



Council was very fortunate to have a series of fantastic photographs taken in our beautiful District shared with us free of charge by a travelling couple that posts their journeys across New Zealand to Facebook.

Branded Life on the Road NZ, we wanted to share this stunning photo taken in July at Jones Landing and give a shout out to Life on the Road NZ for the awesome Facebook posts from the South Waikato and sending us their photos.

Life on the Road travelled their way around the South Waikato in their campervan and loved what the District had on offer, especially in terms of scenery and camping facilities.

As summer creeps up, don't forget about some of our awesome destinations like Jones Landing to take the family camping, or even just for a swim.

Putāruru Skate Park Complete!

We're thrilled that the Putāruru Skate Park was officially opened on Thursday 7 September.

South Waikato District Council's Mahu Armstrong in collaboration with Kyle Amopiu from Raukawa and Oranga Tamariki's Louis Armstrong performed karakia for the Putāruru Skate Park before Mayor Gary and granddaughter Indie cut the ribbon.

As the opening celebration progressed, it was great to see the enjoyment and skill of our tamariki and rangatahi as they tried out the many features in the new park.

The physical work for the project started in October last year and has taken ten months to complete. The Putāruru Skate Park was officially presented a full Certificate of Compliance on Tuesday 5 September 2023 by Playsafe Consulting Ltd.

The Putāruru community has been involved from day one where they opted to go for a bigger and better Skate Park during the 2021-31 LTP consultation. They were also involved in the design process and throughout the construction of the park. Council is pleased to see the community's vision come to life and to finally open it to the public.

Since the opening, we've been lucky to have some lovely warm days of sunshine and the number of riders using the park each day is fantastic to see.

With the weather starting to get warmer and the sun shining through more, we know the park will see many more riders test their kickflips, ollies, 360 flips... [our attempt at skateboarding lingo] ...

Once just a bowl, the awesome addition of ramps, decks and transitions are sure to provide hours of enjoyment for the youth in Putāruru.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

Jean Batten reaches Auckland on 16 October 1936 after her epic solo flight from Kent, England on 5 October 1936. Batten was already famous for her successful solo flights from England to Australia in May 1934, and to South America in November 1935.

Batten set off to tour the country by car and train, admitting that she was weary of air travel. She was physically and mentally exhausted by her odyssey, which had taken 11 days and 45 minutes. Her tour was called off in Christchurch and Batten spent much of November resting at Franz Josef Glacier. In October 1937 she made a return flight from Sydney to England – her last long-distance flight.

IN HOUSE

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

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South Waikato District Council is pleased to finally have our Council and Committee meetings held in the Council Chamber at the Tokoroa office live streamed and accessible to the public.

Council meets regularly throughout the year. There has been significant interest from the community and Elected Members to introduce live streaming so that interested people can listen to Council and Committee meetings remotely.

“Having the ability to live stream Council business is an important part of transparent local governance,” said Mayor Gary Petley.

“As your Mayor, I am especially pleased to provide our community with easy access to tune in to Council business.”

Coupled with introducing live Council meetings, Council has also moved to a new meeting

management software platform which provides improved efficiencies around the production of agendas and reporting on Council meetings.

The 30 August Council meeting was the first meeting with an agenda constructed through the new software and live streamed on a public portal.

“Council looked at several platforms available on the market, spoke with other councils about what they use and considered our specific goals that we wanted to achieve, before settling on a platform that provides excellent functionality and value for money,” said Executive Officer Jillian Anderson.

“This is an exciting step forward as we look to the future of transparent governance within Council, how reports are prepared and agendas made available for the public,” said Mayor

Petley. “Council is looking forward to seeing our community tune in.”

The software, including the platform, maintenance, support, live streaming and video bookmarking, will cost \$26,000 per year. The platform provides for a more streamlined and efficient agenda build process plus the added advantage of live streaming for our community.

FIRST MEETING SUCCESS

Council’s first live streamed meeting was a huge success. An impressive 374 people joined the live stream meeting, while the portal page received a massive 19,264 views. This is very encouraging, and we hope to see more community members tune in to future live stream meetings. If people miss the live stream the recording remains on the portal.

HOW TO ACCESS THE LIVE STREAM

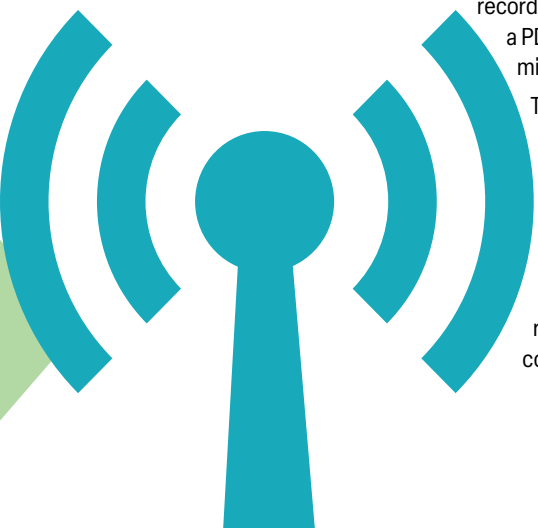
- STEP 1** Visit our website: www.southwaikato.govt.nz.
- STEP 2** Click on **MEETINGS AND LIVESTREAM**.
- STEP 3** Click on **Live Streaming**.
- STEP 4** You should see this.



Upcoming meetings will appear in the 'Current and Upcoming Meetings' table. Once live streaming begins, a LIVE button will appear in the first column. Click on this to watch live. This will take you to a page where you can access the live stream video link (or recording post meeting), the live agenda, a PDF version of the agenda and the minutes.

The name of the meeting will appear in the second column. And so forth with other information.

Once the meeting is over, the agenda and the recording of the meeting will remain online in the Most Recent Meetings' table. The recording can be accessed in the third column by clicking on the video icon.



Pellikan development auction coming soon



The Pellikan Place subdivision in Tokoroa is over 70% complete and the 11 sections will soon be up for auction. Sections will cater for four-bedroom larger family homes. Council purchased this land at the same time as land for the cemetery extension and link road between Pellikan Place and Dumfries Road. The cemetery extension is complete and the link road also close to opening (once speed bumps are installed).

Located close to town, near Amisfield Primary School, the Tokoroa Memorial Sportsground and Cougar Park, the Pellikan Place development is a lovely opportunity.

The total project was designed to reduce the cost to ratepayers of the cemetery and road improvements, by selling completed sections and at the same time increasing opportunities for housing development.

Most New Zealanders will be aware of the current housing crisis affecting the entire country. It's perhaps fair to say that it has been bubbling away for years and is now reaching critical levels. New legislation is underway that will require councils to plan for and facilitate a range of residential developments.

There is opportunity in the South Waikato to support a range of housing developments including smaller two- and three-bedroom homes on small blocks of land, infill housing in existing neighbourhoods as affordable housing options and medium to large four-bedroom homes on larger blocks for higher income earners.

Council has a role to play in seeking opportunities for housing development, facilitating relationships and connections and fostering partnerships. Working with housing providers, iwi, Central Government, the housing sector and property developers is also critical, so that improved housing stock and affordable opportunities can be provided in the district, now and in the future.

The 11 lots are up for auction on Thursday 30 November, South Waikato Sport and Events Centre, 11am. Interested? Come along.

THANK YOU SOUTH WAIKATO

In late August, the Pound was experiencing one of their largest influxes of impounded dogs ever. The team was under the pump and working hard to ensure that each and every dog was catered to. With so many dogs, and many of them being puppies, having to stay at the pound during times of frost and lots of rain, Council made a call out to the community for blankets to keep our pooches warm and cozy.

Oh, how did the South Waikato band together to provide!

Not even a day after the call out, our pound was full to the brim with beautiful blankets for the pups! People around the district banded together and brought carloads of blankets along.

Bridgette (in the photo alongside) and her neighbours, rallied together and donated this boot load.

We have plenty of blankets/towels now, and we know the dogs truly are grateful, as is the Animal Control team.



Congratulations to Ruth Smith who was the winner of the cube of firewood from the joint Waikato Regional Council and SWDC winter wood education campaign. Very grateful winners.

The South Waikato Motorcycle Club is hosting Twilight Fun Rides. Gates open at 3pm, sign on from 5pm, riders' briefing 5.45pm and riding starts 6pm. Where – 53 Moffat Road, Tokoroa. For more information, contact Skyler Heathcote on 027 387 5415 or email swmcc-sec@hotmail.com

Good to see that the first lot at the Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park development has sold. There are 15 lots in total; and great news that the biggest lot is already spoken for!



WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

Shredded paper in the paper and cardboard recycling bins at our recycling drop off facilities is not hot – it's very messy! Please put shredded paper in the rubbish, or wrap in newspaper.



This wheelie bin at the transfer stations is not for personal household rubbish. We put it there so people can remove the odd lid or top that may still be on glass or plastic bottles. Please don't use it for your rubbish.



Rubbish dumped at Parapara Road cost Council \$1,400 to have picked up and taken to the transfer station. If the person who dumped this had done the right thing and disposed responsibly of their own rubbish, it would have cost them \$75.



Cheeky tagging.



South Waikato parks resurfaced and ready for summer

South Waikato District's playgrounds are looking pretty flash after some recent re-surfacing work. And just in time for tamariki to enjoy this summer. Council's staff successfully completed all resurfacing work at the district's 12 playgrounds.

The 'fall zones' now have new soft fill wood chips. Some landscaping work was also done to keep the playgrounds looking great. Council is proud to provide its residents with playgrounds that consistently meet NZS playground safety standards.



BLUE SKIES AHEAD FOR PELLIKAN PLACE AND DUMFRIES ROAD LINKAGE

We're super excited about the progress being made to link Dumfries Road and Pellikan Place. On 11 September, Council staff and our partner, Camex Civil, gathered for a Karakia (site blessing) on Dumfries Road. In the weeks to come, Camex Civil will install raised speed humps, and a new watermain and shared services trench along Pellikan Place and Dumfries Road. With the site now blessed we can't wait for these works to begin. The next phase of the project is the installation of the new solar streetlights. Keep an eye on our social media channels for more project updates.



Rates Rebate and Payment Options

Council would like to remind homeowners about the Government's Rates Rebate Scheme. If you're going through a tough time financially, a rates rebate can significantly reduce your rates bill. To check your eligibility, visit the rates rebate website (www.ratesrebates.govt.nz). Application forms are available from all Council offices.

COUNCIL OFFERS EASY PAYMENT OPTIONS

You can pay your rates weekly, fortnightly, monthly, quarterly or annually. You can also pay your rates by automatic payment, direct debit, cash or credit card. The best option is direct debit as these are adjusted annually to ensure that the correct amount of rates is paid. If you would like more information call us on 07 885 0340.



SWIFT launches \$50,000 scholarship scheme

The South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT) has launched a \$50,000 scholarship scheme to help South Waikato residents with their tertiary education.

SWIFT Chief Executive Amanda Hema says applicants who are not eligible for the Government's fees free programme may receive up to \$5,000 (\$1,000 for course related costs and \$4,000 for study fees). People who are eligible for the Government's fees free programme may receive up to \$1,000 for course related costs in their first year.

The programme is not only for school leavers. SWIFT endorses 'whole of life' education and welcomes applicants who are in employment looking to upskill and or members of the community who are looking to reintegrate into the job market by upskilling or gain employment in another industry sector.

Other benefits include:

- Scholarships are open to returning applicants as constant upskilling and development is encouraged.
- Qualifications that help the applicant to gain employment in South Waikato are prioritised.
- Funding has been committed for five years, from 2024 to 2028.
- SWIFT's preferred tertiary providers for the scholarships are Toi Ohomai Te Pūkenga, University of Waikato or Wintec. Te Wananga and Open Polytech are also recognised as potential providers.
- Applications for the scholarships are open now (closing 31 October 2023) and can be accessed on www.swift.org.nz/scholarship/.
- Successful applicants will be announced on 18 November at the first public open day for Pūkenga Rau, the South Waikato Trades Training Centre.

Five applications were received in the first week, with 12 received in total since the launch (at the time of writing) relating to study in business management, law, horticulture, contemporary arts, nursing, social work and trades.

TEACHING TAMARIKI TO RECYCLE



Council's Solid Waste Minimisation Officer had a busier than normal start to September.

In amongst all her usual projects, she also worked with the Graeme Dingle Foundation on their exciting Kiwi Can programme. Tracey's role was to provide recycling education to local primary schools. She had a fun filled, jam-packed week engaging with the tamariki from Bishop Edward Gaines Catholic School, Tainui Full Primary School, Marotiri School, Tokoroa Central School and Whakamaru School.

"The feedback from students was overwhelming. They loved all my knickknacks that I had created from recycling. Lots of questions were asked, the coolest question was 'do I like my job'. My answer is 'I love my job! There's nowhere else I'd rather be,'" says Tracey, our education officer.

Tracey showed the tamariki all the nifty knickknacks she has made by repurposing household rubbish. Her Snakes & Ladders and Checkers board games were made using cardboard and colourful bottle caps as the markers. Tracey also took along containers of food waste, worm waste and dirt to show the tamariki the process of composting.



"This was a fantastic lesson. Students were interested, listening and asking questions the whole time."

Teacher from Tokoroa Central School



TE MĀNUTANGA O TE MAHERE PAE TAWHITI

LAUNCHING THE LONG TERM

Every three years, Council sets about developing a Long Term Plan (LTP) in consultation with our communities. The LTP is Council's key strategic planning document. It sets out the vision (what Council intends the District to look, feel and be like in the future), outcomes (the impact of what Council does on the community) and its goals (the way we will measure the progress we are making towards the goals). This is not pie-in-the sky dreaming as we will also set out how we will deliver – the policies, what we will actually do (and when) and what we need to fund what we will do. Therefore plans and budgets for infrastructure, growth of the District and how we deliver the business as usual will be included.

While Council must have a long term view to be able to make sound decisions and plan well for them, ten years is a long time, and a lot of things can change. So, every three years the plan is refreshed for the next decade to make sure it is still fit for purpose.

Council is currently operating under the Amended Long Term Plan 2021-31. We are currently in Year 3 of this Plan.

Right now, we are working on the Long Term Plan 2024-34. This body of work is huge and has many components, all feeding into the draft of our next LTP. These include developing a Growth Strategy, Town Concept Plans, vision, outcomes and goals as well as a critical look at our activities and services, what we do, the level at which we deliver these services, the cost of delivery and the level of rates and other charges that may be required to fund activities. The Growth Strategy and Town Concept Plan work also particularly drives any District Plan changes.

Council has been talking with partners and stakeholders through workshops for several months. We have recently asked for feedback and input on two bodies of work – 1, Growth Strategy and Town Concept Plans and 2, the draft vision, outcomes and goals. Additional work will occur to refine these drafts ready for further upcoming full community consultation which will occur in November/December this year and March/April next year, respectively.

The LTP process enables Council to look at all our activities and take a strategic perspective on how our services align with perceived priorities. The important decisions in the LTP process include:

- Detailing a vision for the South Waikato.
- Setting out Council's role regarding key issues and our partnerships.
- What the key priorities are regarding those issues.
- The service response and resource allocation (eg should we stop an activity, do more of the same activity, do something differently or introduce a new activity).
- Our financial strategy, which sets out how we will fund services over the long term.
- A 30-year Infrastructure Strategy.
- Key statements of service performance (ie activity measures and targets).

Every LTP requires a lot of input – there are multiple planning and consultation phases before a final version is adopted. Adoption will happen in June 2024, after full public consultation in March/April next year. We engage with a range of stakeholders, including iwi, community groups and the wider community to ensure we capture the aspirations and needs from everyone who lives, works and plays in the South Waikato District.

The results of all the decision-making reflected in the LTP provides a basis for Council's accountability to you, our community.

COUNCIL'S STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS, RATEPAYERS AND COMMUNITY

Working with our partners and stakeholders is an important first step to getting draft thoughts, ideas and direction down on paper. Partners are those groups that we work with to deliver our services and activities and stakeholders are groups with specific interests.

Partner and stakeholder groups include Raukawa, the South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services (SWPICS), iwi, Pride in Putāruru, our own Tirau Community Board; and in many instances sectors specific to topics, such as the business, education, health and social service sectors. We also include other Government agencies like Waka Kotahi, KiwiRail, Waikato Regional Council among others as required.

These groups represent others and are an important part of getting our plans drafted ready for wider community engagement.

Once we have a draft developed, Council brings this out to everyone in the community for input, feedback, comments, ideas and suggestions. At the forefront of our mind is our accountability to our ratepayers and community to deliver quality services that provides a return on their investment in Council.



PARKING INFRINGEMENTS

We've heard a lot in the community about Council's recent focus on monitoring parking and infringements. We thought some context would be useful. While Council has done parking monitoring for several years now, it was the first thing that dropped off when the team was stretched. A shift in responsibilities has meant that the Compliance team is now able to allocate more hours to this function.

Let's not forget the primary reason Council has restricted times on parking spaces is to keep vehicles moving to ensure that more people have access to parking and that there is regular turnover of visitors parking in our CBDs to benefit our local retailers. This is not a revenue making exercise – it is a task that Council should have been more actively doing for the benefit of both community and retailers but were unable to commit the necessary time and effort to in the past.

"Our community is reminded that while the increased levels of monitoring may be new, the signs are not," said Kerry Beckett, Council's Compliance Manager. "Some people have been ignoring the duration timeframes in certain areas; and we understand that the increased patrols and infringing have caught some people off guard."

Parking in a time limited parking space for a long period has meant that there isn't regular turnover of patrons for our retailers and frustration for people trying to find a parking space.

As a community and Council, we all want to promote a vibrant, modern town that benefits us all – community and retailers. Having compliance active with traffic in the CBD is one part of that. If travellers need to take a break - find a toilet, stop for refreshments or let tamariki out for a run or play, and they can't find a parking place, they may drive through and/or not return.

At the end of the day, if you don't want to pay a parking fine, don't park in a space for longer than the sign says you can!



THE 10RS OF RECYCLING



REDUCE – think about what you buy. Can you REDUCE what you are putting in your rubbish or recycling bins?

REUSE – an old tea pot you have lying around, could be REUSED to make into a planter pot outside.

REBUILD – you have that really cool stuffed toy you have loved for a long time, but the nose is falling off, it only has one eye and the tail has lost some stuffing. REBUILD it by sewing the nose back on with cotton, using a dome button for the eye and an old t-shirt that could help with the stuffing in the tail.

REFURBISH – You know that old set of drawers you have sitting in the back shed or garage? The one with horrible scuff marks, children's crayon and nail polish spills? Use a sander to REFURBISH it, before painting it.

RESOLD – Mum or Dad or even the kids (think toys) might have something that still has some value in it, that could be RESOLD online or through friends.

RECYCLED – you don't need to buy game boards from a store. Use cardboard box to make a Checkers/ Draughts board and use milk bottle lids as the counters. Or make a Snakes and Ladders board and use milk bottle lids again for counters. Finish the game off with a handmade die out of cardboard. Voilà, you have RECYCLED products into a functional game.

RETHINK – think about what you are buying. Check the recycling symbol on the packaging. Is it recyclable? If not, have another THINK – do you really need it?

REGIFTING – if it's something you don't like, isn't your style or doesn't suit your décor, REGIFT it to somebody you know will love it.

REPAIR – who hasn't got a t-shirt or blouse that has a hole in it from when you walked past a sharp object? It doesn't need to be thrown out. REPAIR the small hole with needle and thread and wear it when you're doing gardening or dirty work. You could also convert it into a food shopping bag – you just need a bit of imagination (and maybe a Google search).

ROT – place tomato/pumpkin scraps in a separate garden – as they ROT down, the seeds will regrow, and you will have a crop of tomatoes and pumpkins without buying seedlings or expensive store-bought products. Build a square, circle or rectangle near the side of a fence or building for your food scraps and lawn clippings. Turn it over with a garden fork every time you place something in it.



If it
can't
be

reduced

reused

rebuilt

refurbished

resold

recycled

rethought

regifted

repaired

or

rotted,

then it
should
be

refused

restricted

redesigned

or

removed from
production.

EARTHQUAKE 101

WHAT TO DO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER AN EARTHQUAKE

BEFORE

Make a family plan together. You might not be home when an earthquake happens, or together with your family.

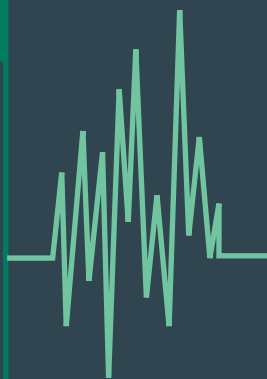
Practice Drop, Cover and Hold so you know what to do when a real earthquake happens!

Identify safe spaces within your home, school, work:

- Somewhere close to you, no more than a few steps away.
- Under a strong table. Hold on to the table legs.
- Away from windows that can shatter and cause injury.
- Away from tall furniture that can fall on you.
- Not in a doorway. Doorways are not stronger than other parts of a house. Swinging doors can injure.

Put a Grab Bag together:

- Heavy duty backpack
- Torch with extra batteries
- AM/FM transistor radio with batteries
- Ration food
- Survival blanket
- Aquatabs water purification tablets (50 pack)
- General purpose first aid kit
- Emergency poncho
- Box of waterproof matches
- Dust mask
- Pair leather gloves
- Candles
- 12 hour light sticks
- Drink bottles
- Rubbish bags
- Pack tissues
- Basic whistle with lanyard
- Multi-tool in pouch
- Hand sanitizer
- Playing cards
- Checklists & emergency number sheets



DURING

Drop Cover Hold

It stops you being knocked over, makes you a smaller target for falling and flying objects and protects your head, neck and vital organs.

Do not run outside or you risk getting hit by falling bricks and glass.

If you are near the coast - also remember Long or Strong, Get Gone. If the earthquake lasts longer than a minute or is strong enough to make it difficult to stand, move quickly to the nearest high ground or as far inland as you can out of tsunami evacuation zones.

AFTER

Expect more shaking. Each time Drop, Cover and Hold. Shaking can happen minutes, days and even weeks after.

Check yourself for injuries and get first aid if necessary.

Do not go outside. It is scary to stay in a building immediately after an earthquake, but it is much safer than outside. It's not like a fire. You do not have to evacuate a building straight away unless it is showing obvious signs of distress or you are in a tsunami evacuation zone.

Turn off water, electricity and gas if advised to. If you smell gas or hear a blowing or hissing noise, open a window, get everyone out quickly and turn off the gas if you can.

If you see sparks, broken wires or evidence of electrical system damage, turn off the electricity at the main fuse box, if it is safe to do so.

If you can, put on protective clothing and sturdy footwear to protect from injury.

If you are in an unfamiliar space (eg store, public transport) follow the instructions of those in charge.

Use texts or social instead of calling to keep phone lines clear for emergency calls.

Keep control of your pets.

Check on your neighbours and anyone who might need your help.



New Zealand ShakeOut, our national earthquake drill, is taking place on Thursday 19 October 2023 at 9:30 am. You can register your participation - either as an individual or company, club, school etc at the ShakeOut Website.

ShakeOut is held across the world to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake - Drop, Cover and Hold. New Zealand ShakeOut was first held in 2012. Whether you're doing the drill for the first time or you've done it before, taking part in New Zealand ShakeOut 2023 is as easy as 1-2-3! **Drop-Cover-Hold**. If you're on a coast, you can also participate in the Tsunami Hikoi. This is where you can practice your evacuation walk to high grounds in your area.

In the build up to ShakeOut, Council has put on the great South Waikato ShakeOut Scavenger Hunt. Each Friday, our Council ninja has been hiding secret tokens in each town in the South Waikato. The first person from each town to find them, wins an emergency survival kit which has enough equipment to help you through your first 72 hours of an emergency.

So far we have hidden our tokens in Tirau and Putāruru and below were the speedy investigators who won the ShakeOut Scavenger Hunt in their town!

You never know when an emergency can strike, so it's important that your household is prepared.



DROP



COVER



HOLD





From here to there with care... Community Health Transport

Three years ago, members of the Putāruru branch of the New Zealand Red Cross formed a new society to run the community health shuttles, following the Red Cross's decision to transition out of the service.

The group entered an agreement with the District Health Board (now Te Whatu Ora) with two vans and two cars taking clients from Putāruru, Tokoroa, Arapuni and Tirau to medical appointments when they didn't have any other means of transport.

The vehicles were rebranded - 'From here to there with care'. The group of 49 volunteers are both drivers and coordinators and have so far this year worked 5,032 volunteer hours.

"Every contribution, be they short trips or full days, means that our local people are assisted to medical appointments they may otherwise have missed," said Peter Boyce, Chairperson.

In the past three years, requests for the group's services have grown tremendously. The service now includes more stops - hospital and numerous clinics around Hamilton, Rotorua, Taupo, Thames, Te Kuiti as well as transporting Putāruru clients to the doctor, dentist and Tokoroa hospital.

Last year 112,647 kilometers were covered and to date this year, this has increased by 28% to 144,220 kms. Recently July 2023 set another monthly record for the number of trips made, at 224.

The group relies on its funding agreement with the Waikato Te Whatu Ora, South Waikato District Council, the National Transport Assistance claim scheme, ACC funding and community donations. In 2020 a large donation from Putāruru Red Cross was set aside for vehicle replacement and garaging.

"We have also successfully applied for various grants and have had donations from trusts, community organisations and schools, as well as services donated by local businesses," said Peter. "We are very grateful for the ongoing support of the South Waikato community."

The fleet now consists of four vans (one with a wheelchair lift) and three cars with the latest being a hybrid vehicle. The latest van and car were destined to be replacements for ageing vehicles, but the current demand is so high that all seven vehicles are in service.

Needing transport? Please ring the coordinator as early as possible for a booking on 07 883 6022. The phone is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm, with an answer service outside these hours.

Want to volunteer? Please email secretary@swcht.org for more information.

COOK ISLAND WARDENS - HERE TO HELP

Mayor Gary Petley attended the reinvigorated Cook Island Wardens launch earlier this year. The Cook Island Wardens were started way back in the 1970s, aligned to the St Lukes Pacific Island Peoples Church.

During the 1990s the group opened up, inviting the wider community to assist more broadly across events in the District. The group supply coordination, management, security and assistance for South Waikato events. In the early 2000s, the Cook Island Wardens teamed up with Police and Council to develop a formal partnership, signing a Memorandum of Understanding in 2005; ultimately creating the South Waikato Cook Island Wardens.

Training of twenty wardens is now underway, with two fully certified. The training takes a comprehensive look at the ins and outs of laws, what Wardens can and can't do, when they need to escalate to Police, traffic management and conflict resolution.

Interested in joining the Cook Island Wardens? Contact the Tokoroa Community Constable or find the Cook Island Wardens on Facebook.



The New Zealand Jet Modellers is a diverse group of skilled model fliers from all over New Zealand who have been meeting at Tokoroa airfield for over 30 years.

The group hold regular monthly fly-ins between September and June each year with a major fly-in at their March event.

The radio control (RC) model jets they fly range from small trainer-style models to some of the largest RC models to be found anywhere on the planet.

Members are so committed to the Tokoroa Airfield that in 2021, a 14-strong group in conjunction with Luke Frogley President of the Tokoroa Aero Club purchased a hanger on the airfield as a base for their activities.

Using proceeds raised at their March Jet Modellers event, the group made a donation to worthy recipient Tokoroa Fire Brigade too.

Their event dates are published on Council's website - search for Tokoroa airfield.

To learn more about the Jet Modellers and see some of the aircraft the team fly visit: www.nzjma.com.

INTRODUCING NZ JET MODELLERS



Nau mai (welcome) new New Zealand citizens

On 25 August Mayor Petley and South Waikato District Council hosted five new citizens at a Citizenship Ceremony. Ross and Theresa MacKinnon, Hendrik Wassink, Nicola Clark-O'Regan and Ol'ga Shevel'ova, publicly declared their allegiance to His Majesty, King Charles III, King of New Zealand and to the country.

For our new citizens, the public ceremony is the last step in their journey to becoming a New Zealand citizen. After the formalities, they were presented with their official citizenship certificates and each were gifted a native tree to remember the special day.

On behalf of all New Zealanders, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new citizens.

Nau mai haere mai! We're glad you're here.



WINTER CLEAN-UP AT LAKE MOANANUI

In August, Council staff along with members of the Tokoroa Sports Fishing Association and local contractors Downer and Treestyle, got together for the winter cleanup of Lake Moananui. This included aquatic weed control, litter collection and willow removal. To effectively tackle the task, the water level of the lake had to be lowered. The entire process, including the lake clean-up, took approximately four weeks. As you can see, the result looks fantastic. The lake looks beautifully healthy and can once again be enjoyed by the community and our feathered friends.



BEFORE



AFTER

STEELY STARE, STEELY STARE ALL CLEAR - NZ RAIL SAFETY WEEK



As part of Rail Safety Week 2023 (Monday 7 August to Sunday 13 August), role model Steely Stan championed the cause, taking a good look to both the left and the right before crossing, with the campaign phrase, 'Steely Stare. Steely Stare. All clear'.

Rail Safety Week is coordinated by KiwiRail and TrackSAFE in close partnership with Waka Kotahi, NZ Police, Auckland Transport, Auckland One Rail, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Transdev Wellington, councils and supporting organisations and schools throughout New Zealand.

In the last year to 30 June, TrackSAFE advised that 40 vehicles or people collided with trains across the national rail network and there were 305 near misses.

At public level crossings alone, there were 11 collisions and 192 near misses. Near misses at level crossings have steadily increased since a low of 150 in 2021. All of the collisions at level crossings and 77 per cent of near misses were at crossings that already have active protection.

Although Rail Safety week for 2023 is finished, it is important to always take on Steely Stan's message of looking both ways before you cross any railway.

"Steely Stan will demonstrate the correct behaviour around crossings, and then keep a 'helpful' eye on everyone. He's promoting a simple message: 'Steely Stare. Steely Stare. All clear,'" KiwiRail Chief Executive Peter Reidy says.



NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



MOVIE: Living (2022 drama), Sun 29 Oct, 2pm. Overwhelmed at work and lonely at home, a civil servant's life takes a heartbreaking turn when a medical diagnosis tells him his time is short. Influenced by a local decadent and a vibrant woman, he continues to search for meaning until a simple revelation gives him a purpose to create a legacy for the next generation. **Tickets: \$10 adults & \$5 students.**

Trust Waikato Symphony Orchestra, Sat 4 November, 4pm. Don't miss this kaleidoscopic series of orchestral vignettes, showcasing the rich and lyrical textures of the romantic orchestra, including pieces from Douglas Lilburn, Anthony Ritchie, Gabrielle Fauré, Walton, Holst and Hindemith. **Koha entry.**

Keith Potger's Celebrating the Seekers, Thurs 16 Nov, 7:30pm. Doors open 6:30pm. Keith Potger's solo tribute to the group he helped form back in 1962 covers the songs, the stories and the influences that shaped The Seekers in their rise to international fame. **Tickets: \$65 + through www.legacytouring.com. Doors sale available on the day.**

MOVIE: The Miracle Club (2023), Sun 19 Nov, 2pm. Doors open 1:30pm. There's just one dream for the women of Ballygar to taste freedom - to win a pilgrimage to the sacred French town of Lourdes. With a little benevolent interference from their local priest, a group of close friends get their ticket of a lifetime. **Tickets: \$5 students & \$10 adults.**



CONTACT THE PLAZA

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With Spring upon us and the warmer weather finally here, the usual annoying things start to appear, and we don't mean flies!

Spring is the start of the road works season on both the state highways and the local roads within the South Waikato District Council.

Unfortunately, it is also the time when people are more likely to be travelling.

Here are some tips to help you in your travels.

- Before setting out on your trip, check the Waka Kotahi website for any traffic updates on your route. Just look for the 'Traffic and Travel' button located on the main page.
- For local road works, information is often published on Council's Facebook page or sent out via the Antenno app. Make sure to download the Antenno app on your phone or mobile device.
- If you encounter road works on your journey, remain patient and calm. The roading crew is working to improve the road and make future driving safer and better.
- Pay attention to what is happening on the road. Read the signs and understand what is expected of you. Distraction and being in the wrong place may lead to injury to a road worker or yourself.
- Obey the signs regarding speed and where your vehicle should be on the road.
- When travelling through any roading worksite ensure you travel at the speed posted. If you go too fast you can rip up new seal and send stone chips flying, too slow and you may end up with the road sticking to your tyres!
- Allow extra distance between vehicles.
- Give your full attention to driving through the worksite. Your speed may be slow but it is not the time to send that text, change the song on the playlist or grab a snack off the backseat.
- Ensure you follow the direction of any 'Stop/Go' staff who may be controlling the site. They are there to keep you safe from potentially dangerous situations.
- As you exit the worksite avoid the temptation to speed up before the 'Works End' sign as there may be workers further up the road, past the main work area.
- Often worksites are left with the speed limit lowered while unattended. This is to allow time for the surface to bed in and travelling above the posted speed can damage the new surface.

Remember that roadworkers, just like yourself, want to go home safe and sound to their family at the end of the day. Safe driving.

TOKOROA EXPRESS ARRIVES IN TOK



Glenbrook Vintage Railway brought the Tokoroa Express to town on Saturday 2 September. The train, having left Auckland at 8.30am that morning, stopped in Matamata for those wanting to visit Hobbiton, and picked up visitors to Tokoroa.

Arriving at about 1.30pm, 301 passengers disembarked to walk through town, find a coffee, visit retailers, have lunch, visit the Saturday Market which put on several food stalls in anticipation of the visitors with one person even walking up Colson's Hill.

Council staff were on hand to welcome the passengers, several of whom said they had once lived here and wanted to see how the town had changed.

On this occasion, Glenbrook Vintage Railway brought their train by diesel engine. In the past, their steam engine has drawn great interest from locals and visitors alike. Glenbrook Vintage Railway staff are excited to bring their trains back to Tokoroa next year in February and August.

After an hour in a beautifully sunny Tokoroa, 301 happy passengers got back on board and departed, waving at the many locals who had turned out to see the train.

COUNCIL RETAINS ITS BUILDING ACCREDITATION

Council's Building Consent Authority (BCA) successfully completed another Building Accreditation Audit through the International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ) on 22-25 August 2023.

This means that our building team can continue processing, inspecting and certifying building work within the South Waikato. This ensures that Council is able to deliver a cost effective building control service to residents and ratepayers.

Peter Wakefield, lead assessor for IANZ stated the draft report findings were an enormous lift from the previous assessment which demonstrated the uptake of tools and discipline to assist meeting the requirements, along with strong staff engagement in the ongoing process of accreditation.

Brilliant work from the team!

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 – October 2023. You have to get them all correct to be in the draw.

Text your answers and your name to 0274 472 664 or private message our Facebook page by 28 October 2023.

- 1. What date is the auction for the Pellikan subdivision?**
- 2. How many volunteers work for the South Waikato Health Shuttle? And how many hours have they worked this year? Yes, it is a bit cheeky of us to squeeze two questions into one!**
- 3. How many people visited the LIVE STREAM web page? And how many people watched the live stream? Oops, we did it again!**
- 4. Name three of the recycling Rs.**
- 5. What Long Term Plan is Council currently working on with its community, ie what year period?**

Congratulations to Sharon of Tokoroa who was drawn as the lucky winner for the August In Touch competition. Thank you to all those who entered and shout out to our regulars. Try again this issue!

The correct answers were:

1. one metre, 2. 1.5mm, 3. Pūkenga Rau, 4. 150 jobs, 5. Putāruru 24, Leamington 17

Antenno is a mobile phone app that is FREE for users to download from Google Play or the App Store.

Install the app. Input your specific address(es) - home, work, play, and we send you messages relevant to your address. Users can also use the app to report icssues or ideas to us.



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