

LINK

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS

April – May 2016



New website launched

Have you seen the new Waikato District Council website?

The new site has been designed to make it easier for you to find exactly what you are looking for.

It features a clean new look, easy to follow navigation and is mobile responsive which means you can now view the website as easily on a mobile phone or tablet as you can on a desktop.

You can now comment and share news items directly to Facebook and Twitter plus browse through upcoming Council events using our events calendar.

Since launching in February this year, the new site has seen a 30% increase in traffic compared to the previous year and an 87% increase in mobile device views.

We are committed to improving and building our services online and the new site provides a solid foundation for this growth.

We have a series of new online services planned this year. The first to go live was the online cemetery database, which was launched in April.

Tracking down long lost relatives has got just that little bit easier in the Waikato district thanks to this new online tool.

The tool allows the public the opportunity to search for plots or memorials of loved ones in Waikato District Council managed cemeteries from the comfort of their own home.

By entering a person's name the public will be able to locate the position of a plot within the cemetery.

You will also be able to identify whether a person was buried or cremated and view any headstone or memorial which is in place.

The database is based on the success of Dunedin City Council's cemeteries

search tool. We have endeavoured to ensure the accuracy of the records on the database, however inaccuracies may have occurred in the gathering of the information or in the conversion of the data into this format. If you notice any incorrect information please let us know.

Waikato District Council administers a total of 22 cemeteries across the Waikato district. We encourage you to visit Council's website and check out the new database.

Head to our website:
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz
and check it out!



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Mayor's Message



Being in touch and hearing the voice of ratepayers and residents about what is important to you has been a clear focus and something Council has been working on over the last few years. And with our current work programme, alongside the district's continuing growth and development, there is a great deal that we need to hear from you about.

Whether it's about our Long Term Plan, as we did last year, or about the range of bylaws currently under review (see list on page 5), or your views on a particular Council activity or initiative, your voice is key to Council's decision-making and how we do things. So many decisions need community input and Council and the community need to work together on these for there to be great outcomes.

As well as growing, our district is also diversifying, as in turn are the "voices." For example, recently we formed a new community committee in Pokeno, reflecting growth and representation for that town. Our engagement with our youth (our voice of the future) has moved up a gear with Youth Action Groups formed in Huntly and Ngaruawahia, and our very first district-wide Youth Awards later this month.

Our wish to consult and engage sees staff and councillors out in the community regularly, whether at a local community market day, drop-in session, or more formal meeting, chatting about what's happening or coming up for various communities.

These along with daily interactions with councillors or "Council" at building and construction sites, your local library, office, marae, animal pound, civil defence group, or in our increasing online environment, all add to the rich dialogue that supports good decision-making for our collective futures.

It is part of life that not all decisions or activities will be popular; the important thing is to take the opportunity to contribute. I urge you to take those opportunities.

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council



Celebrating youth

With more than 13,000 youth in our district – a fifth of the total population – it's time to recognise the outstanding contribution and achievements they make.

This year we have introduced Waikato district's very first Youth Awards. A ceremony to recognise and celebrate young people who are making significant contributions in our community will be held on 27 May.

"It's a way of showing that we value their efforts, initiative, commitment and hard work," says Youth Engagement Advisor, Shannon Kelly.

The Waikato District Youth Awards have come to fruition as part of the Waikato District Council's Youth Engagement Plan (YEP). YEP is a guide to help young people have a voice in their community. It's about helping youth acquire leadership skills and encouraging them to be actively engaged in community issues.

The Waikato District Youth Awards are made possible thanks to funding the Council has received from the Ministry for Youth Development.

Anzac Day

Anzac Day was commemorated throughout the district.



We hope you were able to get to a service on 25 April to remember our fallen. A popular sight in our district is the white crosses along Great South Road in Ngaruawahia. Here they are pictured in early April.

Annual Plan

Since we've recently talked to you about what you want in your district as part of the Long Term Plan consultation process in 2015 – and because nothing has changed – we won't be undertaking formal community consultation or holding hearings on the Annual Plan this year.

However, we'll still be out talking to you about what's happening. We'll still prepare an Annual Plan but we won't be preparing a consultation document. This allows us to focus on these Long Term Plan projects.

It also allows us to have better, localised engagement with communities on projects that affect them. For specific information about what's happening in your area, please see our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/annualplan You can also check out our rates calculator to see the impact on your rates.

If you are interested in seeking funding for community projects, you can find information about the various sources on the community funding page: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding

Food Act 2014 changes

There is a new law for all businesses that sell food.

The new Food Act, which came into effect in March, takes a new approach to managing food safety.

It has moved from a 'one-size-fits-all' approach to one that regulates businesses according to risk. The new law applies to any businesses that make, sell, grow or transport food commercially. This includes those who serve food as part of their business, like education providers or care homes, restaurants, dairies, market stalls, or internet cake sellers.

It offers businesses greater flexibility. People can sell food they have made at home, for example, but must meet the same food safety standards as other businesses.

For more information, visit www.mpi.govt.nz/foodact and use the 'Where do I fit?' tool to see how the new law applies to you.



New Pokeno Community Committee elected

At a meeting on 12 April, Pokeno residents elected their first representatives on a new Community Committee for the township and surrounding district.

This establishment reflects the rapid development of the township that has seen the population of Pokeno village grow from 500 in 2011 to 1,500 today. This growth has happened faster than anyone dreamed and is expected to take the village to 6,000 or more in the next 10-15 years.

Waikato District Council's General Manager Strategy and Support, Tony Whittaker, says, "Pokeno is growing rapidly, and the Council needs to work closely with the community as we plan for the infrastructure that will be needed now and in the future.

"We are delighted at the interest shown by members of the community, and their commitment to being involved in the future of Pokeno. "The new Community Committee will play a vital role in that process and in the way that Pokeno continues to develop as an attractive place to live, play and work."

Twelve committee members were elected for a three-year term, from 22 nominations. They will appoint a chairperson to lead them at their first meeting in May.

The new Pokeno Community Committee members are, from left:

Charles Hackett, Tricia Graham, Todd Miller, Janet McRobbie, Paul Heta, Helen Clotworthy, Wayne Rodgers, Ric Odom, Kris Hines, Lance Straker, Morris Roberts and Doug Rowe (not pictured). They are pictured with Mayor Allan Sanson (right).



Greenspace



The stats

- 64% of what we throw away doesn't need to go into landfill
- 22% is recyclable, 37% is food waste and 5% is garden waste, which can be put to a better use, such as composting
- Recycling one tonne of paper saves 17 trees and 7500 litres of water
- Each tree provides an estimated \$10 savings in annual environmental benefits, including energy conservation and reduced pollution.

For more information on the upcoming changes visit www.lesswastesavesmore.co.nz

New services working towards zero waste

We're making changes to our refuse and recycling services in order to reduce our waste and make our district an even better place to live.

These new services are the result of the Long Term Plan outcome and are focused around the need to reduce waste going to landfill.

North Waikato and Central service areas will receive a weekly refuse collection of bags with pre-paid stickers RRP of \$1.50 each to be used on each bag. The bags can be up to 60 litres and weigh up to 20 kilograms Council will be supplying an additional crate to current recycling service areas and two crates for the new north Waikato service area that will start from 1 July.

Tuakau wheelie bins will now be collected on a 'pay per lift' basis using a \$3.00 pre-paid tag as well as the additional recycling crate. Council will also introduce a new inorganic collection phone-in service across the central and north Waikato district to replace the variety of systems that currently exist.

Raglan will continue with their pre-paid bag service with the addition of a kerbside food waste service beginning in March 2017.

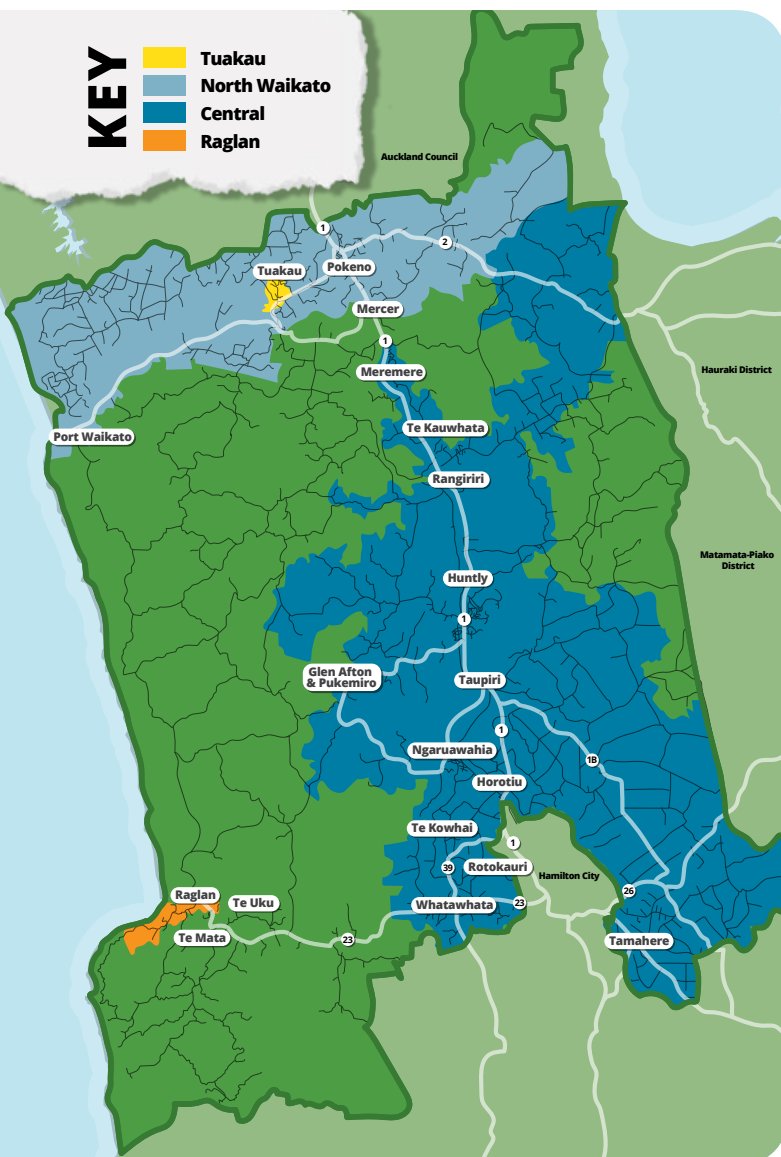
From 1 July, the less refuse you put out, the more money you will save. This is the fairest and most cost-effective way to encourage people to minimise their waste.

For most ratepayers, there will be a reduction in your targeted rates. There are also indirect savings we will all benefit from. Less waste means less money has to be spent conserving and cleaning up our waterways, dealing with climate change impacts and replacing the valuable services our land and forests provide.

Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson says Council knows people are becoming more aware of how important it is to reduce their waste, recycle and find better ways to reuse items they no longer need.

"As a district we need to make sure we keep working to improve our waste management and to manage ours and others' waste in a way that will reduce the total cost to our community.

"To achieve this we all need to make less waste."



Sunset Beach report to be released

Port Waikato's Sunset Beach has seen erosion that could soon pose a risk to the adjacent car park and hall.

Waikato District Council has to date worked with the community, the Department of Conservation and the Waikato Regional Council to decide what to do with public assets being affected by erosion at Sunset Beach.

A report was released in October 2015 which outlined issues and options for the beach.

Following public engagement and feedback in 2015 and 2016, all are agreed that a planned retreat of public assets from erosion is the suitable response and the community has identified where it would like to see assets move to if erosion necessitates this.

Feedback over the new year on the preferences for car parking and hall location as part of any retreat at Sunset Beach has now been collected.

Around 100 submissions were made to the submission website and on the open day, indicating that people who live or visit Sunset Beach want to be part of the forward planning for public assets.

All of this feedback was collated and presented to Council in a report in early May. It will be released to stakeholders including tangata whenua and the public shortly. The report will highlight the most popular options and outline the recommendations for the retreat of assets if erosion affects the car park and hall.

Early indications are that people would most like the assets to stay at the current Sunset Beach car park location and if that is no longer feasible to move to the rugby grounds.

The report will explore these options in more detail and include a recommendation for car parking and location of the hall.



What's happening next?

- As always the Council will continue to monitor hazards from any continued erosion and will aim to provide safe access to the beach as feasible.
- The local beach care group is working with the community and Council to install some signage to keep people off the dunes.
- The Sunset Beach feedback report will be made public shortly.

Stay updated

www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil

sunset@waidc.govt.nz

Have your say

Council has been spending a lot of time consulting across the district on a number of policies, bylaws and plans over the past two months. Have you had your say?

A number of consultations close shortly. These include:

- **Reserves and Beaches**

Reserves and Beaches Bylaw will enable Council to manage certain activities and hazards such as litter and pollution, animals, vehicles, property damage, public disturbance and fire arms and weapons along with commercial activities on reserves and beaches administered by Council.

- **Cemeteries**

The proposed Cemeteries Bylaw will ensure a consistent management and operational approach across all 22 Council-managed cemeteries across the district.

- **Freedom Camping**

The proposed Freedom Camping Bylaw, under the Freedom Camping Act 2011, will enable Council to restrict or prohibit freedom camping in certain areas.

- **Trade Waste**

A combined wastewater and trade waste bylaw is considered Council's best option to provide a consistent and fair approach for all discharges into the wastewater system.

For more information, see www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/your-council/plans-policies-and-bylaws/bylaws



Te Kauwhata Community Committee members Heather Dillon, Councillor Jan Sedgwick, Toni Grace (chair), Doug Boyde, Len Wilson, Barry Weaver and Jo Clegg.



Matangi Community Committee chair Graham Membery, member Christine Miller and Councillor Rob McGuire.

New community signs

An initiative by local residents to replace an old and outdated village information sign in Matangi, south of Hamilton, has paid dividends for several towns across the Waikato district.

As part of a wider signage policy for public places, including parks and reserves, Waikato District Council has worked with local Community Boards and Committees to erect signs in Matangi, Taupiri and Te Kauwhata. This will help improve the experience for casual visitors to parts of the district not served by local iSites.

The signs feature heritage sites and visitor amenities and provide carefully-researched historical background, including information about local iwi. There is also room for the addition of Quick Response (QR) codes on the signs which can direct visitors using smart phones to more information about local businesses or schools.

For example, the new sign opposite the Matangi 4-Square and near the gates of the historic Matangi Dairy Factory, established in 1885 and now home to about 30 local businesses, tells the story of the key role the dairy factory played in the development of international companies Fonterra and Glaxo Smith Klein.

Matangi Community Committee member Kitty Burton was instrumental in helping get the first new sign erected. "It also helps reflect local community initiatives that,

over the years, have built our community, and given it a heart and a sense of pride," she says. Waikato District Council is looking to put up more visitor signs in the district over time, and has already begun discussing the possibilities of one in Ngaruawahia with the Ngaruawahia Community Board.



Taupiri Community Board members, Councillor Janet Gibb, Julie Ross, Elva Gouk, chair Ken Clewlow, Councillor Moera Solomon, Kate Kohu and Howard Lovell.

Huntly Hall update

A large group of passionate locals turned out to the Huntly War Memorial Hall open day on 2 April.

The day was organised by Waikato District Council and took place at the Huntly Bowling Club with the aim of hearing how locals would want the Huntly War Memorial Hall site used in the future.

Members of the public were invited to call in and see staff and councillors throughout the day to give their feedback.

A range of questions were asked of both councillors and staff, which was fantastic for Council to see.

In total, around 100 – 110 members of the public attended the open day.

Council appreciated hearing from the Huntly community on how they would like to see the space used in the future. Staff also took the opportunity to discuss with the public community facility needs as a whole. The next step in this journey is to collate the information and report back to Council and the community.



Aubrey Panis and Debbie Phillips-Morgan from Raglan Surf Life Saving Club are presented with the funds by Chrissy King from Raglan Library and Councillor Clint Baddeley.

Casual clothes to benefit our community

Have you seen our staff wearing casual clothing?

On the last Friday of the month, Council staff wear casual clothes and bring a gold coin for a charity in our district. A different charity is chosen each month.

February's charity was Raglan Surf Life Saving Club. In March, the Ngaruawahia Community Care and Crisis Support Trust was chosen, so instead of a coin staff brought items of food to give to the foodbank.

We love to support our communities and will continue to hold our Coin for a Cause Casual Fridays each month.

New artwork at Tuakau Library

A mural created by seven Year 9 and Year 10 Onewhero Area School students has been displayed in the Tuakau Library entrance, as part of an initiative to tell the Waikato story and the history of the area.

"We wanted to enhance the library's interior and to create a warm, welcoming environment that reflects the local community and its history," says Angela Parquist, Waikato District Council Customer Delivery Manager. "We feel very excited and privileged to have local students design artwork for our library and to create a more inviting atmosphere."

Charles Jordan, a local artist and Onewhero Area School art teacher, welcomed the opportunity to work with some of his students to create a mural for the library. The mural portrays the journey of the Tainui waka across the Pacific, from Polynesia to the shores of Aotearoa, and finally leading to the first Maaori settlements on the river, and the final resting place of the waka at Kawhia.



Just Briefly



Dog registrations are due soon

If you are the owner of a dog, you'll be receiving your yearly registration notice about now.

Your payment is due by 20 July. If you pay online prior to 20 July you will be put in the draw to win a prize pack valued at \$250. You'll find more information with your registration notice. Registering your dog is really important. If your dog ever goes missing, registration drastically improves your chances of getting them back. Registering your dog is also the law and a portion of your dog registration goes towards dog education in schools and delivering dog control services across the district.

Library tablets

Raglan Library now has tablets. The new tablets are in addition to the computers already available at the Raglan Library.

Council also introduced the tablets to Te Kauwhata Library earlier this year. We're hoping to introduce them into the other Waikato district libraries later this year.

The tablets have been loaded with selected applications (apps) including TED talks, Khan Academy and the New Zealand Herald. "We are excited to be able to offer this new self-led learning service," says Sue Duignan, Customer Support General Manager. "Our libraries play an important part in education and learning."

Pensioner units

Did you know Council manage pensioner units in Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Tuakau?

These one-bedroom units are safe, low-maintenance and affordable. Does this sound like something you or a loved one would be interested in? For more information phone **0800 492 452** or visit our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/housingforelderly



Gypsy day is fast approaching

For many in the dairy industry 1 June means one thing – time to move.

As the new season starts around the country, thousands of sharemilkers pack their cows into stock trucks and move equipment and families to new farms. It is a familiar sight which sums up the traditional path of progression in New Zealand's dairy industry. It is also a timely reminder to keep an eye out for these trucks and equipment being moved on our roads.

Council meetings

Did you know we have meeting calendars available online so you can check out what the year ahead holds? The calendars include committee/community board meetings, mayoral workshops and Extraordinary meetings.

[www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Your-Council/Meetings-\(1\).aspx](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Your-Council/Meetings-(1).aspx)

Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 11 – 15 July. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waide.govt.nz with address details by 20 July so we can look into the non-delivery. Please note: If you have 'No Junk Mail' on your mailbox we can't deliver the newsletter.

Got a question about Council business

/WaikatoDistrictCouncil



twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict



www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz



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Te Kauwhata Office

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Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office

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