudly participated in ShakeOut 2021, joining many others taking part in the nationwide earthquake drill.

This year ShakeOut was held on October 28. It's a great way to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake.

Every year thousands of people around the country participate.

A big ShakeOut shout out to all the schools, kindergartens, work places and community groups who took part in the 2021 event.



Local forestry crews continue annual clean up

As part of Clean Up Week, Hancock Forest Management's forestry crews have continued their annual clean-up of public roads leading into the Kinleith forest.

Clean Up Week is an annual event organised by Keep New Zealand Beautiful where they encourage Kiwis to unite and get out into their local community to pick up litter.

For the teams at Hancock this is their third year they have done this, where forestry crews are out collecting large quantities of waste dumped on our roads and near forestry gates.

"It's not glamorous but it's important," according to one of the HFM staff as she spoke about the importance of their organisation doing their part to keep our forests and parts of our district clean.

The small group collected close to ten rubbish bags full of household waste which highlights this poor behaviour that is damaging to our environment. Over the course of Clean Up Week the HFM crews collected over 13 tonnes of waste which was disposed of at the transfer station.

Council was able to assist in Hancock's efforts by waiving the transfer station fees which was roughly around \$3,500.

A big thank you again to all Hancock forestry crews for their outstanding efforts this year, in what we appreciate is now an annual tradition.



The Putāruru Plaza is South Waikato's premier performing arts centre that is available to hire for a variety of large and small events, concerts, conferences, performances, presentations, workshops, private functions, weddings, celebrations... pretty much any community or group venue hire.

Check out the spaces below, spaces to match what you're looking for!

We will be closed for the Christmas break from Friday 17 December to Monday 17 January. We would like to wish all in our community a peaceful and safe holiday period.

We hope to see you back in the New Year; and hopefully we will be able to showcase many more events in our COVID-19 post vaccination world (and all the freedoms that comes with that).



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



South Waikato District Council

COUNCIL OFFICES

The Council offices in Tokoroa and Putāruru# will be closed from 3pm on Friday 24 December 2021, re-opening at 8am on Wednesday 5 January 2022.

Council can still be contacted 24/7 through the holiday period via the main office on 07 885 0340.

Putāruru Library ONLY opening hours are below.

	FRI 24 Dec	SAT 25 Dec	SUN 26 Dec	MON 27 Dec	TUES 28 Dec	WED 29 Dec	THURS 30 Dec	FRI 31 Dec	SAT 1 Jan	SUN 2 Jan	MON 3 Jan	TUES 4 Jan	WED 5 Jan
SWSEC*	OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN
Tokoroa Library	9.30am - 3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.30am - 6pm	9.30am - 5.30pm	9.30am - 3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.30am - 6pm
Putāruru Library	8am - 3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	9.30am - 5.30pm	9.30am - 5pm	9.30am - 3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	8am - 5.30pm
Tirau i-SITE (Library Link)	9am - 3pm	CLOSED	CLOSED	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 3pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm	9am - 5pm

*unless bookings arranged prior

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** - Christmas Eve (Friday 24 December 2021) closing at 3pm,
- **CLOSED** - Christmas Day (Saturday 25 December 2021),
- **OPEN** - New Years Eve (Friday 31 December 2021) closing at 3pm,
- **OPEN** - New Years Day from 12 noon (Saturday 1 January 2022).

The seasonal pools in Tirau and Putāruru will close at 3pm only on Christmas Eve - Friday 24 December 2021 and New Years Eve - Friday 31 December 2021.

Both seasonal pools will be closed on Christmas Day, and open every other day from 12noon to 6pm.

Noise, neighbours and respect over the Christmas holidays

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 together and celebrations can come with a bit more noise than usual.

Here's some tips regarding noise, neighbours and respect over the 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 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.

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, Officers can require the noise to stop. Ultimately however it is the responsibility of the occupier of a property to control or limit noise.

Local Council Christmas Closure Hours




RUBBISH AND RECYCLING

NO COLLECTION DAYS OR AREAS ARE AFFECTED OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD.

Because public holidays are Saturday and Sunday (both over Christmas and at New Year) there are NO affected collection areas. The public holiday observed days (ie, the Monday and Tuesday) following Christmas and New Year are collected as normal.

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: 

Normal hours: Tokoroa: Tues to Sat 9am-4pm. Sun 9am-6pm | Putāruru: Tues, Thurs, Sat, Sun 9am - 4pm | Tirau: Mon, Wed and Sat 1pm-5pm

	FRI 24 Dec	SAT 25 Dec	SUN 26 Dec	MON 27 Dec	TUES 28 Dec	WED 29 Dec	THURS 30 Dec	FRI 31 Dec	SAT 1 Jan	SUN 2 Jan	MON 3 Jan	TUES 4 Jan	WED 5 Jan
Tokoroa Transfer Station	OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN
Putāruru Transfer Station	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED
Tirau recycling drop-off facility	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN	CLOSED	OPEN

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 are the Public Holidays such as:

- Due to both Christmas and Boxing days falling on the weekend, these two public holidays will be observed on Monday 27 December and Tuesday 28 December 2021 - No Urban Connector service on these two days.
- Due to the 1st and 2nd January falling on the weekend, these two public holidays will be observed on Monday 3 January and Tuesday 4 January 2022 - No Urban Connector service on these two days.

CLEAN COOK CHILL

Every year, around 200,000 New Zealanders get food poisoning. Around half of these cases occur in homes just like yours. Food poisoning is caused by harmful germs in or on the food we eat. Campylobacter and Salmonella are the most common causes. You can help stop your family from getting sick by following the 3Cs: Clean, Cook, Chill.

Preventing food poisoning

The 3Cs: Clean, Cook, Chill will help prevent your whānau and friends from becoming ill.

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:

- Cover and put in the fridge.
- Keep cooked and raw food separate don't leave food out.
- 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



IN brief

- Design work for the final cap on the Tokoroa landfill is underway. Works will be tendered and construction will begin during summer.
- An upgrade is underway at the Wastewater Treatment Plant office in Tokoroa.
- Wastewater COVID testing results are on our website.
- New auto shut down programming has been completed on all water supply headworks.
- COVID has impacted the number of events being held at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.
- The knockdown posts to block off no parking near pedestrian crossings in Tirau are working, improving visibility for pedestrians at crossings.
- Warm Homes Clean Air applications are steady with 24% of the budget spent.
- S.T.A.R.S activity packs – vegetable growing and messy fun kits) were provided free for families to collect from the libraries.
- Council has successfully transitioned to a new cloud-based call centre platform.
- The Library Link service operating out of The Dog in Tirau is being used on a daily basis.

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.

Remember your leash in on-leash areas

Just a reminder to our dog owning community to ensure your dogs are on leashes in public areas, unless you are walking in an off-leash or exercise area; when of course you are required to have your dog under voice control at all times.

We need to remember that not all people are doggy people; and seeing dogs off leashes or being approached by unleashed dogs in public areas can be a worry for some! And don't forget to pick up the poop too...



Wondering if your home project needs a building consent?

Did you know that there are several home projects that don't require a building consent?

Our website has information on the building consent process, including a section on Building Consent Exemptions.

This includes a guidance document and neat interactive tool that are great starting points if you are considering a new shed, barns (depending on size),



pole sheds, general repairs, alterations to entrance ways for persons with disabilities... and many others. Needing further clarity, get in touch with Council's building team on 07 885 0340.

<https://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-services/building>

Recent District Plan changes

Council recently resolved two sets of changes to the District Plan to give effect to the Government's National Planning Standards and National Policy Statement on Urban Development. These amendments now have operative effect and have been included in the online version of the District Plan available on our website. The changes are:

1. Removed the rules requiring a minimum number of car parks to be provided for new developments, land uses or activities in the Tokoroa Business zone, Tokoroa Residential zone and the Industrial zones in Tokoroa and at Kinleith.
2. Replaced the previous definition of *Building* in Chapter 9 of the Plan with the definition of *Building* from the Definitions list in the National Planning Standards.

Be vigilant this summer

Always wear a face covering in public.

Use contact tracing.

Stay home if you are sick.

Keep washing /sanitising hands.



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 Ngāpō

0275 339 988
Arama.Ngapo@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