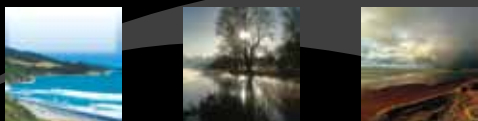


Dec-Jan 2011



LINK

Waikato District News



Down at Firewood Creek

The idyllic water hole at Firewood Creek is a picturesque playground for the Tibbotts family and other locals in Waingaro Road. Well almost.

Known locally as 'Train wreck water hole', it's a popular spot for a swim on hot summer days. Here, a shallow waterfall cascades into a deep, clear pool of cool water. It's a lush and delightful spot accessed by a short but very steep track off Waingaro Road, just minutes from Ngaruawahia.

Above the waterfall, the remnants of the pool's namesake, a partly submerged locomotive cabin and the footings of the old railway bridge, add to the charm of this place. They tell the story of a washed out bridge and an accident that happened before most of us were born.

The rubbish dumped here is no accident. A rusting Toyota Corolla, broken glass, abandoned upholstery materials, plastic plates and even a large china parrot have been thrown down the same bank where local children make their way down to have swim.

Peter Tibbotts, sick of losing the battle to keep the stream clear for his kids, picked up the phone recently and called the Council. He got more than he bargained for. Within days a large skip was delivered and Mr Tibbotts was signed on as an independent contractor. His mission, to clean up the rubbish.

"This is a cheap route for dumping rubbish, it costs the environment and it's hard to believe our community are doing this. They don't think," he said. "90 per cent of what they are dumping is recyclable."

"I've seen washing machines, furniture, even a sleeping bag thrown down this bank. When the creek floods, it carries the lighter rubbish with it to the Waikato River", he said.

The clean up at Firewood creek is just the beginning. Waikato District Council Monitoring and Bylaws Manager, Steven May sees this initiative as a positive partnership.



Contractor Peter Tibbotts astride the remains of the train wreck in Firewood Creek

"This is about Council working with the community. It's just a start. Our next step is to put up signage and work on making the access to the stream safer," he said.

The historic train wreck site is one of the highlights of the Rail Trail section of the Hakaramata Walkway which was opened in 2008. The Rail Trail is a joint initiative between Waikato District Council and the Department of Conservation. The old railway line was used until the 1950s to transport coal from Glen Massey ■

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Mayor's message

It has been a year of change for the Waikato District Council. Our district expanded on 1 November and we have a revamped Council team of 15 with five new Councillors, including three from the former Franklin District Council. All bring experience, local knowledge and some fresh thinking to the table. We look forward to developing a strong working relationship and building on the reputation of this Council to achieve even more this term.

Our district now includes approximately 59,000 residents and covers an area of more than 400,000 hectares making us one of the larger local authorities in the country. With offices in Ngaruawahia, Raglan, Huntly and now Tuakau we're in close proximity to most of our residents.

The opening of the new Tuakau Office on 1 November was a milestone and a highlight. Months of work have gone into the changeover. For our new residents this is just the beginning and I would like to extend to you a warm welcome to the district. I would also like to acknowledge the great team we have here at Waikato District Council who made this transition as seamless as possible.

Our key focus for the new year is economic growth and development. There is much potential to develop positive, sustainable growth using our local knowledge to advance the Waikato district. Economic development will bring positive rewards including employment, better education and opportunity locally.

Christmas signals a time to take a breath, relax and spend some time with family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable Christmas and a safe and happy holiday season



Allan Sanson
Mayor



Swim for Life

The number of people who drown in New Zealand is increasing. Yet one in five children will leave primary school with virtually no ability to swim. The problem has now become a "ticking time bomb", which will impact families and communities across the country in years to come and put further pressure on our drowning rate. That's why swimming lessons and programmes like Swim for Life are an investment in life.

Parents can assume that high schools will fill this gap in swimming ability, often because it was a compulsory part of the physical education programme at their own high school. However, times have changed and these days many high schools do not offer swimming lessons as part of the curriculum.

As a result, children who haven't learnt basic swimming and water safety skills at primary school are compromised when it comes to their own safety in and around water. They can become self-conscious and find ways of avoiding water as they grow older. As teenagers, they can be vulnerable to peer pressure from friends encouraging them to take life-threatening risks on, in or near water.

Ngaruawahia Pool offers discounted rates Monday to Friday during the school term to all primary school children who register with Swim for Life. Contact Leah Crawford on 07 824 7746

Genesis Energy Huntly Aquatic Centre has discounted Swim for Life, Learn to Swim block course lessons from January 17-28 January 2011. Contact Alesha on 07 828 8402 or email huntly@tlc.net.nz For more information on Swim for Life visit swimforlife.co.nz

Aquacise for exercise

Aquacise is a water-supported exercise class using water resistance to increase cardiovascular endurance, muscle tone and flexibility, exercising every joint and muscle group in the body at the same time.

With summer here, now is the right time to put that exercise regime into practice. Genesis Energy Huntly Aquatic Centre instructor Lyzanne du Plessis will guide you through a fun and effective exercise routine in the heated pool.

Genesis Energy Huntly Aquatic Centre has Aquacise on Monday mornings (9.30am-10.15am) and Wednesday evenings (5.45pm -6.30pm). Phone 07 828 8402 for further information ■

See Page 3 for summer holiday opening hours at our district pools

Opening Hours during Christmas/ New Year

Waikato District Council offices

Waikato District Council offices will be closed from 4pm on Friday 24 December 2010 to 8am on Wednesday 5 January 2011.

Libraries

Fri 24 December
9am – 4pm
Sat 25 – Tues 28 December
CLOSED
Wed 29 – Thurs 30 December
10am – 3pm
Fri 31 December – Tues 4 January
CLOSED
Wed 5 January
Normal hours resume

Christmas/New Year refuse and recycling

During the Christmas/New Year period, collections for refuse and recycling will take place on the usual day in all Waikato district areas.

Emergency calls (all hours)

For all emergency calls regarding council services, please phone 0800 492 452.

Swimming pools

	Huntly	Ngaruawahia	Tuakau
Fri 24 December	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Christmas Day	Closed	Closed	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 27 December	Closed	Closed	10.00am – 6.00pm
Tues 28 December	Closed	Closed	10.00am – 6.00pm
Wed 29 December	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 30 December	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Fri 31 December	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
New Year's Day	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sun 2 January	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 3 January	Closed	Closed	10.00am – 6.00pm
Tues 4 January	Closed	Closed	10.00am – 6.00pm
Wed 5 January	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Thurs 6 January	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Fri 7 January	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Sat 8 January	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Sun 9 January	9.00am – 5.00pm	12.00pm – 5.00pm	10.00am – 6.00pm
Mon 10 January	Normal hours resume	Normal hours resume	Normal hours resume

Refuse transfer and recycling stations

	Huntly	Te Kauwhata	Raglan	Pukekohe
Fri 24 December	7.30am-4.30pm	11.30am-4.00pm	8.30am-2.00pm	7.30am – 4.30pm
Christmas Day	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm	Closed
Mon 27 December	10.00am-3.00pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm	7.30am – 4.30pm
Tues 28 December	10.00am-3.00pm	10.00am-2.00pm	Closed	7.30am – 4.30pm
Wed 29 December	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm	7.30am – 4.30pm
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Fri 7 January	7.30am-4.30pm	11.30am-4.00pm	8.30am-4.30pm	7.30am – 4.30pm



Whitikahu School pupils exchange paper for trees thanks to EERST.

EERST (Environmental Education for Resource Sustainability Trust) runs environmental programmes and waste assessments for schools, councils and businesses including the successful Paper4trees programme.

EERST rewards schools for recycling by planting trees. The trust plants one tree for every two cubic metres of paper or cardboard recycled.

A number of Waikato district schools have been taking part in EERST since July 2008. Last year,

Waikato district schools recycled 82 tonnes of paper and cardboard and saved the equivalent of 658 cubic metres of landfill and 206 tonnes of carbon.

In return, EERST planted 329 trees. Schools can choose trees, shrubs, grasses, ground cover or flax plants when they place their orders in December. Trees planted this year for Waikato district schools were supplied and delivered by the Forest Flora Nursery, a local Waikato business.

Local schools rewarded for recycling

For more information visit www.eerst.co.nz



What's happening

▶ Children's summer reading programme

This summer's theme is "The Big Bush Read". Come in and explore! There are incentives to be earned, a colouring-in competition and a grand finale to celebrate at your local library. Hurry, places are limited.

- Enrolment 6 December 2010
- Programme 13 December – 21 January 2011
- Contact your local Waikato Library for more information

▶ Raglan Lions New Year's Eve Parade

New Year celebrations start in Raglan with the colourful New Year's Eve parade. Cash prizes for best floats. Judging is at 6.30pm in Wallis Street.

- Friday 31 December 2010
- 7pm
- Bow Street, Raglan
- Contact Bob McLeod 07 825 8041

▶ Woodlands Christmas Wonderland

The Christmas Wonderland in the historic homestead is open for public viewing. Entry to the gardens is free. Entry to Woodlands homestead: Adults \$5, under 15 years old free.

- Monday 29 November 2010 – Wednesday 5 January 2011
- 10am - 4.30pm daily
- 42 Whitikahu Rd, Gordonton, Hamilton
- www.woodlands.co.nz

▶ Huntly Rodeo

Don't miss the action! Admission: Adult \$18, Children \$8.

- Sunday 30 January 2011
- 10am – 4pm
- Gallagher Rodeo Arena, State Highway 1, Tregoweth Lane, Huntly
- Contact Brenda 07 829 4969 or email pdq.products@xtra.co.nz

▶ R & R Sports Black Stump Adventure Ride

Experience real mountain biking at its best! Choose a 12km, 18km, 30km or a 40km ride. For recreational and competitive mountain bikers, and teams.

- Saturday 12 February 2011
- www.blackstumpadventures.co.nz

▶ The Asics Shoe Clinic Killer

This exciting off-road mountain walk/run event is back on once again over the Black Stump mountain bike course.

- Sunday 13 February 2011
- www.thekiller.co.nz

Briefly

Be water smart

Water is a limited and precious resource and it's easily taken for granted. In the summer months we tend to use more when we have less. To ensure a consistent supply we participate in the Smart Water Use campaign which promotes sustainable water use.

Smart Water Use works on a numbered alert system ranging from 1, limited restrictions, to 4, a total ban on non-essential use i.e. no lawn sprinklers! To guide sustainable water use during the drier months we promote the relevant alert level so there's enough water for everyone. Look out for alerts on our website, in local papers, on radio stations and on the Smart Water Use indicator signs on the roadsides throughout the district.

Flush-a-mug

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate when water stands in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mug (or large glass) of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals from your drinking water.

Curtain bank needs your help

The Huntly Curtain Bank, operated by HEET takes donations of used curtains and provides them to families in need in the Waikato area. Since its inception, Huntly Curtain Bank has supplied curtains to more than 1,000 homes.

Huntly Curtain Bank needs your help. Quality used curtains are desperately needed. To donate curtains, please contact HEET on 0800 433 844 or drop into 434 Great South Road, Huntly.

Road safety concerns

From October to May every year, Colin Slater Contracting Ltd transports ash along Te Ohaki and Hetherington Roads, with a set speed restriction for trucks placed at 70km/per hour.

Recently there have been concerns that vehicles have been speeding and passing the ash trucks in unsafe areas. Please travel cautiously along this short transportation route. For further information contact Huntly Power Station on 07 828 6800 ■

If you'd like an event to be listed in the next issue of Link or on Council's website, www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz, email louise.belay@waic.govt.nz.

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15 Galileo Street
Ngaruawahia
Ph: 07 824 8633
Fax: 07 824 8091

Tuakau Office

2 Dominion Road
Tuakau
Ph: 0800 492 452

Huntly Office

142 Main Street
Huntly
Ph: 07 828 7551

Raglan Office

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