

## Wheelie bin rollout complete

By the time this issue of In Touch is in your mailbox, the wheelie bin kerbside collection system would have been in place for about six weeks.

Council staff would like to thank our community for their patience during this rollout.

The scheduled rollout was already tight due to shipping delays on the bins; and then further compounded by NZ going into lockdown. We know that some people only got bins a day or two before their first use, and one or two people were still without bins at their first collection. Your kindness and patience under the circumstances is appreciated.

We believe those few issues are now resolved and we hope everyone is enjoying using their new bins. It is certainly much neater kerbside and a significant bonus is that animal activity, that caused such a mess for so many neighbourhoods, has all but gone.

Just a reminder on a few key things:

- Placement at the kerbside – please place your bins one metre apart and one metre away from your crates. This applies to your own set of bins (on your recycling day) AND to your neighbours' bins. Bins that are placed too close are difficult for the operator to pick up and place down; and bins can get damaged in the process if they are too

close. It's like COVID – socially distance your bins please!

- The small rubbish bin is for rubbish.
- The large recycling bin is for ALL recycling, except glass.
- The old crates are for glass ONLY.
- Your collection day does NOT change.
- Your collection cycle does NOT change. Recycling and crates are still collected fortnightly. Rubbish is still collected weekly.
- Don't jam pack your rubbish wheelie bin. It makes it difficult for the rubbish to fall out, even when the operator shakes the bin a few times!

Check out the decals for detailed information and DOs and DON'Ts and/or visit [www.thewastecollectionproject.co.nz](http://www.thewastecollectionproject.co.nz) for our waste directory, see page 11.



## RURAL residents - green bags to other bags

We know that some rural residents will have purchased Council green bags for a cost from retailers and taken them to the Transfer Stations to be dropped free of charge. Green bags will very soon no longer be available to purchase. Instead, please purchase plain bags (that cost nowhere near as much as the green bag) and take them to the Transfer Station where you will need to pay a minimal fee for disposal.

With the green bags you paid for the disposal and future waste management when you bought the bag. With the plain bags you pay for the disposal and future waste management when you visit the Transfer Stations.

The cost is more or less the same. The only thing that changes is where you pay the disposal costs.

## IN brief

- Council approved the Property Acquisition Policy and the Property Disposal Policy.
- Council has committed \$50,000 to improve the stormwater discharge into the Whakauru Stream, an opportunity that resulted from required work for the new Trades Training Centre capital project.
- Work continued on the Pellikan Place/Dumfries Road link road and cemetery extension.

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## IN house

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

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## Dog pound gets an super cool upgrade

Council is currently overhauling the aging dog pound facilities in Tokoroa. Council committed \$160,000 for the upgrade in the budget. Works have tracked well and the project is within budget.

The upgrade will ensure any animal in our care is provided with a safe, warm and accommodating space. Providing a good quality facility is a priority for our Compliance Officers, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure each animal is properly cared for.

A range of improvements have been made to the facility such as new external fencing and an improved outdoor exercise yard with additional drainage for easier clean up. The entire outdoor yard will now also have sun protection sails.

Internal improvements have seen all interior linings replaced, new bedding and a heating system installed for extra warmth during our cold winters.

Once completed, the improved facility will have the capacity to accommodate up to 40 animals at any one time. Council will host an official open day in December to allow the community an opportunity to view the new and improved facilities.



Photos taken during Level 1

## New Zealand Libraries Partnership Programme

Kia ora, Kia orana, Malo e lelei, Talofa lava, Hello!

Our digital support sessions have been a big hit across the South Waikato district.

Since April 2021, our team has delivered over 290 one-on-one sessions at the Putāruru and Tokoroa Libraries.

These sessions are aimed at helping to build digital literacy and capability across our communities and providing support services for job seekers.

Our team has supported many people who have purchased or been given a new device and are unsure about setting it up or getting started.

We have many users of our service who have already

achieved their initial digital goals such as setting up a device, and developed the confidence to set another goal. Many people return to the session to continue to build their digital skills.

It is great to see people feeling more confident and independent with their digital tools and staying connected with news, information, services and loved ones.

Sessions are customer led – you let our team know what you'd like to achieve, and we'll work with you one-on-one to get you there.

Some of the feedback received by our service users:

*"Staff have great patience and are a calming influence."*

*"Very patient with me and used language I could understand."*

*"The session exceeded my expectations."*

Areas of interest we cover in our Digital Support sessions are:

- Set up of digital devices
- Email account
- Covid tracer app
- Online banking
- Use of electronic library apps - Libby and E-Platform
- Understanding mobile apps
- Introduction to social media, Google Drive and internet.

The Digital Support sessions are free and open to everyone in the South Waikato.

Sessions are available at Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tirau by appointment.

During Level 2 mask wearing, contact tracing, social distancing and sanitising are required.

Our team will talk you through what to expect when you book and assist when you arrive for your session.

Contact your local library for more information.

### Did you know:

Your library membership gives you access to a wide range of eBooks and downloadable audiobooks via our digital apps and platforms: Libby, Overdrive and the Wheelers E-Platform.

For more information head to [southwaikato.kotui.org.nz](https://southwaikato.kotui.org.nz).



# WHAT'S HOT

Testing centres and vaccination clinics – tremendous collaborative effort – Raukawa, South Waikato Pacific Island Community, District Health Board and Council.

Around a 96% success rate on the wheelie bin rollout. Some tidy up underway. If you haven't got wheelie bins, please call Council on 885 0340.



The excellent efforts of a large number of urban households that have resulted in excellent recycling wheelie bins from day one!

Further funding from Mayors Taskforce for Jobs for the WorkIT programme that is aimed at getting young people into training or employment. The programme kicked off in April this year and has seen a coordinator appointed, Paniora Daniels; and 21 people placed into horticulture, one into social services, two into wood manufacturing and one into a timber yard.

**Below:** The services installation in the Maple Drive growth cell nearing completion – pipes in the ground, cables laid, footpath done... next step title and then houses!



# WHAT'S NOT

Youth using the skateparks and basketball courts during lockdown when these facilities were out of bounds.

**Below:** Vandalism at Dunham Point – broken showers and doors, battery and inverter stolen.



The lady who walked down a Tokoroa street pushing over all the new rubbish wheelie bins so rubbish ended up strewn all over the street. Hope the Police caught up with you.

**Below:** these two photos are GREAT examples of really POOR recycling. To the people responsible for these wheelie bins – your poor attempt at clean and correct recycling can contaminate the recycling efforts of the many people who do it right. The wheelie bin with the large lid is NOT a second rubbish bin! It is your RECYCLING bin. Three strikes and you're out... remember!





## Te Kinakina: E Ngara I te Ngari book launch



During this year's Cook Island language week, Tokoroa celebrated the launch of the book *Te Kinakina: E Ngara I te Ngari* - remember who you are and where you come from'. Considered a first of its kind, *Te Kinakina: E Ngara I te Ngari* captures stories from 12 proud Cook Island women who are from within the Tokoroa community.

*Te Kinakina: E Ngara I te Ngari* grew from an initiative by Read NZ Te Pou Muramura called **Writers in Schools**, which was supported by the Ministry of Education.

Internationally acclaimed poet Vaughan Rapatahaha led a series of writing workshops with the 12 women to develop and enrich their storytelling.

The **Writers in Schools** initiative was supported by Akarere Henry, CEO of South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services, who co-ordinated the community involvement.

"The main premise behind the project was to give our people a voice," says Akarere.

*Te Kinakina: E Ngara I te Ngari* captures the lives of 12 families who migrated from the Cook Islands, illustrating their precious memories and stories passed down through the generations.

Akarere says, "Our people maintained their relationships, values, faith and culture here on their new whenua. It's important to acknowledge the challenges our ancestors faced many years ago. This book is a testament to them and the future of our people."

Copies of the *Te Kinakina: E Ngara I te Ngari* book can be purchased directly from SWPICS. Please call 07 886 0010.







## The best fun you can have on two wheels

Few people seem to know that Tokoroa has a mountain bike park that is attracting attention from all over the North Island. Thirty-four kilometres with thirty-eight tracks from beginner to Grade 5, provide some of the most exciting trails to be found anywhere in the country.

Besides a pump track that provides excellent training for the absolute beginner who can graduate to *Pebbles* with their gentle rises and falls, Grade 3 riders can enjoy the fast, sweeping corners of *Bam Bam* or the faster *Yabba Dabba Doo*. *Speedy Cheetah* has been knocked off its pedestal by *Master Blaster*, featuring a cliffside wooden bridge and taking riders from the centre

of the Park all the way to the Newell Road car park.

*Basil Balls*, designed by Jeff Carter and built by Scott Taylor, is an advanced Grade 3.5 track featuring berms and jumps, while across the small valley is *Curry In a Hurry*, with its tight berm-turns in the gully. There are two Grade 5 trails – *Widow Maker* and *Cumin Quik* which have more jumps.

Cougar Park is for everybody – walkers, runners and cyclists. The Park is essentially a living, working forest owned by Hancock Forest Management.

“Hancock allow us to operate in the forest,” says Brett McMullen, President of the Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club. “We have a good relationship. They enjoy

having us in the Park and giving back to the community is part of their corporate philosophy.”

Staying on top of the general maintenance, which includes weeds and storm damage, is a huge challenge for Brett, his committee and team of volunteers. Several Tokoroa business owners generously give their time and resources, keen to see the Park grow and attract more riders, runners and walkers. Currently, the Club hosts the North Island Cup, a junior regional race event.

“We are excited to be holding a stage of the Volcanic Epic in Cougar Park. We have the opportunity to showcase our fantastic facility to a wider range of mountain bikers,” says Brett.

The exciting four stage Volcanic Epic Mountain Bike Stage Race will take place in March 2022, in Rotorua, Taupo and Tokoroa.

Securing funding to keep the Park going strong into the future is a priority. The Club has installed live internet-connected counters at both entrances to the Park (the cricket ground off Mossop Road and Newell Road) to count people and note times and days when the Park is most in use.

“We need these statistics to back up funding applications,” says Brett. The Club currently receives funding from the South Waikato District Council, Pub Charity, Grassroots Trust and the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust.



## Enviroschools empowers the young to make a real difference

The Enviroschools programme supports and empowers children and young people to plan, design and implement sustainable actions that matter to them and their communities. Enviroschools is a national programme delivered in partnership between South Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council.

### TĪRAU

Last term, Tirau Primary School established a giant worm farm that uses food waste accumulated at the School. This project is led by the School's Enviroleaders and 40 odd students in the Envirogroup. It's definitely a School effort.

The worm farm offers an environmentally friendly option for organic waste disposal by generating fertiliser for the School's vegetable gardens and fruit trees. This project offers many benefits to the School, increases environmental awareness and establishes a pollinator garden for bees and butterflies to flourish in.

Tirau Primary's next focus will be establishing a pest-proof habitat for native bats in the area.

### TOKOROA

Forest View High School has focused on monitoring and improving the water quality in nearby streams. During recent

times, they have concentrated on the Matarawa Stream and Lake Moananui, establishing a network of relationships and expanding their scope to reporting.

Recently, Forest View's Enviroschool's group has been generating a range of reports for the South Waikato District and Waikato Regional councils, identifying valuable information from their chemical, physical and biological tests.

The Matarawa Stream restoration work is a combination of waste removal in and around the waterways, plus riparian planting.

# Three Waters Reforms - SWDC current stance

## Right now

At a full Council meeting held on Thursday 30 September, South Waikato District Council (SWDC) finalised its submission to the Three Waters Reform proposal. Effectively Councillors feel that we have insufficient information at this stage to make a decision on Government's Three Waters proposal. Council has made a formal submission to Government outlining our concerns. This and a covering letter signed by the Mayor and all Councillors is available on our website.

## Background

Over the past three years, central Government has been considering how best to regulate and deliver the three water services (drinking water, wastewater and stormwater).

The Government's preference is for four larger water entities to replace 67 councils that currently manage their district's three waters services.

The Three Waters Reform signals a significant change for all councils, and currently there is uncertainty around how water supply, wastewater and stormwater services will be delivered to our community in the future and the how the community voice would be heard by the new water entities.

## What has happened so far?

- 2020 - Three Waters Reform announced.
- All councils, including SWDC, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Crown.
  - About the MoU:
    - › SWDC received funding of \$3.88 million. We are using this funding for: Tokoroa wastewater treatment plant denitrification (\$3.17m), SCADA/telemetry (\$450k), regional collaboration (\$100k) and district wide stormwater (\$160k).
    - › Acceptance of the reform's principles and objectives and agreement to work with Government and neighbouring councils.
    - › Required SWDC to provide information on its three waters status and committed funding.
- March 2021 - Taumata Arowai becomes a new Crown entity. It is set to become the dedicated water services regulator for Aotearoa New Zealand when the Water Services Bill passes. This function used to be undertaken by the Department of Health for water only.
  - Taumata Arowai will:
    - › oversee, administer and enforce a new, expanded and strengthened drinking-water regulatory system, to ensure all New Zealand communities have access to safe drinking water.
    - › provide oversight of the regulation, management, and environmental performance of wastewater and stormwater networks, including promoting public understanding of that performance.
- 30 June 2021 – Government announced proposal to transfer three waters into four publicly owned entities, called Entity A, B, C and D.
  - What will this proposed structure look like:
    - › SWDC would be part of Entity B – 22 councils in the greater Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki and parts of Manawatu-Wanganui.
    - › Regional Representative groups will be established with 10-12 representatives nominated from councils and mana whenua of each area.
- July 2021 - Government announced a \$2.8 billion package to ensure councils are 'no worse off'.
  - From this \$2.8 billion, it is proposed that SWDC will get funding of just over \$26 million - \$19 to spend on community wellbeing and potentially \$7 million to ensure SWDC is 'no worse off', including transition costs.

## Our submission to central Government

### Key points from our submission to Government

We have been asked by Government to provide responses on three key issues. These are outlined in full in our submission which is on our website. Here we summarise some key points.

- Reforms being pushed too quickly. High chance that reforms will fail to be ready for implementation by July 2024 and meet their intended purposes.
- Community and Council not given sufficient time to consider the proposal.
- Disjointed process. Future for Local Government should be developed first with Three Waters Reforms and Resource Management Reform following. We are urging Government to please stop and take the time to plan these reforms better.
- Scope of the Future for Local Government reset is unknown. The decision-making process for Three Waters would be improved if the initial paper on Future for Local Government was available. These three changes facing councils are interwoven.
- Imagery and messaging in the media campaign implemented by Government (with no input from councils) is ill-conceived and inaccurate. It has damaged the reputation of councils, generated distrust in the community and compromised the relationship between councils and Government.
- Information currently in the public realm is inconsistent and is poorly understood by the community. This needs to be urgently addressed as it allows misinformation to spread and makes change more difficult to implement and has resulted in reputational risks to both Government and councils.





Text heavy page, there is a lot of information...

For more information (full summary and submission)

[www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz)

Our Council - Major Projects - Three Waters Reforms

#### Three key issues and what SWDC is thinking:

**1** *Ensuring all communities have both a voice in the system and influence over local decisions.*

#### Our key points are:

- Large entities won't service smaller, more remote towns well. Will our community be heard?
- The relationship between Three Waters Reform and the Resource Management Act Reform is complex and these two significant changes cannot be processed separately.
- Multi-regional entities cut across regions and this will complicate spatial planning.
- Local communities will lose their say on how their towns grow and develop.
- Smaller councils with communities that have higher levels of deprivation will miss out, sadly, when they are the ones that most need the resources.

**2** *Effective representation on the new water service entities' representation boards.*

#### Our key points are:

- Not all iwi or councils will be represented directly on the advisory board because there are only 10-12 spots on the representation board. This advisory board only provides advice to a professional board of directors who will govern each of the proposed Three Waters' entities
- Any change in legislation should provide for the rights and interests of iwi and Māori.
- Current iwi settlement agreements need to be reviewed and recognised as part of any reforms process so that they are honoured.
- Continued public ownership of the Three Waters entities is imperative.

**3** *Making sure councils' economic development and growth plans are integrated with water services current and future investment planning.*

#### Our key points are:

- Planning for growth and service change in our LTP must be captured and implemented.
- Council's direct ability to impact growth, land use and what was traditionally District Plan conditions is likely to be much more limited and will be part of a Waikato-wide regional spatial plan.
- It is imperative that future investment in infrastructure to support growth needs to be based on the need of every community.

#### Some further consideration points for context:

- Likely increased compliance costs and capital costs (particularly in stormwater and wastewater) post 1 July 2024 - not included in our LTP.
- Service boundary of stormwater, such as, parks and reserves assets versus stormwater overland flow areas and road run off is unclear.
- Council is skeptical of the difference in the cost projections released by Government that ratepayers will pay between and opt-in and opt-out.
- Government funding allocated for standard overheads and transition costs is too low.
- Methodology for calculating the 'no worse off' is unclear.
- There are a number of unknown risks regarding future capital investment, maintenance and management of the Three Waters.
- While we have 35-year consents for our wastewater supplies, what will be required at each five year review is unknown.
- There is a lot of unknowns around rural water supplies. We have many in our district. We need to know more.
- Council has not invested in stormwater. The costs associated with flooding in the future are unknown and impacted by climate change.
- The future use of a Development Contribution framework post the reforms needs further clarity to ensure certainty that growth-related infrastructure is charged to new development and not ratepayers.

#### And some more questions Council has:

- Will Government allow SWDC and our community to truly have a say?
- Will billing be harmonised across Entity B?
- Who will invoice customers and collect rates and charges?

#### There are some benefits to opting in including:

- A larger entity will likely deliver a centrally managed system to support compliance and rural water users.
- Council is likely to receive \$26 million (estimated) in funding for community investment.
- There needs to be job certainty for current employees in their current role, conditions and place of work for two years post formation of the new employment entity.
- A central body must be established to oversee training of apprentices and cadets in the next two years to ensure that these vital programmes continue to run smoothly.
- Significant planning and implement of an employment transition process needs to be achieved.
- A larger employer may have the ability to create development and career opportunities, such as apprentices and the ability to specialise.



# Vaccination Centre opens up in Tokoroa

The new COVID-19 Vaccination Centre in Tokoroa truly has community at its heart. The recently opened Centre is a collaboration between Raukawa Charitable Trust, South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services (SWPICS) and the Waikato District Health Board (DHB). The three organisations have a long-standing partnership, working closely together last year to deliver COVID-19 testing across the district.

During the recent 2021 lockdown, Raukawa and SWPICS collaborated with the DHB and South Waikato District Council to run a drive-through testing and vaccination clinic, vaccinating a few thousand people in only a matter of days.

The new Leith Place Vaccination Centre is open from Tuesday to Friday and late night on Thursdays. A drive-through clinic at SWPICS' Maraetai Road facility operates on Saturdays.

Waikato COVID-19 vaccine programme lead Maree Munro said working in close partnership with local providers delivers the best approach for a community.

"Raukawa and SWPICS are deeply involved in supporting the people of the South Waikato and they know their community and its health needs really well," Munro said.

"They've been involved in the Waikato vaccination programme since it began and we're grateful to have their knowledge and experience as we scale things up."

"Māori and Pacific people are more at risk if they catch COVID-19 and vaccinating this group in big numbers is an important way we can protect the welfare and wellbeing of our community," SWPICS CEO Akarere Henry said.

The Waikato vaccination programme is taking a whānau approach, meaning whole families can book in for their vaccinations.

The best way of organising family bookings is by calling 0800 28 29 26.

Appointments for individuals could also be booked online at [www.bookmyvaccine.nz](http://www.bookmyvaccine.nz).

Everyone aged 12 and over is now able to book their vaccination.



Photos supplied by Raukawa.





## South Waikato District value increases by 25%



The 2021 district revaluation was completed recently. Values were assessed as at 1 July 2021 by independent valuers and then audited and approved by the Office of the Valuer General.

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.

While there are twelve property types applicable in our district, two make up the majority of the property types. Residential (70% of total) and lifestyle (11% of total) property values increased the most, by an average of 77% and 35% respectively. Forestry, industrial, commercial and pastoral (farming other than dairy) increased by 54%, 20%, 22% and 10% respectively. Dairy

(which makes up 5.4% of total property) decreased by 9%. Other property types are less significant due to our district profile.

Council anticipated increasing property values - especially for residential properties - in its recent Long Term Plan (LTP); and decided for the 2022-23 financial year (ie, next year's rates) to reduce the Uniform Annual General Charge (UAGC) to help smooth the rate impact of valuation changes.

"These new valuations will be used to set rates from July 2022," said Martin Warren, Council's Revenue Manager. "Because of the wide variance in property value changes, the revaluation will have different impacts on rates for each property from July 2022."

To check your valuation and its impact on the rates for your property for the 2022-23 year, please visit Council's website.

## Wastewater reminders for our community

We remind residents in our urban townships not to flush disposable wet wipes down our toilets. Some brands may say they are flushable, but sadly they are not.

Wet wipes can block up our pipes and create a mess. Please help our wastewater services team by putting wet wipes in the bin, not down the toilet.

When wet wipes accumulate, they block the sewer pipes which creates sewerage overflows, which isn't nice for anyone.

Wipes also cause problems when they become lodged on the inner surface of wastewater pipes and become a catching point for fats, grease and oils.

As further products become caught the size of the blockage increases until it interferes with the amount of wastewater able to pass through the pipe and damage to the system occurs.

This is a cost to ratepayers, and to our environment that we can avoid.

Toilets are for three things only - pee, poo and paper!





## Young drivers learn of real issues around road safety

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

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

They were provided with simulated experiences like what happens inside the booze bus, a reversing demonstration and practical session that highlights the lack of visibility while reversing, particularly when your car is packed with people, car crashes and high impact effects on cars and bodies.

Other stations saw a quick recap of the road code, what ambulance workers and paramedics deal with on a daily basis, *what if* scenarios, and the somewhat fun, but rather sobering practical exercise wearing drunk goggles (designed to simulate being over the limit.)

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



## TALKING ROAD SAFETY

Unfortunately emergency services still regularly attend serious and fatal crashes where someone was not wearing a suitable restraining device.

Eleven people were killed on New Zealand roads during the Christmas/New Year holiday period 2020-21, the highest number in three years and almost three times the number of deaths a year earlier.

Five of those people killed on New Zealand roads during the holiday period were not wearing seatbelts or suitable restraints, Police say.

Wearing a seat belt would not necessarily have meant they would have survived, but they would have had a better chance.



Wearing a seatbelt reduces the risk of being killed or seriously injured in a road crash by about 40%. If everyone wore their seatbelts an estimated 25 lives could be saved from road crashes each year.

Seatbelts (safety belts) support you in a crash or when the vehicle stops suddenly. Without a seatbelt, front seat occupants can be thrown through the windscreen and onto the road. Back seat passengers can be thrown onto the front seats or the front seat passengers, or can hit the roof.

## Seatbelts save lives.

### Quiz Time

At what age may a child legally ride a vehicle using just the fitted seatbelt?

*Private message the Comms team on Facebook with the answer. We need your name and phone number. First correct entry drawn wins a prize.*

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

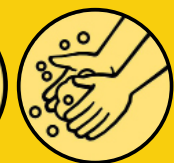
**Be vigilant, keep it up!**

**Use contact tracing.**

**Stay home if you are sick.**

**Always wear a face covering in public.**

**Keep washing /sanitising hands.**







## Best loo award nomination

The Leith Place toilets have been nominated for the Best Loo Award. As part of the Leith Place Upgrade Council wanted to create a plaza area for visitors and locals to use, provide ample parking for shoppers, incorporate the existing Talking Poles into a forest and build new toilets to create a wow factor to attract passing traffic off the highway.

Five individual toilets were constructed, marking out the Southern Cross constellation.

The Southern Cross is representative across a number of cultures and ethnicities as

it has long been a navigation tool used by Māori, Pasifika and Europeans, indeed people from many backgrounds. Tokoroa prides itself on celebrating a wide range of cultures and the Southern Cross aligns across them all.

Adding the wow factor to the functional toilet bases are the extrusion of the toilets to form five towering cylinders of varying heights. These act as an eye-catching attraction for passing motorists at the northern end of Leith Place, with the Talking Poles forest at the southern end

as a supporting feature and additional wow factor.

The entire space came alive for the Twilight Christmas Block Party held in December last year, together with a firework display on nearby Colson's Hill.

The fireworks exploding over the dramatic night-lit toilet towers was stupendous.

The toilets were designed by DCA Architects. The Leith Place toilets won a Waikato/BoP New Zealand Institute of Architects (NZIA) award in April; and are currently shortlisted in the NZIA National Awards.

## Wondering what waste goes where?

Check out our new Waste Directory on what goes.

This directory lists everyday items such as batteries, keyboards, jam jars, cardboard, toasters, bedding, and many more and then tells you where it goes.

Some products are collected kerbside and go in one of the following:

- Red lid wheelie bin – for rubbish
- Yellow lid wheelie bin – for all recycling except glass
- Glass crates – for glass only

Other items aren't collected kerbside and can be taken elsewhere, such as:

- Transfer Station Hazardous Waste store
- South Waikato Achievement Centre for e-waste
- Local charity shops
- Local car dealers
- Local scrap metal dealers

All products have a place to go; we just need to learn where to put or take them.

Visit [www.thewastecollectionproject.com](http://www.thewastecollectionproject.com).



## Tirau Domain and Putāruru Waterpark blessing

Excitement will surely build for our residents in Putāruru and Tirau as sites for two projects are set to begin.

The work on the Tirau Domain and Putāruru Waterpark were officially launched

in September as our local kaumatua led Councillors, staff, community groups and external contractors through a blessing of the site and a karakia (prayer) at both venues.

The Tirau Domain will go

through a much-anticipated facelift for the community with a playground set to be added, while there are plans to link the Tirau walkway to the Domain.

Meanwhile, in Putāruru, a staged upgrade is planned for

the Waterpark outside of the local food court.

A refreshing and enlightening Matariki design is set to greet visitors along State Highway 1 and it will further explore our history.

## IN brief

- During August Council processed 1,679 service requests and took 4,251 calls! These are massive numbers compared to normal times and are attributed to COVID, green bags and wheelie bins.
- The Animal Control and Compliance Team completed 553 tasks during lockdown. The team were out delivering green bags, delivering kit for staff, patrolling and monitoring reserves on top of their normal animal related duties. A fine effort.
- Three Council staff were deployed to Westport to assist with the civil defence flooding emergency.
- We now have a Tokoroa based Alcohol Harm Officer funded through Police.
- COVID business support continues through Space to Grow [www.swnz.co](http://www.swnz.co) with relevant links for assistance and a Spend Local 2.0 campaign.
- There were 147 new installs of Council's mobile phone app Antenna over a six week period.
- Earthworks on the new Trades Training Centre site at the northern entranceway to Tokoroa have started.

## IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:  
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## IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter in electronic format please email [kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz](mailto:kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz).

## Councillor Column Hamish Daine

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all well and keeping warm in these early days of spring.

I thought about what topics you would like to hear about and I kept coming back to the Three Waters Reform that's currently on the table for Central Government.

I have received emails regarding this from a lot of different people in the community. I love that our community is speaking up and challenging us to listen to you, the community.

There does seem to be a perception that we are doing nothing, but I want to assure you we are engaged and hearing the information coming in and digesting it, so when we have the opportunity for public consultation, we have the facts and figures.

Is there a case for change in South Waikato? It's a no from me so far, but I look forward to getting more information from you.

Have you heard of Coffee With Councillors? An opportunity to sit down with us, whether one on one, or in a group setting and have a casual conversation with your Elected Members. We buy the coffee, you do the talking and we do the listening! Keep a watch out for them once we are back in Level 1.

I have really enjoyed advocating for our community. I take this role seriously and want to be the best for you. So thank you for taking the time to read my column. Any concerns and questions please don't hesitate to get in touch, I am here for you.

HIT Team - Honesty, Integrity and Transparency



With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 alert level changes, please note that these event dates may change; and some of them will only go ahead if we move to Level 1.

Events to happen if we are in Level 1:

- 31 October - Sunday Movie - JUNE AGAIN - 2pm - Tickets are \$5 for Students & \$8 for adults - come dressed for Halloween and only pay \$5!
- 6 November - Kuranui School Production - 6pm - please contact the School for tickets.
- 11 November - Arts on Tour Production - AUSTEN FOUND - 7pm - tickets available at The Plaza and Eventfinda - more information on website.
- 12 November - Glow Show presents the WONDERLAND GLOW SHOW - 10am (0-5yrs) & 11:30am (6-12 yrs) - Tickets are available from Eventfinda - more information on website.
- 27 November - Ace Fighters Gym brings us another incredible FIGHT NIGHT - times TBC.
- 28 November - Sunday Movie - NEVER TOO LATE - 2pm - tickets are \$5 for students & \$8 for adults.
- 2 December - Showtime Australia Presents - THE BEEGEE'S Night Fever - 8pm - tickets are available from Eventfinda.
- 3 December - Rangiura Fundraising QUIZ NIGHT - times TBC.

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