



To flush or not to flush

A pair of blue underpants has shown the importance of a wastewater system public education campaign. As part of Waikato District Council's Wastewater Overflow Continual Improvement Programme, an education programme is being run in Raglan, spearheaded by Raglan Councillor Lisa Thomson and the Raglan Community Board.

This campaign will be going district-wide as Council aims to support its communities to better understand what can and can't go down the wastewater system via toilets.

A staggering 81% of wastewater overflows in the Waikato district from 2014-16 were caused by blockages. Wastewater pipes are generally only 15-20cm in diameter and are clearly not designed to carry products like wet wipes, rags, nappies or in the case mentioned above, underpants.

Cllr Thomson posted a photo on the Raglan Notice Board Facebook page last month of the underpants, which had caused a blockage. She used the post to highlight the fact that the campaign focuses specifically on only flushing the three Ps – poos, pees and paper (toilet paper) – down the toilet.

"This campaign is about being aware and taking positive action to combat

spills and overflows into our precious environment," she says. "In Raglan, any overflows can directly impact our harbour. We are unable to collect kai moana, we can't swim or do watersports and of course it has a huge impact on our business. We can all make a difference by simply following the three Ps."

Cllr Thomson has immersed herself into getting the message out there that the community can do their bit to

help reduce spills, to the extent that she has gone out with Council staff to check wastewater pump stations, which she described as a stinky and 'pooley' experience.

"I got involved because I feel a deep sense of responsibility, not only as a councillor, but as a member of the Raglan community," she says.

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This pair of underpants caused a wastewater pipe blockage in Raglan.



Mayor's Message



2017 has been a busy year so far for the Waikato District and our Council. We had a 1 in 100 year storm, in ex-Cyclone Debbie, hitting us, causing millions of dollars of damage to our infrastructure and private property.

We've been working hard over the last couple of months to fix up the remaining damage to our roads caused by slips and flooding. Council's Emergency Operations Centre has been active for more days this year than any previous year, and we're only approaching the half year point.

We really appreciated all the information and help we got from the community during the civil defence emergencies – it is a great example of Council and the community working in partnership to benefit everyone.

Right now we're in the middle of an Annual Plan process that is all about improving how we manage wastewater in our towns. We listened to our residents who told us they wanted us to do better. We've been out across the district talking with people in our affected towns (those that are connected up to the wastewater network) about what "level of service" they want and we will shortly be making a decision about how much we invest in the future.

Most Waikato district ratepayers are not affected by the Annual Plan wastewater decision as 22,000 ratepayers are on septic tanks and are not connected to a wastewater system. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve how we manage wastewater we are preparing an education campaign. Council wants to help its communities understand what can and can't go down the wastewater system via toilets.

Did you know that a staggering 81% of wastewater overflows in the Waikato district from 2014-16 were caused by blockages, with the majority of these caused by foreign objects such as wipes or nappies? Check out page 7 of Link to see an example of the education material.

As always my Council wants to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me, your ward Councillor or your local community board or committee. Contact details are on our website waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council

Pokeno project under way

Stripping topsoil ahead of pipe installation, is just one area of the work that is well under way on the Pokeno Township Wastewater Reticulation – Phase Two project. Since Fulton Hogan was announced as the contractor installing the wastewater system, the number of residents in Pokeno village signing up to the scheme doubled. Due to the Pokeno area's historical and cultural significance, Ngati Tamaoho has run a cultural induction for those involved with the project. The pipeline will be laid progressively in Pokeno township, and site specific traffic controls will be in place. The project is due to be completed by August 2017. For more information go to waikatodistrict.govt.nz/pokenowastewater



Heritage fund open now

Waikato district heritage groups have until Friday 23 June to apply for funding from the Heritage Project Fund for projects that support the Waikato District Heritage Strategy. This is the second of three rounds for funding applications each year. In the last round, five groups were awarded more than \$21,000 for heritage projects.

Mai Uenuku ki te Whenua Marae was awarded \$5,000 towards developing an illustrated educational book about Ngaere, a prominent Waikato chief of the late 1600s. The book will tell the story of how the names for Ngaruawahia and Hakerimata came from Ngaere, and how local landmarks are significant to the history of Ngaruawahia.

The Tuakau & Districts Museum Society was awarded \$10,000 towards the cost of restoring the exterior of the Tuakau Museum building, the Raglan & Districts Museum Society was awarded \$4,522 for historical information signs, Franklin Heritage Forum was awarded \$551 to produce 500 copies of a resource booklet for distribution to libraries and other outlets, and the Eureka/Tamahere Heritage Group was awarded \$955 to administer and maintain a heritage website and to purchase a digital voice recorder.

Meanwhile, community groups and volunteer organisations have until Friday 7 July to apply for funding from the Waikato District Council Discretionary Grants Fund for amounts of up to \$5,000 for projects that support Council's community outcomes and goals in Huntly, Taupiri, Raglan, Tuakau, Ngaruawahia and rural wards of the Waikato district. These are just two of a number of community funds administered by the Council for community grassroots projects. More details are at waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding

Improving wastewater system a big focus for Council

Recently there has been an increase in community awareness about the number of wastewater overflows that have been occurring within the Waikato district.

Last year Council received a report outlining initial responses to the level of overflows from the wastewater network and supported a package of work to manage the overflow issues. In November 2016, consultants from Jacobs New Zealand tabled their Wastewater Overflow Continual Improvement Programme Report and recommended a series of steps to fast-track improvements.

Those recommendations form the basis of the Annual Plan 2017/18 Consultation Document that has gone out to residents who are connected to Council's wastewater network.

Council General Manager Service Delivery, Tim Harty says the Continual Improvement Programme is a very important piece of work. "It demonstrates our commitment to improving wastewater infrastructure so that negative impacts associated with overflows or leaks can be minimised," he says.

Below are areas of work on Council's wastewater network that are being progressed. The extent of further improvement work to the district's wastewater system will depend on which of three options in Waikato District Council's Annual Plan 2017/18 Consultation Document is chosen.

- 50% of the Raglan wastewater network and 10% of other townships is being cleaned and CCTV-inspected. Almost 20km of this work has been completed, out of about 40km. This initial work will be complete by the end of June, despite the weather.



Council contractors have been busy assessing the wastewater system in Raglan.

- Council waters staff will be split between water and wastewater/functions in line with Ministry of Health Best Practice guidelines. Additional maintenance equipment is scheduled to be purchased to support separated functions. Some additional equipment has been purchased. Additional servicemen are being recruited and additional resources have been provided by a contractor.
- Two generators will be purchased as part of the 2016/17 spend – no more would be purchased but a contract to ensure generators are available 24/7 throughout the district would be entered into.
- Improvement work on the Raglan to Ngaruawahia SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition) link is being investigated and will likely be completed in 2017. Details and costing of the remaining upgrade is due to be completed to feed into improvement plans. The outcome and the extent of this would depend on which of three options in the Annual Plan 2017/18 Consultation Document is chosen.

Free business growth service expands to Huntly

Free business advisory services for Waikato district companies wanting help to grow are themselves expanding across the district as local businesses take up the challenge.

The free service was first established in the Waikato District Council's office in Tuakau last year to assist North Waikato business people with advice on start-ups, business expansion for established companies, export market development, research and development funding and product development.

When 11 companies took up the challenge, the service expanded to Raglan earlier this year. Now the enthusiasm of the business response in Raglan is seeing the service expand to Huntly. The free business advisory service is the result of a successful collaboration between Council's economic development team, Open Waikato, and

Waikato Innovation Park, the lead agency in Hamilton for New Zealand Trade and Enterprise and Callaghan Innovation funding programmes.

The service is open for bookings at the Raglan Library on the second Thursday of each month, at the Council offices in Tuakau on the second Tuesday morning each month, and is now open for bookings on the second Tuesday afternoon each month at the Huntly Library meeting room.

Businesses interested in using the free service should email info@openwaikato.co.nz to book or visit openwaikato.co.nz/advice for further information.

Community Spirit

Community spirit honoured at Mayoral Community Awards

The biennial Waikato District Council Mayoral Community Awards recognising the important contributions made by volunteers to their communities were held in April. A total of 14 people were presented awards for their valued contribution to the Waikato district.

Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson says the recipients were fully deserving of the accolades handed out at the awards ceremony, held in the Waikato District Council Chambers in Ngaruawahia.

"These awards are one of my favourite duties in my capacity as Mayor," he says.

"The Waikato district is a wonderful place to live, and this year's Mayoral Community Award recipients are just some of the reasons why."

Awards were presented to the following people:

Frank Turner, Raglan

After 41 years of service to the Raglan Fire Volunteer Fire Brigade, Frank is a life member of the Raglan Rugby Club and sits on the Raglan Coastal Advisory Committee.

David Barnes, Te Kowhai

Te Kowhai Scout Troop's Scout Master, sitting on the Te Kowhai School Committee, and fundraising for the Te Kowhai Tennis Club Pavilion, David was also the deputy project manager for the Te Otamanui Walkway.

Mike Crosbie, Te Akau

As well as being a JP and running the local garage, Mike is also the Fire Chief for the Te Akau Rural Fire Force and has been an integral part of the Force since its inception in 1996.

Ivan & Delia Pizzini, Tauwhare

Ivan was a member of the Tauwhare Badminton and Tennis Clubs and Chairman of the Bowling Club. Delia has served as secretary on the Hall Committee and been a member of the School and District 1984 Centenary Committee.

Barry Mayall, Eureka

Barry has served on the Eureka Hall Committee for nearly 60 years, and also helped to start the Badminton Club, where he was honoured with Life Membership in 1979.

Helen Clotworthy, Pokeno

Helen has been involved in Pokeno's Playcentre, hall committee, and community group. Helen also initiated the revival of the residents group, and is the Chair of the Pokeno Community Committee.

Reg Hohaia, Ngaruawahia

With more than 100,000 people visiting the Hakarimata Summit Track every year, Reg maintained the track by lugging bags of metal supplied by DOC up the steps every day.



(Back from left) Maurice Gerrand, Reg Hohaia, Ivan Pizzini, Barry Mayall, Neil Bateup, Gordon Tonks, (front) Sarah Gardiner, Helen Clotworthy, Delia Pizzini, Mike Crosbie and Frank Turner celebrate their awards with Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson. Absent from photo: David Barnes, Dudley Creed.

Gordon Tonks, Te Kauwhata

A member of the Te Kauwhata Lions, the Te Kauwhata Volunteer Fire Brigade, a JP and relief postie, Gordon is also the chief graffiti buster of Te Kauwhata.

Dudley Creed, Meremere

Dudley is a long serving member of the Community Committee, has been pivotal in assisting with the building of the new community facility and is responsible for the camera installation in Meremere.

Ritchie and Isobel Powell

Ritchie started Powell Transport nearly 50 years ago with his wife Isobel. Since then, trucks have been lent for Santa parades, to move equipment, to Boy Scouts, and to transport truck-loads of vegetables to striking wharf workers.

Sarah Gardiner, Huntly

Sarah has been a leader in Girl Guides, Brownies and Rangers, Plunket volunteer, a member of the Ohinewai School PTA, the Huntly Early Childhood Centre and the Huntly Birthcare Community Liaison Committee.

Maurice Gerrand, Huntly

Maurice was instrumental in founding Kimihia Home and Hospital, the refurbishment of grave sites from the Ralph Mine disaster and the construction of the mine disaster memorial.

Neil Bateup, Te Hoe

Chair of the Huntly College Board of Trustees for seven years, Neil developed the New Zealand National Organisation of the Rural Support Trust and has been a Trustee of the Aparangi Retirement Village in Te Kauwhata.



Helen Clotworthy was joined by family at the Mayoral Community Awards.



Reg Hohaia was recognised for his work on the Hakarimata Summit Track in Ngaruawahia.



Sarah Gardiner is involved with various community groups in the Huntly area.



Frank Turner received an award for his community service in Raglan.



Dudley Creed, left, and Gordon Tonks received awards for their work in the Meremere and Te Kauwhata communities.



Ivan and Delia Pizzini have had a lengthy involvement with the Tauwhare community.



Neil Bateup was joined by his family at the Mayoral Community Awards.

Greenspace



Raglan food waste collection service starting soon

Raglan will join the shortlist of communities in New Zealand to benefit from a dedicated food waste collection service later this year. Xtreme Zero Waste, Waikato District Council and the Ministry for the Environment have teamed up to deliver the service, a first for the Waikato, coming in 2017.

Following the completion of a trial and research project carried out by Xtreme Zero Waste in Raglan, the service will be extended from the 100-household trial area in Raglan West to the 2000 properties that currently receive a kerbside refuse and recycling collection.

Xtreme Zero Waste relationship manager Rick Thorpe says food waste is the biggest component of kerbside waste going to landfill. This creates greenhouse gases contributing to global climate change.

"This is why food waste has become one of the most important waste streams to remove from landfill," says Mr Thorpe.

Other advantages of a food waste collection are fewer bad odours from rubbish bags and fewer instances of animals getting into rubbish bags. Council General Manager Service Delivery Tim Harty says a food waste collection in Raglan would form an important part of Council's Less Waste Save More philosophy.

"Waikato District Council is committed to reducing the amount of waste that is sent to landfill. We are pleased to work with Xtreme Zero Waste to deliver a service that will do this," says Mr Harty.

This project will put the Raglan community well ahead in the diversion of waste to landfill. Diverted food waste will be made into high quality compost at Xtreme Zero Waste that will be available for purchase. This can be used in gardens for growing food, landscaping and amenity plantings.



Xtreme Zero Waste's Rick Thorpe, Raglan Community Board Chair Bob McLeod, Cain Brodie of Xtreme Zero Waste, Raglan Cllr Lisa Thomson and Waikato District Council's Pat Cronin are looking forward to the start of Raglan's food waste collection.

Later this year, Raglan households will receive a kerbside collection bin, a kitchen caddy and a supply of compostable bags for the containment of food waste.

An extensive education programme with details of how the collection works in Raglan will be rolled out to the affected community ahead of the launch of the service.

This equipment has been paid for thanks to funding from Waikato District Council and Central Government. Funding is available to deliver the food waste collection service to the Raglan community for a year. It will be reviewed and consultation will be carried out through the LTP process to consider the rating implications of continuing the service.

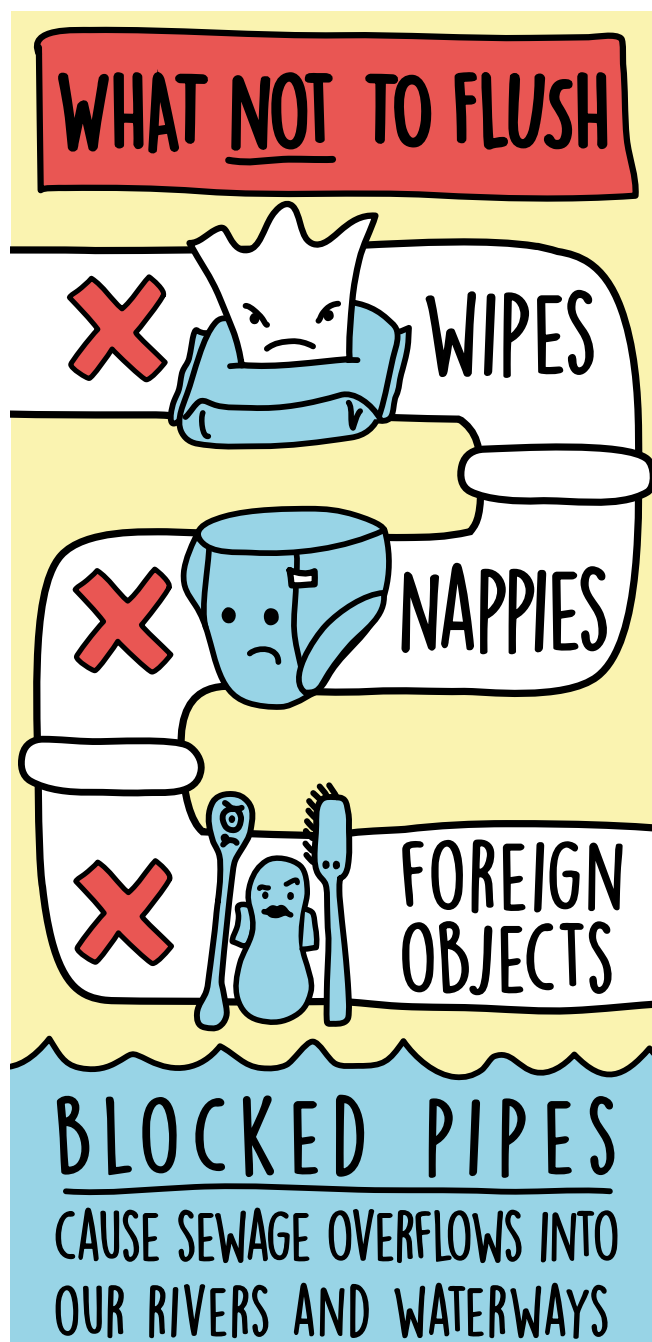
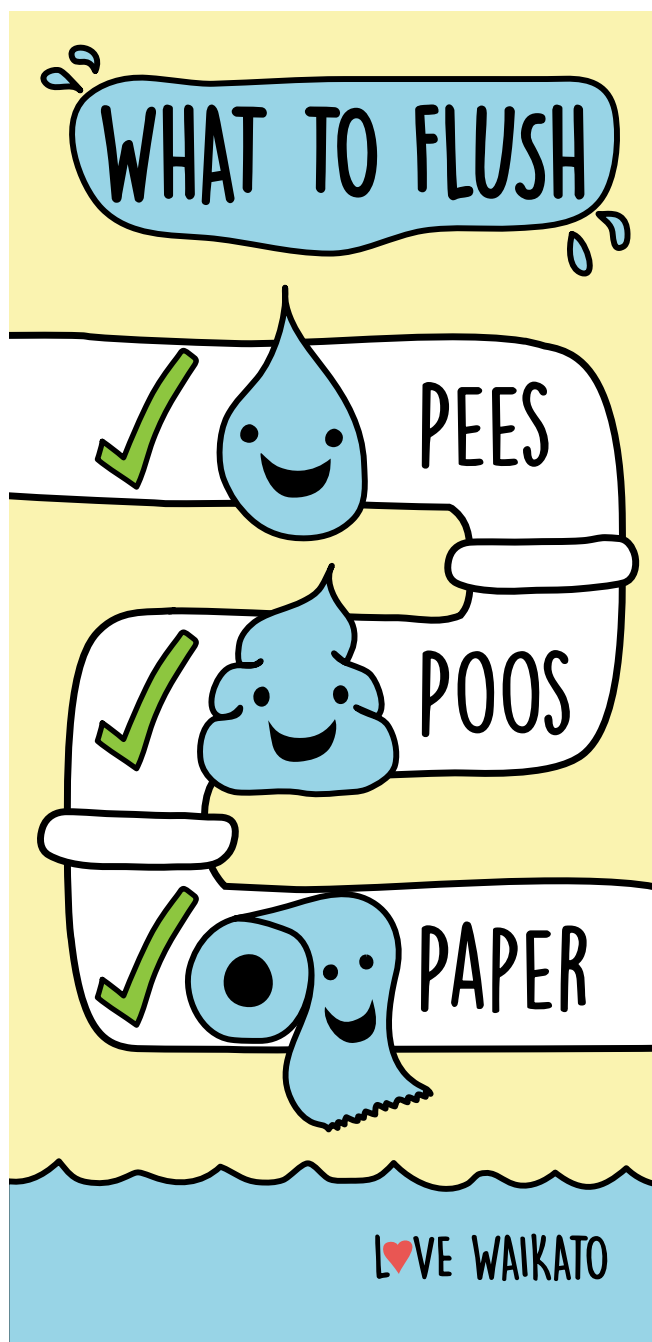
Shorter showers save power

Bills adding up? Did you know you can save on your power and water bill by taking a shorter shower?

Published research shows that the shower is the largest water user in your home. It uses 27% of all water used at home and in the garden. The average shower uses over a bucket of water every minute. Heating all that water also adds up on your power bill. One third of a household's power bill is for heating water, and most of that is for the shower. If you like a 10-minute shower, you could save \$15 off your power bill in a month, if you trim down to a four-minute shower.



Jump online to smartwater.org.nz/quiz and try out an interactive quiz to work out much water and power your household could save by taking shorter showers. It's quick, fun and could help you keep your bills lower!



To flush or not to flush

Continued from page 1.

"I love our beautiful backyard and value our environment and feel this campaign is a very powerful vehicle to improve our behaviour and minimise spills."

Community boards and committees are being briefed throughout the district on the public education campaign so that it can be adapted and used in their communities.

The campaign includes the use of fun graphics on posters, newspaper adverts, social media, stickers and other material to remind people what they should and shouldn't flush down the toilet.

The extent of the campaign is dependent on which option for addressing the risks of wastewater overflows is chosen in the Annual Plan 2017/18 Consultation Document.

But in the meantime Cllr Thomson encourages everyone to play their part in reducing overflows.

"Remember the three Ps: pee, paper, poo only down the loo!"

Just Briefly



Dog registrations are due soon



Don't forget to pay your dog registration fees.

Payment is due by 20 July.

If you're a dog owner, 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. Registering your dog is really important. If your dog ever goes missing, registration drastically improves your chances of getting it 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.

Water meters reminder

The water meter charging system will be going live in Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Raglan on 1 July 2017. Most people in those areas connected to Waikato District Council's water supply network would have received trial readings and indicative invoices by now. Property owners in these areas will receive their first proper bill under the new system towards the end of the year. It is recommended that property owners check their water meters before the charging system starts. We thank all members of the community who gave feedback during the trial readings period this year. More information about water meters is available at waikatodistrict.govt.nz/watermeters



Taupiri projects progressing well

A number of projects in the Taupiri area have been progressing well, according to the Taupiri Community Board (TCB).

- A new bridge across the Mangawara Stream has been given Resource Consent by Council to proceed.
- TCB showed an aerial view presentation in May about the Huntly-Taupiri section of the Waikato Expressway.
- Various projects on Taupiri Mountain of planting, cleaning and maintenance to walking track have been undertaken.

- A considerable area of land has also been rezoned for residential development, between Murphy Lane-Te Putu Street and Button Lane.
- And maintenance and upgrade work has been happening at Bob Byrne Park over the past month.

All are welcome at TCB meetings – dates and times can be found in the notice board outside Taupiri Dairy.

Get creative for Matariki

In celebration of Matariki (Maaori New Year), Waikato District Libraries are encouraging people to write a poem or design a bookmark and go in the draw to win a range of prizes.

Entries for the Waikato District Libraries Matariki competition close on Friday 16 June. The age categories are: 5-9 years old; 10-15 years old; 16 years and over. You can pick up an entry

form at any one of our libraries or offices: Huntly, Meremere, Ngaruawahia, Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Tuakau. A special prize-giving will be held in the Council Chambers in July.

Got a question about Council business?



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Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 7 August – 12 August. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waidec.govt.nz with your address details by 18 August 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.

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