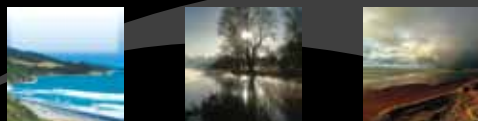


Jul-Aug 2011



LINK

Waikato District News

Bright future for Pokeno

Famous for its 11 scoop ice creams and some of the best bacon in the district, Pokeno has a plan for growth that will really put it on the map. After a decade in the making, a future plan for Pokeno was given the green light recently to signal the way forward for this iconic village to create employment, recreation space and create a variety of residential opportunities through carefully planned growth.



Pokeno is set to grow into a vibrant live, work and play community.

Waikato District Council Chief Executive Gavin Ion said this is a milestone for Pokeno and the Council. "It is great to see the vision of the Pokeno Landowners' Consortium and the Franklin District Council come to fruition. The hard work that was done over the past few years has provided the platform for this project to be advanced.

"This is also a significant milestone for this Council as it will facilitate with more ease and certainty the compact and vibrant form of growth that is anticipated for Pokeno while providing a mix of residential, employment and recreational opportunities to ensure a 'live, work and play' community," he said.

Pokeno's current population of around 500 residents is expected to multiply 12-fold in the next 50 years. The Structure Plan, based on an expected population

of around 6,000 and an additional 1,500 dwellings by 2051, provides a vision to manage this growth through new residential, business, industrial and recreation zonings.

Local resident for 13 years, Jim Southwell believes this is a good outcome for the village and the Pokeno spirit will be retained whatever change may bring.

"The developers have moved this forward and from what I've seen, it will be terrific.

"In a way of course the village will change but it's a close knit community and having lived in suburbia previously, I can say coming here was like coming home."

Pokeno Landowner's Consortium (PLC) has been heavily involved in the plan

change process for the past six years. Kerry Dines of PLC says the consortium has always promoted the vision of Pokeno as a satellite village with managed residential growth and employment opportunities.

"The vision is now being implemented with the construction of the first 96 residential lots due for completion by Christmas," said Mr Dines. "Construction of the first stage of the light industrial development is on track and we expect sites to

be available early in 2012."

Meanwhile, there are no plans to cancel the great things that Pokeno retailers do so well or to revisit the ambitious rebrand in 2000 when Pokeno became jenniferrann.com for a year. ■

Pokeno's current population of around 500 residents is expected to multiply 12-fold in the next 50 years.

Mayor's message



We live, work and play in a district where our future hinges on our potential to develop our unique position and assets wisely.

We're productive. The Waikato is the beating heart of New Zealand's engine room. Our horticultural and agricultural industries contribute significantly to the nation's wealth and we're referred to as the nation's food basket for good reason. This district helps fuel the nation producing 30 per cent of the country's geothermal energy and we've added to this with the strength of wind farms at Te Uku and a much larger 168 turbine project to be built on the west coast between Raglan and Port Waikato. We produce half the country's coal from Huntly, mining 2.5 million tonnes of coal each year with an estimated 2 billion tonnes still sitting underground.

A combination of natural assets, productive climate and a picturesque district add up to an equation that gives the Waikato district the keys to a positive future.

We are part of the 'Golden triangle'. Our position in the centre of economic and population growth triangle of the Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions is conveniently strategic. We're at the centre of a growth area with a combined population at Census 2006 of 2.3 million or 48 per cent of the national population, predicted to

grow to 2.75 million or 53 per cent of the national total within the next 50 years. SH1 and 2 intersect this district and these highways and the railway support our economic base, moving the majority of the nation's freight and tourism along the Waikato corridor.

We're in the right place. A combination of natural assets, productive climate and a picturesque district add up to an equation that gives the Waikato district the keys to a positive future.

Protecting and developing our assets with a mind to growth and retaining a balance that respects the environment, the economy and the needs of the population is the challenge we face.

Allan Sanson
Waikato District Mayor



OUR LAKES AND WETLANDS ARE priceless

Our wetlands play a vital role as multi-functional ecosystems, supporting biodiversity, protecting against flooding and diffusing pollution by acting as a natural filter system between agricultural land and waterways. A joint agreement to protect these valuable assets was recently signed by key agencies.

The object of the Waikato District Lakes and Wetlands Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is to facilitate more co-ordinated action to improve the condition of lakes and wetlands in the district.

The MOA was signed in June by representatives from the Department of Conservation (DoC), Fish & Game, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council and Waikato-Tainui.

The health of the lakes and wetlands has been affected by a range of activities and factors, such as drainage, farming and mining, pest fish and exotic plants.

The MOA was signed by DoC's Waikato conservator Greg Martin, Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Vice-Chairman Colin Sherrard, Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson, Waikato Regional Council Chairman Peter Buckley and Waikato-Tainui Chairman Tukoroirangi Morgan.

Mr Sanson said that the agreement was an important step. "Co-ordinated actions by all of the agencies and individuals involved will be required to improve the condition of lakes and wetlands in the district. This agreement will help us ensure that," he said.

Mr Morgan said the signing of the MOA is an important step towards restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of our waterways together.

"Our whakapapa inextricably links us to these lakes and wetlands, and therefore we have an obligation to look after them."

"Our whakapapa inextricably links us to these lakes and wetlands, and therefore we have an obligation to look after them."

Tukoroirangi Morgan

HIGH ON A HILL

AT 430 METRES ABOVE SEA LEVEL, THE TE UKU WIND FARM OPERATES 28 TURBINES ON A STUNNING SITE WITH EXTENSIVE VIEWS ACROSS THE WAIKATO.

While the opening of the wind farm has been a celebration itself, another outcome is the development of the Pipiharauroa Trail.

The 18km long track on privately-owned farmland on the Whararua Plateau will open late July. The project, a joint initiative by Waikato District Council, Meridian Energy and landowners will allow the public access to the site that affords outstanding 360 degree views over the greater Waikato, including Raglan, Kawhia and Aotea harbours and on a clear day, Mt Taranaki.

The track offers a unique opportunity to experience the history of the site and a chance to get close to a number of the 137 metre high turbines in operation.

At the summit, a historic site treasured by local iwi, Ngāti Mahanga is known as Te Tiho o Tonganui.

The site pays homage to three ancestors, Mahanga the eponymous ancestor and namesake of the tribe, Tonganui the warrior and Hone Waitere.

The track winds its way over private farmland owned by the Vanhoutte and Jowsey families who have a long

association with the area. The Vanhoutte family's ties to the area date to 1897, when Maurice Vanhoutte's grandfather, Belgian immigrant Benoit Vanhoutte, settled on the windswept plateau.

The formation of the Pipiharauroa Trail over existing paper roads has been made possible with the co-operation and goodwill of the landowners. Cyclists and walkers will need to keep to the track which covers private farmland. The track crosses steep to rolling terrain and will take approximately four hours to walk or two hours to cycle return.

The public were given the opportunity to submit a name for the track through a competition run by the Waikato Times. From the 54 entries received the name Pipiharauroa Trail was chosen by a panel represented by the land owners, Meridian Energy, local iwi and Waikato District Council.

The winning name was submitted by Brenda and Trevor George of Ohaupo whose successful entry will be shown on a plaque to be installed at the site.

Protecting our bees

Is beekeeping the new black? Beekeeping is on the increase in our community even though bees themselves are under an increasing range of threats.

In March this year, there were 3,251 registered beekeepers, 23,395 apiaries and 388,369 beehives in New Zealand. Interest in smaller scale beekeeping is a growing trend that however small, may contribute to the sustainability of one of our greatest assets.

The humble honey bee plays a vital role in our environment and the economy. Bees ensure our crops set fruit and around one third of everything we eat relies on pollination by bees. Bees contribute more than \$4 billion annually to New Zealand's economy and play a crucial role in our primary sector, far beyond honey production. Our dependence on horticulture and agriculture means we may be more reliant on pollination from the honey bee than any other nation on earth.

Threats to bees include exotic pathogens, loss of diverse forage, new generation insecticides and chemical controls for existing pathogens like the Varroa bee mite. It is said insecticides are playing Russian roulette with our economy; while farmers must protect their crops, the potential to sacrifice the bees in the

process signifies a balanced approach is critical on many levels.

The National Beekeepers' Association of New Zealand is currently conducting a bee losses survey to gather data which tracks bee population trends and the impact of pesticides. The results of this survey will be shared with Government and reviewed annually.

Supporting the bee population on a smaller scale is rewarding and it contributes to the sustainability of our environment. Keeping a hive in your backyard is a great way to pollinate fruit and vegetables.

Beekeeping can be very successful in urban areas. Overseas, hives in cities are thriving and evidence suggests they can produce up to three times the amount of honey as bees in rural areas.

Encourage bees by planting bee-friendly plants and trees. The main source of our honey crop is white clover and native sources including manuka, rata and rewarewa. There are many other trees and garden plants both exotic and native that support bees including wattles, eucalypts, totara, French lavender, New Zealand flax, hebes and grevillea. ■



Information:

National Beekeepers Association of New Zealand
www.nba.org.nz

Waikato Domestic Beekeepers Association
Phone: (07) 825 2691

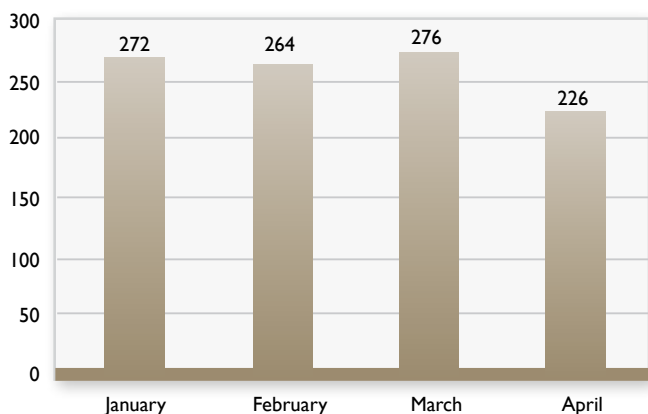
Franklin Beekeepers Club.

Email: franklinbeekeepers@gmail.com

Visit: google.com/site/franklinbeekeepersclub

How much are we recycling?

Recycling Tonnes collected 2011



Tonnes from kerbside recycling collections as supplied by Metrowaste Waikato (excludes Raglan).

With up to 276 tonnes officially recycled from the district each month, as a community we're reducing the equivalent amount of waste to landfill.



What to recycle:

- In your green bin: Glass, metals, aluminium and steel cans, supermarket bags and plastics coded 1, 2 and 5 (look for the triangle symbol on the base)
- Beside the bin: Paper and cardboard.

What not to recycle:

- Plastic bags, polystyrene food trays, Tetrapaks eg Just Juice cartons.

Need a new recycling bin?

- Call into any Waikato District Council office. Bins cost \$14.30 each.

Getting the message

THROUGH ▶

In some cases it's very obvious there is an emergency but unless you are in the epicentre, you may not be aware of the severity or the need to get out unless you know what is happening. In a Civil Defence emergency, the exchange of up to date accurate and timely information is crucial, and for those that need help, or need to get out quickly, communication is essential to save lives.

In the past our emergency messages came via radio, verbally ie a knock at your door, and later TV was added. We received updates via these mediums as they were our fastest communications tools.

We now have a range of new communications tools to add to the mix. Mobile phones, Internet, Twitter and Facebook can all play a part in getting the message through quickly to those affected and the outside world.

If the power is down, your mobile phone is an essential alert tool when you use it to receive instant updates from online sources. Many of us can access the internet on our phones, send email and text. These functions all assist in an emergency.

When the Christchurch earthquake hit in February, updates on Twitter and Facebook played a vital role in getting messages through and constant updates on Twitter gave people a feel for what was happening. The drawback with communications tools is their ability to function in a crisis. If networks are down, power is cut off or batteries run out, communication is compromised. However, the communications channels we have available don't all rely on the same sources so we lessen our chances of being completely cut off by utilising a range.

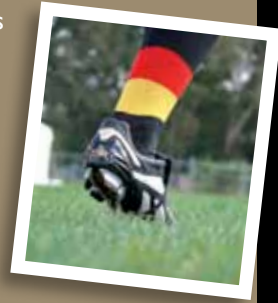
HERE'S HOW YOU CAN GET YOUR MESSAGES WHEN DISASTER STRIKES:

- **Radio:** Tune into news and current affairs stations for updates eg Radio NZ National AM and FM stations, Newstalk ZB.
Tip: Don't wait for a disaster to happen, preset them on your home and car radio.
- **Television:** Forget the sports channel. Check TV1, TV3 and Sky News channels for information and updates. This information is more likely to be generic and not localised to your situation.
- **Online:** Bookmark this site: www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz. Check this Council's website for updates and information on the homepage and Civil Defence section: waikatodistrict.govt.nz/civildefence
- **Social media:** In the future you'll be able to follow our local Civil Defence group on Twitter and Facebook and subscribe to mobile alerts. In the meantime, if you are a social media user you can send and receive updates via your own networks.
- **In person:** When disaster strikes, Civil Defence swings into action. It's likely when homes need to be evacuated, occupants will be contacted directly. This is dependent on the severity, location and timing of the situation and may not always be the case.

For more information visit
www.waikato.district.govt.nz/civildefence

Playing ball in Matangi

The Matangi rugby field is now the training base for Waikato Rugby Union's representative team as the World Cup has restricted the use of its regular venues.



Waikato Rugby Union CEO Graham Bowen is no stranger to the Matangi field. As a founding member and former chair of the Matangi Club he was aware the field was under-utilised.

"Being able to go to Waikato District Council and get help was refreshing for us and it helps the Matangi-Hillcrest Club is happy for us to be there," he said.

Beetham Park was developed by Hamilton City Council as a specialist sand-based training field for the union and the Chiefs but the ground is required by World Cup organisers for teams to train on prior to Rugby World Cup matches at Waikato Stadium.

Both the Waikato ITM Cup team and Waikato Under-20 team will train this season at the Matangi-Hillcrest club's Matangi grounds.

"They've got uninterrupted use of the ground and training facilities there," he said.

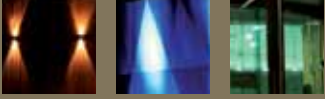
Waikato District Council have helped the union out with ground preparation to get the field up to scratch with levelling, rolling and regular mowing.

"It was a pretty good ground already but they've made it even better for us and the improvements have an upside for the Matangi-Hillcrest Club also," Bowen said.

To help out, Waikato Rugby Union plans to give the facilities a spruce-up and will repaint the clubrooms.

The teams intend to train at Matangi all the way through the season making use of a small gym set up there as well. And the relationship may continue.

"In the future, we see an opportunity to train age group teams there also, there's great potential for ongoing use," he said. ■



A library for THE FUTURE



THE NEW TE KAUWHATA LIBRARY OPENED IN MAY AND ALREADY IT HAS PROVEN IT IS MORE THAN A PLACE TO BORROW A BOOK OR A CD. IT IS A BUILDING DEVELOPED WITH THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY IN MIND.

Waikato District Council General Manager Stakeholder Relations, Jo Ireland says library traffic has increased dramatically since it opened and customers are spending more time exploring the options the library offers. "Feedback from the community and library staff has only been positive," she said. "Visitors to the building are spending longer exploring the shelves, relaxing and even socialising within the library space. "People who are not regular library users have rediscovered their local library and that's a success for us in the short time this building has been open." ■

Locals and BP get

behind Ngaruawahia

The second instalment of a series of murals showing historic photographic images of Ngaruawahia is now on the outer walls of the local library and BP service station.

The murals are an initiative driven by the Ngaruawahia Community Board to beautify the town centre in preparation for the sesquicentennial celebrations in 2013 when Ngaruawahia will celebrate 150 years.

Chairperson of the Ngaruawahia Community Board, Trish Forsyth says visits to other local towns, particularly Pukekohe and Waihi which have had upgrades, inspired the decision to celebrate Ngaruawahia's heritage and highlighted the need for a town upgrade.

"Initially, iconic photos of Ngaruawahia today were considered before we researched old photos and came up with the first instalment of historic photos which we installed next to the walkway by the Plunket Rooms last year.

"There was no separate funding available for the murals so this has been a work in progress with funds from the annual discretionary fund from Waikato District Council. The latest murals have come from funding over two financial years."

The murals show historic images sourced from the Alexander Turnbull Library. The library murals are themed on the Ngaruawahia Regatta, while the BP location murals show images of the Ngaruawahia to Raglan mail coach, barge activity on the Waikato River and the steam train arriving at the Ngaruawahia Station.

Approval from BP to place the second installation on the outer wall of the service station has been welcomed by all parties with BP keen to discuss involvement in further plans for the town upgrade.

General Manager, BP Convenience Retail, Frank van Hattum says having the murals displayed on the service station is a not so quiet way of showing how proud BP is of the community they are part of.

"Every day we serve the people of Ngaruawahia so we have a strong connection to the community. When we heard about the murals we jumped at the chance.

"Our staff are locals so they're excited about the 150 year milestone and loved the idea of using our station to display the town's history," he said.

The Ngaruawahia Community Board has a clear vision for the future of this small historic town which was once earmarked as the future capital city of New Zealand.



Our vision is for a vibrant and caring community, celebrating and promoting our town culture and heritage, the beautiful Hakarimata ranges and uniqueness of the confluence of the Waipa and Waikato rivers," said Mrs Forsyth.



Images of yesteryear are installed on the walls of the Ngaruawahia BP service station.

Managing land, environment and people

The District Plan promotes the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in the Waikato district, by managing the effects of land use on the environment.

The effects are managed differently around the district to reflect local and environmental issues. The plan responds to the issues in terms of community needs and aspirations. If those needs and aspirations change, then plan changes may be needed.

Currently, the Waikato District Council sustainably manages its natural and physical resources through the Operative District Plan, which became operative in 1995, the Proposed District Plan Appeals Version 2007; and Variations to the Proposed District Plan.

Moving to an Operative District Plan

The Proposed District Plan had 64 appeals from 52 appellants. The appeal points included amendments to the Plan contents, for example, zoning change as well as adding new provisions in the Plan. Council staff were able to resolve most of the appeals and recommend the plan is made partly operative.

The reasons being:

1. There are no outstanding district-wide appeals; and
2. The majority of the district plan provisions are operative and beyond challenge;

There is a major administrative advantage in making the District Plan partially operative; the current Proposed District Plan will become the Operative District Plan and the current Operative District Plan will become redundant.

Making the plan partly operative is a procedural matter under the Resource Management Act (RMA). Approval was sought from Council on June 28. From here, the decision will be publicly notified on 2 July for the plan to become partially operative on 9 July, a required five days later. ■



How we make our decisions

For every decision Waikato District Council makes, there is a process.

The process varies ie the process required under Resource Management Act (RMA) to develop a structure plan varies greatly to the process required to decide on a building consent. This flow chart demonstrates a special consultative procedure, a minimum process councils must use when making decisions that trigger particular criteria under the Local Government Act (LGA). It is used for many processes including adopting a long term or annual plan; reviews, amends or adoption of a bylaw or changes to the way a significant activity is delivered.



What's happening

Just BRIEFLY

Drainage districts

There are 25 drainage districts within the Waikato district. These were formed to meet the needs of rural landowners who required assistance with drainage in their area. Property owners within these drainage districts pay additional rates for this service.

The Matangi drainage district is one of a few still administered by a group of local community volunteers. The flat contour of the district means careful planning and design and a regular maintenance programme are key components to ensure a workable scheme. Those involved have kept the drainage rates comparatively low by prioritising expenditure. However, the scheme relies on each property holder doing their bit to help avoid problems. As a landowner or manager you can help:

- Protect scheme works including drains, stopbanks and structures
- Fence all drains to prevent stock entry where possible
- Maintain easy access to drains for maintenance by spraying or digger contractors.
- Keep drains free of any obstructions such as hedge trimmings, wood or other debris
- Check your culverts and drains regularly.

No Spray Zone - it's your option

Road spraying is carried out by council contractors to keep drainage systems clear, halt the spread of noxious plants and in many cases to maintain a clear line of sight on corners. Frequency varies in different areas, but spraying generally occurs four times a year.

Residents have the option to request the area surrounding their property is not sprayed by joining the No Spray Register. To ensure the property remains out of the spray zone, markers are installed to indicate the beginning and end of the frontage.

- Once on the No Spray Register, residents must:
- Eradicate all noxious plants
- Keep the frontage clear and tidy
- Keep drainage paths free of obstruction and operational
- Clear a path for the mower around signs, posts and other constructions
- Ensure the 'No Spray' markers are clearly visible.

If you wish to join the No Spray Register, pick up a form from your nearest Council office or phone 07 824 8633 and ask for an application form to be sent to you. You can also download the application form from www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz.

July book amnesty

Waikato District Libraries would like their "lost" books or items back please! If you currently have, or find, books or other items that are more than 35 days

overdue or classed as "Lost" on your library card, they can be returned during July with no questions asked. All charges relating to these "lost" items will be wiped. Please Note: The amnesty does not apply to rental charges on returned items.



Flair 2011

Meet New Zealand's world class aviation minds and products at Flair 2011. Live air show, seminars, new products entertainment and more.

When: 12-16 October 2011

Where: Te Kowhai Airfield

Website: www.nzflair.com

Te Kauwhata Primary School Centenary

Past pupils and staff, and also those of the former Te Kauwhata District High School, Whangamarino, Waikare and Island Block Schools, are cordially invited to attend.

When: 28-30 October 2011

Info: Download a registration form from www.tkp.school.nz

Email: reunion@tkp.school.nz

Phone: 07 826 3564

Write to: Reunion Convenor, PO Box 45, Te Kauwhata 3741

Waiuku Community Market

Buy fresh produce, bric a brac and for kids there's face painting and a bouncy castle. Bring the whole family to this new community market!

When: 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month

Time: 10am- 2pm

Where: Portside Bar, The Kentish Hotel

Info: Phone Karen 021 0773762

Matariki Short Film Festival 2011

Celebrating the best in Maori and international indigenous film arts, the programme is curated by the Wairoa Maori Film Festival and presented in association with the NZ Film Commission. Featuring short films: The Winter Boy, Taku Rakau E, Redemption, Zero, Manurewa, Day Trip.

When: Saturday 23 July

Time: 4.30pm and 7.30pm

Where: Raglan Old School Arts Centre

Info: Email info@raglanartscentre.co.nz or www.raglanartscentre.co.nz

Got an event coming up?

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@waidc.govt.nz.

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Ngaruawahia
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Fax: 07 824 8091

Tuakau Office

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Tuakau
Ph: 0800 492 452

Huntly Office

142 Main Street
Huntly
Ph: 07 828 7551

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7 Bow Street
Raglan
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Waikato
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