



DISTRICT MARKS CORONATION

The coronation of King Charles III was celebrated all over Aotearoa and commemorated with a one-million-dollar nationwide planting effort. The South Waikato District commemoration event was held at the Tirau Domain on 6 May 2023 with the planting of a Matapouri Blue Totora.

The Domain was a hive of activity as community members came from all over to mark the coronation of His Majesty. Mayor Gary Petley opened the proceedings and acknowledged all Mana whenua and Kaumatua of Raukawa, past and present, for their continued wisdom and guidance.

He also spoke of the significance of the Tirau Domain as the site of the King's Tree, "We chose the Tirau Domain as it is a special place for us - it is close to Queen Elizabeth's twin Oak trees, which were planted back in 1954 on the SH1/5 roundabout by the Women in Farming in honour of the Queen's visit to the country. These trees remain a symbol of resilience and strength, having stood the test of time. Today, we add to this legacy by planting the King's tree."

The Matapouri Blue Totora is an evergreen and when fully grown, will reach four metres in height and width. The tree is a symbol of peace, hope, and future prosperity, whilst also embodying the

King's strong commitment to conservation and sustainability.

The Mayor also spoke of the significance of the nationwide planting effort. "It is my hope that this tree planted here today will serve as a reminder of our allegiance to the monarchy and our shared responsibility to conserve and protect our environment for future generations to come," he said.

In closing the Mayor expressed his appreciation to everyone for attending the event, especially the community volunteers and staff of South Waikato Council for their efforts in making the event a success.



BLAST FROM THE PAST

The Chinese gooseberry becomes the kiwifruit on **15 June 1959**. Turners & Growers were the first to export Chinese gooseberries as kiwifruit. Despite the name, kiwifruit are not native to NZ. Seeds were brought here in 1904 by Mary Isabel Fraser, principal of Whanganui Girls' College. They were planted in 1906 by a Whanganui nurseryman, Alexander Allison, and the vines first fruited in 1910. People thought the fruit had a gooseberry flavour and began to call it the Chinese gooseberry.

The Bay of Plenty town of Te Puke, where New Zealand's kiwifruit industry began, markets itself as the 'Kiwifruit Capital of the World'.

IN HOUSE

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

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Council to receive \$3 million Government grant for Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park

South Waikato District Council (SWDC) says a \$3 million Government grant towards the \$20 million Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park development in Tokoroa is another step to helping the district thrive.

The grant from the Regional Strategic Partnership Fund (RSPF) was announced recently by Regional Development Minister Kiri Allan as part of \$20 million to be invested in nine projects around the country.

Located just off State Highway 1, the Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park sits at the southern edge of the country's golden triangle economic zone. It is being developed by SWDC with support from the South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT)* and the Government to attract new businesses, jobs, and prosperity to South Waikato.

SWDC Mayor Gary Petley said the Maraetai Road development will enable significant expansion of container rail freight volumes through the existing Tokoroa Road/Rail Terminal which provides intermodal (road and rail) connectivity to Ports of Tauranga, Ports of Auckland and into international markets.

"South Waikato is the smart choice for manufacturers and processing industries; affordable, connected and accessible with a highly skilled workforce," said Mayor Petley.

The business park will provide 13 fully serviced lots for sale, all with freight access through the adjoining terminal, ranging in size from 1,696m² to two hectares with the flexibility to combine lots to meet investor/occupier requirements.

Development of the business park will start this year with staged development through to the end of 2024. It is expected to generate between 150 to 200 new jobs in the district.

Mayor Petley said the project started in late 2018 and has involved significant advocacy, discussion and engagement with many stakeholders in Tokoroa, the wider Waikato region and with Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit.

* The South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT) is a community-owned economic development fund dedicated to the growth and development of business in South Waikato. For more on SWIFT visit its website: www.swift.org.nz.

HOW SWIFT CAN HELP YOUR BUSINESS

SWIFT is committed to helping local businesses grow and prosper.

As a cornerstone of SWIFT's strategy, there are several ways they support the existing business community. One key opportunity is through a partnership with the Regional Business Partners (RBP) programme, a Government scheme that contributes funds to capability building for small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

The RBP programme is a gateway that connects business owners to advice and resources to work through challenges and/or growth. It is funded by government, and coordinated in the Waikato by SODA Inc.

The scheme funds about 50% of the business capability support services up to \$5,000 (depending on the demands for the scheme, number of applications and budget) and historically the small business pays the rest.

In 2022, SWIFT chose to remove the barrier of the business contribution and began funding the lion's share of that amount (up to \$4,500) leaving the business itself with just a \$500 cost!

If you are an established business and interested in working with an advisor to help develop your business, reach out to the SWIFT team through info@swift.org.nz to check your eligibility and start the ball rolling.

NEW SUSTAINABLE CATCHMENTS PROGRAMME



The Sustainable Catchments programme launched on 12 May 2023 will see DairyNZ, Raukawa Charitable Trust, the Pōkaiwhenua Catchment Group and local farmers work together to build healthier waterways in the Pōkaiwhenua (Waikato) catchments.

Mayor Gary Petley opened the event and welcomed everyone to the milestone occasion. "The initiative is a true example of what can be accomplished when different people and organisations in our community unite for a common cause. I can assure you all that the community is very much looking forward to seeing the results of this wonderful initiative," he said.

According to Raukawa Charitable Trust tumu whakarae (general manager) Maria Te Kanawa, her organisation is excited to partner with DairyNZ. "Raukawa are committed to our responsibilities as kaitiaki throughout our takiwā (region). As such, we have a key role to play in the revitalisation and restoration of the wider Pōkaiwhenua catchment. We believe, through the inclusion of Mātauranga Māori alongside western science, that we can bring about positive change," she said.

DairyNZ general manager for sustainable dairy Dr David Burger was excited to get the project underway. "There are opportunities for improvement in each catchment. Each catchment has committed landowners who are passionate about improving water quality," Dr Burger said.

DairyNZ has received \$3.4 million in Government funding for the programme. DairyNZ is contributing a further \$1.2 million towards the programme. The



partnership will not only benefit our communities but will also trailblaze a path of economic growth and environmental sustainability, making Aotearoa New Zealand an even better place for generations to come.



Below: Mayor Gary Petley and South Waikato Achievement Trust Chairman David Foote cutting the balloon ribbon at the opening of our latest addition to our residential homes for SWAT clients. The house was transported here from Rotorua and renovated by local contractors. The renovated house is part of SWAT's programme for residential housing for people with disabilities.



Above: While patrolling Lake Moananui, our Compliance staff spotted Emiel Fokke and Lucy Paatston picking up rubbish around the lake. Big hats off to the couple for their pride in our community.

The Kate Meads' Parenting, Cloth Nappies and More workshops held in Putāruru attracted 27 participants with 68.4% of attendees rating the workshop 5/5.

South Waikato's Riverside Adventures story in the Waikato Business News, including being on the front cover.

WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT



Above and below: Council's contractor Downer having to clean up the rubbish dumped in Railway reserve (Railway Reserve off Baird Road) – once again pity that ratepayers have to pick up the tab for irresponsible dumping.



Above: Dumping at Tram Road - dirty behaviour... on the plus side we found identifiable items in the material (below). Council has to clean up this rubbish at the cost of the ratepayer. But maybe we can get the money back from the person behind the blur... we're on it!





We Shall Remember Them

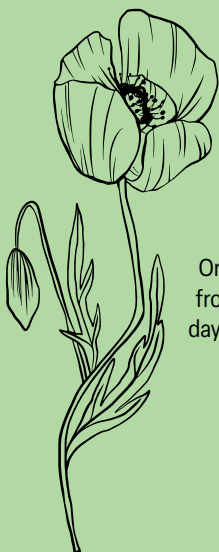
Tuesday 25 April once again saw the South Waikato community gather to pay tribute to our fallen heroes on ANZAC Day.

Even though we saw one of the District's first frosts, with temperatures lower than one degree (brrr!), ceremonies across the district attracted large numbers of people. It was noted that the dawn parade in Tokoroa was one of the largest crowds they had seen in about five years with a great cross section of ages too.

Organised and run by the RSA (Tokoroa and Putāruru) and the Tirau Community Board (Tirau) with support from Council staff, the ceremonies once again gave New Zealanders the opportunity to gather in a day of shared remembrance and reflection for the brave men and women who served our country in conflicts around the world, particularly those who sacrificed their lives in the name of peace and freedom.

Following the ceremonies, the crowds were invited to warm up with a hot cup of tea and some live entertainment.

Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rāto.



Think Green, Breathe Clean. Let's Talk Outdoor Burning

Our compliance team has noted a significant increase in call outs regarding incorrect, harmful and unsafe outdoor burning.

Everyone has a part to play in making their community a cleaner, greener, healthier place to live, and no one wants to be 'that neighbour'. So, if you need to burn outdoors, please make sure you do so safely and responsibly.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS CAN I BURN ?

- paper
- cardboard
- organic material (like food waste, untreated wood and vegetation)

Top tip: wait for greenwaste to turn brown where possible to reduce smoke.

WHAT SORT OF THINGS CAN'T I BURN ?

- halogenated organic chemicals (including things like pesticides, solvents and electrical equipment)
- halogenated plastics (including PVC and any plastic identified with a number '3' in the triangular recycling symbol)
- materials containing heavy metals (like batteries and chemically treated wood)
- paints and surface coatings (as well as painted or coated materials)
- rubber and tyres
- asbestos
- waste oil and other waste petrol products (including sludge)
- car parts

Examples of bad outdoor burning are tyres, pesticides, car parts, paints...

WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

If you're intending to burn in order to dispose of waste, please first consider whether you could:

- recycle
- reuse/ repurpose
- compost
- use your local waste transfer station.

IF BURNING WASTE WITHIN THE RULES IS MY ONLY OPTION, HOW CAN I DO IT SAFELY AND CONSIDERATELY ?

- make smaller fires
- burn as far from your property boundary as possible
- ensure the fuel is dry and loosely stacked so the fire doesn't smoulder
- avoid burning on windy days and check that the wind is predicted to be away from built-up areas
- be prepared to put the fire out if conditions change or you discover that you're causing a nuisance

WHAT ARE THE RULES ?

There are a few different national, regional, local rules, but they boil down to ensuring your fires and the smoke they produce don't affect people, plants, animals or property outside of your property boundary. This means that you must not cause odour problems, health or safety risks or damage, or be a nuisance to your neighbours.

WHAT'S THE HARM?

Smoke from outdoor burning can affect people's health and affect people's enjoyment of their environment.

Smoke inhalation can trigger potentially fatal asthma attacks for sufferers of this common condition and repeated exposure may increase people's long-term risk of cancer.

Smoke can also pollute roof water supplies, blemish crops, soil surfaces and washing – as well as contributing to climate change. So, it's always best to avoid burning if you can.

WHAT'S THE CONSEQUENCE ?

Breaches of the local outdoor burning rules can result in enforcement action being taken by South Waikato District Council. These actions include \$300 infringement notices for households and \$1,000 notices for industrial or trade premises.

Breaches of the regional rules can also result in enforcement action being taken by Waikato Regional Council, including infringement notices of up to \$1,000. More serious breaches can result in prosecution under the Resource Management Act (RMA) and carry even more severe consequences, although this is unlikely in a domestic setting.



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 - **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.

These two pages on Civil Defence are a continuation of the two page spread in the last issue of *In Touch*. It covers a few more types of events, what a State of Emergency is and how and when they are declared, a grab bag and getaway kit as well as a repeat of where to go for information during an event.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

A State of Emergency (SOE) is declared when there is an event that might cause loss of life or property, which cannot be dealt with by the normal emergency services, or when emergency services are at risk of being overwhelmed. SOEs give authorities access to a range of options to manage the event, such as provide rescue, regulate traffic, enter premises to rescue people or save lives, conserve essential supplies and others.

It provides emergency response staff with legislative power to tap into additional resources, assets and funding to do certain things such as close off areas, direct people to do certain acts and even, if necessary, requisition contractors to stop private work and assist with works to ensure public safety.

Based on the series of weather events in the early months of this year, we've detailed what SOEs happened, at what level and why. Read from the bottom of the triangle, starting with LOCAL.

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What happened?

Following a third and most severe weather event (Gabrielle) and with multiple regions in an SOE, the Government declared a National SOE to coordinate at a central level. The National SOE affected Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato and Hawke's Bay. The national declaration allowed the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) to coordinate resources and assets across the country. Basically, with more and more councils/regions asking for help and declaring SOEs, it was enough to trigger a national declaration.

This is only the third ever national declaration.
And the most recent since the 2011 Christchurch earthquake.

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What happened?

Further extreme weather impacts initiated an SOE by Waikato and Hauraki District Councils. Now that three districts in the Waikato Region were in a state of emergency, Waikato Regional Civil Defence declared. We did this so that a region wide response across the 12 Waikato councils could be activated. This enabled the region to work on a coordinated response using resources from councils unaffected by the event.

While our district came through the three extreme weather events unscathed, our staff did a lot of pre-event preparation on our infrastructure and post-event some of our staff were deployed to help other councils.

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What happened?

Due to a flooding event on the Coromandel Peninsula, Thames-Coromandel District Council declared a State of Emergency (SOE).

This enabled the coordination of resources under local Civil Defence.

Auckland Council was the first council to declare an SOE for the weather events in January and February this year.

HAVE A GRAB BAG READY TO... GRAB

Have grab bags ready for everyone in your family. A grab bag is a small bag with essential supplies.

Each bag should have:

- Walking shoes, warm clothes, raincoat and hat
- Water and snack food (remember babies and pets too)
- Hand sanitiser
- Portable phone charger
- Cash
- Copies of important documents and IDs
- Remember any medications you might need and keep your first aid kit, mask or face covering, torch, radio and batteries somewhere you can grab them in a hurry.

If you have special dietary needs, make sure you have the food you need in your grab bag too.



Plan ahead for what you will do if you are in your car when an emergency happens. A flood, snow storm or major traffic accident could leave you stranded in your vehicle for some time.

Keep essential emergency survival items in your car. Store a pair of walking shoes, a waterproof jacket, essential medicines, snack food, water, a phone charger lead and a torch in your car.

If you are driving in extreme winter conditions, add a brush, a shovel, windshield scrapers and warm clothing.

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. Below we look at rural fires, eruptions/ashfall, tsunami and pandemic.

RURAL FIRES

If you see smoke or fire and believe there is a risk to people or property, call 111 and ask for 'Fire' immediately.

Fires can be sparked by human activity, such as campfires escaping, fireworks, rubbish fires, bonfires or rural burn-offs getting out of control. Car accidents, arcing or fallen power lines are also common causes of fires. Even sparks from lawnmowers or cigarette butts can start a fire that can get quickly out of control.

Fire and Emergency New Zealand is responsible for fire prevention, response and suppression.

Be mindful of fire seasons - these inform people about the requirements for restrictions on lighting fires in the open air, and to manage the use of fire to protect communities from the consequences of unwanted fire. Visit www.fireandemergency.nz for more information.



VOLCANIC ERUPTION/ASHFALL

Volcanic activity can include ashfall, falling rocks, hot gases and volcanic rock, lava flows, and massive mudflows. Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Tairāwhiti, Hawke's Bay, northern Manawātū, Northland, Taranaki and Waikato are most at risk.

Ashfall can be especially dangerous if you have respiratory difficulties such as asthma or bronchitis. Here's a few things you can do around your home.

Avoid unnecessary exposure to ash until it has settled - wear protective clothing. Wear glasses, not contact lenses (trapped ash can scratch your eyes). Close windows and doors and turn heat pumps off. Set up a single-entry point for your house and place damp towels at threshold to prevent ash being tracked indoors. Cover sensitive electronics. Cover vehicles, machinery and spa pools. Disconnect drainpipes/downspouts from gutters to stop drains clogging. If you use a rainwater collection system for your water supply, disconnect the tank.



TSUNAMI

It's unlikely that the South Waikato District will suffer a direct tsunami because of our inland position, however it's good to be aware of what to look out for just in case you're at the beach,

All of New Zealand's coastline is at risk of tsunami.

For a local source tsunami, which could arrive in minutes, there won't be time for an official warning. So if you are at the coast, it is important to recognise the natural warning signs and act quickly. Do not wait for official warnings. Take action if you:

- feel a strong or long earthquake that makes it hard to stand or that lasts more than a minute
- see a sudden rise or fall in sea level
- hear loud or unusual noises from the sea.



Remember, Long or Strong, Get Gone.

When tsunami travel across the ocean from far away, we have more time to warn people what to do. Civil Defence issues tsunami warnings in New Zealand through official channels such as the National Emergency Management Agency's website, @NZCivilDefence Twitter channel and even by the Emergency Mobile Alert (if the situation is likely to result in flooding on land and people need to evacuate). Warnings may also be broadcast through: siren, phone, mobile text, loud hailer or other local arrangements.

PANDEMIC

A pandemic happens when a virus spreads quickly and affects a country or many countries around the world. When this happens, many of us can become very sick. The obvious most recent example is COVID-19 which affected the entire world for several years; it could be argued that COVID is still affecting our lives!

The Ministry of Health is the lead agency for planning for and responding to pandemics in New Zealand.



**EMERGENCIES CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME, ANYWHERE -
YOU CAN TAKE STEPS TO BE PREPARED
TĒ MŌHIOTIA ĀHEA KI HEA RĀNEI TE OHOTATA - KIA
TAKATŪ KIA MATAARA**

HOW TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER

You can take steps to help reduce the effects of an emergency on you and your property.

- Use brackets or straps to secure tall and heavy furniture into wall studs.
- Move heavy and fragile items to shelves or cupboards lower down.
- Hang pictures and mirrors on appropriate hooks (no single nails).
- Make sure you know the location of emergency cut-off switches and taps for gas and water mains.
- Some brick and concrete chimneys are at greater risk of collapsing in an earthquake. Check Toka Tū Ake Earthquake Commission's website for more information about how to make chimneys safer.
- If your home has suspended floor foundations, check that they're in good condition. Check that good connections are in place between the foundations and house above.

In February 2021, changes to the Residential Tenancy Act makes it easier for renters to quake safe their homes. If you're a renter and want to quake safe your home, make sure you talk to your landlord or property manager first.

CHECK YOUR INSURANCE

Having insurance cover for your home and contents is really important to help you get back on your feet if you suffer damage in a disaster. Plus, having a private home insurance policy that includes fire cover (most do) means you automatically qualify for Toka Tū Ake EQC's insurance product, EQCover.

It's important to review your insurance regularly. Check what your insurance policy covers, as well as what it doesn't cover. Also check if you have enough insurance cover to rebuild your home and replace your valuables after an emergency.

If you suffer damage from a natural hazard, remember to take plenty of photos. Then get in touch with your private insurer to make a claim. They'll assess, manage and settle your entire claim on behalf of Toka Tū Ake EQC, including the EQCover part.

Where to go for information during an event

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](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWaikatoDistrictCouncil)

Antenno

Download from Google Play or the App Store

IT'S TIME TO REGISTER YOUR POOCH!

That time of year has come around again where our pooch parents need to register their dogs.

Reminder - make sure you pop into Council by Monday 31 July to pay your annual dog registration fee. If you miss the deadline you will incur an additional 50% penalty fee on top of your dog registration fee.

Did you know that you can pay your dog registration off with a direct debit payment plan?

You can pay your registration off with payments from as little as \$10 a week per dog. Just pop into the Council offices and ask our lovely staff to set up an account for you!

It's all well and good us telling you to register your fur babies, but where do your fees actually go?

Let's have a look at the total Animal and Compliance service BEHIND the new yellow registration tag...

- Fit-for-purpose vehicles - patrols and response, fuel, maintenance, branding and equipping to ensure Officers can provide for public safety.
- Heavy duty, fit-for-purpose protective uniforms for a professional look and safety.
- Trained Officers familiar with relevant legislation.
- Negotiation of voluntary handovers of dogs costs, but it's better than potential expensive court costs!
- Property visits for every complaint to educate, investigate and/or uplift.
- Dog poo bag dispenser and bags - including maintenance and filling.
- Education and support for people struggling to properly care for their dog.
- Door to door programme in August looking for known registered dogs that have not yet had their registration renewed.
- Pound management - keeping it clean and hygienic, feeding, watering the dogs twice daily, seven days a week; rotating dogs in the exercise yards and walking the dogs.
- Public and dog owner safety - by getting roaming and aggressive dogs off the streets.
- Our staff field over 100 calls a year from concerned residents about 'the dog next door'. These are investigated and education support provided. If the situation doesn't improve, the dog is uplifted and held either for seven days or longer depending on the dog's behaviour and temperament. The team put a huge amount of time and effort into animal welfare because animal cruelty is distressing for our community.
- Adopt a dog programme - all dogs are desexed, microchipped and vet checked so that when the dog is adopted it is unable to have (potentially unwanted) puppies, is legally microchipped and healthy. Many dogs spend longer than seven days in the pound too. Our team spend time assessing dogs for suitability for rehoming.



- Officers are on call 24/7 to ensure public safety - largely around dog attacks and aggression.
- Discounted Selected Owner Policy (or SOP) – apply between 1 March and 31 May. Officers will inspect your property, review your file to check history and a few other criteria. SOP is half of the standard fee. SOP is a privilege not a right.
- The proportion of dangerous or menacing dogs in our district in comparison to total dogs is high. Managing dangerous dogs is essential to public safety, the safety of other dogs and their owners.
- Automatic payment option - to spread payments throughout the year (means additional administration time and resource).
- Any credit in rates account can be transferred to your dog account.



Responsible dog ownership when walking our pups

We would like to remind all dog owners that it is their responsibility to ensure their dogs are under voice control or leashed when using any of our off-leash/exercise areas.

We want these public areas to be a fun and safe space for dogs to play and exercise, but accidents can occur when pet owners do not adhere to the rules and regulations.

Early in May, an unfortunate incident took place at the dog exercise area at Lake Moananui. A resident's dog was attacked and killed by another dog that was un-leashed at the time and not under owner control.

We urge everyone to please be mindful of their pets and their surroundings and to act responsibly when using off-leash areas. Let's work together to keep our community safe and enjoyable for all. Council's Animal Control team will be checking up on activities and anyone found not following the rules will be fined \$200.





LET'S KEEP SOUTH WAIKATO BEAUTIFUL AND CLEAN!

Rolling green fields as far as the eye can see, crystal clear streams, towering forests, and the mighty Waikato – our parks, rivers and reserves are a source of pride for our community, and they attract many tourists each year.

Unfortunately, all this natural beauty is being marred by illegal dumping and negligent littering in our parks and reserves.

Our Solid Waste and Reserves Teams have seen it all. From the dumping of animal carcasses to furniture and cars - illegal dumping costs ratepayers on average \$1,000 per month. But more than the monetary costs, litter and illegal dumping creates an eyesore and just makes our towns and district look bad and unappealing to tourists and anyone wanting to make South Waikato their home.

Many hands make light work

Let's work together as a community to keep South Waikato beautiful and clean for generations.

How can we tackle the eyesore?

Educate: Well, let's talk about it, let's educate our friends and family about why it's wrong to litter or dump our rubbish on the sides of roads or outside Op shops.

Recycle: Let's look at ways we can reduce, re-use and recycle.

Report it: If you see a litterbug or someone dumping rubbish illegally, please don't hesitate to report it. Our Solid Waste Team is here to help, but we also rely on the community to help us keep our district looking great.

Remember to keep a note of the date of the offence, the time, car registration number – and take photos if you can. The more information you give us, the better our chance of issuing an infringement notice on the offender.

It can be tempting to try to retrieve identifiable material yourselves. Please don't. There is a process around how to document that retrieval. If it's not followed correctly, we struggle to get the case prosecuted, so leave that bit to us.

There are various channels which you can use to report illegal dumping to Council.

Antenno is an easy to use channel where you can tell us directly about anything that needs fixing in our community, or about any other Council-related issue. Or do it online. Simply scan the QR code provided here.

Let's continue to work towards litter-free towns, roadsides, parks and reserves.



THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE OUT

Hopefully most people in our community won't ever have one of these recycling contamination stickers put on their recycling wheelie bin.

But just in case, we thought we'd explain the three strikes process anyway and give people the heads up that our Recycling Educator will be doing a focus in this space over the coming weeks and months.

Why is good recycling so important? One recycling wheelie bin can contaminate an entire truck load of recycling. If the truck load is too badly contaminated and rejected by the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF), it is not fair on everyone else who is recycling well because their well-prepared recycling could end up in landfill.

If you see our Recycling Educator out and about, and have any questions about your recycling, the Educator will be more than happy to explain items.

To explain the stickers pictured - first contaminated bin, will be stickered yellow; second time, orange; and the third red sticker suspends the recycling collection for a period.

Recycling can be tricky - if in doubt, chuck it out!



SW MAYORAL FUND HEADS TO THE HAWKES BAY

Despite ourselves being largely unaffected directly, many in our community still felt the terrible impact of Cyclone Gabrielle, through the devastation of communities, whānau and friends.

Mayor Gary Petley kicked off a Mayoral donation and we know a number of people in our community kindly made donations. We're just updating you that the \$2,370 donated from the South Waikato has been transferred to the Hawke's Bay Disaster Relief Trust.

We again want to acknowledge the many businesses, organisations and individuals in our community who volunteered, helped and donated over the past months.



UNDERSTANDING ABANDONED VEHICLES

Council frequently receives reports of abandoned vehicles around the district. There's a bit of a process to follow to establish if the vehicle is truly abandoned, meaning Council can remove it.

When we first receive a report of an abandoned vehicle, a staff member locates the vehicle and takes a series of photographs such as personal items in the vehicle, stickers of interest, number plate, warrant of fitness (WOF), registration and the vehicle's position. The main reason to remove a vehicle immediately is if its position on or near the road poses a safety risk to the community. Urgency can be increased if we are receiving multiple reports about it. These are assessed by our Compliance and Roading Teams.

If the vehicle is parked safely, we send notice to the last registered owner, conduct monthly inspections over a period and give them a chance to remove their vehicle.

If the owner of the vehicle contacts us, Council liaises with them to remove the vehicle back to their own property or Council arranges for a tow that is charged to the owner.

If the last registered owner is not identified or located, Council can have the vehicle relocated until the disposal process has been completed. This involves repeated advertising before Council can dispose of the vehicle legally.

We tend to remove vehicles if:

- The WOF or Registration has been lapsed for more than two months and the vehicle is parked in the road reserve, it violates the Public Places Bylaw. Sometimes people forget or delay renewing their WOF/Rego immediately after it expires but are still using the vehicle; so Council needs to be careful in this regard. Council can't just remove a vehicle without trying to get hold of the owner. Remember expired Regos and WOFs are a

matter for the Police or Waka Kotahi, not Council.

- The vehicle hasn't moved from its spot in the road reserve for the last month.
- The vehicle looks to have broken down or been in an accident and is left on the side of the road in a rural environment. If reported to Council, we try to contact the owner pretty quick for them to come and remove their vehicle otherwise the vehicle is susceptible to vandalism or burning which is more costly to everyone involved and a bigger eyesore!

It's important to note that Council can't just tow away every vehicle reported because someone finds it a nuisance (ie, not unsafe).

The process for legally impounding or scrapping a vehicle is long and can take a couple months.



HOW TO PREVENT NASTY OVERFLOWS

In May we had a nasty wastewater overflow in the Matawara Stream. The overflow was cleared quickly, but it still takes our waterways some time to recover from such an ordeal.

What we put down our sinks or toilets can affect our pipes and our network.

Remember... only the 3Ps (pee, paper and poo) should be flushed down the loo. Everything else – including things such as sanitary products, dental floss, nappies, fat, oil and grease from cooking and the main culprit... wet wipes – should be put in the bin!

Wet wipes can block up our pipes and create a significant mess. When wet wipes accumulate, they block the sewer pipes which creates sewerage overflows, which

isn't nice for anyone - neighbours or 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.

Let's work together to keep our district and towns safe and healthy for everyone to enjoy.



STOP MOTOR BIKES FROM RAISING A RUCKUS IN THE RESERVES

The beautiful reserves and green spaces such as Cougar Park, Strathmore Park, Lake Moananui and A.L. Mason reserve are becoming hotspots for motor bikes. These reserves are being mangled by people who illegally ride their motor bikes on the trails and footpaths, tearing up the turf. But, more importantly motor bikes are a danger to the public, especially when ridden at speed.

Motor bikes are not permitted in these areas. Council is appealing to the community to be on the lookout for motor bikes in our reserves and to call 111 and report any sightings to the Police.

Council would also like to ask cyclists (particularly E-bike cyclists) to adhere to the rules around speeding and giving way when using the shared footpaths at the Lake Moananui Reserve. The speed limit on the footpath is strictly 5km/hr.

Did you know?

Although Cougar Park is not a Council-owned facility, the trails at Cougar cost \$28,000 per km and are not made for motorbikes.

Cougar Park is solely maintained by volunteer work which is largely organised by a committee. Volunteers spend their weekends and additional hours working hard to maintain the Park which is one of our district's top adventure attractions. Cougar Park is on private property and if you do choose to enter the park on a motor bike, it will be considered trespassing.



NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



Wonderland Glowshow, Thurs 22 June, 10am.

About: It's the Wonderland Glow Show - a fabulously Kiwi version of Alice in Wonderland. The show's masterfully crafted characters, intriguing scenery and bilingual storytelling will transport its audiences into a weird and wonderful world of dancing flamingos, an eight-metre caterpillar and giant flowers. The Glowshow promotes literacy and Te Reo Māori and celebrates the exquisite art of ultraviolet puppetry. Tickets are available from www.iticket.co.nz/events/2023/jun/wgs-putaruru.

Putāruru pop up vaccination clinic, Thurs 22 June at 2pm to 5pm. MMR - COVID - FLU

Jackie Goes Prima Diva, Friday 30 June, 7pm (doors open 6pm). **About:** Homegrown chanteuse Jackie Clarke turns her powerhouse vocals, wicked humour and maverick entertainment style to interpret the songs of the 20th and 21st Centuries most legendary divas. Tickets: \$15 available from The Plaza 078838596 or theplaza@plaza.org.nz.

School holiday movie: MUMMIES (2023)

Wednesday 5 July, 10am.

About: Three mummies leave their underground secret city in ancient Egypt and end up in present-day London to search for a ring that was stolen by a greedy archaeologist. However, their mission might prove to be a little difficult. Tickets: \$5 entry - door sales only.



CONTACT THE PLAZA

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Facebook: [theplazaputaruru](https://www.facebook.com/theplazaputaruru)



With the summer months behind us, one of the dangers of winter driving - sunstrike will be occurring more and more. While sunstrike can occur at any time of the year, it is most likely to occur during the winter months when the sun lingers lower in the sky.

Normally, sunstrike occurs during sunrise and sunset when the sun's rays hit your windscreen at a low angle but in the winter the sun stays lower so sunstrike can occur for a longer period of the day.

Roads that are orientated East to West (think Bridge Street or Arapuni Street) can be badly affected by sunstrike so if possible, avoid travelling on them in the early morning or evening or be prepared for the possibility of sunstrike. Remember, you can also experience sunstrike from your rear-view mirror.

The most common crashes caused by sunstrike are at intersections when drivers fail to see a vehicle approaching. Rear end crashes are the second most common, with drivers not seeing the vehicle in front slowing down or stopped in front of them.

Five ways to avoid or reduce the effect of sunstrike

- Keep your windscreen clean. Dust and grime on your windscreen can make the effects of sunstrike much worse. Keep your windscreen clean, inside and out.
- Block out the sun. Use your car's sun visor to block out the sun.
- Don't forget your sunglasses. Wear sunglasses when driving if you know the sun will be in your eyes.
- Increase your car's visibility. Use your headlights during the day to make your vehicle more visible to other drivers who may also experience sunstrike.
- Be aware of shaded areas. The areas in the shade will appear darker when the sun is lower in the sky so keep an eye out for pedestrians stepping out from the shadows - especially around pedestrian crossings and around schools.

If you experience sunstrike, it may be best to pull over and wait a few minutes until your eyes adjust or visibility improves.

PUTĀRURU SKATE PARK NEARLY THERE

The final top features of the Putāruru Skate Park are nearly completed.

The features of the Park at the bottom, towards Bent Street were completed earlier in the month and the contractors have been working hard to get in as much concrete works in the top section of the Skate Park, whilst dodging the rainy days!

The facility will be multi-use and suitable for various age groups with kiddie tracks, a freshly refurbished bowl, ramps and rails, surrounded by a fence for safety.



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 – June 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 30 June 2023.

- 1. What colour should greenwaste be when you burn it?**
- 2. Name all 3Ps you can put down the toilet.**
- 3. Can you pay your dog registration by direct debit?**
- 4. Name three items that you should put in your grab bag.**
- 5. When and where was the King's Coronation tree planted?**

Congratulations to Nella of Tokoroa who was drawn as the lucky winner for the April In Touch competition. Thank you to all those who entered.

Try again this issue!

The correct answers were:

1. Civil Defence Emergency Management, 2. Reduction, Readiness, Response, Recovery, 3. Any three of the following: earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe weather, tsunami, volcanic activity, fire, pandemic, storms, rural fire, industrial risk, 4. Any one of the following: NEMA Facebook and website, South Waikato District Council Facebook and website, Civil Defence Waikato, Civil Defence Wellington, Newstalk ZB Radio Station, Raukawa Vibes, 5. Orange and red.

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 issues or ideas to us.

FUN FACT: There are now 35 councils in Aotearoa that use Antenno... and South Waikato District Council was the first to get it!



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