

A final wrap up from Mayor Jenny

"I usually do an annual wrap up for In Touch, and this year is no different - it's just one issue early because, as you will be aware, I am stepping down from the Mayoralty. This will be my last message in our community newsletter In Touch - which might I add was started in 2012. I was a great supporter of the concept of introducing our own community newsletter; and I am pleased to see it continuing a decade on!" Mayor Jenny Shattock

The 2021-22 year was an exciting year, dominated by challenges, change and opportunity for Council and our community.

The COVID-19 recovery period continued to impact our ability to deliver our wide range of activities and projects as we negotiated through supply shortages, staff absenteeism and contractor availability.

Among the challenges of COVID, central Government made progress on several significant proposed changes to local government that will heavily impact our organisation going forward – namely three waters, review of the Resource Management Act (RMA) and the future for local government.

Since the initial announcement on the three waters reform, there has been a lot of frustration from both Council and our community. Many of you will have heard us express some serious concerns. The Government is proposing to establish four large entities to own and operate water supply,

wastewater and stormwater across the country. Our Council joined Communities 4 Local Democracy (C4LD), along with 30 other councils. C4LD is trying to get the Government to slow down and look at some alternative models that may be a better fit for our country and our district.

Our most significant concerns include losing our local voice, lack of priority for what is important to South Waikato communities and our future growth, loss of control of our assets, risk of privatisation and that the current proposed model may not be the best or only suitable model.

Just quietly, we're also really annoyed at the dreadful advertising campaign that the Government put in place. You may wonder why you don't see those adverts anymore. Public and council pressure made them remove the campaign. And the opt-in opt-out initial proposal? Once they realised just how many councils were going to opt-out, they changed

it to 'mandated' – that was a very large and bitter pill to swallow. It caused a lot of mistrust, understandably.

Under the current proposal the South Waikato – because of our unique position, we will be worse off. We've been very clear with Government on this point.

I want to assure you that IF the reform goes ahead, our waters infrastructure will be handed to the new entity in a good state to continue to serve South Waikato communities. Your tap will still produce water. Toilets will still flush... and so on ...

The review of the RMA is also underway. This will likely affect how much of a say Council and our community has in how we tackle critical national issues like land use, housing, biodiversity management, climate change and freshwater quality. It may also mean less community input into planning matters.

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Rememberance

The passing of her Majesty The Queen was a moment of the greatest sadness.

We mourned a woman, who, with or without a crown, was the epitome of nobility. A woman who was also a much-loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother.

The late Queen Elizabeth II was more than a monarch to many around the world; and will forever be remembered as the very essence of a compassionate and steadfast world leader, who dedicated her life in service to her country and the world.

Rest in peace.



* throughout this issue, we reference Mayor Jenny Shattock - correct at the time of writing; at the time of reading, this will have changed.

IN the know

DID YOU KNOW... that South Waikato District Council is one of 78 councils in New Zealand. There are 11 regional councils. Ours is Waikato Regional Council. There are 61 territorial councils, including 11 city councils and 50 district councils. The South Waikato is a district council. There are also six unitary councils – these councils have shared territorial and regional responsibilities.

Source – Local Government New Zealand

IN side

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- Our World Expo
- 12-15 - From rags to riches
- Recycling changes
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IN house

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

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

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Council is focussed on promoting the South Waikato as a great place to live, work and invest through our Space to Grow business development platform. Just recently we took South Waikato to Parliament standing shoulder to shoulder with Raukawa and Pacific Peoples representatives and backed by around 20 big business leaders and community group leaders.

Council's collaboration with the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT) continues. We work together on a range of initiatives such as attracting new businesses, business training and positioning the South Waikato to attract business investment.

Growth cells identified in Putāruru are under development and on the market. Our residential stock is expanding to support both our community growth and attract new residents. Hopefully development in Tokoroa and Tirau will follow suit.

And at a business-as-usual level, we also completed a number of large or high interest projects, including:

- Continued progress on wastewater improvement projects.
- Saw construction on the South Waikato Trades Training Centre start.
- Successfully delivered over 18,000 wheelie bins to our urban properties.
- Opened up development in Putāruru for new subdivisions. Many of these sections sold off the plans!
- Developed plans for the Putāruru skatepark development... I know it's been delayed, out of our control, I understand it will have started by the time you read this.
- Refurbished the Tirau i-SITE.

- Completed the Tirau Domain reserve, complete with an amazing opening day where the sun came out after two solid weeks of rain... lucky!
- Restored our Pine man that had started to show signs of wear.
- Completed stage 1 of the Putāruru Waterpark. The team is looking into options for stage 2.
- Upgraded the dog pound to ensure it meets animal health and welfare standards.
- Launched our Discover Different marketing campaign to attract visitors to our beautiful district; and make a meaningful impact on our local businesses.
- And we successfully delivered 75 permanent placement positions for young people in the district as part of the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs' WOKRIT project.

It's been a big year, full of change and opportunity.



A final word... as Mayor Jenny bows out...

"Finally, it is also my last year as Mayor. I have been on Council for 24 years, and I can tell you, things have changed over the years.

Back in the day when I joined Council, tablets were things you took when you were sick, not digital devices that we read our agendas on! The dress code was super business formal. I remember the Mayor at the time Neil Sinclair providing a tie to one of the Councillors because he didn't have one. Not sure I could get away with insisting on such formality now!

Over the years there has been a definite shift from in-house services to contracting services, which has meant several changes to both staffing and equipment that we own.

I have seen two CBD upgrades in Tokoroa. I was on Council when we made the innovative decision to fund TANGS and PiP through a business rate - a first ever in New Zealand! Over my time I recall the rise and fall of Tokoroa, and great to see Tok is on the rise again. I recall that we won an engineering award for our wastewater treatment plant in Tirau, state-of-the-art at the time.

Over the years we have gone from the traditional core services like roads, waters and waste to being responsible for a broader social services like libraries, sporting centres, grants, economic development, community support and more.

The way we work these days is so vastly different. With computers and digitisation, search functions and electronic document management systems... and not the least, the development of

social media, which can be a bit of a double-edged sword in terms of helpful and destructive. It has become much harder to get volunteers in today's world.

More recently it is pleasing to see that Te Reo is becoming increasingly commonplace in the workplace. Also pleasing is just how invested our community has become in Council activities. Council is recognised as having a huge impact on local communities.

I joined Council when Gordon Blake was Mayor with Bev Sturgeon as Deputy. David Foote was later appointed Deputy when Neil Sinclair took over as Mayor. I was appointed to Deputy under Neil and served three terms, before taking on the Mayoralty myself, which I have held for two terms or six years. I learned a lot from both Gordon Blake and Neil Sinclair, and I thank them both.

We have had ups and downs over my time but through all the change, one thing has remained constant and that is it has never been boring.

I am proud of where the district is now. We have realised tremendous growth and development in recent years. The South Waikato is in a good space. We're punching above our weight. And I look forward to watching the district and our communities here thrive even more.

It has been a great honour to have been your Mayor.

Jenny Shattock

**On behalf of the people of the South Waikato -
thank you for your 24 years of service!**

WHAT'S HOT

Pictured far right: Mayor Jenny presenting local wood carver Eric Wolfe with a Community Service certificate in recognition of his amazing wood turning talents that he has so willingly shared with South Waikato District Council and our community. Over the years Eric has carved and donated several beautiful items for display at the Council offices, from wall hangings and lecterns to poles and bowls. We have gifted many of Eric's items to dignitaries that have visited over the years and we know they are treasured.

Pretty blossoms on street trees.

The arrival of Spring, and the promise of Summer.

Abundance of birdsong along the Waikato Rivers Trails.

Summer holiday programmes at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre.

Being able to include plastic 5 products in our recycling! Full campaign to come, but if you are reading this... you can now include clean plastics 5s - such as some ice cream containers, yoghurt pots, margarine containers in your yellow recycling bin! See page 15.

A workshop to upskill Sale and Supply of Alcohol license holders and premise staff was well received. Learnings and outcomes will enable premises to further minimise harm from alcohol and meet licence expectations.

Pictured right: Mr and Miss Barrett voluntarily pick up litter in the Matarawa Reserve when they are out and about, and have done for years! Great example of caring community service.



WHAT'S NOT

Vandalism. Vandalism. Vandalism.
Tagging. Littering.

Pointless. Money wasters. Destructive.
Poor community and civic behaviour. Argh!



Massive wins for local legends Dion Newth and Sam Gaze in the biking world

Dion Newth won the 45-49 Men's Cruiser section, beating a massive 69 other competitors in his age group.

"This is such an awesome achievement for Dion and the South Waikato community is absolutely thrilled to see him bring home the gold," said Mayor Jenny Shattock.

Newth had recently won the North Island Championships held in Auckland over labour weekend, as well as placing first in his category during the 2019 Oceania BMX Championships.

In an interview with NZ Herald, Newth said "I'm just going to bathe in the glory," he laughs, "but I've always had a lot of support from the community, from my gym and just all my friends and that. They're always putting out their support, their comments, phone calls, everything. There's a lot of mana in Tokoroa, 886 proud!"

Dion will enter the Tokoroa Hall of Hometown Heroes alongside the likes of Sean Maitland, Regan Ware, Joseph Manu, Toka Natua and B J Watling.

Another local legend, Sam Gaze claimed gold at the Commonwealth Games in August. This is the second straight games that Gaze has won gold. He competed in the cross-country mountain bike event.

Gaze has also recently won the UCI Mountain Bike Marathon World Championship on 17 September. After just one month of breaking his collarbone, Gaze held off German competitor, Andreas Seewald.

He won the title in Denmark at a race time of 4h 15m 51s, with Seewald 16 seconds behind him.



Taking the South Waikato to Parliament to put us on the map!

South Waikato District Council, local iwi Raukawa, Pacifika, community and business representatives took South Waikato to Parliament at the end of August to advocate for long term co-investment to address multigenerational inequalities.

“Delivering enduring change cannot be achieved through short term funding,” said Mayor Jenny Shattock. “We are not asking for a handout but greater collaboration between Government agencies and local stakeholders. We are keen to have Government support for expedited processes, consents and other non-cash incentives.”

The new multi-million-dollar projects announced over the last two years and now being built in South Waikato include the ofi dairy processing facility in Tokoroa, Better Eggs’ free range forest farm, set to become the country’s largest egg producer, the 254 villa Putāruru Country Estate retirement village and the South Waikato Trades Training Centre in Tokoroa.

“Together with local businesses, we are delivering growth. Our challenge is to ensure it benefits all. Only a true partnership between Government, Council and iwi can achieve enduring change,” said Council’s Economic Development Manager Paul Bowden.

Raukawa Tumu Whakaree Maria Te Kanawa says, “Our commitment to the hauora of our whenua and our iwi is expressed in our role as kaitiaki for this rohe. Raukawa has been providing health, social, cultural and environmental support services for over 30 years, and will continue to do so as we aspire towards our vision of Raukawa kia mau kia ora – a thriving Raukawa iwi.”

South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services Trust Chief Executive Akarere Henry says the Pacific people of South Waikato are very resilient. “Pacific people have contributed significantly to the growth and development of our amazing community. We aspire to realise the moemoea of our tupuna through partnerships with sustainable investment.”

SWIFT Chief Executive Amanda Hema says it’s an exciting time for the South Waikato district.

“We’re growing at a rapid rate, and we are delighted to support this new era of development for our community,” said Mrs Hema.

“We are at the start of a new era for South Waikato and continued investment is required to maximise the outcomes for our community.”

South Waikato’s strategic advantages for business include its central location with strong road and rail links to the Golden Triangle of Auckland, Hamilton and Tauranga that accounts for 60 per cent of New Zealand’s gross domestic product.

“Companies appreciate we are a business-friendly local authority that is actively investing in infrastructure to facilitate the establishment and relocation of businesses,” said Mr Bowden.

Mayor Shattock says, “The participation in this Parliamentary roadshow by the Council, Raukawa, Pacifika, our local and regional community partners and businesses illustrates our belief that partnerships are the only way to improve wellbeing outcomes for our community.”

“South Waikato organisations are delivering local place-based solutions. The scale, scope, and impact of these is only constrained by the availability of funding.”

The delegation exhibited a range of products and services to Parliamentarians in the Grand Hall of Parliament House on Wednesday 31 August from 5.30pm to 7.30pm.

One on one sessions with Ministers holding the portfolios of Infrastructure, Housing, Energy and Resources, and Economic and Regional Development was also a key part of the visit.



Left: Wahine powerhouse of the South Waikato - Mayor Jenny Shattock, SWDC Chief Executive Susan Law, SWIPICs Chief Executive Akarere Henry, Raukawa Tumu Whakaree Maria Te Kanawa and Raukawa Charitable Trust Chair Katarina Hodge.



Left: The South Waikato delegation at Parliament.

Tokoroa Library opens recording studio to the public!

The Tokoroa Library was able to open a recording studio thanks to Creative Art kindly gifting recording equipment to them.

The opening of the studio saw a group of members from the community enjoy speeches from Mayor Jenny Shattock, Interim Executive Manager of Operations James Hassall and Patoa Tavai who worked extremely hard to get the

recording studio to become a reality for the Tokoroa Library. They also got to hear a taste of what the studio can do as members offered to share a song with the crowd.

The recording studio is open to any members of the public who would like to record music, poetry or instruments and don't have the facilities to do so.

The studio is set to stay at the Tokoroa Library for a period of six months and will be re-evaluated at the end of this period.

If you or your groups of friends or family would like to get creative in the studio, talk to the team at the Tokoroa Library to book a slot and they can show you how it's all done!



Chorus and SWDC bringing more art to your neighbourhood!

The Chorus Cabinet Art Programme returned to the South Waikato in partnership with Council over the Winter and we received a handful of amazing submissions.

Nine designs for the cabinets were submitted by locals from all over the South Waikato.

Four cabinets, two in Tokoroa and one each in Arapuni and Putāruru, have been chosen for beautification. Designs were chosen by Mayor Jenny Shattock.

The project, which sees some of their more frequently tagged cabinets painted in artworks, has been very successful so Chorus has continued its partnership with South Waikato District Council to extend its reach further.

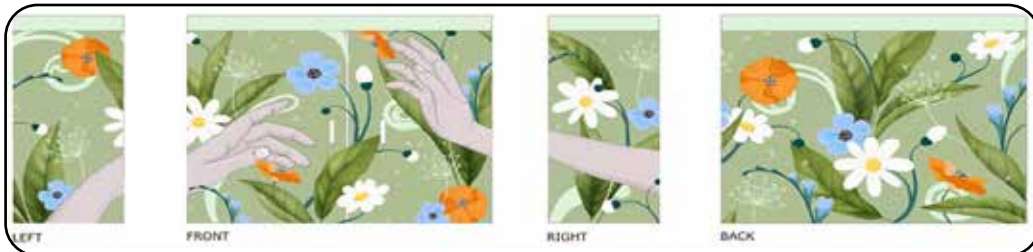
These cabinets become works of art in the street, often telling stories about the communities in which they are located and help to discourage tagging.

Mayor Jenny Shattock says, "This is a fantastic initiative by Chorus

and as Mayor of the South Waikato I am very pleased to welcome the programme back this year.

"Improving the appearance of our towns shows the pride we have in our home and environment and adds to our appeal in attracting visitors and new residents."

Council's Community Programme Co-ordinator Rangimarie Smith will be co-ordinating final designs and artists.



Mayoral Scholarship Update

Applications for the Mayoral Scholarship flooded in over the month of September.

The Mayoral Scholarship is a scholarship to fund students from the district who are planning to study a degree course the following year.

Students from all schools around the South Waikato were encouraged to apply. From the 20 applicants who applied from Forest View High School, Tokoroa High Schools, Putāruru College and Matamata College, there will be two successful candidates.

The chosen candidates will be offered a scholarship to the value of \$10,000 each (\$2,500 per year for a maximum of four years.)

"The South Waikato is proud to support its youth through its Mayoral Scholarship since starting the scheme in 2006," said Mayor Jenny Shattock. "This scholarship has helped over 16 young people from the South Waikato study towards their chosen careers."

The successful candidates will be announced at the high school senior prize givings.

Take a look at the chosen designs for the Chorus Cabinet Art!



New town signs coming soon!

We are getting ready to launch the new signage for the district and our four main towns, Tokoroa, Putāruru, Tīrau and Arapuni.

After our search calling for nominations to feature local faces on the signs, we received over 20 nominations. The new signage is all about people and community that will unify the South Waikato district while projecting each town's unique identity. We are excited to announce all the town signs will feature local faces!

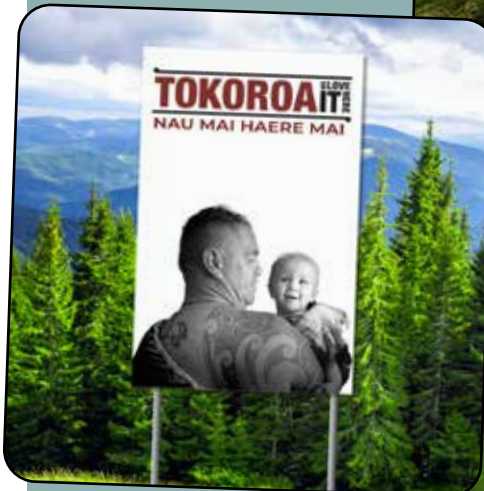
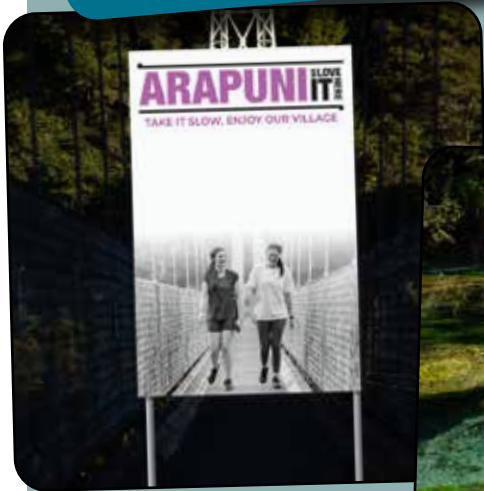
Our mission has been to create a distinctive design to

promote the South Waikato district and our towns. This signage is all about presenting a fresh new image for South Waikato that is positive, forward-looking, welcoming and aligned with all the exciting growth happening in the district. The target audience is primarily visitors to the district because locals already know where they live and why they love it here.

In the coming months, work will begin to get the signs ready for installation and in November you should start to see the signs pop up around the district.



Check out the mock up signs below!



Leith Place soffit installation displays journey of how South Waikato came to be and vision for our future

The installation of the Leith Place soffit was completed on Friday 9 September. The 112 square-meter project was included as a walkway design as part of the Leith Place upgrade.

The design of the soffit was supported and guided by three local expert historian leaders, Raukawa Kaumātua Koro Hori Deane, Raukawa Historian Nigel Te Hiko and Reverend Timote Turu, who have all since passed. They signalled very early on in the initial design, that this artwork was about sharing the voyages of their own people to Aotearoa and the South Waikato District, as well as the collective vision they have for the future.

Maria Te Kanawa, Tumu Whakarae of Raukawa Charitable Trust said Raukawa was honoured to be involved in this community project. "The collaborative approach ensured that all participants were able to share their whakaaro and moemoea for this project. Right from the start, Raukawa Kaumātua Koro Hori Deane and Raukawa Historian Nigel Te Hiko, felt it was a perfect opportunity to tell a shared story about the significance of the moana, awa and tides which brought all people, all ethnicities to Aotearoa.

"Sadly, both Koro Hori and Nigel did not get to see their whakaaro be realised in the final designs, but we thank them for their insightful guidance throughout this project."

Akarere Henry, Chief Executive of the South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services Trust (SWIPC) advised "We were humbled to be involved in this community initiative, and the poignancy that its final narrative and design was one of the last contributions that our late Reverend Timote Turu guided our journey in succinctly capturing the essence of the Pacific peoples of this community.

"In keeping with the significant themes of unity with the land, water, winds and sky, it demonstrated our connectedness as a people of the respect and caring that



nature provides. The symbolism of the coconut invokes visuals of stamina, sustenance and shelter, the core elements that best depict the migration of the Pacific to this community," continued Akarere. "The challenge is to sustain the relationships by ensuring that we are inclusive, and accepting of diversity, responsive and open to opportunities. Yet we celebrate those things that are universal. Thank you, Papa Timote Turu, for your vision and passion to tell our story."

Artist Delani Brown agreed and ensured to factor all aspects of the ideas into the design of the soffit.

"The design acknowledges the path, methods and elements which was used to guide, support and deliver people to Aotearoa, being Ngā Whetū (the stars), their whakapapa (relationships with the elements), connection to Rangi (all above, stars, heavens) and Papa (all below, the earth itself). The four main figures that can be seen represent four spiritual bodies of water that were instrumental to our people's journey, arrival and sustained life within Te Moananui a Kiwa (the great ocean of Kiwa) also referred as the Pacific Ocean or the Polynesian triangle (the three points being Hawaii, Rapanui and Aotearoa).

The key here is that all people that reside within are related.

At the right end of design is the prominent figure of Tangaroa (Atua of the sea) as a water guardian, In the left top corner is Hine Marama (the moon maiden) whom has a special relationship and union with Tangaroa for her pull affects the ebb and flow of Tangaroa. A Putatara (conch shell) can be seen by the left ear of Tangaroa while at the lower body of Tangaroa a coconut seed with a heart as its centre is presented. From the fishtail of Tangaroa flows a tauihu (canoe prow) which represents Te Waka a Maui (the South Island). From the tau ihu moving left is Hine Moana (the ocean maiden) of Te Moananui a Kiwa.

Tiare can be seen as a part of the plume above her head. From Hine Moana are two Mako (sharks) that acknowledges spiritual guardianship, the rite of passage which acknowledges all people's migration and journey throughout Te Moananui a Kiwa.

Below the Mako is a representation of Kiwa who is recognized as a spiritual guardian of these waterways at the bottom left corner of Kiwa is a coconut palm. A narrative of Tangata Whenua from Aotearoa tells of Kiwa having two unions or wives. One being Hine Moana (the maiden of the sea) and another

being Hine Parawhenuamea (the personification of water that springs from the land/earth). This land and earth that our peoples have settled on and called home is called Te Ika a Maui (the great fish of Maui) being the North Island. It is depicted here through the Whai (stingray) whose tail can be seen entangled with Hine Parawhenuamea who provides us with a fresh water source from the land. In the left corner of this sketch can be seen the Moko (facial scarification) of Tamanui o te Ra (the son/sun).

The movement seen in this design is called Takarangi (it represents the unfolding universe) the Milky Way, the stars and in this situation the currents within the sea that blessed us upon our journey and continues to remind us of where we have come from, how we come and why. So we can know how to advance as whānau into the future.

When our people wanted to journey, they looked up and Rangi provided the map and direction with the blessing. On another level our ancestors had attained perfection and unity with the land, the water and the winds through their respect, caring and connection for nature and all that nature provides."

Our World Our Home Expo was out of this world - services, support, advice!

The Our World Our Home Expo was held on Tuesday 13 September at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre in Tokoroa.

The expo was focused all on the education of having healthy and warm homes as well as having healthy bodies. People from all over the South Waikato District came to the expo on the day for advice, health checks, fun and giveaways.

There were 39 stalls involved, covering healthy homes, health and wellbeing, air quality and environmental projects in the South Waikato.

Our inaugural expo held in April 2021 was focussed on healthy homes and clean air, expo organiser Cherie Pascoe said. "As we began the planning for this year's expo, there was an overwhelming response from community services to join in, eager to let our community know about the many free services on offer in the South Waikato."

There was a very positive vibe on the day. Some of the stallholders reported running out of resources, much to their surprise.

Stall holders included Te Whatu Ora, Pokaiwhenua Catchment Group, Waikato River Trails, Budget Advisory Service, Harrison's Solar, Sport Waikato, WRC, Para Kore, Begbie, GoFox, City Lions, WHCA, Habitat For Humanity, Van Dam Plumbing, Kainga Ora, Hanson Heating, SWIPICS, FVHS Envirooschools, Mokaihaha Kokako Trust, Waikato Wellbeing Project, WERA Aotearoa Charitable Trust Youth Service, SWAC, Healthy Homes Initiative and several Council activities and services.





One of the big items on the day, was the introduction of the Bee card, new to the South Waikato district. The new system will begin operating on 31 October 2022. About 60 cards were given out at the expo, which is a fantastic response.



Rennie Pearson: Celtic Musician - **Wednesday 26 October**, 7pm - Tickets are \$20 available from The Plaza. *Tunes, songs and stories from Ireland, Scotland and Canada.*

Halloween Fundraiser - **Saturday 29 October**. Raising funds for Type 1 Diabetes in Putāruru Children. 3:30pm - 5pm - Kids Haunted Theatre Trail - \$2 entry. 6:30pm - 8:30pm Halloween Quiz. \$20 per person entry. 9pm - 10:45pm The Rocky Horror Picture Show movie Rated M. \$10 per person. Quiz & Movie combo - \$25 per person. Email T1DPutaruru@gmail.com for tickets.

Sunday movie: Queen Bees (2021) - **30 October**, 2pm. *Helen is an independent senior who decides to temporarily move into a nearby retirement community.* Tickets are \$8 for adults & \$5 for students.



ABBAolutely FABBAulous presents DANCING QUEEN: A Tribute to ABBA - **Tuesday 15 November**, 8pm. Tickets available through EVENTFINDA ONLY.



07 883 8596/0276 559 715
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TALKING ROAD SAFETY



With summer approaching there will be more vulnerable road users out and about with one of the key ones being cyclists.

Cyclists can be quite vulnerable on our roadways as they are less visible and less well protected than most other road users.

As a motorist, remember to look out for cyclists and give them plenty of room when passing, a distance of one and a half metres is recommended.

Cyclists have a right to use the roads and to travel safely and enjoyably.

A common hazard for cyclists is car doors, you can badly injure a cyclist if you open your door into their path. Always check carefully for cyclists before you open your door.

Some tips for cyclists to be safer on the road are:

- Be aware – watch for car doors opening, potholes, rubbish, grates and pedestrians. Always check for left turning vehicles.
- Be predictable – maintain a straight line, use hand signals and a bell.
- Be safe – follow the road rules and choose the safest route
- Be patient – slow down near parked or lined up vehicles, pass slowly and only when safe.
- Be prepared – wear an approved helmet and check your bike regularly, including brakes, tyres, chain, lights, and reflectors.

Tirau Roundabout gets spruce-up leading up to Queen's funeral

Locals and road users may have noticed the tidy up of the SH1/SH5 roundabout just south of Tirau.

Many in our community will be aware that the twin oak trees in the centre of the roundabout were planted by the late Queen Elizabeth herself on 1 January 1954, during one of her visits to New Zealand.

Over 7,000 people gathered at the Domain to witness the tree planting.

The twin oaks are certainly a piece of history that our community is proud of.

Given the significance and with Monday 19 September fast approaching, we decided to give it a spruce up to make sure that it is looking its very best ready for when the Queen is finally laid to rest. May she rest in peace.

Downer spent two days cleaning up the gardens and overgrowth around the trees and mowed all of the surrounding lawns in time for the roundabout to look it's best for the Queen's funeral.

BEFORE



AFTER



Expect delays on the roads this summer says Waka Kotahi

The message is pretty simple from Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency. Expect and prepare for disruptions when road users travel through the Waikato and Bay of Plenty this summer.

This comes as a significant summer programme of work was announced for Waka Kotahi's contractors across the Waikato & Bay of Plenty region.

Extracted from a Waka Kotahi media statement.

Waka Kotahi has a tough task ahead with over 700 lane kilometres of state highway to be rebuilt or resealed between now and the end of March 2023.

Crews will be working both day and night for the months ahead to complete this programme.

"To put it bluntly, this does mean that disruption will be a constant," says Rob Campbell, Regional Manager, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency, "but it's all about improving our state highways - for everyone."

"Looking at just the first few weeks of October, there are approximately a dozen crews working on various activities across the network. Each worksite requires traffic management to keep both crews and road users safe; in some places this can mean stop/go traffic management with minor delays, at other times roads will need to be closed to allow work to take place.

"Early work programmes include chipsealing on State Highway 25 up the west side of the Coromandel Peninsula, asphalt resurfacing in Te Awamutu, Putāruru and Whakatane, and road rebuilds in the Waimana Gorge and near Whenuakite."

There are also significant work programmes planned for SH2 between Waihi to Ōmokoroa and on SH1 through the Desert Road.

"We appreciate that closures will create longer journeys, however the nature of some areas crews need to work in makes it impossible to allow traffic through safely.

"However, when we close roads we look to take the opportunity to undertake a range of maintenance activities at the same time, such as guardrail repairs, sign cleaning and repair, and vegetation maintenance. This will reduce routine maintenance requirements over the rest of summer," says Mr Campbell.

Campbell emphasised the importance of using the Journey Planner their website prior to your trip. It's a quick and easy tool to use and will keep you updated on any changes that could occur.

"To keep your wheels turning we highly recommend checking the Waka Kotahi Journey Planner before heading out. This will keep everyone cruising and will also help with any back-up plans should things change at short notice." ENDS



From Council's perspective, we will continue to utilise the Antenna app to provide updates on any road works through our district. If you haven't yet downloaded Antenna, you can do so free via the Google Play store on Android devices and App Store for Apple users.



Stay switched on with everything Council and download it free from



Bin clips can be purchased from Council

Tired of having your wheelie bins missed because the weather conditions have blown your lid open?

Well now you can purchase your bin clip from Council.

Households can purchase bin clips at \$12 for one or \$20 for two. The price of the clips includes the installation where a Council staff member will come to your address to attach the clips to your wheelie bin(s).

If you are interested, phone us on (07) 885 0340 or visit our Council offices for assistance.



Logan and Campbell St trees have now been removed



The removal of large Oak trees in Logan and Campbell Streets is now complete with contractors felling the trees back in September.

After the removal of the trees in Bridge St back in January due to an incident where a tree fell in high winds and sparked concerns for public safety, Council made the decision to bring down the near 70-year-old trees throughout the CBD area.

“This tree felling project is a continuation of the earlier removals on Bridge St this year,” said Phil Parker, Council’s Parks and Reserves Manager.

“Back in December Council resolved to remove the Bridge St trees and planned the remaining trees in Logan and Campbell Streets would be felled in the 2022-23 financial year – which we are now currently in.”

Council knows that some in the community are disappointed by the removal of the trees, but the risk of leaving the Oaks in place is too high with the need to ensure public safety being paramount.

Replanting of appropriate tree species will be part of any future design plans being considered by Council for the wider Tokoroa CBD environment.

Council and its contractors want to again thank the public for their understanding and cooperation during this project.

Spring into Winter - start preparing your firewood now!

After a long, wet and frosty winter the last thing you want to think of is replacing your firewood! But now is the time to do it! Preparing your firewood now will set you up with seasoned, dry wood for next winter.

Here are some tips to ensuring your wood is in tip-top condition for Winter '23!

1

Get your firewood early to allow maximum drying time. Try give your wood at least six to nine months of drying time.

2

Cut and split your wood into the right size for your wood burner to give your wood more surface area to dry faster.

3

Stack your wood somewhere with plenty of airflow. Wood that’s too wet will cause a lot of smoke and won’t heat as well.

4

Firewood should have less than 25% moisture. You can test this by throwing a small piece onto hot glowing coals. If it catches fire on the top and sides within one minute, it’s dry enough to burn.

South Waikato leisure services staff becoming experts and developing leaders!

The South Waikato Pools and South Waikato Sport and Events Centre have 11 staff who have joined skilled active apprenticeships on three different apprenticeships across both sites, all coming out with a level 4 qualification.

The courses have been funded through the Government's targeted training fund, which is designed to assist employers and apprentices during the COVID recovery period.

"The boost scheme that works alongside the apprenticeship, funds the hours spent completing the apprenticeship so it's a win win for us," said Janice Eland, Leisure Services Manager.

"The staff are gaining development and knowledge for the team whilst on the job. It's a great opportunity to build leaders for these spaces," Janice added.

See the awesome staff and their achievements.

Apprenticeship Senior Lifeguard level 4

Barbara Cambell – Aquatics Coordinator

Joanna Hawkins – Role Senior Lifeguard FT

Christine Ngatai – Role Senior Lifeguard FT

Ashlyn Cox – Role Senior Lifeguard PT

Apprenticeship Swim and water Safety Teacher level 4

Grace Chambers - Role Senior Lifeguard PT

Crystal Littlefair Toataua – Role Senior Lifeguard PT

Marina Jones –PT – Senior Instructor

Apprentice Facility Operations level 4

Tamihana Coxhead – Event Centre Coordinator

Aaron Dean - Facilities and Leisure Centre Assistant – FT

Zietse Nieuwoudt – Senior Events Officer PT

Dylan Rouse-Carpenter – Senior Events Officer PT

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 - Sep/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 October 2022.

1. How many years has Jenny served the South Waikato on Council?
2. Who adopted Daisy?
3. How many jobs has SWIFT helped create?
4. Who designed the Leith Place soffitt?
5. Who planted the two trees on the SH1 roundabout near Tirau and when?

Congratulations to Allan of Tokoroa who won our \$50 lucky dip prize in the previous issue. Thank you to all those who entered. Try again this issue!

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



Be Places with Bee Card

The Urban Connector is getting a new payment system coming into effect on Tuesday 1 November 2022 called the Bee Card. A Bee Card is your new electronic smart card for using the bus. It's easy to use, gets you boarding faster and for most trips is cheaper than using cash.

You can purchase them in person at the Tokoroa Library for \$5 with a minimum \$5 credit loaded.

Bee Cards can also be purchased online at www.beecard.co.nz.

Those with a Super Gold Card can get a free Bee Card until Thursday 1 December. You can call the number 0800 205 305, where a team member will help you order a Bee Card and load your Super Gold Card onto it.



Bee

The Urban Connector will also be getting an upgrade next month, changing its name to the South Waikato Connector, complete with an entirely new bus! Keep an eye out for announcements on our social media!



From rags to riches - Daisy's story...

Once upon a time, on a frosty August morning...

... Daisy, the five-week-old puppy was roaming the streets of Tokoroa.

Separated from her brothers and sisters of the same age, Daisy was feeling tired, cold and hungry. She wasn't sure where she was heading, but she knew she had to keep moving to find her family, or at least find shelter for the night.

With her head down staring at the pavement ahead of her, she felt a sudden swoop underneath her. She was being picked up by a human.

The course of Daisy's life was changed forever on this day.

Daisy was put into the back seat of a car. She heard the engine roar and felt the car take off. She cried out loud to express her worry, but was too tired to fight back... the warmth of the car made her slowly dose off.

Hungry, tired and malnourished, five-week-old Daisy was taken in by the Animal Control team at Council and checked over by the vets to confirm what was needed to nurse this terrified wee pup back to health.

After a full health check and a whole lot of food to fill her tummy, Daisy was brought into the South Waikato District Council offices where each staff member who laid eyes on her, fell in love. She had everyone in the palm on her paws. Hook, line and sinker.

With multiple foster parents taking her home for cuddles and treats each night, the spark in Daisy's eyes was ignited and the size of her tummy grew.

A ball of energy came into the office each day, winning over anyone who walked into the room. Daisy managed to become Queen of the Council in a matter of days.

Word got out about the adorable pup and Daisy



managed to score herself an invite to several meetings with all the big dogs of the business... Chief Executive, Executive Managers, Heads of Departments all gathered far and wide to watch Daisy take control of many a meeting.

Daisy worked her magic and got herself a permanent position as the VP to our CE, Susan Law.

Perks include a forever home, all expenses paid for and unlimited cuddles.

Daisy and Susan lived happily ever after...

Daisy still wonders about her brothers and sisters that she became separated from. Are they still roaming near the area? Are they tired? Cold? Hungry? Have they been found by a family as special as hers?

Daisy truly found herself lucky in a life that could have seen a completely different outcome if she wasn't found, or a report wasn't made.

Remember if you see dogs alone and roaming the South Waikato area to call our Animal Control team on 07 885 0340 and these dogs will also have a chance at living the sweet life like Daisy.

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



Writing up the district's strategic direction...

An earlier In Touch article talked about the importance of capturing the dreams and aspirations of our community. The next step in the process is developing and writing those dreams and aspirations into Council's strategic direction.

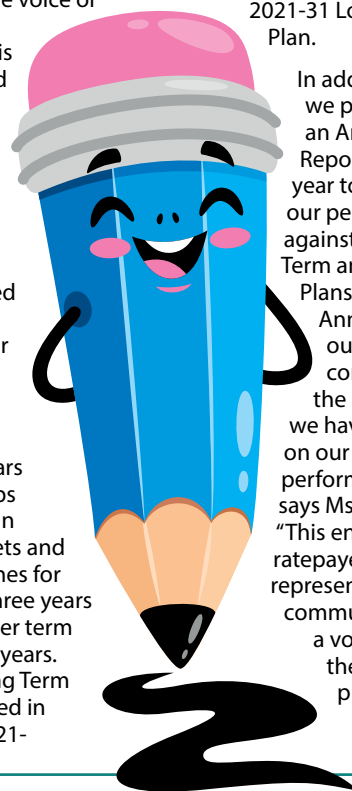
Strategic plans, written up as Annual Plans and Long Term Plans, ensure the voice of our community and ratepayers is maintained, and are important to meet the legislative requirements of the Local Government Act 2002. This role is performed by Council's Strategy Advisor and Corporate Writer, Colleen Litchfield.

"Every three years Council develops a Long Term Plan detailing budgets and work programmes for the following three years and with a longer term view out to ten years. The current Long Term Plan was adopted in 2021 for the 2021-

2031 ten year period and is next due to be updated and adopted in July 2023 for the next ten year period of 2024-2034.

For each year of the Long Term Plan we also produce an Annual Plan which identifies any changes or additions to the projects, activities and financial information included in the corresponding year of the 2021-31 Long Term Plan.

In addition, we produce an Annual Report every year to review our performance against the Long Term and Annual Plans. The Annual Report outlines to the community the progress we have made on our goals and performance says Ms Litchfield. "This ensures that ratepayers are represented and the community given a voice through the strategic plan process."





Plastics #5 can be included in your recycling

South Waikato residents will be pleased to learn that your kerbside recycling collections and the recycling drop off zones at our transfer stations and Tiau can now accept Plastics #5.

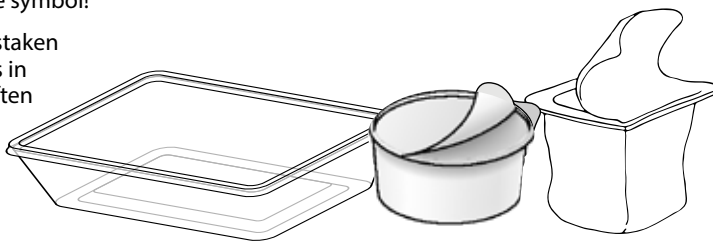
Since the introduction of the wheelie bins in the district, our contractors have only collected numbers 1 and 2 recyclables. A decision was confirmed from the Ministry for the Environment and EnviroWaste can now begin taking the additional plastic type.

Plastics #5, otherwise known as Polypropylene (PP), is a hard but flexible plastic with a waxy surface that is versatile and easy to recycle. Urban residents can now place them into their yellow 240L recycling bin. Council is not intending to change the decal on the bins. It's too expensive an exercise.

In the household setting, #5 is predominantly used for a wide range of food packaging such as margarine containers, some yoghurt, take away, ice cream and dips containers. This packaging comes in many colours including clear, black and white.

It's important to check for the recycling triangle to see if your plastics container is a #5; the same way you check for a #1 or a #2! You're basically looking for the symbol like the one in the top right hand corner of this page. Unfortunately there are no hard and fast rules on what is and isn't a certain plastic type. Eg, one yogurt manufacturer could use plastic #5 for their packaging, while another could use #6. Check the symbol!

Beware of items that can be mistaken as reusable plastics. Plastic trays in particular need checking. We often encounter a wide range of different types of plastic trays in the rubbish and recycling, including trays used



for packaging meat, biscuits and crackers, pies, fresh herbs etc. These trays are made from a variety of plastic types, including plastic #1 (PET), #3 (PVC), #5 (PP), #6 (PS), #7 (Other). Many trays do not include a recycling symbol with a number and were therefore classified as unidentifiable containers.

The other item to be wary of are triggers and pumps on plastic products. Some #1 containers and #2 containers have a trigger or a pump that is often manufactured from a different plastic to the bottles they are fitted to and often have a metal spring inside. Triggers cannot be recycled and need to go into your rubbish bin.

Plastics #3, #4, #6 and #7 will go into your red rubbish bin. If there is no number on a plastic container, it is non-recyclable and should go into the rubbish bin.

Remember the golden rule of recycling: **If in any doubt, throw it out.**

That way we don't risk any other recycling getting contaminated and resulting in a truckload of recycling having to go to landfill.



Phasing out the baddies...

Plastic is one of our greatest environmental challenges and the Ministry for the Environment is addressing this by phasing out hard-to-recycle and single-use plastics.

From 1 October 2022, it will be illegal to provide, sell or manufacture certain hard-to-recycle and single use plastic products in Aotearoa New Zealand. These are:

- Single use plastic drink stirrers
- Single use plastic cotton buds
- Plastics with pro-degradant additives (eg, some bin liners, dry cleaning bags and pet waste products)
- PVC food trays and containers used for products including meat, fresh produce or baked goods
- Polystyrene takeaway food and beverage packaging (eg, takeaway containers and cups)
- Expanded polystyrene food and beverage packaging including food serviceware and grocery products (eg, instant noodle containers).

It's these plastics that regularly end up as waste in our landfills, transfer stations, our moana and whenua. Hard-to-recycle packaging and products can interfere with our recycling systems and are often used only once before being disposed.

There are serious implications should businesses choose not to comply with this change where fines up to \$100,000 can be issued.

Visit the Ministry for the Environment website for more detailed information on this phase out.

1 October 2022

	PVC food trays and containers*
	Polystyrene takeaway food and drink packaging
	Expanded polystyrene food and drink packaging
	Plastic with pro-degradant additives, eg, oxo and photo-degradable plastics
	Plastic drink stirrers
	Plastic stemmed cotton buds

* The scope is limited to pre-formed trays used for produce, baked goods, and meat

IN brief

- Council's three water assets (wastewater, water supply and stormwater) and roading assets were revalued recently, as normal on a three year cycle. All assets have increased in value significantly.
- Consultation is underway with property owners directly affected by the residential and industrial growth in Tokoroa and Tirau.
- The three waters roadshow highlighted several key points: workstreams that need completing before 1 July 2024, tight timeframes, little detail, integration of 22 plans (across councils in Entity B) and the need to have a team within council to action the transformation requirements.
- At the time of writing, the Long Term Plan Amendment was still with Audit. By the time you read this issue, it is likely that this Amendment will be open for public consultation. This Amendment looks at fast-tracking several large infrastructure projects for the benefit of current situation and future growth.
- An updated action plan to progress the Nga Wahi Tuturu proposed Plan Change has been agreed; while consultation with local marae and Raukawa continues.



Spring Mayoral Business Breakfast

Over 100 Business leaders attended the Spring Mayoral Breakfast held at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre on Tuesday 27 September.

The Mayor's Business Breakfast provides an opportunity for local business leaders to network, liaise and catch up to enhance collaboration.

Mayor Jenny opened the event, highlighting that the South Waikato is growing and taking advantage of that growth to realise best outcomes for the district is key to ensuring community success.

Susan Law, Council's Chief Executive, echoed Mayor Jenny; saying that Council needs to support and catalyse growth, attract and retain staff and advocate for our community.

"It is imperative that economic growth in the district benefits all people in the South Waikato. I see it as Council's role to advocate for our community and provide civic leadership. Going forward with all the change facing local

government, this may mean redesigning our services."

Paul Rennie (of), Amanda Hema (South Waikato Investment Fund Trust), Carolyn Jackson (Manulife) and Marcella Pitt (Future Foresters) also provided important updates.

Paul updated everyone on of's new dairy factory development at the Tokoroa's southern entrance, highlighting of's ambition to not just process milk, but to add value to the entire food product journey, designed around customer need. In addition to the jobs created during construction, stage 1 will create up to 50 permanent jobs and a further 30 jobs through future stages.

Amanda used the opportunity to announce that SWIFT is refurbishing the old Honda building in Putāruru and is currently looking for a tenant for this building ideally located on SH1. She provided an overview of SWIFT being a catalyst for workforce development - a cross between an economic

development agency and philanthropic trust. SWIFT has ensured 566 jobs, provided over \$12 million of grant funding to partners and committed over \$14 million to local projects and organisations.

Amanda spelt it out, "If you have a fully mechanised factory, you might not be an ideal partner; we're all about creating jobs, facilitating jobs, filling jobs."

Carolyn provided an overview of Manulife (previously known as Hancock Forest Management), its importance to the district and its imminent move to brand-new offices alongside the new Toi Ohomai development at the northern entrance to Tokoroa. Her colleague Marcella spoke about the Future Foresters programme's vision to change the negative perceptions of the forestry industry for a career for young people. The programme is all about connecting people online and connecting with people in the school environment through youth-based events and platforms.

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 Antenna 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.

Congratulations!

This issue of In Touch was signed off prior to the close of voting on Election Day, Saturday 8 October; so we couldn't include the election results in this issue. But we did want to acknowledge all the candidates who put themselves forward to stand for Council. And special congratulations to those of you who polled highest and secured a role on Council.

We hope you enjoy the next three years.

We will be featuring our new Elected Members in the November/December issue.