



CELEBRATING WORLD WATER DAY

This international observance day on 22 March highlights the importance of water in our world.

In the South Waikato we acknowledge the essence of life that water provides to us all, including our plants and wildlife.

And we also thank the hard work and dedication of all our teams involved that keep the water flowing in the South Waikato.

**Ko te wai te ora o ngā mea katoa -
Water is the life giver of all things.**

FEES & CHARGES – HAVE YOUR SAY

Fees and Charges (F&Cs) are adopted for a three-year period with each Long Term Plan (LTP).

The coming year (2023-2024) is year three of the 2021-2031 Long Term Plan. The fees for the coming year were set in 2021 as part of the LTP process.

Council usually increases its fees each year based on an estimate of general inflation and sector specifics (eg, government waste levies). The majority of fees for the 2023-24 year are unchanged from what was adopted through the Long Term Plan (LTP 2021-31).

However, we have highlighted several fee areas that we have are proposing changes to, over and above the standard annual changes, to ensure that the cost of operations is being met. Council is currently out for public consultation. The full F&Cs document is available on our website and feedback is welcome on any fee.



The highlighted fees are in the following areas: building consents, South Waikato Sport & Events Centre charges and solid waste; and some new fees in four areas, including footpath occupancy, corridor access requests, sportsground and parks hire charges and trade waste.

All F&Cs will be reviewed, with direction from Council, as part of the 2024-2034 Long Term Plan process. We've already started work on the upcoming LTP.

IN OUR HEARTS

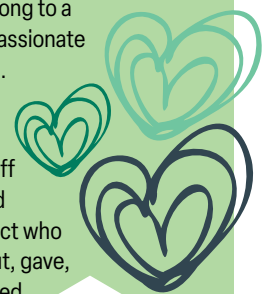
Our hearts go out to the many New Zealanders affected by the repeated devastating weather events that hit the country during the first quarter of 2023.

The tragic loss of life and the destruction of property, the short term and long impact on livelihoods, the collapse of key infrastructure all played a part in what has been described as unprecedented events.

Amid all the heartache and pain, are the many stories of emergency service personnel giving their all, neighbours helping neighbours, strangers reaching out to strangers.

It is a great thing to belong to a nation of caring, compassionate people and businesses.

We were fortunate in the South Waikato and we are thankful. Hats off to the many people and businesses in the district who reached out, helped out, gave, donated and coordinated.



Consultation closes on Friday 28 April. Hearings will be held on 16 May.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

The first newspaper published in New Zealand was printed on **18 April 1840** by Samuel Revans a month after he arrived in Port Nicholson (Wellington/Te Whanganui-a-Tara). Revans had published the first issue of the New Zealand Gazette in London in August 1839, just before the New Zealand Company's emigrant ships departed. The entrepreneurial Revans also ran a timber yard and a stationery business, and later a farm. The Gazette went through several changes of name, each title less profitable than the last, before closing in 1844.

IN HOUSE

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

Editorial: Kerry Fabrie and Brooke Sullivan,
07 885 0340.
Print: Soar



Developing a Growth Strategy

Barker & Associates is currently working with Council to prepare a growth strategy and town concept plans for Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tīrau. The image shows the areas that the growth strategy and concept plans will focus on.

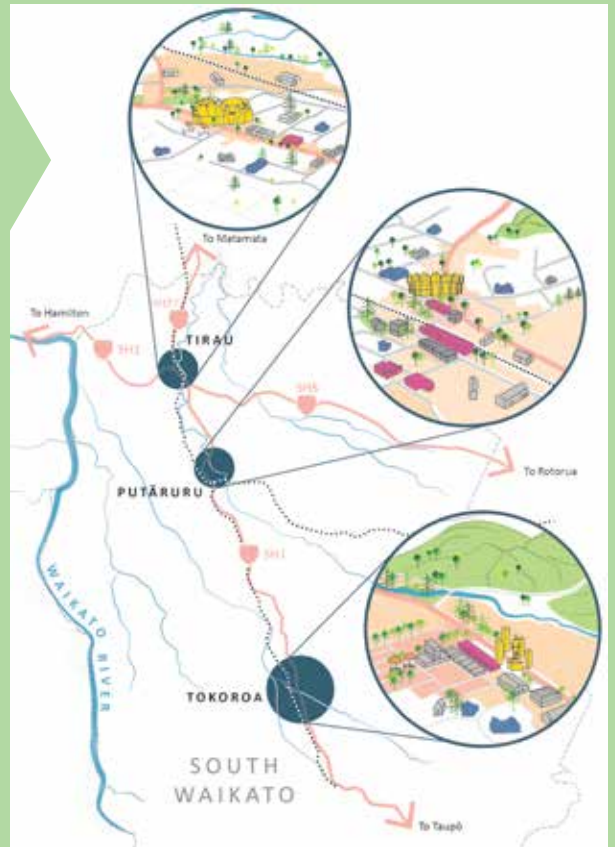
A growth strategy sets the strategic direction for how growth and development will occur over the next 30+ years across the district. The town concept plans provide more specific focus on each town (Tokoroa, Putāruru, Tīrau) and identifies local issues, challenges, opportunities and key development projects.

The growth strategy and town concept plans will outline a vision, objectives, strategic directions (including where houses and businesses should be located, the location of cycleways etc), a series of actions and visually illustrate how the area may develop in the future. It will be used to guide land-use planning in the South Waikato as well as influence how infrastructure and services may be provided or limited.

The growth strategy will help shape Tokoroa, Putāruru and Tīrau by considering a range of topics to ensure integrated and strategic growth and development including land use, wahi tapū, transport, walking and cycling options, infrastructure, natural hazards, heritage and natural environment values.

As part of preparing the growth strategy and town concept plans, we have held visioning workshops with Councillors and key stakeholders to identify spatial issues and opportunities and identify what areas could support growth and what areas shouldn't. There will be opportunity for wider community input, so keep an eye on Council's channels.

2024 – 2054
GROWTH STRATEGY
Our People | Our Place



New Putāruru retirement village gets underway

Developer Tim Bartells, left, and South Waikato Mayor Gary Petley turn the sod at the Springwater Country Estate retirement village site in Putāruru.

The \$200 million, 16ha Springwater Country Estate site on Kennedy Drive was blessed by Raukawa in March and earthworks have started on the 254-villa village.

Developer Tim Bartells said his relationship with SWDC provided a blueprint for processing resource consents and praised the “business-friendly” Council for its work with him and his team.

“We developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council that provides for a one-stop planning contact – that’s the key. I’ve worked through consent processes with several councils, and South Waikato’s approach has established a blueprint for how it should be done,” said Tim.

Bartells said he’d like to double the size of the village to around 500 villas if he could secure the purchase of additional land bordering the site.

“It would be unique ... and would wrap around the Putāruru golf course and be the largest retirement village in New Zealand with villas having direct access to the golf course.”

Springwater Country Estate is located next to the Putāruru Golf Course and rugby club.

Initially, Springwater Country Estate would feature 254 mixed sized villas from 95m² to 185m², along with a 2,000m² resort quality recreation and community facility incorporating a heated swimming pool, spa, gym, picture theatre, restaurant and café, library, doctors’ rooms, snooker and pool tables, a Menz shed, bowling green, virtual golf and more.

“A development like this brings in more people to live in the district and with seven or eight years of guaranteed employment, some contractors will move to the area as well.”



Celebrating our new South Waikato Citizens!

It's always special when we get to celebrate a citizenship ceremony here at the South Waikato District Council. Not just for Mayor Gary Petley and our Councillors but for friends and family attending to support loved ones.

During the most recent ceremony we officially welcomed six new citizens who hail from Northern Ireland, Samoa, India, United Kingdom and South Africa.

The public ceremony is the last stage in becoming a New Zealand citizen. It is an opportunity for our local South Waikato community to welcome everyone on behalf of New Zealand after they have publicly declared their allegiance to the country through an oath or affirmation.

At the ceremony, all those receiving citizenship, stand together before the Mayor and take an oath or affirmation of allegiance to New Zealand. They are also presented an official citizenship certificate.

We're so proud that you have chosen Aotearoa New Zealand - and the South Waikato - to be your home.



Better Eggs business piece that featured on Seven Sharp in March - great news story for a thriving South Waikato business.

Right: Council's contractor MS Civil has completed laying the new sewer pipes and manholes as part of the Wastewater Mains Upgrade at Lorraine Moller Arboretum. Next stage is to connect the new network to the existing lines.



Our contractor removed 912m³ of sludge from Lake Moananui during the de-silting project recently, which was slightly more than the projected amount. The de-silting project went well and was completed slightly ahead of time. Thank you to the community for the positive feedback our contractor received about the works.

Below: work is underway on the development of two new pou for the Tokoroa Talking Pole Forest in Leith Place. Both poles will be installed at the same time later this year.



WHAT'S HOT

WHAT'S NOT

Road washouts around the North Island making it incredibly difficult for communities to connect, businesses to operate and emergency services to get around to help.

Below: Recycling bins that look like this!



Below: A brand new toilet at Lake Moananui tagged before it was even open!





Celebrating International Women's Day!

On Tuesday 8 March, Council held a celebration for International Women's Day at the South Waikato Sport and Events Centre. Council invited year 11 female students from high schools across the district to take part.

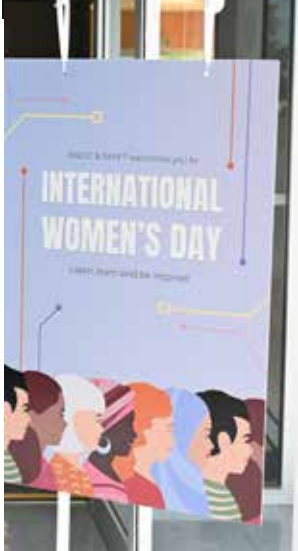
The morning kicked off with a delicious breakfast provided to the students, then they listened to the first key note speaker, Kate Searancke. Kate is a partner at a Hamilton law firm, Tompkins Wake. She spoke to the girls about what subjects she was interested in at school, what she studied at university and how she found her passion as a mother, lawyer and advisor on complex Māori law issues.

The high school students then moved on to what was much like a speed dating session. A range of 18 South Waikato business women and creative leaders sat at tables with the girls and spoke to them about how they chose their career path, what their goals were and how they had got to where they are today. They spoke about subjects they studied and pathways they followed.

They then heard from the final key note speaker, Lanita Rinui. Lanita is a director, producer and is currently the executive director at Ngā Aho Whakaari. Lanita spoke to the girls about her growing up and how she realised her passion for storytelling. Through a snap, clap and a stomp Lanita described what it's like to follow through with your passion and make it a job and source of income.

The girls finished the day with an interactive session where they were able to try out a virtual reality forestry simulation, record themselves speaking like they were on the radio with Raukawa Vibes, speak with IT and technology experts from the SWDC and hear and see from other creatives in the district.

It was a fantastic morning seeing young South Waikato wāhine leave feeling inspired, empowered and enlightened about their futures outside of high school. A special thank you goes out to all of the phenomenal South Waikato business and creative women leaders who gave up their time to inspire our next generation of change makers.





Te Waihou Walkway Viewing Platform Redevelopment

Locals and visitors to Te Waihou awa (river) will have noticed that work at The Puna (Blue Spring) to strengthen and upgrade the viewing platform/retaining wall started mid-February and will be undergoing final checks by the time you are reading this, weather permitting.

The old platform was showing signs of movement (bowing) due to pressure on the structure (which doubles as a retaining wall).

The Puna Platform Development project includes strengthening the entire structure, remediation on the retaining wall and upgrading the decking and balustrade for visitor safety and experience.

This is a joint project between Raukawa Charitable Trust (RCT) and South Waikato District Council.

Driving the refurbishment is Te Mauri o Waihou Project (an RCT led project), funded through Te Papa Atawhai / Department of Conservation (DOC). This project is currently underway within Te Waihou Walkway, that includes upgrading of

The Puna (Blue Spring) area. During this project, issues regarding the retaining wall within The Puna were identified by engineers. These needed addressing to maintain structural integrity of The Puna retaining wall/viewing platform and prevent the delay of Te Mauri o Waihou project.

The Puna (Blue Spring) is a culturally significant taonga (treasure), an asset to our district for both locals and visitors alike.

Te Waihou Walkway and The Puna need protecting to enhance the visitor experience while protecting the environment and ensuring the respectful care and cultural significance of The Puna.

SWDC is committed to ensuring that our community has good access to recreation and leisure services that connects us to the whenua. The platform/retaining wall upgrades are part of a number of milestones for the project that aims to enhance the visitor experience at the awa. Other key achievements of the project include

a kaitiaki (ranger) monitoring and environmental management programme, focused on animal and plant pest control and plant restoration along the walkway.



Summer Pools Spruce up!

Refurbishment of the Putāruru and Tirau Seasonal Pools were completed over the summer and users have been loving the upgrade facilities.

The Putāruru Pools saw an upgrade of the changing facilities and toilets and a new location for the storage facility. A new outdoor barbecue area with shelter was also completed at the beginning of Summer and in the moments where the sun decided to shine, pool users made sure to utilise it! Further improvements and upgrades will be investigated for Summer 2023.

The Tirau Pools also saw a nice upgrade. The male and female toilets, changing room facilities and internal plant room all received a refresh. The pool tiles were regouted, the exterior of the building was painted and showers and outdoor furniture were replaced.

Although this summer was filled with a lot of rain, on those days the sun did shine, it was great to see locals making the most of these awesome outdoor facilities!



Making sense of Civil Defence



**SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Recent weather events have raised the profile and importance of Civil Defence Emergency Management. Civil Defence is New Zealand's system of emergency management – referred to as the 4Rs - risk **Reduction**, **Readiness** to respond, **Response** and **Recovery**.

Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) is a function and responsibility of regional, district and city councils. CDEM groups around the country are responsible for coordinating and delivering effective emergency management in their regions.

South Waikato is part of the Waikato CDEM Group where 11 councils collectively cover the greater Waikato region. We work with Waikato councils, emergency services, lifeline utilities and others to ensure we are ready to effectively respond to emergencies.

We do this by:

- planning, organising, coordinating and implementing plans,
- identifying and understanding our hazards and risks across the 4Rs – reduction, readiness, response and recovery,
- delivering public education campaigns,
- coordinating responses to large-scale emergencies, and
- supporting neighbouring councils in the Waikato and other areas in New Zealand.

WEATHER WATCHES AND WARNINGS... WHAT DO THEY MEAN?!

Over the most recent weather events, you may have seen reference to multiple weather watches and warnings from MetService, either yellow, orange or red used by media and Council alike.

MetService is New Zealand's only authorised provider of Severe Weather OUTLOOKS, WATCHES and WARNINGS. The yellow, orange and red warnings were a great heads up, but what is the difference between the colours and what should we do to prepare when we see these messages?

Thanks to MetService we can give you some answers!

**Make favourites
or download the app,
where available:**

MetService
www.metservice.com/

Waka Kotahi's Journeys
www.journeys.nzta.govt.nz/traffic/

SWDC website
www.southwaikato.govt.nz/

SWDC Facebook
www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil

Antenno
Download from Google Play
or the App Store

SEVERE WEATHER OUTLOOKS

We can see bad weather coming in the next 3-6 days where a WATCH or WARNING may be required.

The Outlook is a 'heads up' - we can see something coming, but there is some uncertainty about what might happen and where.

For you to do: No immediate threat. Be aware of what could be coming.

SEVERE WEATHER WATCHES

All Severe Weather WATCHES are classed as **yellow**.



Yellow WATCH - stay alert

The closer an event gets and when MetService can add timing, location and intensity details, a **WATCH** (yellow colour code) is issued.

A **WATCH** is typically issued 1 - 3 days in advance of potential severe weather.

A **WATCH** will be issued when bad weather is coming and it will be significant, but not serious enough to reach 'warning' criteria, or when there is uncertainty about what might happen.

For you to do: Stay alert to the forecast. Be prepared that you may be affected.

SEVERE WEATHER WARNINGS

Severe Weather **WARNINGS** are classed as either **orange** or **red**.

Orange WARNING - take action

When MetService forecasters are confident about what is going to happen, and where, and know the impacts of the weather will be significant, they will issue an Orange Warning.

Warnings are typically issued 1 - 3 days in advance of potential severe weather.

For you to do: Take action. Be prepared for significant disruption to your day. Potential risk to people, animals and property. Change plans if necessary.

Red WARNING - take immediate action, act now

When an event is expected to be among the worst that we get – it will have significant impact and it is possible that a lot of people will be affected.

For you to do: Immediate action is required to protect property, people and animals from the impact of the weather. Be prepared to follow the advice of official authorities and emergency services.



TYPES OF EVENTS

In New Zealand we have a lot of natural hazards. Earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe weather, tsunami, volcanic activity, fire, pandemic and other hazards can happen any time and often without warning. In the South Waikato, storms, floods, (landslides), rural fire*, industrial risk*, and possibly volcanic eruption* are likely our main types of emergencies. This issue we look at storms, floods and landslides.

STORMS

Storms can happen frequently and include strong winds, heavy rains, thunder, lightning and/or tornadoes.

Impacts: rising river levels, fast-flowing currents, breaking riverbanks, landslides, damaging infrastructure (such as bridges), surface flooding, road washouts, hazardous driving conditions, power supply disruption, property damage, cut off communications, isolated communities.

Get ready: secure outdoor items, clear drains and gutters, bring pets indoors, know which paddocks are safe from flooding and move stock there, identify a safe location in the home away from windows and glass doors to gather and be prepared for possible power outages with food and water supplies.

During a storm: don't drive unless necessary, stay inside, draw blinds and curtains to prevent injury from breaking glass, stay informed through media channels, unplug small appliances. If you believe your life or the life of your loved ones are in danger, please contact the appropriate emergency service via 111.

After a storm: help others if you are able, check for injuries, get first aid, contact Council for advice on clean up and damaged buildings, contact your insurance provider.



FLOODS

Flooding in the South Waikato is normally caused by heavy or prolonged rainfall.

Impacts: damage to buildings and lifelines (power, communication, water, sewerage), loss of property, injuries and/or loss of life, loss of possessions.

Get ready: use watertight containers to save important items, secure outdoor items, clean drains and gutters, take photos for insurance purposes, consider sandbags, move vehicles to high ground or park in garage.

Put safety first. Don't take chances. Act quickly if you see rising water. Do not wait for official warnings.

During a flood: do not enter flood waters, minimise contact with flood waters (contamination), have a grab bag* ready, turn off power, move pets to a safe place, move stock to higher ground, move valuable items as high above the floor as possible, lift curtains, bedding off the floor. If you believe your life or the life of your loved ones are in danger, please contact Fire and Emergency New Zealand via 111.

After a flood: clean and dry everything (floodwater can make your home unhealthy), throw away anything that was wet with flood water and can't be cleaned, disinfect household cooking items, throw away any food that has come into contact with floodwater.



LANDSLIDES

Landslides can happen without warning. They are often triggered by heavy rain, earthquakes and in some cases, human activity.

Impacts: unstable ground, rock, soil and vegetation, damage to buildings, roads and infrastructure.

Before a landslide: look for signs of instability (such as cracks or bulges on the ground, leaning trees and/or fences, slope movement), keep an eye on hillsides around your home for signs of land movement, note stormwater drainage patterns near your home, inspect swimming pools for leaks (could be earth movement), check retaining walls for blockages.

During a landslide: if you see a landslide, move quickly out of its path and stay away, call 111 if lives are in danger, alert your neighbours if you are able, stay away from the landslide area, check for injured or trapped persons, without entering the landslide area, direct rescuers to their locations.

After a landslide: stay away from the area until it is given the all-clear, look for broken utility lines and report them to authorities, help others if you are able, contact your insurance provider if your property is damaged, take photos of damage.



Did you know?
Landslides cause more deaths than any other geological hazard in Aotearoa New Zealand.

* Next issue – emergency kits, states of emergencies, grab bags, volcanic eruptions, rural fire, industrial risk event... and more...

PREPARING FOR NO POWER AND/OR NO TOWER

We are heavily reliant on our phones, power and the internet, but how do we prepare for or get through an event if the power is out and cell phones not working?

- Make sure you have battery packs that are charged.
- Make sure you have essentials ready to last you at least a week if you get stuck. eg bottled water, non-perishables, first aid kits. Don't forget pet food and baby food.
- Ensure you have candles and working lighters on hand.
- Stay in touch with your neighbours.
- Sit tight and wait.

It is important to note that when you are searching for up-to-date and reputable information, that you are following the sites/ pages mentioned on page 6.

WHERE TO GO DURING OR AFTER AN EVENT

Unfortunately, there's no simple answer to this question!

This is because it depends on the nature of the event and the area of an event. We can't approve people to go to an evacuation centre until the building has been assessed and deemed safe for the community to go to, once the event is happening. This reduces the risk of our community heading to a building that may actually be flooded or that may have collapsed, which could put people in further danger and further stretch emergency services.

The good news is our Welfare Committee will be visiting each of our potential welfare sites over the next 18 months and assessing whether they are still suitable facilities that could be used during an event.

Notice will still be provided during an event, if and when required. Listen to channels.

GETTING INFORMATION DURING AND FOLLOWING AN EVENT

During a Civil Defence Event, you want to know where you can get up to date, reputable information so you know what is happening, where to go and what to do.

Check out the list below of the most reliable sources to follow for our district:

- Home » National Emergency Management Agency (civildefence.govt.nz)
- South Waikato District Council
- South Waikato District Council | Facebook
- Civil Defence Waikato | Hamilton | Facebook
- NZ Civil Defence | Wellington | Facebook
- Newstalk ZB Radio Station
- Raukawa Vibes

VOLCANIC EPIC MAKES TRACKS IN TOKOROA

The Tineli Volcanic Epic is a unique mountain bike stage race, held across 200kms of New Zealand's spectacular North Island Geothermal region, including Tokoroa's very own Cougar Park.

Tokoroa is stage three of the race where competitors raced 47.5km in Cougar Park with total climbing heights of 925m!

Competitors start the race in Rotorua, then complete the second stage in Taupō, third in Tokoroa and the final stage is competed back in Rotorua.

The day kicked off at 10am and riders raced all throughout the day, finishing at about 3pm. Riders noted how much they loved the Cougar Park tracks, some even saying it was their favourite mountain bike park yet!

Some travelled as far as Seattle (yes America!), Timaru, Christchurch, Nelson and all over the North Island!

The stage race is set to return to Tokoroa every two years!



Putāruru Food and Waterfest

One of the most heard comments from stall holders and members of the public at the 2023 the Putāruru Food and Waterfest 2023 was "such a good atmosphere"!

No Waterfest for two years, new staff, new committee members and the weather all added to challenges, but the team at Pride in Putāruru (PIP) was well rewarded for their efforts.

After weeks of rain, the community came out to a day of sunshine and enjoyed a range of entertainment, axemen, Clydesdale horses, BMX riders, a climbing wall and a wide variety of business, market and food stalls and activities for children and adults to enjoy.

Raukawa Vibes MC'd throughout the day.

Local businesses, community services and volunteers all contributed to the success of Waterfest 2023, marking the day as a great family fun event.

Pictured from top:

Axemen always draw a crowd and this year was no different. Shane Campbell and Sheree Taylor put their backs into it. The Clydesdale drawn cart was a big hit with tamariki and adults alike. South Waikato enjoying the sunshine.



Understanding disability dogs

Ever wondered why some dogs are allowed in public places when most dogs aren't?

Particularly places where you wouldn't expect to see dogs, like inside a library, at a restaurant or in your local bank?

It is likely that these dogs are disability assist dogs. And they are allowed in places most dogs aren't... make them welcome; they're helping their owner!

Guide dogs for the blind have been around for years and are easily identifiable as an assist dog because of the special harness they wear. But disability assist dogs are now commonplace for several different disabilities that can be harder to distinguish.

Assistance dogs are trained depending on the disability of the person they are minding and their role is improve the lives of their owner who lives with a disability. The dogs are trained to do specific tasks to help the disabled person. For example, a guide dog for a blind person is trained to walk ahead of the person and alert them to stop and go. A hearing dog is trained to alert its owner to smoke alarm, phones, doorbells, text messages etc. A diabetic alert



dog is trained to sniff low blood sugar on the breath of the person they are minding.

Council prohibits dogs in places at times, but this doesn't apply to disability dogs because they are special. If you are wondering about a dog's presence, ask to see the passport identification for the dog. Often the dog has a special identification tag too and is wearing a branded jacket. A range of dogs are used as assistance dogs with a preference for some disabilities for Labradors and Golden Retrievers. These dogs have been specially bred and recognised world-wide as service dogs. However these breeds are not the only dogs used as Disability Dogs.

DOGS AND MICROCHIPS



Microchipping is a one-time procedure. It is a separate process from dog registration. You must register your dog every year, but you only need to microchip your dog once.

A microchip, about the size of a grain of rice, is implanted under the skin behind the dog's neck. Vets or Council can perform the procedure and advise you of any risks.

New puppies and dogs have to be microchipped within two months of first registration.

A 15-digit unique number assigned to the microchip helps identify your dog through registration records and the National Dog Database. When scanned, the microchip number will retrieve the owner's contact details, if registered too!

Microchipping helps Compliance Officers identify registered dogs that are roaming or lost and reunite dogs with their owners.

Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round... to Hamilton!

The new bus service from Tokoroa through to Hamilton started in mid-February and has seen a large number of users, particularly students.

Since 13 February, at least 20 users a day have been jumping on the bus that starts in Tokoroa and heads through Putāruru, Tirau, Cambridge, Waikato University and Hamilton CBD.

The majority of the users are students who now have the option to live at home and still study at University or Wintec instead of flatting or living at a hall of residents.

The bus service runs Monday to Friday, beginning in Tokoroa at 7.10am and arriving at the Hamilton Transport Centre at approximately 8.50am. The return service departs at the Hamilton Transport Centre at 4.50pm and arrives in Tokoroa at approximately 6.26pm.



...BE KIND TO OUR WASTEWATER SYSTEM

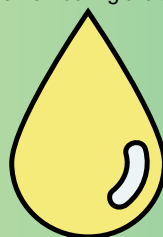
Toilets are for three things only - pee, paper and poo!

This is just a reminder to not flush disposable wet wipes down your toilet. Some brands may say they are flushable, but sadly they are not. Wet wipes can block up our pipes and create a significant mess.

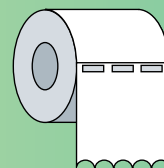
Please help our wastewater services team by putting wet wipes in the bin, not down the toilet. When wet wipes accumulate, they block the sewer pipes which creates sewerage overflows, which isn't nice for anyone - neighbours and our wastewater team!

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

As further products become caught, the size of the blockage increases until it interferes with the amount of wastewater able to pass through the pipe and damage to the system occurs. This is a cost to ratepayers and to our environment that we can avoid by all remembering the 3Ps.



PEE



PAPER



POO

Lake Moananui's new loo!

A new toilet block was installed at Lake Moananui, installed near the playground area by PLD Contracting.

The 3.5m x 2.4m block has a 10,000 litre tank and took close to a month for the drainage services and installation to be completed.

The toilet block has a photo film overlay of the lake which added a little extra scenery and enjoyment for those who make the trip to the lake! The toilet has a ceramic tiled interior featuring a stylish surface mounted with stainless-steel fittings which are built to last.

No more need to worry about your little ones having to sprint to the loos!



ILLEGAL DUMPING COSTS RATEPAYER DOLLARS

Our Transfer Station charges are set at just \$2.90 per kilogram, yet we still have a small minority of people who carelessly dump their unsightly rubbish for the rest of us, who pay our own way and care about our community, to deal with.

Pictured below is just one of the illegal dumpings the Council deals with on a semi-regular basis. The costs on ratepayers for this dump below was around \$500 for our contractor to uplift and the Transfer Station disposal costs.

The cost to dispose rubbish should be worn by the person creating the rubbish!



Tirau Primary School's Enviroschools Journey

McClenaghan's bush is a block of native bushland within Tirau School grounds that is home to many birds and currently under-used as an outdoor learning environment. Students and teachers wanted to change that, so the Enviroleaders investigated what needed to happen in order to encourage more wildlife and classes to come and enjoy the space. They decided to carry out a litter pickup and organise a whole-school weeding day to clear the abundant *tradescantia*.

Last year, senior students spent the day weeding the bush supported by rotations of junior and middle school students. The caretaker had prepared a large hole to bury the weeds in and the remaining weeds were piled to be buried the next day - thus returning all the nutrients into the ground.

Senior students are incorporating regular bush weeding into their curriculum. The school plans on having whole school 'bush care' days each term and when classes use the space for learning a new tikanga is to start the session with five minutes of weeding/litter picking.

Whānau of the McClenaghans are happy that the bush is being cared for and will be used more by the kura.

The next goal is to plant trees that will encourage kererū to return, as through their critical histories learning, the students discovered that the area used to be the local food bowl due to its abundance of cabbage trees and kererū.

Enviroleaders, Student Ambassadors, Tirau Primary Lead Teachers and Enviroschools Facilitators came together in November to complete a Holistic Reflection of Enviroschools at Tirau Primary. After critically examining their work and identifying 'next steps' for their journey, the students decided they are a Bronze Enviroschool.



Young Drivers Expo, an eye-opener for students

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

The Expo, which has been running for 11 years, was a combined effort between Tokoroa Bluelight and the South Waikato District Council, in partnership with the New Zealand Police, St John Ambulance Service, Tokoroa Fire Brigade, TCOSS and the Department of Corrections.

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

The students experienced six workshops spread over the day.

The workshops covered the following topics:

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

Those who attended went away with a new perspective on the responsibilities of being a driver.



NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



Orchestra Central Trust: He Aho Rōreka

Date: Sat 29 April, 7.30pm. Concerto for taonga puoro, electronics and chamber orchestra in nine parts. Koha entry.

Sunday Movie: A Man called Otto

Date: Sun 30 April, 2pm. Tickets: \$10 adults & \$5 student. About film: When a lively young family moves in next door, grumpy widower Otto Anderson meets his match in a quick-witted, pregnant woman named Marisol, leading to an unlikely friendship that turns his world upside down.

Rangiura Fundraising Quiz

Date: Fri 5 May. More information and tickets coming soon.

Kate Meades - cloth nappies, and more!

Date: Wed 10 May, 6pm. Admission: \$5.00, Goodie Bag worth \$60. Learn about modern cloth nappies and that they're far easier to incorporate into a modern lifestyle than you might think! Kate is an expert on the topic of over 15 years.

Sunday movie: Muru (2022)

Date: 21 May, 2pm. Tickets: \$10 adults & \$5 students. About film: Police Sergeant Tawharau is forced to choose between his job and his people when the Government pulls off an armed raid in his Ruatoki community.

NZ Highwayman Tour!

Date: Sun May 28, 2:30pm. See four of NZ's most beloved Country artists performing together 'live' on the same stage. Tickets: www.nzhighwaymen.flicker.co.nz.



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Getting Ready for Winter!

With winter fast approaching it is time to start thinking about getting your vehicle ready for the colder weather. Here a few simple things you can do to reduce your chances of a breakdown over winter.

Check your battery

During the winter months your battery will work extra hard with cold starts and the constant use of your car's heater, lights and A/C which all add extra strain. If your car is already having problems starting, now is the time to get it checked. As a backup ensure you have a pair of jumper cables in your boot or even an emergency jump pack.

Check the condition of your tyres

Your vehicles tyres are the only contact you have with the road. Ensure your tyres have at least the legal minimum of 1.5 depth of tread (more is differently better) and are inflated to the correct pressure. Don't forget to also check the spare.

Clean and check your lights

Check that all your lights, indicators and rear reflectors are clean. Look for blown bulbs or cracked lenses. Also remember to check your lights on full beam as well as any fog lights that may be fitted. Driving with your lights on during the day also makes you much more visible in wet and foggy weather.

Wash your windscreen and wipers

Give your windscreen a thorough clean both inside and out and remember to top up your windscreen washer fluid. Check your wiper blades by running your finger down checking for nicks and tears. Check for any chips in the windscreen as these can expand in the cold weather. Remember it's not a good idea to put hot water on a frozen windscreen.

Prepare a winter breakdown kit

Ensure it includes a torch, blanket hi-visibility vest, scraper and snacks. Always ensure your phone is fully charged before leaving on your journey. Remember your vehicle battery may go flat leaving you to spend the night in your vehicle.



TALKING THREE WATERS

Council continues to encourage the search for an alternative model to deliver three waters to communities. SWDC has been a member of Communities 4 Local Democracy (C4LD) since inception. Backed by 30 councils, C4LD has raised concerns about the Government's current Three Waters model.

"Our Council continues to support C4LD and an alternative model," said Mayor Gary Petley. "C4LD's goals align with that of the South Waikato. Its policy and proposed system for water reform protects property rights and local voice, while providing a sensible approach to the issue of three waters infrastructure."

When Three Waters was first floated, SWDC made it very clear that we supported three priority aspects of the reform, namely 1, the high-level outcomes for safe and reliable drinking water, improved environmental performance, resilience and sustainability; 2, to provide for local iwi to have improved input into decision making related to these local assets; and 3, the introduction of regulator Taumata Arowai to hold councils to account.

"But that's where our support stops," said Mayor Petley. "We don't support the proposed four-entity model. It is based on faulty modelling and an ideology of centralisation that has been rejected by kiwis nationwide."

"The Government has failed to allow for a more bespoke approach to take into account individual councils' circumstances," continued Mayor Petley. "The speed of the reform has compromised rational and evidence-based consideration. The change to ownership and management of the related assets is a mistake and the current proposed Four Entity model is not the best solution. The voices of smaller councils, like my own, will be lost."

SWDC is committed to a reform model that is fit for Aotearoa New Zealand.

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.

READ IN TOUCH? PROVE IT...

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

The answers to the five questions below are in this issue - March/April 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 Friday 28 April 2023.

1. **What does CDEM stand for?**
2. **Name the 4Rs of Civil Defence.**
3. **Name three natural hazards in New Zealand?**
4. **Name one place to go for information during and after an event.**
5. **What two colours are weather WARNINGS?**

And yes, of all the exciting stories in this issue of In Touch, we really wanted you to read the Civil Defence spread on pages 6 & 7!

Congratulations to Geoff of Tokoroa who was drawn as the lucky winner for the February In Touch competition.

Thank you to all those who entered. Try again this issue!

The correct answers were: 1. 10, 2. 6, 3. \$5, 4. NZ Order of Merit, 5. Mrs Harris goes to Paris.



@ The Plaza, Putāruru

Vaccination pop up clinic

Date: Thurs 20 April, 2pm to 5pm.
MMR - Flu - COVID vaccinations. More info: 0800 797 427

SWPICS - Vaccination pop up Clinic

Date: Thurs 18 May, 2pm to 5pm
MMR - Flu - COVID
More info: 0800 797 427



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