

August | Here Turi Kookaa
Aakuhata 2019

LINK TE HONONGA

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS
NGAA PAANUI O TE TAKIWAA
O WAIKATO



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Our Animal Control Officers don't just work with dogs! Here are three of them rescuing a cow from a stream.

COW RESCUE PART OF THEIR JOB

Members of our Animal Control team recently rescued a cow stuck in a stream and it was wonderful to receive this email from the cow's owner:

“ Just wanted to send a brief e-mail to you both, simply to let you know your Animal Control team is awesome. On Friday afternoon a passing motorist noticed one of the heifers I graze was in a small stream just beside Ngaruawahia Road, and informed Animal Control. By the time I got there, probably an hour or so later, the heifer was back up on dry land, covered in blankets, with the team standing by, shielding the shivering animal with umbrellas. From what they told me, before even worrying about trying to track down who the owner was, 5 of them man and women handled the approx. 350kg heifer out of the stream. And while the stream isn't wide (only 1m or so) it is quite deep, so all the crew were wet up to at least their waists. Getting her out of the stream would not have been an easy job at all.

I recognise that the job your Animal Control team do isn't an easy or glamorous one, and probably doesn't get as much positive recognition from the general public that it should. However, I was completely overwhelmed by the devotion the team showed to the animal, firstly the hard physical work getting it out of the stream, then doing their best to get some warmth back into the heifer, and finally tracking me down and staying with her until I arrived – despite, no doubt, being cold and tired themselves. Not only that but after I finally got there, two of the team came back 90 minutes or so later at the end of their working day to see how the heifer was again to offer their help if it was required.

All in all, a truly impressive performance by the team. You have a great crew there. And while we will definitely be taking back the blankets they left with us (freshly laundered of course!) and will also attempt to show our gratitude by taken them in a cake, I also thought it was worth bringing their acts to your attention. They are a wonderful team, and fully deserve a large pat on the back for their efforts on Friday. I absolutely consider what they did devotion above and beyond. ”

Continued on page 2

USING HAMILTON'S LIBRARIES

People living in the zone immediately around Hamilton can use Hamilton's libraries for free.



To see if you are in the zone please check out the list of streets on our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/using-other-libraries. You'll also find information here about how to get your free membership.

This is part of an agreement until 1 July 2021 and covers approximately 8,000 Waikato District households in the southern area of Waikato District; a total of around 23,000 people.

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Do you know what our Animal Control Team do?

Waikato District Council's Animal Control team work hard to educate the public about dogs and how to be a good dog owner. As well as speaking at schools as part of the Dog Smart programme, they also have a Dogs in Libraries programme where people can go and read to one of our friendly dogs.

They rescue and rehome dogs that are unclaimed or surrendered, to give them a second chance with responsible dog owners. This sees them working closely with a number of Animal Rescue organisations.

They also keep people safe by managing and controlling dogs and livestock in the Waikato district – anything from goats, pigs and cows!

Interested in a career in Animal Control?

Our Animal Control Education and Engagement Officer features on the Future Force website: futureforce.nz. To find her story just search for 'Zoey'.

The FutureForce website has dozens of inspiring stories about young people successfully navigating the world of work.

TOP 5

With plastic free July over for another year and the supply of single-use plastic bags not available now that the ban is in place, here are a few ways to put out your paper and card for kerbside collection.

1

Don't squish your cereal boxes. Stuff your paper and card into them and pop them next to your recycling crate. Tissue boxes are also handy for this.

2

Tie your paper and card with string. Don't forget, your paper and card can't be bigger than 50cm x 50cm x 50cm.

3

Put your paper and card in a brown paper bag and place it next to your crate.

4

Keep those boxes you get when you buy something online – as long as it's not bigger than 50cm x 50cm x 50cm it can be used to put your paper and cardboard in. Place it next to your crate, making sure the paper and card can't be blown away, and it will be collected.

5

Don't forget to keep your paper and cardboard separate from your plastics. You shouldn't put your paper or cardboard in a recycling crate – it won't get collected.

A photograph of an older couple, Cheryl and Alec Delate, standing outdoors in a grassy area with trees in the background. They are both smiling and holding up their new New Zealand passports. The passports are dark blue with the New Zealand coat of arms and the text 'NEW ZEALAND PASSPORT', 'URUWHENUA', and 'AOTEAROA'.

WAIKATO OFFERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOUTH AFRICAN COUPLE

Cheryl and Alec Delate are very proud of their new Kiwi passports.

It's not a secret that the Waikato district is one of the fastest growing districts in the country. We know this first hand because we see the growing number of individuals, couples and families coming from all parts of the world to call this place home.

Waikato District Council is proud to run a number of citizenship ceremonies each year. A citizenship ceremony is where new Kiwis officially become New Zealand citizens.

These new citizens come from a wide variety of nationalities from all over the world, but South Africans do seem to be particularly drawn to the beauty of the Waikato district. The most recent ceremony in June saw a record number of South Africans become Kiwis.

Cheryl and Alec Delate from Te Kauwhata were one such couple.

"New Zealand was the only country where we felt we had a hope and a future," the couple said.

"We arrived in New Zealand in November 2009 after a truckload of paperwork, a cleaned out bank account but a container load of blessings to come in New Zealand.

"It was not easy at all leaving our only son and his wife, but we simply needed to leave to find a better life."

"Alec was the principle applicant. He was 62 at the time and was on the short-skilled list, being an electrician. Immigration New Zealand advised he would need to come on a business work visa for two years with no guarantee that we would get permanent residency. We decided to live in Hamilton (at the time Hamilton was still growing). We wanted to avoid the Auckland traffic – Alec would be doing a lot of travelling. We really couldn't face the madness like what was on the road back in South Africa again.

"Making the decision to become citizens involved a lot of mixed feelings. One's roots will always remain with you. Deciding to leave our child and friends was the hardest thing we have ever done. Not forgetting too, the beauty South Africa holds in its countryside, mountains and beaches.

"We arrived here with a 'can-do' attitude and knew there was no turning back. We had burnt all our bridges. This was for keeps. Our friends reminded us that South Africa's loss was New Zealand's gain.

"The citizenship ceremony in June was well organised. We felt warmly welcomed. It was very emotional when we realised we now belonged. We were told: 'New Zealand isn't just your home, but your country now. When you have worked hard with honesty and integrity, been an asset to the community then you have earned your New Zealand passport.

"A New Zealand passport is a strong and acceptable passport all over the world. We had earned it and do not take it for granted. We are here, against all the odds.

"Thank you New Zealand – especially to the Waikato district – for welcoming us and making us feel that we belong."

Some of the nationalities that have been involved in our citizenship ceremonies include:

Filipino, British, American, Australian, Dutch, Sri Lankan, Czech, Russian, Bolivian, Korean, Chinese, Danish, Columbian.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE ENROLLED TO VOTE



Local government elections matter! They are your opportunity to make change in your community.

Nominations have now closed. There are now a group of people who have put their hand up to represent you. Your job is now to vote for the people or person you think will do the best job and represent our collective interests.

Remember, the people elected will be representing you, your whanau, your hapu, your town, your rohe. So the question you need to ask yourself is – are they the best person to develop and nurture your community?

Elected members are accountable to every person who votes. So when you vote you're being accountable for what happens in your community. If you feel your community gets passed over for things it needs, then it's time to speak up.

A full list of those who are nominated can be found at www.votewaikato.co.nz/candidates

If you enrolled by 16 August, you'll receive voting papers in the mail between 20-25 September. If you haven't enrolled then don't panic, you can vote, it will just have to be a special vote.

Remember, your vote is your voice. So, when you vote you are telling elected members how you feel about issues important to you.

The Council's Pre-Election report is available at www.votewaikato.co.nz. This report gives you information about what Council plans to do through to 2022 as well as its financial position. Use it as a tool to help you decide who to vote for.

It's your future – are you prepared to leave that to chance?

2019 Election Day

The 2019 election day is on Saturday 12 October 2019. Voting documents will be delivered between 20 – 25 September.

How to enrol:

To vote in the 2019 Election you need to be enrolled to vote by Friday 11 October 2019, the day before Election Day.

Everything you need to know about enrolling to vote, especially if you need to cast a special vote, is available at votewaikato.co.nz.

Resident ratepayer electoral roll

If you are a resident in the Waikato District area and already enrolled on the parliamentary electoral roll for the general election, you are automatically enrolled to vote in the 2019 Waikato District elections - as long as you do not change address within that time.

If you are not on the parliamentary electoral roll in the Waikato District area and want to enrol, or if you're not sure if you're enrolled and want to check, visit elections.org.nz or call 0800 36 76 56.

Non-resident ratepayer electoral roll

If you pay rates on a property in a different area to where you live, you may be eligible to enrol on the non-resident ratepayer electoral roll. A company or society that pays property rates can also qualify as a ratepayers elector. To enquire in either of these instances, call the Electoral Office on 0800 922 822.

Find out more at votewaikato.co.nz.



BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE WAIKATO

E Mauria mai ana te Ao ki Waikato

Glynn Mason

Bringing the world to the Waikato is a feature that tells us a little more about Waikato District Council staff who are from around the world.

Name: Glynn Mason

Job title: Innovation & Risk Team Lead

Country of origin and how long you lived there: United Kingdom (England to be precise) and I lived there for 35 years before moving to NZ.

How long have you been in NZ? I have been in NZ for 11 years now.

What do you love about the Waikato District? I like where it is placed, with great access to beaches on the East and West Coast, Auckland to the North, and Rotorua, Taupo and the Mountains to the South. This makes the Waikato a great place to explore and enjoy all what NZ can offer all within a couple of hours drive through beautiful countryside. I also love the people in the Waikato District. There is a sense of pride and a hard-work mentality that reminds me of Manchester and the North-West of England where I come from.

What is the biggest difference between life in New Zealand and life in your country of origin? There's a few. For me it's mainly national infrastructure like roads and rail, and I do understand the UK has the population mass to perhaps invest

more in these things to make travel easier and offer more choices to get around. Oh, and the price of flights. Leaving NZ to fly anywhere is not cheap! The weather is also better here in NZ. Five months of summer vs maybe 2 in the UK! And football vs rugby... In the UK football is much more popular (I won't mention the cricket). And the mountain-biking is much better here in NZ...



Innovation and Risk Team Lead Glynn Mason has lived in New Zealand for 11 years.

What do you miss most

about home? Well, for me and my family now NZ is our home. We've lived here for 11 years now and became citizens last year and we've made many good friends and embraced NZ culture. We see ourselves as NZ'ers with 'Mancunian' roots. If you ask me what I miss about the UK? Not a lot apart from cheap flights, better travel choices, football banter with my mates, my mates/family (obviously) and a decent bacon butty (aka sandwich) from a local cafe!

What's one thing about life in your home country that most New Zealanders would not know about?

Contrary to popular belief it doesn't rain all the time in the UK even though it may feel like it.

You need to convince someone to go on holiday to your country of origin. What do you say?

There is more to the UK than London. The UK has some beautiful countryside to be explored and many of the cities in the North are welcoming, friendly, and offer heaps of history and culture different to the capital. I'd also say the UK is a bit like the Waikato. It's a great base to explore surrounding countries (or regions in the case of the Waikato) and grab some cheap flights to other places in Europe.



THIS IS WHAT I DO

Anei taku Mahi

Jenna Smith

This is what I do is a feature that tells us a little more about Waikato District Council staff and what they do.

Name: Jenna Smith

Family: Married with 5 kids aged between 21 and 11, 1 granddaughter who is 7 months old

Role: Customer Delivery Officer, primarily based in Ngaruawahia Office and Library

How long have you worked for Waikato District Council? 15 years

What does your role involve? All aspects of the customer experience role in both our libraries and council services. We are here to serve our customers and community, to understand their needs and ensure that they are met. If we can't meet the need in the first instance our job is to find the person and avenue that can.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your role? It's sounds cliché but it really is when you see a satisfied customer. We have such a diverse range of customers with various needs from library patrons trying to find a piece of information, to a rate payer building a house, to the resident who just wants their dog-that-did-a-runner back from the pound. Some are simple queries but many are quite complex and can be of a sensitive nature. We often become the advocate for our customers by looking for and finding a positive outcome. To us it might just be a simple task but to the customer it could be something that really affects their day to day life.

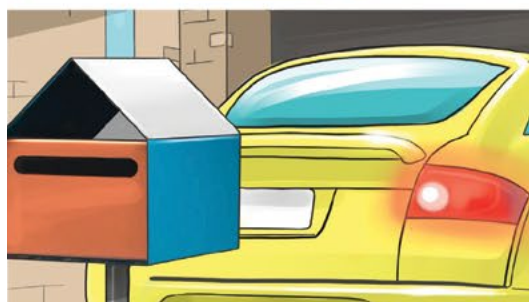
What's the most challenging aspect of your role? Not taking irate customers personally and still treating them with respect and compassion.

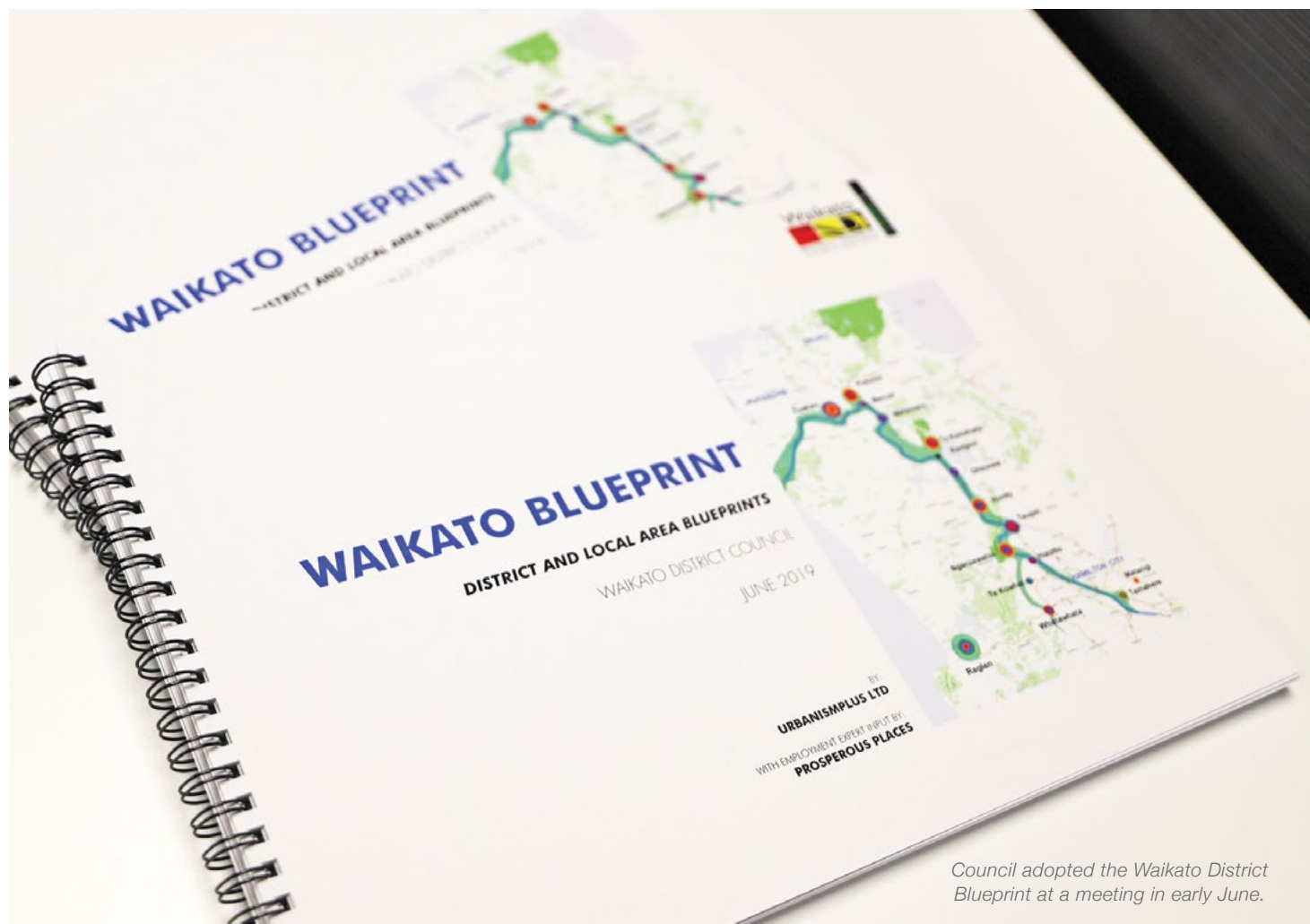
Tell us something about your role that most people won't know about:

Customer Delivery is an integrated team trained in both library and council services and we often help out at other sites across the district including our amazing contact centre who provide the same fabulous service to customers who enquire by phone or email. Many of us also volunteer our time for Civil Defence in both training exercises and real emergencies.

Why is Waikato District Council a great place to work?

We are valued people with names and faces, not just numbers on a payroll or bums on seats. My immediate team is more of a family and we all look after each other. Council invests in their staff members and the organisation is stacked with opportunity for both personal and professional growth. They did not pay me to say this haha!





Council adopted the Waikato District Blueprint at a meeting in early June.

Council brings life to vision

We've adopted the Waikato District Blueprint!

This is a significant step towards bringing life to Council's vision of creating "Liveable, Thriving and Connected Communities" – "He noohanga aahuru, he iwi whai ora, he hāpori tuuhono tahi".

Through the adoption of such a meaningful document, we're telling the community that we want to take a new and different approach to planning.

General Manager Community Growth Clive Morgan says the intent is for the Blueprint to inform a range of Council planning and operational processes, including the Long Term Plan, reviews of district plans and strategies, and day-to-day decision making within existing programmes and budgets. "For this to occur, it was important to ensure that the Blueprint is an accurate reflection of the community's priorities."

Keeping this in mind, the drafting of the Blueprint has been a co-design approach between Council and the community, Mr Morgan says. "We've had great community support in getting the Blueprint to this stage and I want to thank the community for their input and desire to see this new vision of creating a greater Waikato district come to life."

Having a clear sense of the community's priorities will now help direct Council's resources towards the things that are really important to the community. Council will be looking for ways to support our communities to deliver on some of the initiatives highlighted in the Blueprint. It's important to realise that Council can't deliver all of the Blueprint and will be working with our communities and other agencies to bring life to this document.

In developing the Blueprint, workshops were held in 10 of the district's townships between July and November 2018. Council heard from hundreds of members of the public about what issues and ideas they had for their towns. Council then issued a draft Waikato Blueprint for consultation in March of this year. During this consultation, submitters were asked to indicate their top five district wide priorities and their top three priorities for each of the Local Area Blueprints. In total 439 submissions were received.

The implementation phase of the Blueprint has just kicked off. The first step will be implementation planning. Additional Local Area Blueprints are also planned to be developed over time.



Dirty Dog to return in 2020

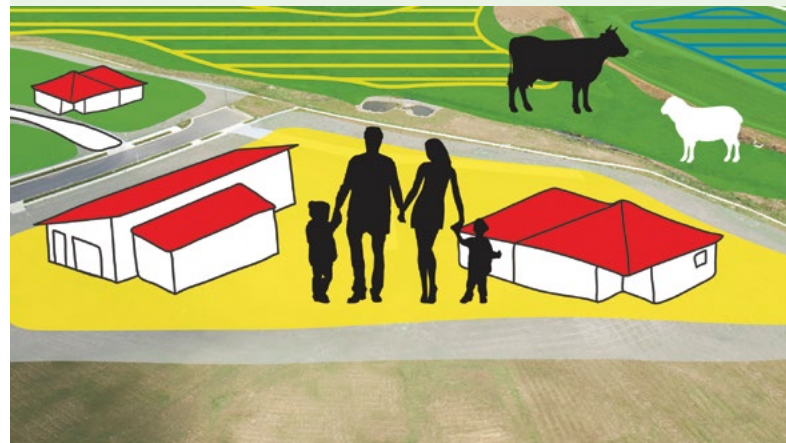
Save the date! Our popular Dirty Dog Challenge will be held on Saturday 13 June, 2020.

If you and your dog love climbing, running, going under cargo nets, over hills and through muddy ponds, then make sure you put this on your calendar.

We'll provide more information, including registration details, closer to the time.

This year's event was extremely popular with more than 300 people completing the 2.5km and 6km courses with their dogs.

The event is jointly hosted with Hamilton City Council and all profits go towards helping animals in our communities.



Further submissions close on Proposed District Plan

Further submissions have now closed on the Waikato Proposed District Plan – Stage 1 and we have received at least 300 further submissions. We are currently entering them into our system to make sure every submission and further submission is addressed through the hearing process. We are looking to begin the hearings in late September 2019 and will make a hearing schedule available shortly. The hearings schedule will identify the hearing topics, the order of hearings and some indicative dates so please keep an eye on our website for further information.



GOT A QUESTION ABOUT COUNCIL BUSINESS?

 /WaikatoDistrictCouncil

 twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict

 waikatodistrict.govt.nz

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