

Mayor Gary Petley introduced...

I'm honoured to be appointed as your new Mayor for the 2022-25 triennium. I've been on Council for three years and over that time I have learnt a lot about how much Council services touch our daily lives.

One thing I have learnt is that councils are complex businesses with many moving parts delivering a wide range of services to our communities. It is a sector that faces constant change and challenges. Most people have something to do with Council every day - even if it's just turning on the tap to get water, travelling down the road or visiting the library for another good book.

A little about me...

I am Putāruru born. I was born at the maternity hospital in McKenzie Street, that is now the Cardrona aged care facility. Incidentally, this is the same place of birth as your previous mayor, Jenny Shattock - which is quite a coincidence.

My family has lived in the district for decades. Having worked at Kinleith mill for 21 years, I have a strong connection to Tokoroa. My wife and I also had a business in Tirau too, so again we have connections there. After leaving Kinleith I went truck-driving and did that until I retired a few months ago... and yes, I miss my truck!

I first stood for Council in order to give back to the district that is my home and a community that has been really good to me and my family. That hasn't changed. I ran for Mayor to continue this work for the betterment of all South Waikato residents and ratepayers.

The new Council...

I firmly support the direction that the previous Council has paved for our community. As a district we are growing and as a Council and a community we need to step up and take advantage of that growth or we'll get left behind.

I have met with each of our new Councillors (who are profiled on the coming pages) to establish specific interests, skills, values and ideas. I think our new Council is a perfect mix of re-elected Members and new Members, culture, gender, background and age.

We're very fortunate that this district is represented by people who tick such a wide mix of demographic boxes. I am looking forward to us working together over the coming three years.

Changing times...

The local government sector is facing some significant changes. Many of you will be aware of the reform processes that are underway. If enacted, these will fundamentally change the way we work and deliver our services. Three Waters has been a high concern for our community and for our Council. We remain concerned about loss of voice, loss of control and having our priorities take a backseat to the priorities of other councils that will join us in Entity B, should Three Waters go ahead.

The changes to the Resource Management Act may mean a change to how local development can impact our natural world. And finally, the Future of Local Government reform is signalling further change to what we deliver and how.

It is an exciting, challenging and changing time to become Mayor and I am very much



looking forward to leading our Council and community through the coming years.

I'm a firm believer in not being able to do it alone. We must continue to strengthen our partner and stakeholder relationships. It is only by working with other like-minded partner organisations that we will deliver tangible results to benefit our community.

As an organisation we will continue to advocate for more investment from and collaboration with central Government to ensure that the South Waikato is on the national radar.

I am confident that by working together with our stakeholders and communities we will ensure that the South Waikato continues its upward trend.

IN the know

DID YOU KNOW...
Council has nine community halls, including the Putāruru Plaza, the Arapuni Hall, Lichfield School Hall, Pirates, Puketuru, Tapapa, Tirau War Memorial, Upper Atiamuri and Waotu. The halls can be booked via our website on the halls pages: www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-services/halls.

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IN house

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Introducing your new Councillors

Our new Councillors for the 2022-25 triennium were sworn in on Wednesday 26 October at an inaugural event held at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.

The event opened with a powhiri, after which Chief Executive Susan Law took our newly elected Mayor Gary Petley's declaration. Following that Mayor Gary swore each of the Elected Members in. The first meeting was fairly short, with Councillors adopting the meeting calendar and committee structure for the triennium, before celebrating with snacks with whanau and friends.

Tokoroa Ward Councillors

Hamish Daine



Kia ora. Kia orana. Warm greetings. I want to thank you all who voted in this election. It was great to see an improvement on casted votes. Like always there is room for more, but the trend is in the right direction. To those who chose not to vote, I respect your decision and regardless will give you my best.

A big congratulations to all who have been elected this term. We're very diverse and I believe we are a great representation of our communities in our district.

It's been just over a month into this term. We've already hit the ground running with the Long Term Plan Amendment that has been out for consultation. It's a courageous plan to support the growth and vision in our district, a plan that will support future generations for many years to come.

As we head into the festive season of the year, a first in several years with no restrictions, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Enjoy this time with your whanau.

Like always I'm just a message or phone call away, whatever the issue. I'm here to serve you to the best of my ability.

- *First paying job – Tokoroa Mc Donald's*
- *Place of birth – Tokoroa Hospital*
- *What I can't go without - coffee, a gift from the Gods*

Rebekah Garner

Kia ora, for those who who don't know me my name is Rebekah Garner, and I own two different companies but the most well-known is The Event Girl Company.

I have always been a strong advocator for the South Waikato and so I plan to continue that, making sure that people living in the South Waikato represent ourselves to the rest of NZ as a cool place to come, hang out with your family and friends, stop and explore, but also settle here and grow your business.

I am most looking forward to learning about how the Council runs, what we can change and impact to make the South Waikato a better place and most of all interact and have conversations with the community about their thoughts and ideas.



My door is always open, and I will always listen.

- *First paying job – Paper run at the age of 5 (my poor mum came out with me in the rain!) I held that until I was 13*
- *Place of birth – Tokoroa*
- *What I can't go without - coffee!*

Josiah Teokotai

It is an honor to be elected to the South Waikato District Council and I thank all those who took time to make a difference with your vote.

I am passionate about our local community, and I am ready to listen, learn and grow into this experience. I believe in a Council that builds on the strengths of the community to thrive and construct the future for our next generation.

I am the General Manager of the Tokoroa Council of Social Services. I have enjoyed my time and involvement with various boards and organisations at a local, regional, and national level over the past 20 years. This is a great foundation for being a good Councillor who contributes and has a voice.



I am also interested in strengthening our relationships across our communities, growing our local economy and preserving the environment.

- *First paying job - Loading bread truck for deliveries from Tokoroa to Cambridge*
- *Place of birth - Born in Tokoroa*
- *What I can't do without - can't go anywhere without my reading glasses lol!*



Thomas Lee



Kia ora, my name is Thomas Lee, and this will be my fourth term on Council. I want to thank everyone for their vote of confidence. Congratulations to the new Mayor and the rest of the Councillors who I will be joining around the table. To those candidates who were unsuccessful this election, do not give up on your dream to serve your communities.

I have been married to Kay for 43 years. We have two sons - Matt, married to Louise and they have two beautiful children Bella and Christian. Kieran, our youngest has recently gone over to Spain to play rugby for a season. I work two days a week

at Kinleith, have my Council duties and drive for the South Waikato community health shuttle.

This term is going to be very challenging with Three Waters, Resource Management and Local Government reforms all happening.

Growth in our district has started with both residential and industrial cells available for developers alongside Government agencies. New housing is desperately needed, not just in our district but throughout the country.

Our young people need jobs, or training to fill jobs that are in the pipeline. The new dairy factory in Tokoroa should be commissioned mid next year with many production jobs available. The new Trade Training building is making great progress and is set to get our young people ready for employment/apprenticeships.

- *First paying job - Ivan Porters Woodyard, 50cents/hour*
- *Place of birth - Born and raised in Tokoroa*
- *What I can't do without - Whittaker's Peanut Block*

Maria Te Kanawa



Ko uri ahau o Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Porou me Ngā Puhī. My whakapapa connects me back to the beautiful East Coast, however I was born and raised within the South Waikato District / Raukawa Rohe. My husband and I raised our three children in Tokoroa. Now in our 50s, we have finally been blessed with our first grandchild.

I have always felt very connected and proud of our community and my passion for netball really allowed me to give back to many wahine and their whanau. I have been involved in netball since I was five, but involved as part of the management team for 20+

years. I have also been a parent representative for school boards over the past 12 years.

I look forward to ensuring the voices of our communities are heard at the Council table, and being part of a strong connected team who will be tasked with making some hard decisions regarding the best outcomes for the whole district with the limited resources that we have. I believe through partnering, through korero and strong relationships we can solve or at least reduce most issues. Some may call me naïve, but I prefer to think of it as being solution focused with an open mind.

- *First paying job – Forecourt attendant at Aotea Garage when I was 16 - I learnt a lot about cars - I knew far more than my friends.*
- *Place of Birth – Mangakino Hospital – while my mother was a midwife there, she did have help with me LOL!*
- *What I can't do without - most of the year my phone, for my calendar that tells me where I need to be! Over holidays I try to go without it – to set a good example for my 12-year-old, and not be seen on a device 24-7!*

Bill Machen



My name is William Ernest Machen (Bill).

I was born in Hamilton 1949, moved to Mangakino in 1950, then Tokoroa in 1956.

I was married to my wife Anne for 42 years. She worked as a nurse at Tokoroa Hospital for 40 years mainly as the senior Nurse in the A&E department until she passed away in 2013.

I worked at the Kinleith Mills for 41 years as the mill's Materials and Transport Manager until I retired in 2014.

I have since devoted my time to being an almost full time District Councillor. I have a daughter Wendy and three grandchildren and a son Nicholas who lives with me in Tokoroa.

In my youth I was an athlete and was placed a couple of times at NZ Junior Track and Field championships. Later I was involved in the Tokoroa Rugby Football Club as a player and administrator.

I love the town and district in which I live and work and do not plan on living anywhere else.

- *First paying job - My first permanent job was working for Eric Anderson at the Pentland Street IGA Grocery store.*
- *What I can't do without - a daily reading of a book, either History, Biography or Poetry.*



**Want to
contact your
Councillor?**

**See back page of In Touch for
contact details or go online to:
[www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/
mayor-and-councillors](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz/our-council/mayor-and-councillors)**

Putāruru Ward Councillors

Marie Farrell



I grew up in the South Waikato, on a dairy farm in Tapapa. I went to St Mary's and Putāruru High School and after travelling and starting a family with my husband Pete, I worked in Security Intelligence. We have five children and are both from large local families and this connection drew us home to Putāruru.

I ran for Council because I want to be a part of positive change for our town and district. I have been blessed to have had many opportunities in sports, music and education, and know how important it is to make sure these opportunities continue for our next generation. My focus will be making sure our local voice is heard and our views count in national reform; particularly Three Waters Reform, the Resource Management Act and the Review of Local Government. My first priority is representing our community in partnering with other councils to present and support a workable three waters alternative in which we retain ownership of our assets and governance of our water. It will be a challenging term but I look forward to working with the Council team, our new Mayor and our community and I thank you for voting for me!

- *First paying job - Brolly Logging Quality Control and Log Maker*
- *Place of birth - Alexandria, Scotland*
- *What I can't go without - Scapula medal*

Hans Nelis



This will be my second term as a SWDC Councillor. For the last 42 years I have been a dairy farmer, officially retired last 1 June when my son took over the business.

I came out from Holland in 1978 to Putāruru and started working on a farm. Being straight out of university this was also my first real job. I bought, on hire-purchase, my first car in Hamilton that year, a Leyland P76, only a six-cylinder so it came with single headlights.

I am looking forward to this new term. I believe the team has a lot of talents that should provide for intelligent discussions. Having sound debates with a range of views with a group who are passionate about the future of our district is what I most look forward to.

Christine and I live on a lifestyle block and have recently planted 3,000 natives on a sidling, adding to a mature section of native area. I enjoy and need to work outside. Even though I am 66 I need challenges in my life to keep me going. The lifestyle block and the Council are currently a good combination.

Sandra Wallace

Hi, I'm Sandra Wallace and I am proud to have been re-elected as a Putāruru ward councillor.

I have lived in Putāruru most of my life. I have three grown up children and two grandsons. In my spare time I enjoy walking and voluntary work which includes Rotary, Meals on Wheels and various activities happening in our district.

During my time on Council we have introduced the wheelie bins, completed the first stage of the waterpark development in Putāruru and we look forward to a new skate park in Putāruru. We have also completed newly rezoned residential and commercial areas. We look



forward to seeing new housing and commercial developments throughout the district. With new housing and new commercial developments will mean more employment.

I will continue to advocate for our youth and elderly, look at

ways to enhance our CBDs, communicating at all times, ensuring our footpaths and infrastructure are looked after and proposed projects keep moving ahead.

With three years under my belt in Council I look forward to taking the knowledge I have learnt and using this to help take our district forward.

- *First paying job - rousing with a local sheep shearing gang.*
- *Place of birth - I was born in Papakura as my parents were farming at Ararimu before moving to the Waikato.*
- *What I can't go without - I cannot go without a daily nice cup of tea*

Below: Introducing your new Councillors - from left, Hans Nelis, Josiah Teokotai, Rebekah Garner, Hamish Daine, Marie Farrell, Maria Te Kanawa, Mayor Gary Petley, Sandra Wallace and Bill Machen. Absent from photo: Thomas Lee.



Tirau Ward Councillor

Kerry Purdy



I'm Kerry and I have been asked to tell you a bit about myself and my journey into Council. This is my first term as a Councillor, however I have spent the last three years as Chair of the Tirau Community board.

Supporting me is my husband Brett and my children Brodie, Rhiannon, Eden and McKenzie. Ironically it's because of my children, their futures and the future of our communities that I wanted to stand for Councillor. With Three Waters, the RMA reforms and the uncertainty around the future of local government, we are in unknown territory and we need to navigate this to the best of our abilities in Council with

our communities and district forefront in our minds.

While I would love to lower rates and promise no increases, I can't, but I can assure you that any votes made by me in Council will have the best interests of our district at heart.

He aha te mea nui o te a o? He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.

What is the most important thing in the world? It is people, it is people, it is people.

- *First paying job - Salty Towers fish & chip shop in Tauranga*
- *Place of birth - Howick, Auckland*
- *What I can't go without - a cup of green tea with citrus*

Right: Pictured from left is Tirau Community Board (TCB) Member Jessica Wanden, Tirau Ward Councillor Kerry Purdy, Mayor Gary Petley, TCB Member Gaby Bond and TCB Member Graham Singers. Absent from photo: TCB Member Kevin Slater.



Below and left: Jenny Shattock (out-going Mayor) was pleased to be at the inaugural meeting to welcome in new Mayor Gary Petley. Pictured below together with Chief Executive Susan Law.



WHAT'S HOT

Right: Lighting up The Dog in Tirau in purple for a week to support Baby Loss Awareness got quite a bit of attention. The Dog's lighting can be changed to several colours, in between the normal multi-coloured sequence. We lit up in pink for Breast Cancer and blue for Prostrate Cancer recently too.



Below: A 400 home residential development getting underway in Putāruru. Ultimate Global Group has broken ground on the first stage of a \$200 million residential development of more than 400 homes out along Overdale Road. This is the largest new residential development in South Waikato for 50 years.

Mayor Petley spoke at the opening saying that this is just another example of how investors are recognising the strengths of the South Waikato with our central location, strong rail and road links, land availability and a business and investor friendly Council.

"This new development is a game-changer for residential growth in Putāruru."

From left: Greg Petrin, Brendan Hopkins, Mayor Gary Petley, Lloyd Cloughley, Cr Sandra Wallace, Ryan Motion, Cr Kerry Purdy, Cr Marie Farrell and Cr Hans Nelis.



Above: Kainga Ora announced a new 14 home housing development on derelict land in Tokoroa. Demolition is likely to get underway soon, with plans pending. Mayor Petley said that the project ticks all the boxes for social housing with its central location and closeness to schools, shops and other amenities.

WHAT'S NOT

Repeated vandalism at the Tokoroa Wastewater Treatment Plant with people cutting through the outer fence. The sewerage facility can be a hazardous area. Stay out please.

Decaying carcasses spotted in private gardens - bit urch to look at and smelly!

Right: Vandalism again grrr. Repeated smashed windows at the Girl Guide Hall in Tokoroa - brazenly, even when people are in the building!



Right: Makes us pretty angry and sad when our parks team works with a fantastic community group like the Putāruru Rotary Club plant a Citrus/Feijoa Grove in the Oraka Reserve that will bear fruit in coming years for everyone to enjoy ... only to have others tear through the grove, pulling the plants out and setting everything on fire. If anyone knows anything, please get in touch with Council on 07 885 0340.



Putāruru Skate Park development, ground broken!



The ground at the Putāruru Skate Park development was broken in November by contractor, J-Stone Skate Parks.

The park is fenced off and unavailable for public use whilst physical works are underway; this includes during the Christmas break and Summer holidays. J-Stone has confirmed the provisional completion date of the skate park is March 2023.

"We understand the timing of the closure during the summer break is unfavourable to skate bowl users. However, to move forward with the project safely and efficiently, we have to close the bowl to the public," said Council's project manager, Joanne Salvacion.

"We appreciate the continuous patience, support and understanding from the Putāruru community and



we are excited to see the physical works kick off for this development," Joanne added.

During the LTP last year Council proposed to either refurbish the Putāruru skate bowl only, or to refurbish the bowl and enhance the Park by committing additional funding. The bigger and better option was supported by 78% of submitters, so that's what Council decided to deliver.



Mayoral Scholarship awarded for 2023!

Mayor Gary Petley was proud to announce the recipients of the two Mayoral Scholarships at the schools' respective prizegiving ceremonies held recently.

Congratulations to Mya Murray from Forest View High School and Miihana Ngatamariki from Tokoroa High School, who were each awarded a \$10,000 scholarship, payable at \$2,500 per year for a maximum of four years, depending on their course of study.

"I was lucky enough to sit through the Forest View and Tokoroa High Schools prize giving's and I was blown away by the calibre of these young people," said Mayor Gary Petley. "If these students are anything to go by, we can all rest easy that our future is in extremely capable hands." Mayor Petley added.

Council received 20 applications this year from exceptional students from all over the South Waikato.

Applicants indicated interest in a range of degrees such as medicine, surveying, management, engineering, law, science, nursing and the arts. Selected students were shortlisted and interviewed by a panel which included South Waikato's former Mayor, Jenny Shattock.

The scholarship has been in place to support youth from the South Waikato since 2006 and has helped over 16 young people study towards their chosen careers.

"Council is excited to provide opportunities for youth in the district," said Mayor Gary Petley. "The Mayoral Scholarship Fund is one way we can assist in youth development and education by supporting our youth through their studies and I fully intend to carry it on throughout my term as Mayor."





Celebrating 10 years of the SWSEC

Take a look back at how the SWSEC shaped up

SEPT 2011
Works kicks off in preparation of building the SWSEC with the removal of the old changing rooms and grandstand.

OCT 2011
An official blessing and turning of the sod by former South Waikato Mayor Neil Sinclair and Tokoroa's Kaesha Nairn.

JAN 2012
Work continues to progress on the Events Centre as the frames are erected and foundations are laid down.

MAR 2012
Things begin to take shape with work on the arena. Concreting and work on the exterior is all happening as the arena starts to look a lot more how it does today.

AUG 2012
The finishing touches are all go with the arena completed and final work to the toilets, changing rooms and Lions and Rotary rooms being done. Interestingly during that period we hosted a Waikato men's rugby side match against King Country

OCT 2012
The official building blessing takes place as our local kaumatua and other dignitaries had their first walk through the new facilities.

WORKit works with schools



Council's WORKit team of Paniora Daniels and Logan Cortesi recently visited Tokoroa High School, Forest View High School and Putāruru College to spread awareness about their services and to chat with students.

Paniora says that the aim is to build partnerships with all secondary schools within the South Waikato to provide support for rangatahi when transitioning from education to employment. Paniora believes that intervening in young people's lives while they are still in school education is very beneficial as "we're able to catch them before they fall."

"We were able to interact and become familiar with most

students," said Logan. "It was awesome to see how invested the students were!"

School leaving students were treated to a BBQ lunch, an information pack and a few giveaways.

The team is planning visits to a couple of Kura Kaupapa too in the near future.



The late Queen Elizabeth II's commemorative trees

Following our story on cleaning up the Tirau roundabout, we were lucky to receive an archive from a member of the public regarding the twin Oak trees that were planted in the centre of the roundabout to commemorate the late Queen's visit.

The plaque in the photo alongside was originally placed by the trees and was stolen years ago. This image is off a mobile phone.

It advised the trees were planted by Women in Farming (previously known as Women's Division of the Farmer's Union) in honour of the Queen's visit.

We had been previously advised that the Queen planted the Oaks herself during her visit, so it's great to see our own Kiwi women were part of such a significant time!

To the ladies who shared their wonderful memories, thank you!



Forestry clean up by Manulife and contractors



Manulife's annual clean up of the forests resulted in 13.5 tonnes of rubbish removed from forestry roads.

Environmental Forester (and organiser of the event) Sarah-Jane Luoni says that the teams cleaned up several known dumping hot spots.

Sarah-Jane thanked Council for once again waiving the transfer station fees as its contribution to the clean up effort.

Disappointingly, one of the areas on Wainui Road that was cleaned up one day, had rubbish dumped there again just two days later. Pretty gutting for the team who put the clean up effort in; and pretty poor behaviour from others.

This is the third year that Council has worked with Manulife on a forest clean up. Hats off to the teams that put in the mahi.



The Glenbrook train choo choo chooses South Waikato

The Glenbrook Vintage Railway's Steam Train made its way to the South Waikato in October twice. The vintage locomotive Ja1271 carried 550 passengers from Frankton and Hamilton to Tokoroa and back.

The train arrived in Tokoroa and passengers were welcomed with some Tokoroa sunshine and the famous warm welcome from the Cook Islands Cultural Group. They were also given free bus rides around Tokoroa to see what the town and businesses had to offer.

Tokoroa passengers hopped on and were chugged through to Putāruru and back. Getting the full experience of a vintage steam train was appreciated by all ages.

Rajeev Bajwa, Tokoroa Business Inc. Town Centre Manger helped to organise the day.

"This was the first time we put on an event when the train came to town. We thought our local businesses could take advantage of the opportunity of having 550 people in town for three hours," Bajwa said.

Both of the visits were enjoyed by families and locals from all across the district. With both events seeing about 550 people each time.



Positively Pink! Community comes together to support SWIPICS Annual Pink Walk

SWIPICS hosted their annual Pink Walk in October in support of Breast Cancer.

The event had a huge turnout with schools arriving to walk around the lake at 11am and families and adults showing up at 5pm to walk in unity.

SWIPICS raised \$700 through the event to support those attending appointments or treatment. They also had free health checks for families at the beginning of the course around the lake.

The day was filled with lots of pink costumes, music, singing, dancing, and of course... WALKING!



A classic throwback of Kinleith from the 1950s

A blast from the past for many we're guessing!

Mayor Gary recently received some old photographs from a lovely lady called Vanessa (née Wallace) who now lives in Auckland.

She tells us that the photos were probably taken by her father Bruce Wallace who was a civil engineer employed at the mill from 1950 to 1953.

Photos are of the early Kinleith days. Vanessa wanted to return the photos to Tokoroa. We thought we'd share a couple.

If you have any historic photos or memories and stories you'd like to share with us please contact us via communication@southwaikato.govt.nz



New town and district signs

By the time you read this issue of In Touch we're hoping that the installation of the new town and entry signs will be underway.

The district branding project provides for a cohesive South Waikato look and feel across the district, while identifying the unique individual character of our main towns.

We did the research into what others thought of the South Waikato, did extensive community engagement with our local people and groups, worked with a brand expert and we called for our own local people to volunteer to feature on the town signs. Twenty three people responded! That's 23 local people who "love it here".

Plus we've got a surprise. We've worked on something pretty unique... but we're not revealing that here... all will be revealed as the district signs go up... we're picking it's a first for NZ!



Above - the new district signs will be installed at all district entrances, on eight roads, both State Highways and local. The signs are large - one metre wide, by three metres high, on poles two metres off the ground.

Fresh new look for the South Waikato Connector!



The Urban Connector saw an upgrade at the beginning of November, with a fresh new bus, design and name.

The now South Waikato Connector comes with a brand new ramp for wheelchair access as well as newly introduced Bee Card system where customers can tap on and tap off with a card, instead of having to pay cash each time.

The Connect2Taupō has also joined three new routes, which includes Taupō, Mangakino and Tokoroa. Perfect for some summer trips away to the lake! This will be a smaller bus service, connecting outlying areas to Taupo at least one day a week. The areas served will be Acacia Bay, Kinloch, Tūrangi, Tokoroa (via Mangakino) and Wairakei.



Some facilities and staff are taking a break... check it out...

Facility ↓/Date →	Fri 23 Dec	Sat 24 Dec	Sun 25 Dec	Mon 26 Dec	Tues 27 Dec	Wed 28 Dec	Thurs 29 Dec	Fri 30 Dec	Sat 31 Dec	Sun 1 Jan
Council offices										
Tokoroa Council office	Open - closes midday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Putāruru Council office/library <i>* open for library services ONLY</i>	Open, closes midday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm	Open 9:30am – 5pm	Open 9:30am – 5pm	Closed	Closed
The Dog, Tirau	Open, closes 3pm	Open, closes 3pm	Closed	Closed	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 3pm	Closed
Rubbish and recycling										
Tokoroa Transfer Station	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm	Closed	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm	Open 9am - 4pm
Putāruru Transfer Station	Closed	Open 9am - 4pm	Closed	Closed	Open 9am - 4pm	Closed	Open 9am - 4pm	Closed	Open 9am - 4pm	Closed
Tirau recycling drop-off zone	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed
Leisure facilities										
Tokoroa Library	Open – closes midday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 9:30am – 6pm	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm	Closed	Closed
SW Sport and Events Centre	Open – closes midday	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
SW Indoor Pools, Tokoroa	Open – closes 4pm	Open 7:30am – 4pm	Closed	Closed	Open 10am – 6pm	Open 7:30am – 8pm	Open 7:30am – 8pm	Open 7:30am – 8pm	Open 7:30am – 4pm	Open 7:30am – 4pm
Putāruru Pool	Open midday – 4pm	Open midday – 4pm	Closed	Closed	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 4pm	Open midday – 4pm
Tirau Pool	Open 1pm – 4pm	Open 1pm – 4pm	Closed	Closed	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 4pm	Open 1pm – 4pm



Food Safety

Every year thousands of people suffer from food poisoning. Most of these cases occur in homes just like yours and ours.

You can help prevent your whānau from becoming ill by following the 3Cs – clean, cook, chill.

CLEAN

Clean before you prepare food and after handling raw meat. Wash hands, chopping boards, dishes and utensils. 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 food until hot, not lukewarm. Warm does not kill bacteria, hot does!

CHILL

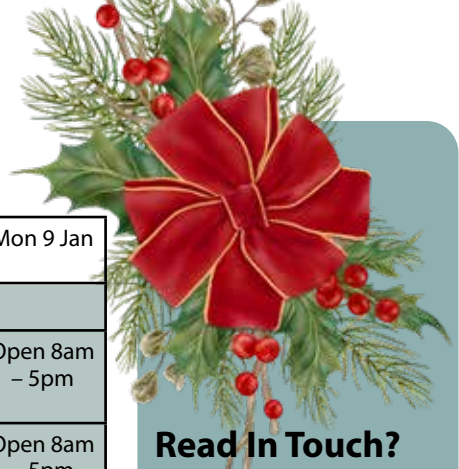
To stop bacteria contaminating or growing in your food, put it in the fridge. Keep cooked and raw food separate. Don't leave food out for long periods. Refrigerate within two hours or bin it. If in doubt, throw it out!

Christmas, noise and neighbours

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.

- Let your neighbours know you might be having a late-ish party - most people are okay with the odd party.
- Be respectful of your neighbours with music and merriment noise levels - fuelled by alcohol, it can get a bit much for 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.

If you are having an issue with loud party noise, call the on-duty After Hours Noise Officer on 07 885 0340. Our Facebook pages and Antenna (reports) are not monitored 24/7 so if you want action, rather call!



	Sun 1 Jan	Mon 2 Jan	Tues 3 Jan	Wed 4 Jan	Thurs 5 Jan	Fri 6 Jan	Sat 7 Jan	Sun 8 Jan	Mon 9 Jan
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Council offices									
	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 8am – 5pm
	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm	Open 9:30am – 5pm	Open 9:30am – 5pm	Open 9:30am – 12:00pm	Closed	Open 8am – 5pm
	Closed	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm	Open 9am – 5pm

Recycling facilities									
	Closed	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 6pm	Closed
	Closed	Closed	Open 9am – 4pm	Closed	Open 9am – 4pm	Closed	Open 9am – 4pm	Open 9am – 4pm	Closed
	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm	Closed	Open 1pm to 5pm

Other facilities									
	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 9:30am – 6pm	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm	Open 9:30am – 2pm	Closed	Open 9:30am – 5:30pm
	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Open 8am – 5pm
	Closed	Open 10am – 6pm	Open 10am – 6pm	Open 5:30am – 8pm	Open 5:30am – 8pm	Open 5:30am – 8pm	Open 7:30 – 8:00	Open 7:30 – 8:00	Open 5:30am – 8pm
	Closed	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 6pm	Open midday – 7pm	Open midday – 7pm	Open midday – 6pm
	Closed	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm	Open 1pm – 6:30pm

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 – Nov/Oct 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 by 30 December 2022.

1. How many Councillors do we have in the South Waikato (not including Mayor and Tirau Community Board Members, just Councillors)?
2. Who really planted the trees at the Tirau roundabout to commemorate the Queen's visit?
3. How many social houses are being developed on the Kainga Ora site in Clyde Street, Tokoroa?
4. What day do the Council offices reopen in January 2023?
5. What is the new name for the old district bus service (previously called the Urban Connector)?

Congratulations to Jennifer of Tokoroa who was drawn as the lucky winner for the last In Touch competition. Thank you to all those who entered. Try again this issue!

The correct answers were:

1. 24, 2. Susan Law, 3. 566, 4. Delani Brown, 5. Queen Elizabeth

* Council staff and Elected Members are not eligible.

Check out our new Facebook pages:
@southwaikatosportandeventscentre

@southwaikatopools



Coming soon... district libraries (no address to like yet)!



Household kerbside collections do not change for any area! ALL urban households - put your bins out as normal.



Baby Learn to Swim Lessons making a splash at the South Waikato Indoor Pools!

Lessons started at the beginning of November and the team has had 132 baby visits in total over the last four weeks!

The lessons cater for babies three months and older and are held on Thursday mornings between 9am-11am.

The lessons cover:

- Safe entries – teaching babies how to enter a pool safely will hopefully buy you some time to get to them before they let go of the side, should they get to the edge of a pool before you. From the age of one we start teaching babies to sit on the side of the pool and not to get in until they are told they can get in.
- Safe exits – teaching babies to climb out of a pool safely and wait for their parent to get out.
- Cue words – these are words we use all throughout baby lessons that baby starts to associate with an activity like water over their head or submersions. They eventually learn to close their eyes and hold their breath when they hear the cue words.
- Submersions – starting submersions from a young age (as young as three months) in a safe and controlled environment helps baby form a positive connection with going under water.
- Rolling from their tummies to their backs – this is a very important water safety skill, and also connects to swimming later on when they roll to breath.
- Sit dives from side of pool – teaches babies to come into the pool on their tummy (when told to) with their head away from the wall – this minimises the risk of them falling backwards and hitting their heads on the wall. Sit dives also connects to pushing off the wall and gliding in later swimming.
- Floating on their back – this is something some children struggle with so starting it from a young age help them be comfortable on their back sooner.

Make sure to contact the team at the pools to sign you and your baby up!

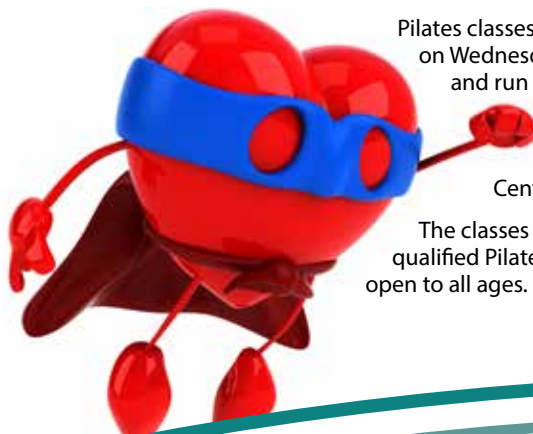
New classes at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre

The South Waikato Sport and Events Centre and South Waikato Indoor Pools have introduced two new activities and classes for the community to enjoy!

Healthy Hearts is a 60+ session that runs on Wednesdays from 2pm - 4pm. Those who choose to attend can play indoor bowls, table tennis or badminton. They can also attend a beginners Pilates class and swimming sessions. The session costs \$4 per person and ends with a cup of tea at 3.30pm. Healthy Hearts begins Wednesday 23 November.

Pilates classes will also be starting on Wednesday 23 November and run every Wednesday from 5pm - 6pm at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.

The classes will be taken by a qualified Pilates instructor and is open to all ages. Classes cost \$8.00.



South Waikato Indoor Pools - spa pool rules update



We received an overwhelming response regarding the spa pool rules at the South Waikato Indoor Heated Pools.

After taking all feedback into consideration and seeking advice on how everyone can enjoy the spa facilities safely, the spa rules have been updated:

- Safety has always been one of the main drivers for changes made to the spa pool rules. In consideration for the safety of our tamariki, spa temperatures will be kept between 36 and 38 degrees.
- There will be a dedicated adults only time for spa users. On weekdays this time will be 5.30am - 9am and weekends will be 7.30am - 9am.
- Families are welcome to enjoy the spa pools from 9am. Children 14 and under must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

TALKING ROAD SAFETY



Summer is almost here and with the finer weather (fingers crossed!) it time to start thinking about how you are going to survive driving in the holidays. You will need to take extra care when travelling in holiday periods because of increased traffic volumes, congestion, tiredness and people driving in unfamiliar environments. Being courteous, remembering you share the road with others and scheduling frequent breaks can help you keep your cool when driving during these times.

Why you need to be alert

- There are more vehicles on the road – more vehicles means a higher risk of crashes.
- Many people are driving on unfamiliar roads.
- People are driving long hours and getting fatigued – often early morning or late evening.
- Increased stress from factors such as heat, traffic jams, roadworks, noisy children and general tiredness.
- People on holiday may be less vigilant about road safety, eg speeding, driving when tired, and not buckling up.

What you can do to improve your safety

You can make a number of choices to improve your safety on your holiday journey. You need to give road use the attention and respect it deserves.

- Take a little time to make sure that you and your vehicle are safe before starting your journey.
- Plan to avoid the worst peak traffic periods when many highways become congested.
- Allow plenty of time – make the journey part of the holiday.
- Schedule regular rest stops.

- Be alert to changes that may happen on roads you regularly drive.
- Often during holiday periods, passing lanes are closed to help reduce congestion and prevent further delays where the traffic merges at the end of lanes. Sometimes alternative routes are suggested. A good place to for information and real time updates is: www.nzta.govt.nz/traffic-and-travel-information/.
- Drive to the conditions - this doesn't just mean the weather. It also includes:
 - the road you're on
 - the traffic conditions
 - the speed (the speed limit and a safe speed may differ)
 - you - are you tired or on medication that affects your driving?
 - your vehicle and load.

Watch out for driver fatigue

Long trips are tiring and fatigue can be deadly when you're driving. Driver fatigue was a factor in 54 road deaths and nearly 1,000 injuries last year. Plan to get enough rest beforehand so that you drive fresh. You should plan in advance where you'll take breaks on your trip.

Before you start your travels

- Have your vehicle checked. Most garages offer safety checks for tyre tread and pressure, lights, brakes, cooling systems and other components.
- Check your warrant of fitness and licence are up to date.
- Check you have a current driver licence. If it's expired or close to expiry, renew it before starting your journey.
- When packing your vehicle, make sure items are securely stowed. Even small objects can be dangerous missiles in a crash or sudden stop.

Relax and keep your cool

Holiday driving can be frustrating with busy roads, often slower sightseeing travellers, stifling heat in summer and icy surfaces in winter.

- Be courteous.
- Remember you're sharing the road with others.
- Always keep your cool.
- Take a break. Have a kitkat!

Hopefully these tips will get you ready to safely enjoy the fine weather and your holidays to come.



December event:

Diane Wilcox School Of Dance production. Sunday 18 December, 11am. Tickets available soon!

The Plaza is a hive of activity with numerous community groups using the venue as well as performing arts events and movies.



On a regular basis we host Strong & Stable, the Putāruru 50 plus group and mahjong sessions.

We have availability to host more community groups, events, movie screenings and private functions.

When we're back in the New Year, please get in contact to discuss your event – you'll be surprised at what the team can offer and their competitive rates!

The Plaza is South Waikato's premium performing arts centre. The facility is available for hire for small and large events; boasting very reasonable rates, and some of the best acoustics you've heard in years!

The Plaza closes from Friday 16 December to Monday 16 January 2023.

We at The Plaza wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Stay safe New Zealand.



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

STRONG & STABLE
PUTARURU 50 PLUS GROUP

Check out the NEW look In Touch

The first issue of In Touch was published in December 2012/January 2013. It was a four-page issue.

Today, In Touch is usually at least a 12-pager, sometimes like this issue, a 16-pager. Over the years hundreds of pages of Council and community news has featured in In Touch.

But it's been 10 years, so Comms staff have given it a bit of a refresh. Check out the new look... coming February 2023!



Council Building Service retains Accreditation

Council's Building Team has again successfully retained its accreditation as a Building Control Authority following a successful audit by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ).

"This ensures Council can continue to deliver a cost-effective building control service to residents and ratepayers," said Sharon Robinson, Council's Regulatory Group Manager.

"The South Waikato District is fortunate to have a passionate local team that work hard to continue to provide the Building Consent Authority service to

meet expectations and beyond." Sharon added

"We are very pleased with the feedback from the assessors," said Kevin Duthie, Council's Building Control Manager. "They acknowledged that our system has matured well over the years, and this translates into efficient processing. They found the audit process itself productive and noted the helpfulness of our team."

The audit took less than four days and looked at every aspect of the consenting process including vetting, processing, inspection and certification.



Council recently consulted on its 2021-31 Long Term Plan Amendment, which we branded 'building BIG empowering GROWTH'.

The drivers for the proposal was driven by recent modelling that had identified several large infrastructure improvements needed to support district growth.

In addition, economic growth has grown in momentum in recent years. Our community is starting to flourish as we benefit from economic opportunities.

Council tabled two options with the community – to build the infrastructure or not. Council also indicated that our preference was to build. We believed that if we choose not to invest at scale and at pace, there would be a risk that we would miss out on economic growth and employment opportunities for our people. We are currently constrained in what we can offer businesses because we don't have the supporting infrastructure.

We proposed to invest money IN our community, ON our community and FOR our community, now!

At the time of writing, consultation hadn't closed but by the time you read this, submissions will be closed, we will have heard from the community and likely the outcome would be known and Council would have issued an update.

hanga NUI whakamana TUPURANGA
TĀ MĀTOU TAKIWĀ TĀ MĀTOU WĀ Ā MUA



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IN the know

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Download Antenna FREE
info@southwaikato.govt.nz

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