

Success as 4,000 native trees planted at Duxfield Reserve

On Wednesday 29 June, over 100 volunteers attended the Duxfield Reserve Planting Day near Putāruru.

The reserve itself was gifted to the people of Putāruru as a picnic area, by long time Matamata County Councillor John Edward Duxfield back in 1968.

The reserve is located along Arapuni Road about halfway

between the towns of Arapuni and Putāruru.

With funding from the Waikato River Authority and Council support, the Pokaiwhenua Catchment Group (PCG) was able to arrange a planting day on Council owned land next to the Duxfield Reserve.

The Pokaiwhenua Catchment Group's long-term vision is to provide future generations

with improved access, better water quality and enhanced biodiversity. They aim to restore and care for the environment along the Pokaiwhenua Stream.

Over 100 volunteers attended, including many locals and farmers, who were joined by staff from SWDC, Downer, Raukawa, Powerco, Farmlands, Fonterra, Castlegate James, Stock Rock, Trinity Lands and Enviroschool Tirau Primary.

The event itself was a huge success in bringing the community together and in seeing 4,000 beautiful native trees planted along the Pokaiwhenua. These will help stabilise the slopes and protect the stream flowing through it.

Make sure to stop by for a picnic next time you are driving through and have a look around this beautiful reserve!



... even more trees...

the 4,000 trees at Duxfield Reserve were not the only trees planted recently. The Bishop Edward Gaines Catholic School received South Waikato Environmental Initiatives (SWEI*) funding of \$217 for 62 plants for their planting programme within the school compound. They planted their trees as an extension of their bush area. They are hoping to encourage native birds and biodiversity into their grounds.

**SWEI is an independent group that provides funding for native trees. The funds are from major contributor Oji Fibre Solutions, Ministry for Primary Industries and from 2022, Fonterra. SWDC assists with administration.*



IN the know

DID YOU KNOW... Council's three waters infrastructure is valued at \$77 million, consisting of \$25 million worth of water assets, \$28 million worth of wastewater assets and \$23 million worth of stormwater assets.

A few additional stats: there are 7,484 properties connected to our wastewater system, 293km of water pipes in our underground water network and 123km of open and piped stormwater drains.

IN side

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IN house

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

Editorial: Kerry Fabrie, Anthony Momoemasu and Brooke Sullivan, 07 885 0340. Print: GASP Designs

Three Waters - Update

Council thanks the many people who provided feedback to help inform our submission on the Government's Water Services Entity Bill.

From the feedback, it appears that Council and the majority in our community are pretty much on the same page. This is reflected in the survey results which are outlined on the right. We note some varying views around Council's ability to manage its waters and the proposed co-governance.

This is a complex situation.

Council has publicly expressed concern about aspects of the reforms, while supporting other aspects. This has not changed and is reflected in our submission on the Bill (which is available on our website). Our concerns prompted us to join Communities 4 Local Democracy (C4LD) (along with 30 other councils) to put pressure on the Government to look at alternative models.

All the while, we need to position our Council and community as best we can for the future, should the reforms

go ahead in the current format. Our Council accepted funding of \$3.88 million last year for all the information we were required to provide. This was a massive amount of work and Government recognised that. This funding has gone towards several three waters projects that would otherwise have been funded by rates.

Our Council has also resolved to accept further funding. Some in our community will believe this weakens our position, however we believe it strengthens our position. Basically, **if** the three

waters goes ahead, it will do so regardless of whether we accept Government funding or not. We have concluded that it is best to accept it and spend the money locally for our people.

Council wants to reassure its community that should three waters go ahead, the infrastructure will be handed over to the Entity in great shape, meeting all of our water standards and consent conditions. The team on the ground won't change and when you turn on the tap, you'll get the same fresh water.



Broadly, Council's submission on the Water Services Entity Bill covered some central themes:

- Well managed, well-maintained and appropriately future funded infrastructure - bought and paid for by the people of the South Waikato, should remain in Council control. The proposed model alienates SWDC's ownership rights to the three water assets.
- Loss of local voice. Small fish in a big pond. Our priorities for our communities will be lost.
- Concern at large, bureaucratic and complex governing structure with multiple layers - too complex, local voice too far away from decision makers.
- Because our debt levels for three waters is relatively low (compared to other councils)

and because we have reserves in the millions, the *no-worse-off* payment is simply unjust for our Council and our ratepayers. Our community cannot afford to take on the debt of other councils that will also be in Entity B.

- Government is pushing the Three Waters Reform through very fast. This will result in poor outcomes.
- SWDC encourages central Government to take a step back, slow down and give alternative models suggested by C4LD through the Castalia reports proper investigation.
- Unanswered questions and significant public opposition. Opposition parties, C4LD, 31 councils and many from the general public are all saying the same thing. Stop. Listen. Don't ignore.

- Central Government should have worked genuinely with councils from the outset. Had they done so, the cost of the reforms would have been much less and the outcome better. Poor liaison with councils has been unhelpful to achieving quality, collaborative and informed outcomes.
- The Three Waters Reform public advertising campaign was inaccurate with destructive messages, causing public mistrust.
- The opt-in/opt-out initial proposal that soon became mandatory caused further mistrust in central Government, not only for SWDC as an organisation, but also for our communities.

water | wastewater | stormwater

SWDC SUPPORTS:

We support reform of the Three Waters sector, specifically the high-level outcomes outlined by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). Change is needed.

We support the proposal to provide for local iwi to have improved input into decision-making related to these local assets.

We support the introduction of Taumata Arowai, the new water services regulator. We

support Taumata Arowai to hold councils to account to meet required drinking water standards, along with vigorous enforcement for councils that fail to meet these standards.

SWDC DOESN'T SUPPORT:

We don't support the process the Government has undertaken; failing to allow for a more bespoke approach to take into account the individual councils' circumstances.

We don't support the haste with which the change process is occurring, giving insufficient time for rational and evidence-based consideration.

We don't support the approach to changing the ownership and management of the related assets.

We don't support that the current model is the only, or even the best, solution.

FEEDBACK FROM THE SURVEY

- 94% of respondents were not supportive of the reforms for the following reasons: non-democratic process, anticipated increasing costs, risk of privatisation, no genuine consultation, rushed through, theft of assets, one size doesn't fit all, SWDC has well managed infrastructure and appropriately funded.
- 90% of respondents wanted Council to continue to align with C4LD for these reasons: proposing alternatives, power in numbers.
- 87% believe there may be other more suitable solutions/models.
- 89% believe we should slow the reforms down and look at alternative models.
- 8% of respondents believe three waters should continue on the current timeline for a July 2024 kick-off.
- 88% believe that councils are in danger of losing infrastructure paid for by local communities.
- 91% believe they have too many unanswered questions at this time regarding the reforms to be comfortable that it will deliver an improved service for the community.
- 92% believe that three waters reform (in its current form) will result in loss of local voice.
- 93% are concerned about privatisation.

WHAT'S HOT

Having the lovely town of Tirau featured extensively with Camille and Stu on The Breeze radio station was really hot. Our Customer Service and Library Manager Ebony Curtin gave them a rundown on just how great Tirau is! The story of the Sheep looking for a new tenant has resulted in quite a bit of media interest in our Tirau township.



Fantastic to have the Mooloos back in the South Waikato for a Friday afternoon game on the oval at the Tokoroa War Memorial Sportsground against Hawkes Bay. A nail biter that the Mooloos narrowly lost in the last few minutes.



Community feedback on our three waters reform engagement – thank you for coming to the meetings and providing feedback.

The Putāruru Country Estate development kicking off in October.



Pictured from left - carcasses dumped in a public area, public showers broken, public toilets tagged. Vandalism is not hot - across the district in many places, be it tagging, breaking, thieving, dumping. This poor behaviour is frustrating for Council and contractors and costly for ratepayers. Wouldn't it be nice if Council didn't have to fund vandalism? And the answer is not cameras... it happens everywhere, all the time. We can't put cameras up everywhere. There are words many of us could think of to use regarding this behaviour... not printable though...

WHAT'S NOT



Putāruru Transfer Station - theft, costs and coming soon...

The recent thefts at the Putāruru Transfer Station have been frustrating for Council, our contractor and our community. In recent months, the kiosk at the Transfer Station has been broken into twice over consecutive fortnights. All up, the cost of the replacement equipment totalled around \$8,500 and was difficult to coordinate between the contractor, weighbridge supplier and the software supplier.

Having the facility closed for periods due to the theft directly impacts users, our community. People having to drive all the way to Tokoroa from the north of the district, especially with the price of fuel is not okay. Operating on a manual system is also not ideal.

The stolen equipment was associated with the operation of a weighbridge. That's all much of the stolen equipment can be used for.



Unless the thief has a weighbridge squirrelled away in their back yard, what they stole is of absolutely no use to them.

This is an unfortunate cost to ratepayers.

But that's not the only frustrating thing about these incidents.



Just a massive inconvenience for the South Waikato community.

With the negative out of the way, there is some positive news.

Council will soon be installing a second weighbridge at the facility, to create an in/out process.

This addition will incorporate some reconfiguration of the facility and a new kiosk.

And the best news, it is largely being funded by the Ministry for the Environment (MfE), not Council and not ratepayers. Council secured \$100,000 from MfE for improvements; and the \$100k will largely cover the complete planned works.



Young Driver Expo pulls no punches and celebrates 10 years running

This year's Young Driver Expo was held on 28 and 29 June at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.

The Expo, which has been running for 10 years, was a combined effort between Tokoroa Bluelight and the South Waikato District Council, in partnership with the New Zealand Police, St John Ambulance Service, Tokoroa Fire Brigade, TCOSS and the Department of Corrections.

Senior students from high schools in the district were invited to attend with the focus on those who had started or were about to start going through the graduated driver licensing system.

The day started with a sobering video showing the effects poor decision making can have, not only on the driver but the wider community.

The students then moved on to the first of six workshops spread over the day.

The workshops covered the following topics:

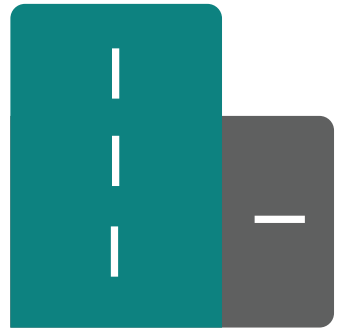
- Fire Service - the effects of a crash on a vehicle and why a higher star rated vehicle is better.
- Ambulance Service - the effects of a crash on the vehicle occupants.
- Runover Kit - demonstrating the dangers of young children around cars and the correct use of child restraints.
- Vehicle Checks - showed the students how to do basic checks on a vehicle - tyres, oil and water.
- Alcohol Checkpoint - walked students through an alcohol checkpoint while explaining the limits and effects of alcohol.
- Fatal Vision - used the 'drunk goggles' to simulate the effects of alcohol and getting the students to perform a series of tasks while 'under the influence'.

In between the workshops, a guest speaker spoke on the personal effect a drink driver had on them and what the long-term consequences of a drink driving conviction can be.

The day was closed by a presentation by team members from the Corrections Service who went through the various penalties that could be imposed on a driver.

Unfortunately, numbers were down on previous years due to the effects of COVID-19 but those who attended went away with a new perspective on the responsibilities of being a driver.

TALKING ROAD SAFETY



Driving tips for Winter

- Before you leave remember to check the road conditions. It's no fun to find the road is closed halfway through your journey! Visit www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic.
- Have a quick walk around your vehicle. Do your tyres have enough tread? Those small bits of rubber are all that is keeping your vehicle on the road.
- Make sure your windows are clean and clear. In the unlikely event the day is sunny a dirty windscreen can greatly reduce vision.
- Once you are on the road take care and in wet or icy conditions increase your following distance to allow more stopping room.
- During cold conditions, shady spots on the road could be covered in ice, even in the late afternoon.

Drive to survive and always drive to the conditions.



WORKIT is working

Council is thrilled that we have secured further funding* for the WORKIT programme. This is the third round of funding the programme has received since inception in April 2021. The initial pilot had a six-month objective of securing 25 sustainable employment opportunities for young people.

WORKIT coordinator Paniora Daniels achieved 25 placements in half that time, and was provided with further funding to secure 50 placements over the following 12 months. Again achieved!

WORKIT is a collaboration between Council and Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and is funded by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), operating out of the Tokoroa Impact Hub. It is a nationwide Community Recovery Programme working towards a vision to have all young people under 25 in appropriate education, training and work.

"In the wake of COVID-19 and other economic uncertainty, job prospects for young people are looking far more positive thanks to the WORKIT programme," said Council's Strategy and Engagement Manager Kiri Diamond.

Paniora explained how the initiative plugs the gaps and makes the connections.

"We work with 16-24 year olds who aren't working or in training for local jobs and people who have been displaced due to business closures," he said. "We work in collaboration with our local MSD office, local businesses and stakeholder organisations."

Paniora is supported by Logan Cortesi, who joined the team earlier this year. Logan's focus is social media, promotion and tracking the success stories. Logan ensures that the programme is making the right connections through online content that talks direct to Generation Z.

You may be wondering how WORKIT actually works...

The programme enhances employability skills like preparing a CV, interview skills, filling out job application forms, how to present yourself at an interview and in the workplace. It provides for self-development and self-awareness. Often, it's about the little things, like purchasing a basic tool kit to support a young person into the building industry or supporting with pastoral care, not just for the individuals but for the wider whanau unit too.

"WORKIT is a flexible holistic programme and that is where it is making the biggest difference to our families and young people," said Paniora.

"Our local businesses are crying out for employees and WORKIT

enables local young people to get ready to move into these roles. Often, it is small things that our people need a bit of help with, that gets them on the ladder," he continued. "The more placements we make in local businesses, the more interest and support we're getting as the programme builds in credibility.

"Our Apprentice or Study Night, held once a week at Impact Hub is contributing to some of this success," said Paniora. "I can collect and drop students off if there are transport restrictions. Students come into a quiet, supportive space to do their study, that might otherwise be impossible to do in their home environment, be it younger siblings or internet availability."

"We also have a number of local qualified tradespeople, ex-teachers and principals who volunteer their time to mentor and tutor our young people," continued Paniora.

Just a few successful placements:

- A 23-year-old carpentry apprentice (pictured left) at BMT in Hamilton, travels from Tokoroa – WORKIT supplied a start-up tool kit.

- A 20-year-old now working at Big Chill in Putaruru – WORKIT supplied PPE gear, one-on-one pastoral care, self-awareness development.

- A 24-year-old travels from Tokoroa to a Timber Framing trust in Hamilton – WORKIT supplied PPE gear.

- An 18-year-old (pictured bottom right, in the centre) placed into a permanent role at Castle James in Tokoroa – WORKIT supplied PPE gear, transport for medical, one-on-one pastoral care, self-awareness development and assisted with their CV.

- A 23-year-old from Tirau (pictured bottom left) who is working full time at Woods Automotive in Tokoroa – WORKIT supplied wage subsidy for six months and a tool start-up kit.

And there are more... watch the WORKIT space. A programme that is making very real differences in real peoples' lives.

**funding allocation amount still being finalised under discussion.*



WORKIT

Tirau Domain Opening

The Tirau Domain was officially opened and celebrated on Saturday 16 July 2022.

A project that has a special significance to the spirited community of Tirau and one that couldn't have reached this point without the valued contributions of the Tirau Community Board, Domain Action Group, our contractor Downer NZ and Council.

We know this space will be well-used in the future because there is something there for everyone.

Enjoy it Tirau!







Movie: **Tesla** - Sunday 28 August, 2pm. Visionary scientist Nikola Tesla struggles to realise his dreams of revolutionizing the electrical system. But he finds that he has many more opposers than supporters. Tickets \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Friday Laughs at The Plaza - Friday 2 September, 8pm. Friday Laughs is a two hour comedy showcase of some top Kiwi talent, right in the heart of Putāruru, hosted by Joe Daymond. Tickets available through Eventfinda - link can be found on www.plaza.org.nz.

Putāruru Business Celebration - Pride in Putāruru - Saturday 3 September, 6pm. 70s themed celebration of the local businesses in Putāruru. Tickets are \$45 each from Pride in Putāruru office.

Movie: **Elvis** - Sunday 25 September, 2pm. From his rise to fame to his unprecedented superstardom, rock 'n' roll icon Elvis Presley remains one of the world's most loved performers. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for students.

Louise Upston Friendly Forum - Friday 30 September, 9.30am to 12pm.

MARK THESE DATES
More details to come.

Mousetrap - live theatre performance - Tuesday 13 September to Saturday 17 September

St Mary's Wearable Arts production - Thursday 16 September

South Waikato Cultural Festival - Saturday 24 September

Tirau Primary Production - Thursday 29 September



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

MATARIKI

This year, Aotearoa recognised Matariki as an official public holiday and here in the South Waikato there was plenty going on to mark the occasion.

In te ao Māori (the Māori world view), Matariki is the name for the cluster of stars which is also known as the Pleiades. It's often a time to reflect, remember and be thankful.

Council was proud to support our local community services, organisations and businesses with a few Matariki events planned throughout the period.

It kicked off at Mangakaretū marae where our friends at Raukawa organised a community event to bring together the local families, schools and services all with the purpose of learning more about Matariki.

We were given the opportunity to share in an exciting draft Matariki pou designs by talented carver Delani Brown.

Mr Brown was on hand to share his visions with kaumatua and kuia about the creation of two principle features as artistic representations of Ranginui and Papatuanuku that fitted well with the Matariki theme.

The week continued with the Honouring Youth Awards* held at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre. Youth from all over our district were nominated by our community for various awards and commended for their efforts. The night's top award went to the sister pairing of Tyra and K'Lee Begbie who have been recognised both on the sporting field and in the community as young women who have an amazing impact.

The week concluded with Matariki ki Tokoroa which was an event Council supported but run by Tokoroa Business Inc in collaboration with Tatou Va where a number of events took place in the Tokoroa CBD involving local artists and businesses.



*Photos taken at the Honouring Youth Awards are by Shashank Jangra from Raukawa

Learn to Swim promotion offers free swims for our little ones

Learn to Swim classes are for ages three and older and are focused on building confidence in the water. The instructors have a real passion for teaching your children to swim and have a wealth of ideas for encouraging tamariki to be safe around water.

Classes are 25 minutes long and run from 8-10 weeks per term.

Term three begins Monday 4 August.

The Pools are currently running a promotion for free swims to help your child! A concession card allows for eight free swims for your little one.



Ask the Pools staff for a concession card and your child can get some FREE practice swims!



University of Waikato FREE Regional Bus

To support students living in the outer regions, the University of Waikato has a FREE regional bus service that operates for both campuses. The service that provides for South Waikato students runs Monday to Friday, starting in Tokoroa at 7am, through Putaruru, via Tirau and on to Waikato University. Return trip leaving Hamilton at 5.15pm. This service is open to any University of Waikato student living in the South Waikato.

For more information visit the University of Waikato's website - www.waikato.ac.nz.

South Waikato Pools Supervision Policy Update

The South Waikato Indoor Heated Pools in Tokoroa have updated their supervision policy in accordance with Pool Safe, ACC Think Safe, Water Safety NZ and Recreation Association of NZ.

Under 5s

Must be within arms reach at all times anywhere in our facility.

They must also be accompanied in the water by a caregiver.

Under 8s

Must be **actively supervised** by a caregiver at all times.

Actively supervised means being close to the child, watching them, and being able to give them immediate assistance.

Caregivers

Must be 16 years or older and should be in the same part of the facility at all times.

The goal of these policies is to ensure everyone SWIMS SAFE. As well as ensuring that no child is left unsupervised. The role of the staff is to deliver their services and manage the use of the pools themselves. We need parents/caregivers to manage the children they're accompanying.



Rail Safety

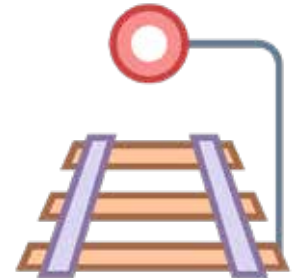


Rail crossings are common place in the South Waikato. We all need to take care near railways to keep ourselves and our whanau safe.

Some key pointers:

Cross a railway at a formed pedestrian crossing or at a designated overpass or underpass.

Obey the warning signs at the crossing.



Look for trains both ways up and down the tracks.

Only cross if you are sure there are no trains in sight.

If lights are flashing or bells ringing, this means a train is approaching.

If there is a pedestrian swing gate, wait until the gate opens fully before entering the crossing.

Don't use headphones or a mobile phone near railway lines - they are a distraction.



Never think you can beat a train. They are going faster than you think and you may misjudge.



70 join SWSEC programme

The South Waikato Sport and Events Centre's school holiday programme was enjoyed by record numbers of youth!

The awesome staff ran a Sports Day where children participated in multiple sports, games and competitions.

The following week provided a movie day and a second sports day. Chip n Dale - Rescue Ranger was aired to the kids and more games and competitions were won.

Over 70 children in the district turned up for the multitude of fun – the biggest turnout the programme has seen to date.



Top - the SWSEC staff getting involved in a friendly game of table tennis.

Left - the kids relaxing after a morning of running around. Watching an all time favourite - Chip n Dale - Rescue Ranger.

Give feedback on the future of waste

Big things are happening nationally around our waste and managing and minimising this is a key Council responsibility.

As a country we have generated 17 million tonnes of waste within the last year, of which 13 million ended up in landfills.

Here in the South Waikato we're each contributing nearly half a tonne of waste every year... we are below the national average but still have a lot of work to do.

It's been four years since our last Waste Management and Minimisation Plan (WMMP) and we have made many changes to the way we manage our waste.

Now, it's time again to plan ahead for the next six years and take advantage of opportunities to move towards a sustainable future, create local job opportunities, provide long term cost savings and reduce the amount of harmful waste produced in the first instance.

The plan covers 25 actions that contribute to three

proposed targets, including implementing a kerbside food waste collection, having waste minimisation information readily available to our community and increasing our diversion rate to 50% of the total waste disposed by 2027.

Not much time!

We will be consulting on our WMMP plan and would love our community feedback on what is an important issue.

Consultation dates will be advised through our normal channels once finalised.



Meet the Engagement Team... building trust through public consultation

Honey Smith is part of the Strategy and Engagement Team, and her role is to engage and educate our community to recycle more of the right things in the right way – at home, at school and work.



"As recycling becomes more economically viable, it creates jobs and provides recyclables to manufacture into new products," says Honey.



Honey supports the kohanga, early education centres and schools to implement recycling programmes. Eleven schools in the district are also EnviroSchools, which have implemented various waste reduction plans, such as worm farms that their green waste goes into, which in turn feeds their vegetable gardens. St Mary's Catholic School discovered that shredded paper was an essential ingredient to keep their worm farm healthy, and schools have plenty of paper to shred!



innovative products available now, such as cloth nappies with Velcro that don't need to be soaked in a bin of sterilizer. There are amazing re-usable hygiene products that prevent waste, kitchen products made from recycled plastic, and many more that are now so common, they can be bought inexpensively from the supermarket."

Changing how we manage our waste, recycling more and using more products made from recycled materials, will help reap greater benefits for our community. We can all do something toward improving our world, whether it's at home, at work or while we play. Looking after Papatūānuku is something that we can all do for our future generations.

"The Waste Free with Kate & Co workshops have been particularly popular for changing minds about using products made from recyclables," Honey continued. "And there are so many

Our Home Our World Expo

Come along to Our Home Our World EXPO on Tuesday 13 September 2022, 10am to 5pm at the South Waikato Sport & Events Centre. We'll be in the arena!

Come along to this expo to meet suppliers and community organisations and the many services on offer to support a healthier, dryer, warmer home and greater wellbeing for you and your whanau.

There will be prizes, free give-aways, food and more. Free entry!



Avoid being the victim of a dog attack

There have been a number of complaints about dog attacks within the district over the past couple of months.

Dog attacks are unacceptable. If you are approached or rushed at by a dog, it is important to report it to the Animal Control team quickly, with as much information as possible. The team is unable to investigate the dog or the situation, unless it has been reported. If you, a person you know or your pet has been attacked by a dog, contact us immediately (07 885 0340) and a Compliance Officer will investigate. Do not delay.

The team is dedicated in ensuring all involved are safe.

Here are some tips and tricks from our Animal Control team if you are approached by a dog with aggressive behaviour:

- Always allow the dog room to escape.
- Stay calm, DON'T RUN - you may trigger a 'chase response'.
- Don't scream or squeal (high pitched sounds may startle the dog).
- Don't make any sudden movements.
- Avoid eye contact, however don't lose sight of the dog.
- Act confidently, but not dominantly.
- Use anything in your hand as a shield, not as a weapon.

Picking up dog poo... it's our doo-doo-diligence

It's great to see so many dog owners and their fur babies out and about, enjoying South Waikato's beautiful spaces that our community takes so much pride in!

Sadly, we have received numerous reports of dog poo littered around our parks and reserves.

We understand this is not all dog owners, but if everyone could do their part to keep our parks and reserves clear of dog poos - the bottoms of everyone's shoes would greatly appreciate it!

If you forget a bag, don't fear! Our parks and reserves have



One of our many dog poo bag dispensers you can find around the district.

dog bag dispensers that are regularly checked and refilled.

Let's do what we do best as a South Waikato Community and look out for one another by being considerate and mindful of other track users.

Alcohol free sportsgrounds

Sportsground users may notice new Alcohol Prohibited signage installed at all sportsgrounds in our district. Council signalled making sports-based reserves alcohol free through its Public Places Bylaw. This Bylaw has been out for submissions over the past months and the proposed changes were recently adopted by Council.

The changes are a result of various incidents at our sportsgrounds relating to alcohol, glass littering and anti-social behaviour. Sportsgrounds are public places, and it is important that everyone can enjoy using them, be it to watch the pros like the Mooloos or our tamariki.

Alcohol use around the fields is contributing to poor behaviour and broken glass littering causes dangerous issues.

The newly added sites included as alcohol prohibited areas are the Tokoroa War Memorial Sportsground and the adjacent David Foote Park, Strathmore Park in Tokoroa and Glenshea Memorial Park (including the Putāruru Pools) and Totara Park in Putāruru.

Clubrooms with liquor licences can still sell and serve alcohol to their members, but users aren't permitted onto the grounds outside.



Read In Touch? Prove it...

... and be in to win a lucky dip \$50 supermarket voucher.

We will be running this competition every issue.

The answers to the five questions below are in this issue - July/August 2022.

You have to get them all correct to be in the draw.

Text your answers to 0274 472 664 along with your name. Or private message our Facebook page.

1. How many years has the Young Drivers' Expo been running?
2. Which team won between the Mooloos and Hawkes Bay?
3. How much funding did Council get from the Ministry for the Environment for the Putāruru Transfer Station changes?
4. Five new sports-based areas have been included as alcohol-free across the district. Name the one that is missing from this list here: Tokoroa War Memorial Sportsground and the adjacent David Foote Park, Strathmore Park, the Glenshea Memorial Park (including the Putāruru Pools) and _____.
5. What day was the official opening celebration for the Tirau Domain held?

** Council staff and Elected Members are not eligible.*

Safety at our cemeteries

Our Parks team has noticed an increase in breakable jars, vases and glass bottles being placed throughout our cemeteries. We kindly remind our residents that the items mentioned must not

be used as flower containers as the glass can break and cause hazards. The benefit is not only for our contractors but for other cemetery visitors too.

Adornments and items for loved

ones should also remain on the berms in order to not interfere with the mowing maintenance.

Our intention is not to offend families or residents, but these rules are in place to assist

our contractors with their maintenance efforts and ensure our cemeteries are safe and well looked after for all visitors.

IN brief

Our grant funds are open for applications, closing on Friday 30 September. Community groups can apply for a Community Development grant or Creative Community grant. The team is running application workshops around the district, all sessions from 10am to 12noon:

- Tokoroa Library - Wednesday 10 August
- Putaruru Library - Wednesday 17 August
- The Dog, Tirau - Wednesday 24 August



Download Antenno for free.

Log specific addresses that are important to you.

GET NOTIFICATIONS

relevant to your address(es); such as recycling collection reminders, road closures, etc.

SEND REPORTS to Council, such as water breaks, potholes, streetlighting, flooding, trees down, etc.

IN to win

Congratulations to Lee from Tokoroa who won our \$100 lucky dip prize for texting us VOTE2022. Thank you to all those who texted in.

IN the know

You can keep up to date with Council information via:
www.southwaikato.govt.nz
[www.facebook/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)
Download Antenno FREE
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

IN view

If you would like to receive this newsletter as a pdf, please email kerry.fabrie@southwaikato.govt.nz

WHAT MAKES YOU TICK?

Have your say on who leads your local Council

The local elections for the South Waikato District are held every three years by postal vote. The elections determine who will be the Mayor of the district, Councillors for one of three Wards - Tokoroa, Putāruru, Tirau, and local Community Board Members for Tirau. Elected Members make decisions on behalf of all in the South Waikato.

You may think what's the point of voting? Why bother? Remember that your Elected Members set the strategic direction of your Council. And your Council delivers a lot of services to you.

We build and maintain your roads, deliver your drinking water, take your dirty water away, protect people and property during emergency events, provide open spaces, cemeteries, playgrounds, parks and sportsgrounds. We ensure houses are built well, the environment is protected, children safe from wandering dogs and food outlets hygienic. We take your rubbish away, provide places for waste drop offs, advocate for Government funding, secure investment, run learn to swim programmes, provide books for reading, build outdoor and indoor sports facilities, hold events, partner with stakeholders, communicate, engage, fund, deliver, provide... and so much more.

Have YOUR say on who leads the South Waikato District Council.

Councils are important to communities and so is your **VOTE!**

Enrolled/special votes

If you are an enrolled voter, you'll get a voting information pack in the mail.

If you are not enrolled but want to vote, you will need to process a Special Vote.

Please contact Council on 07 885 0340 and ask for the Deputy Electoral Officer.

Special Votes must be done in person.

Learn about candidates

Attend the **Meet the Candidate** sessions organised by community groups across the district.

Follow candidates on Facebook.

Read candidates' profile statements to find out what they stand for.

Vote

Voting papers will be sent to all eligible voters from Friday 16 September 2022.

Voting closes at 12 noon on 8 October 2022.

Voting is by postal vote.

Do not post your votes in the last week. It may not get there in time! Rather drop them off at Council offices/libraries.

**YOUR VOTE
YOUR VOICE**