

February | Hui-Tanguru
Peepuere 2020

LINK TE HONONGA

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS
NGAA PAANUI O TE TAKIWAA
O WAIKATO



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New mural hopes to bring inspiration

Ngaaruawaahia's Squash Club is looking pretty flash thanks to a mural painted by Mr G.

Graham Hoete, aka "Mr G", has painted murals all around New Zealand and the world.

He was commissioned by the Ngaaruawahia Squash Club to paint one of the club's walls. He took inspiration from the book Waahia Ngaa Rua, which tells the story of how Ngaaruawaahia got its name.

"My inspiration came from the significance and back story to the naming of Ngaaruawaahia – it's a multi-layered story and each layer is quite beautiful. As an artist I thought it actually connects to the reconciliation of two tribes but it's also commemorating Hekeiterangi and Ngaere's baby, Te Mana o te Rangi. It's also a celebration - Ngaaruawaahia means "break open the food pits".

But Mr G didn't want to tell the whole story on one wall of the squash club. Instead he wanted to focus on Ngaere, who he feels is one of the main characters of the story.

"I wanted to try and portray him visually in the way that I was picking up, the type of person and chief he was. I got a picture of a Maaori kowhaiwhai design called a puhoro. The puhoro represents agility and speed. Ngaere was obviously athletic and agile so that's why I wanted to depict him in this way – how he's jumping in the air, and with the background, I've painted the sky in a way that it looks quite theatrical. It adds a lot of movement and drama, rather than just a static portrait of a face. I specialise in portraiture, but for this mural I really wanted to create something to give that immediate impact."

Mr G hopes the mural will become a focal point of the area and one day soon, he hopes to be back to paint another side of the building. "Being able to paint that story on this particular site, which is significant and connects to the story, it's a really special project".

But it's not just the work he enjoyed; Mr G also gets a kick out of inspiring our rangatahi. "For me that's the power of art, the ability to inspire, create those trigger moments for young kids."

"I love it in the small towns. I was brought up in Kawerau and Motiti Island; I can connect easily in small towns and communities because I was brought up in it as well. I've got a real heart for it."

This project was made possible by three funders – WEL Energy Trust, Waikato District Council's Creative Community Scheme and Trust Waikato.



A new mural adorns the Ngaaruawaahia Squash Club thanks to well-known artist Mr G.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first Waikato District Council Link for 2020. I hope that you all had an enjoyable break over the holidays and are entering this year refreshed. Following on from a busy 2019 we have some exciting things happening this year!

If you haven't heard the big fuss, the Huntly Expressway is now open! The 15 kilometre, four-lane highway takes State Highway 1 east of Huntly and over the Taupiri Range. Following a blessing by iwi on Friday 14 February the expressway was opened to the public for a one-off "Expressway Classic" where the public ran and walked the fresh asphalt before opening the lanes to vehicles that afternoon.

Another exciting project that will bring us efficient travel times – and greater choice – is the Hamilton to Auckland start-up rail service. For those that live in and around Huntly, you may have heard about the refurbishment of the Huntly station. With the service start date set for the middle of 2020, we can look forward to a four carriage train equipped with a café, wifi, usb ports and plenty of tables to allow for a productive working space. If travelling from Huntly, it will take about an hour to get to Papakura and a further hour to arrive at Britomart in Auckland central.

District Plan Hearings will be taking place throughout the year on a range of topics concerning the rules for how the district's land can be used, developed and subdivided. It is estimated that the District Plan will take effect in July 2021. The other large planning project that is taking place is our Long Term Plan which we do every three years and sets the direction of the district for the next 10 years. The Long Term Plan describes our activities across the district and how the activities will be delivered and funded.

In 2019 it was decided that we would make a change to our main Council Committees and that Maangai Maaori (the voice of the Maaori) would be introduced to the Strategy & Finance, Infrastructure and Policy & Regulatory committees. The positions, which are governance roles with voting and speaking rights, were advertised over the New Year and the successful candidates will work alongside Councillors to provide deeper iwi/Maaori perspective to Council decision-making and an even deeper connection to our Maaori communities. We welcome these new roles and the successful candidates warmly.

Mayor Allan Sanson



Simple ways to reduce your water bill this summer

Water use tends to go up in the summer but your bill doesn't have to if you follow these simple water saving tips.

Outdoors & Garden

- Water your garden early in the morning or later in the evening to reduce water loss to evaporation.
- Drip line irrigation and soaker hoses are two of the best ways to water shrubs, plants and vegetables, as they water the root zone directly. Sprinklers can lose a lot of water to evaporation and runoff.
- If you have a permanent or temporary pool – always use a cover. A 12ft uncovered pool loses on average 53 litres a day. An uncovered 4mx8m pool loses on average 160 litres a day. Covers are available for all Bestway pop-up pools and can be found in the pool accessories section. They cost between \$20-30. Not only will you reduce water loss but your pool water will stay warmer and will be protected from insects, bird droppings & leaves.
- Kids love to play with water. Check out some water play ideas that use less water at smartwater.org.nz/tips For example, instead of using water balloons, try making sponge water bombs. They're great fun for all ages, use less water and can be reused over and over.

Shower

- Every minute you cut in the shower will save you an average of 12 litres – that's 84 litres a week for one person and 336 litres a week for a family of four.

Check for leaks

- Fixing leaks can help save up to 500 litres a day.

For more water saving tips visit www.smartwater.org.nz

Play your part – we value water in the Waikato.

TAKE YOUR DOG FOR A DIP



You're invited to bring your dog along for a swim when we close our pools for winter.

The Waikato Pound Pups pool party will be held at at Ngaruwahia Pool on Sunday 29 March and at Tuakau Centennial Pool on Saturday 4 April. Both events will be held from 11am to 2pm and the cost is \$5 per dog. There will also be a bbq and a raffle. (Please note that the event is cash only. We will not have eftpos facilities available.)

The first half an hour is for small dogs or dogs that are a bit more nervous in the water. At 11.30am all other dogs are welcome to get in the water. All dogs must be fully vaccinated, in good health and well socialised with people and other dogs.

This is the third year we've held the Pound Pups Pool Party events. Money from this year's events will be given to Tokoroa Animal Rescue and the Humane Society of New Zealand. These charities help us to re-home dogs from the Pound and without their help we wouldn't be able to re-home as many as we do.



**Both events will be listed on our Pound Pups Facebook page closer to the time:
@WaikatoPoundPups**

THIS IS WHAT I DO

Anei taku Mahi

Crystal Aroha Walker

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

Name: Crystal Aroha Walker

Role: Monitoring Officer, based in Tuakau

How long have you worked for Waikato District Council?
6 months – still fresh!

What does your role involve?

I work within the Regulatory team at Council. This includes – Monitoring officers, animal control, environmental health (noise control), parking and freedom camping enforcers and ambassadors. Our roles are to educate, regulate and enforce the laws set out under the RMA (Resource Management Act 1991) and the district plan rules and bylaws. The way I like to see it is I am an officer of the 'environmental protection' law.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your role? This role challenges me daily. I love to communicate, I believe there is no problem that cannot be resolved in a fair and lawful way when there is open communication and an understanding of the diversity within our district. I love our native environment and our unique country, I'm passionate about conservation, environmental protection and strive to promote and educate my friends, family and communities on how they can do their part to preserve our district and country – this role also allows me to fulfil that life-long goal.

What has been the most challenging aspect of your role? Confrontation. Sometimes the requirements of my role require me to deliver news that is not always well received. At times this can cause conflict and confrontation, and it's sometimes easy to take that personally, however having a good understanding of the district plan and its rules, I'm able to deflect this conflict by educating my customers on why the rules are in place. Good rules are easy to enforce!

Tell us something about your role that most people won't know about: I am not out to get you! My first priority is to inform and educate the community on what compliance requires. As a member of the community myself, I know more now about the district plan than ever before working for Waikato District Council. I like to work in a way that is approachable, open and informative, however I do take non-compliance seriously.

Why is Waikato District Council a great place to work? Waikato District Council is a council that truly believes and invests in its people. I have been here only a short time and have had the most incredible level of support and education. I am thriving in this working environment and in return offer Council the best version of myself – and they still want me here!



Crystal has only worked at Council for six months – but she loves it!

BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE WAIKATO

E Mauria mai ana te Ao ki Waikato

Harsh Singh Garcha

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: Harsh Singh Garcha

Job title: Management Accountant

Country of origin and how long you lived there: I lived in India for almost 21 years before immigrating to this beautiful country.

How long have you been in NZ? I have been living in New Zealand for the last 5 years.

What do you love about the Waikato district? Being an outdoor person, I love the range of outdoor activities this mighty district provides, especially the Hakarimata Summit hiking track, stunning views of Bridal Veil waterfall and Raglan Beach where I spend most of my leisure time.

What is the biggest difference between life in New Zealand and life in your country of origin? I found that life in New Zealand is more relaxed, clean & green compared to India. Having said that, I also believe that people in India are connected and culturally wealthy due to diversity in its traditions, rituals and authentic cuisines.

What do you miss most about home? Even though I am grown-up, I still miss my whanau the most, especially the Indian food cooked by my mum, dad's jokes and watching grandma's knitting & crochet artwork. Anyway, nothing can replace the festive vibes in traditional attire & time spent with near and dears in homeland!

What's one thing about life in your home country that most New Zealanders would not know about? Life in India can be joyous, tough, colourful, stressful, chaotic but never boring. That's the reason I am very proud of my upbringing in India. Even though India is the birthplace of the world's four major religions with 22 official languages, Indians are all connected by patriotism for our motherland.

You need to convince someone to go on holiday to your country of origin. What do you say? India is a must-visit bucket-list country for someone who wants to explore vibrant festivals of different types and delicious cuisines, loves traditional Indian colourful clothes and its rich culture & heritage. Apart from this, India is the birthplace of yoga and has 35 world heritage sites including the world-famous Taj Mahal. No wonder, it's known as Incredible India!





THIS IS WHO I AM

Ko wai au

Chris Woolerton

*This is who I am is a feature that tells us
a little bit more about our elected members.*

Ward: Hukanui-Waerenga

Family: I've been married to Susan for 26 years and we have 4 children, of which 2 are still at secondary school.

Favourite thing about Waikato district: The people; they're friendly, willing to help one another and prepared to get in and get the job done.

Biggest issue facing Waikato district in 2020: The rapid growth in our area, managing the balancing act of meeting everyone's needs today and planning for the future.

Three words to describe the Waikato district: Strong, serene and blessed.

Waikato's best kept secret: The pockets of bush/reserves and the walking/cycling trails.

Favourite holiday destination and why? The Hauraki Gulf, there are lots of places for exploration, (and at times no cell phone coverage).

Worst holiday you've ever been on and why? Any holiday is a good holiday, but I have experienced camping at the beach with 3 kids with chicken pox, not something I'd want to repeat.

If you could go to one place you've never been, where would it be and why? I'd love to go to England and Ireland to explore my heritage and make connections with distant relatives.

Worst job you've ever had: Having the floor chain break on the muck spreader and having to shovel it out on a hot day.

What annoys you the most: People talking with their mouthful.

Best film: Sci-fi movies especially with time travel.

Best thing on TV: Netflix

Worst thing on TV: Advertisements and reality TV shows.

What radio station do you listen to? I listen to podcasts.

Favourite meal: A good steak on the BBQ, followed by fresh chocolate dipped strawberries.

If you could meet any celebrity who would it be and why? King David because he was steadfast in his beliefs. He had an amazing attitude to life, no challenge was too big or too small.

Favourite sports team and why? The Whitbread ocean racing teams, for their absolute drive and dedication in the conditions they face.

You've got one day off so you..... My wife would think it's doing jobs around the house, but it would be taking the family sailing for the day.



LITTLE LIBRARIES PROJECT CELEBRATED

44 little libraries are scattered around the Waikato district.

Spring Hill Corrections Facility in Hampton Downs has been thanked for their involvement in Waikato District Council's 'little libraries' project. The placemaking project has seen a total of 44 little libraries constructed and decorated by Spring Hill prisoners.

Instructor Andrew McBean was singled out for praise thanks to his commitment and leadership throughout the project. He was recently presented with a pounamu by Community Development Adviser Lianne Van Den Bemd and a certificate of thanks signed by Mayor Allan Sanson.



Waikato District Council's Economic and Community Development Manager Julie Dolan, Community Development Adviser Lianne Van Den Bemd, Assistant Prison Director Christine Faull, Industries Manager Sean Smith and Instructor Andrew McBean.

The little libraries bring books to small communities across Waikato district's rural areas. Holding 20-30 books that can be borrowed and exchanged, each little library has been installed and kept stocked by local residents to enhance a local gathering place, to break out books in communities without public libraries, and boost residents' enjoyment of their towns and villages.

The 'little libraries' project is part of a publicly-acclaimed Waikato District Council 'Placemaking programme' designed to help communities to reclaim their public spaces with seating, planting, art installations and other projects and activities that bring people together.

Waikato District Council's Economic and Community Development Manager Julie Dolan says this project has provided an opportunity for Council and Spring Hill Corrections Facility to work together for the good of the Waikato district. "Our little libraries project has won popular support in our rural communities and will bring pleasure into many lives."

Assistant Prison Director Christine Faull says projects like these are an excellent way for the men to make a meaningful contribution to the community, while learning valuable skills for future employment. "We welcome opportunities that allow prisoners to develop their skills and to contribute back to their communities."

"The men are gaining carpentry trade skills when they design and build the little libraries, so it's a win-win for the community and the men."



Creative Communities

The latest funding round closes soon for Waikato District Council's Creative Communities Scheme. This fund is perfect for those groups or organisations in the district looking to host a creative workshop or project. Examples of creative workshops could include mosaics, poi or raranga.

Creative Communities Scheme supports creative activities across the entire district and has two funding rounds per year. The current funding round closes on Friday 28 February. Successful recipients will be notified in late April.

If you have any questions about this fund, you can email funding@waidc.govt.nz or call the Community Development Advisor on 0800 492 452.

The scheme's guidelines and application form can be found on our website, www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz.



Examples of the sort of workshops an organisation or group can put on with funding from Waikato District Council's Creative Communities Scheme.

District Plan progress

Progress continues on the preparation of a new district plan for the Waikato district. Hearings for Stage 1 of the Proposed District Plan are well underway – ten hearings have already been held. The 2020 schedule of these hearings can be found on the Council website. Although only submitters can speak at the hearings, they're open to the public so anyone is welcome to come along and listen.

Draft planning provisions for Stage 2 of the project, which will propose new rules for natural hazards, were released for consultation late last year and we received lots of positive and constructive feedback. We're looking to publically notify Stage 2 in the next few months and will hold open days around the district to explain what the hazard provisions would mean and to encourage submissions.

Hearings for Stage 1 will continue throughout 2020 and hearings for Stage 2 are expected to dovetail on the end of Stage 1. One integrated decision will be released on the Proposed District Plan and this is due in mid-2021.

Planning for our growth

Submissions on the Draft Waikato Growth and Economic Development Strategy ("Waikato 2070") closed on 24 January. We're thankful to all those who took the time to read the strategy, attend the open days, make submissions and participate in the process.

We've now reviewed the submissions and a summary of submissions, including the original submissions, are now available for public viewing on our website along with the hearings schedule.

We're looking forward to welcoming those who have asked to be heard and anyone else who would like to watch the hearings. The hearings started on Tuesday 11 February. The hearings give the submitters who wanted to speak an opportunity to provide their feedback in person to Waikato District Council elected members.

After the hearings, elected members will then make decisions on the submissions received and the strategy will be revised before being adopted by Council.

It's getting hot!

This time of year traditionally means we're in a restricted or prohibited fire season. In the past, Council has handled issuing permits during a restricted fire season, but this is now looked after by Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ). Instead of moving to a restricted fire season in early December, FENZ is being guided by the weather. This means before you light a fire, you should check out the FENZ website at checkitsalright.nz to see if you need a permit or not.

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT COUNCIL BUSINESS?

 /WaikatoDistrictCouncil

 twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict

 waikatodistrict.govt.nz

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