

LINK

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS

June – July 2016



Local artist Wayne Ross pictured with one of his Waikato swamp kauri sculptures. Two of these beautiful pieces of work were on display during Matariki in the Ngaruawahia Council office.

Matariki's stars shine at Waikato district events

The annual Waikato Matariki festival featured a variety of events and activities which marked the Maaori New Year across the region throughout June and into July. "As part of the celebrations, the Waikato District Council supported local communities to showcase our district and celebrate their place in the Waikato under the traditional Maaori framework of Matariki," Waikato District Mayor, Allan Sanson says.

"Our district is home to Waikato-Tainui and the wider Maaori community with it's rich Maaori history, culture and tradition," Mayor Sanson says. "As well as being informative and entertaining, we hope that our district's activities and events helped to educate, inform and raise awareness of the practices and traditions of Matariki locally and regionally."

Key events for the district with Council's involvement and/or support included:

- Local businesses had the opportunity to enter the Matariki menu challenge, Te Tino Reka te Kai Challenge. The Supreme Winner is decided by a panel of mystery judges and a People's Choice winner voted for by diners. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 1 August. Last year's Supreme Winner was Victoria Street Bistro, Hamilton – let's hope a district winner surfaces this time around!

- A 'suitcase' art exhibition captured a wide range of styles and materials, from artists either living locally or identifying as Waikato-Tainui. Works submitted were to be new or recent works (created within the last 12 months) and they were displayed at Council venues throughout the district.
- Two recycled Waikato swamp kauri sculptures by local artist Wayne Ross were displayed in the Council's Ngaruawahia office reception foyer and Council Chamber. The installation proved very popular, with plenty of people dropping by to view Wayne's unique pieces.
- Our district libraries' competition was well supported too. We invited people to write a short story, poem or design a book cover for prizes. Entries are displayed at each of our district libraries and prizes will be awarded to winners across the three age categories – 5-9 years old; 10-15 years old; and 16 years and over.

Matariki festival

Five key themes:

- Arts (mahi toi)
- Performance (whakangahau)
- Food (mahi kai)
- The environment (taio)
- Youth (rangitaahi)

Four core values:

- Guardianship (kaitiakitanga)
- Celebrating communities (whakawhanaunatanga)
- Sharing our world with others (manaakitanga)
- Collaboration (mahitahi)



INSIDE

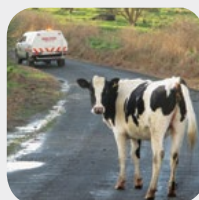
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Youth Awards celebrate our young people



The inaugural Waikato District Youth Awards have been held, with a raft of talented young people celebrated and applauded. The special event at the Hampton Downs Motorsport park on 27 May saw a total of 94 young people nominated for the awards either individually or within a group.

To be eligible for the Waikato District Youth Awards, nominees had to be aged between 12 and 24. They could be either living in, have lived in, or contributed to the Waikato district in the past 12 months. The awards were made possible courtesy of funding Council received from the Ministry of Youth Development.

Winners

- **Sass/Swag – Tia Maipi.** Tia has made a name for himself in the dance community. Huntly proud, he was part of Paris Goebel's award-winning dance group "The Palace Royal Family", and was the lead actor in New Zealand's first hip-hop movie "Born to Dance". Second place was awarded to Wednesday Gilbert from Ngaruawahia and third place went to Daniel Calder of Huntly.
- **Like a Boss – Sharnay Cocup.** Sharnay formed Taupiri's first youth group just over two years ago. Her continuing efforts have included organising a community planting day, winning a \$10,000 award for the "Lion's Den" and she's also encouraged youth involved in reconstructing Taupiri Mountain's public bush walkway. Second was presented to the group Harty Sistaz from Huntly and third place went to Elliot Baptist of Whatawhata.
- **Champion of the Earth (Environment, natural, cultural, social, urban) – Taupiri Youth Group.** This is a group of 20 youth who are carrying out reconstruction of the public bush walkway known as Taupiri Mountain. Second place went to Ellis Pike of Te Kauwhata while third place was presented to Khan Clement-Watkins of Taupiri.
- **Helping Hand – Lashon Semau.** Lashon is involved in the Tuakau Youth Centre as a volunteer. He also volunteers at the Tuakau Primary School every Tuesday and Thursday and is heavily involved as a volunteer with Tuakau Youth events. Second place went to Whetukura Huirama of Ngaruawahia and third place was presented to Antonia van den Bemd also of Ngaruawahia.
- **Kia Kaha – Shane Edwards.** Shane is a leader in the Port Waikato community and the Sunset Beach Lifeguard Service. He is the IRB coach and instructor for the region. He has trained a number of locals to become skilled as rescue boat crews and is responsible for all beach and rescue operations. Shane also drives the boat rescue service. Second place went to Ashlee Dunsmuir of Huntly and third place was presented to Georgia Raynel of Ngaruawahia.



Sharnay Cocup with her Like a Boss award.



Shane Edwards was presented the Kia Kaha trophy by Cr Jacqui Church.



The Taupiri Youth Group were winners of the Champion of the Earth category.



Tia Maipi, left, winner of the Sass/Swag category while Lashon Semau, right, was awarded the Helping Hand trophy. The pair are pictured with Mayor Allan Sanson, centre.

Reduce your waste by recycling more

We're hoping the new recycling crate/s that were delivered as part of the new refuse and recycling changes will give you more space to recycle.

Pictured is a guide that shows you what you can and can't recycle as part of the Waikato District Council* kerbside recycling collection. Studies prior to the user-pays scheme change suggested that up to 22% of what was in our refuse bags were items that could be recycled in the Council kerbside collection.

***Raglan township please note:** your recycling arrangement is slightly different, please visit www.xtremezerowaste.org.nz for more information on kerbside recycling in your town.

Want to know where to buy your stickers or for those in Tuakau, your wheelie bin tags? Visit www.lesswastesavesmore.co.nz for the most up-to-date list of stockists throughout and surrounding the district.



Council staff join wave of Civil Defence groups for Exercise Tangaroa

Tsunami will be on the agenda for Waikato District Council staff when they take part in a nation-wide Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management initiative later this year. 'Exercise Tangaroa', a simulated tsunami exercise, will be held over three days (31 August, 14 and 28 September).

The exercise is part of ongoing work which will help the Government form a response to major disasters. The learnings will also help us educate you about preparing for, and coping with, disasters. The exercise will involve a full-scale activation of New Zealand's Civil Defence and Emergency Management (CDEM) capabilities, including the national response arrangements.

Representatives from all CDEM groups including agencies with Civil Defence Emergency Management responsibilities nation-wide will take part. We expect this exercise to identify areas of strength and reveal opportunities for improvement.

"Day one will focus on testing our planning and processes for responding to an emergency like this," Local Controller Merv Balloch says. "Although we will be primarily focused

on our West Coast beaches in this exercise, we also need to consider how we can support our neighbouring councils when tsunamis impact the East Coast."

Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council and WEL Networks recently funded a tsunami study for Waikato's West Coast. The study is available online at www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/tsunami

Be prepared: Look out for our new Civil Defence and emergency handy tips feature Emerge and See in a future issue of LINK.



Local Controller Merv Balloch, in front, catches up on the situation.

Take the opportunity to shape your community



Waikato District elections take place this October. Have you considered standing for election? Or do you know someone who would make a great Mayor, Councillor or Community Board member?

By standing you have a chance to shape your community and make sure it's not overlooked.

Nominations are now open (from 15 July) and must be received by 12 noon on Friday 12 August 2016.

To be eligible to stand you:

- Must be a New Zealand citizen and your name must be on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll (anywhere in New Zealand)
- Need to have two electors registered in the area of the election you are standing for to nominate you (e.g. if you stand for the Eureka Ward, the nominators will need to be registered within that ward.)

You can stand for Mayor, as a Ward Councillor and as a Community Board member but if you are elected to more than one position you will take up the highest ranked position.

Interested? For more information visit our website www.votewaikato.co.nz

Enrol to vote

Voting is not just a right; it's an opportunity to have your say on what's important to you, your whaanau and your community.

This October is your chance to have your say on who represents your community and the Waikato district for the next three years.

Make sure you are eligible to vote (electoral rolls close on 12 August):

- Visit www.elections.org.nz to enrol or check your enrolment details
- **Freephone 0800 36 76 56**, or free-text your name and address to 3676
- Visit any PostShop for an enrolment form.

Dogs will help children develop their reading skills

We're excited to introduce our new Dogs in Libraries programme, to help children develop a love of reading.

Reading aloud is critical when children are learning but many children become self-conscious when reading in front of their peers. This programme has been designed to allow children to practice their reading skills in a relaxed, non-threatening environment.

"Research shows that sitting down and reading to a lovable, friendly dog helps a child's fear of being judged and over time their reading ability and self-confidence improves," Animal Control Team Leader, Megan May says.

"The programme has been run in other parts of New Zealand and around the world with fantastic results. It's been shown to increase a child's relaxation while reading, it's less intimidating than reading to people and it allows children to proceed at their own pace. We're extremely excited to bring this programme to the Waikato district."

The Dogs in Libraries programme uses dogs that have been trained and tested for health, safety and temperament. Library staff and a dog handler will be present at all times to help facilitate the session.

The programme is due to start shortly. Keep an eye out at your local library for more information.



Annika Te Anga reads to Holly the dog.

Special Delivery

This series outlines our services and facilities because we aim to deliver the best. Learn about what they are, what we do, how we do it and why we do it – so we can help you get the most out of them.

Animal control

You ain't heard the 'arf' of it...

Our Animal Control team carries out a wide range of activities in relation to dogs and wandering livestock in our district. There is quite a cost attached to doing this which is funded through registration payments, infringements and impounding fees. There is also a portion of this that is funded by general rates.

The work our team does takes them all over the district. From 1 July 2015 until the end of April 2016, they travelled over 236,000 kilometres carrying out their dog and livestock control work.

So what does the team do?

Our team manages dog registration, microchipping of dogs and responding to dog-related issues. We carry out dog-related property inspections, operation of two dog pounds in the district while also regularly visiting schools and community organisations to educate people about dogs. We often respond to reports of wandering livestock.

From mid last year until the end of April 2016, the team impounded 922 dogs. This is where you come in. More responsible dog owners = less dogs in our pounds. Managing and looking after impounded dogs requires a lot of our team's time and resources and it can be heart-breaking.

We do our best to re-home well-socialised dogs from our pounds if they remain unclaimed or if returning the dog to its original owner is not an option. If you are after a new family member, dogs for adoption are featured on our Pound Pups Rescue page on Facebook – or call into one of our pounds and chat to an Animal Control Officer. Despite our best efforts, our team sometimes has to make hard decisions about dogs with unresolvable issues. That can make for a really 'tough day at the office'.



Waikato District Council's Animal Control team often deal with livestock on our roads.

So what does the team not do?

The Animal Control team isn't involved in animal pest control (although they will lend you a cat trap if you need to capture a feral moggy or possum – but there are conditions you will need to comply with), nor are we the first organisation to call in relation to animal welfare issues.

- Animal pest control is handled by the Waikato Regional Council (see their website to download free fact-sheets on managing pest animals including stray and feral cats).
- While we don't ignore any animal welfare issues discovered in the course of our Animal Control work – your first port of call to report any concerns about an animal's wellbeing should be your local SPCA. We let them know if we find any of these issues too.

Dog registration, microchipping and de-sexing

- Find out how you can get a discount on your dog registration fees for being a 'good dog owner'.
- De-sex your dog, show us written proof and we'll register (or re-register it) free for a year!

We provide a wealth of information, advice and assistance free online in relation to dogs and wandering livestock too – see www.waikatodc.govt.nz/animals

On our website you can find out about:

- What you need to do as a responsible dog owner and how we can help you do this
- How you can register your dog (did you know you can do that online too?)
- How you can get your dog microchipped for \$40 through us
- Where you can exercise your dog safely at 23 dog run areas (we've got free maps online!)
- How to find our dog pounds and how to adopt a dog from us.

Need us? Just whistle!

Our Animal Control team members are happy to give you advice – **free!** Just give them a call on our **freephone 0800 492 452** if you need to discuss anything dog or livestock-related – or if you'd like copies of our recent dog registration flier. Our team is also available for emergencies after hours on the same number.

Greenspace



Brownlee Avenue carpark gets a makeover

Users of the extremely popular Hakarimata track now have access to a new toilet facility, bottle filling fountain and improved parking facilities.

The Council project at Brownlee Avenue in Ngaruawahia was completed last month and is a significant improvement on the port-a-loo and un-sealed carpark users had previously.

Along with the new toilet block, the carpark has also been sealed and marked and on-street parking has been better defined and marked out as well.

There are now 16 spaces for cars to park off the road and 17 extra "new" spaces along the road.

For cyclists, there is also a bike rack to house your wheels while you tackle the track.

"Council is very excited to be able to provide a better parking area and facilities for the growing numbers of people using this great track in our district," General Manager Service Delivery, Tim Harty says.

The completed carpark and toilet block at Brownlee Avenue.



New online services

We're expanding our online services to help make things easier for you to interact with us.

A new 'Apply for it' button on our website home page lets you apply online to pay your property and water rates by direct debit. You can also apply online for a Land Information Memorandum (LIM) report if you're interested in buying a property in the district.

The new online services area completes a 'Say it', 'Pay it', 'Request it', 'Apply for it' group of online forms and services designed to reduce paperwork and make things faster and more efficient for you in your dealings with us.

General Manager Strategy and Support, Tony Whittaker says the new 'Apply for it' facilities offer a number of online alternatives. By using the paper-based systems, you have to visit a post office or a Council office to submit an application. This service remains available should you wish to do business with us in this way.

"The new facilities have required us to obtain electronic banking security certification, so you can be assured that our website and electronic storage facilities will manage your information securely and safely," he says.

Te Reo featured on Council website

In celebration of Maaori Language Week (4-10 July), we've added Maaori translations to our website headings which help you navigate Council's website.

It's also a small first step towards recognising the value of te reo Maaori and using it in ways which will help us better reflect and engage with our community.

We also think it's a good way to help us all become more familiar with Maaori phrases and everyday Maaori terms. We hope you like it!

Tamahere reserve named after former councillor

Former Waikato District Councillor Wally Pollock was recognised and celebrated at a special ceremony on 11 June.

Last month, Mr Pollock's service to Tamahere and the entire Waikato district between 1992 and 2007 was acknowledged in the unveiling of what will now be known as the Wally Pollock Reserve in Titoki Drive, Tamahere.

Speaking to the hundred or so people at the unveiling, Mayor Allan Sanson felt the late Mr Pollock would have been wondering what all the fuss was about. "Today is a testament to the man he was. It's great we can commemorate a man who was such a gentleman and someone I remember with great fondness," he said. A large number of Mr Pollock's family were present to commemorate the occasion.

Mr Pollock's son Wilson said the site, which borders on Potuwaha Pa, is a historic treasure of great significance to the Ngati Haua iwi. "Dad believed it should be protected and shared with the local community, so he set about convincing the local estate owners of the importance of preserving it for future generations."

Mr Pollock's successor as Tamahere councillor, Wally Hayes, was also present for the unveiling and credited him with where he was today. "He changed the direction of not only my life, but many others. This is a special project for a special man and today is a special day."

Mr Pollock was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in 2005 for his services to the community and the naming of the reserve in his honour also recognises his impact on the local community, including his efforts negotiating the preservation of the historic Potuwaha Pa site.

A large number of Mr Pollock's family, including his wife Val, daughter Sally, friends and members of the Tamahere community were present at the special ceremony to unveil a sign in the re-naming of the reserve which will be enjoyed by generations to come.



Wilson Pollock, Mayor Allan Sanson, Val Pollock, Sally Pollock and Councillor Wally Hayes at the unveiling of the Wally Pollock Reserve.

Meremere's young people celebrate new skatepark

Meremere's young people have something to shout about as construction of the town's upgraded skatepark is completed.

The old skatepark was closed for around six weeks while the work was done, but boy was it worth the wait. The new and improved facility was recently finished and is already proving a hit with the locals.

Working closely with the town's young people and the Meremere Community Committee, Richard Smith of Rich Landscapes was able to design a

modern facility that ticked all the boxes. Smith, who has been a skater for more than 17 years, spent a lot of time speaking with the community about what they wanted for their space. The award-winning designer hoped the final product would be worthy of such a vibrant village.

With a look to the future, the way in which the facility has been designed

and built will allow future additions to be made. While Meremere young people are excited about their latest addition, they won't be the only town in the Waikato district to get a new skatepark.

A design has also been completed for an upgrade to Te Kauwhata's skatepark. Construction of this will take place this financial year.

Just Briefly



National library event in Raglan

Librarians from around the country visited Raglan in May to attend the annual Library and Information Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (LIANZA) gathering.

The event enabled library staff to share their knowledge and ideas. Libraries have changed a lot over the past decade and it's important for staff to stay up-to-date with new technologies. The event was also an opportunity to showcase the Raglan Library and the local community. Staff from more than 68 New Zealand libraries attended.



Tablets popular at libraries

Tablets at libraries around the Waikato district are proving popular.

Earlier this year, Council introduced tablets at Te Kauwhata and Raglan libraries. In May, a special event was held at Ngaruawahia Library to launch the tablets there too. The tablets have been loaded with selected apps including TED talks, Khan Academy and the New Zealand Herald.



Spotted illegal dumping and don't know what to do?

Council attempts to identify people who dump their rubbish.

When we obtain evidence of the dumping we can issue a fine or consider court action. If someone is caught illegally dumping they are fined \$400. If the litter is injurious to health, such as glass, syringes, spiky metal etc, then a fine of up to \$7,500 can be issued plus the cost of the rubbish removal. Any illegal dumping should be reported to Waikato District Council on **0800 492 452**.

Moving house?

We have joined the new NZ Post online change service.

You'll be able to update your details in one place and send them to organisations that you choose, like us!

Moving house?

Update your details in one place and send them to the organisations of your choice

nzpost.co.nz/change

Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 12-16 September. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waidec.govt.nz with your address details by 23 September 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

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twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict

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