

LINK

AUG-SEPT 2014 ■ ■ ■

- 3 INORGANIC REFUSE COLLECTIONS
- 5 WIN \$500 CREDIT ON YOUR RATES
- 6 SUPPORTING WHITEBAIT FISHING



▶ **Open Waikato** Invest, live, visit

We all know the Waikato district has so much to offer. It's a great place to live, a great place to visit, but it's also an outstanding place to do business.

Economic development is a key focus for Council. In the last four years we've been actively encouraging investment in our district. We've seen a milk processing plant get underway in Pokeno, a motorsport park open at Hampton Downs, an industrial business park open in Horotiu and more.

We've worked alongside businesses and investors to do what we can to help.

We see it as part of our job. With an open door policy, if you need to come and see us to discuss a business or investment idea, then we'd love to see you.

'Explore Open Waikato District' is a key economic development initiative we're very proud of.

It's an online toolkit made up of the Open Waikato website and a YouTube channel which provides information that will assist people looking to invest, live or visit our district. From economic data, to the story of Waikato-Tainui, to video case studies of businesses establishing themselves in the district,

it's all there, so go online and check it out - www.openwaikato.co.nz.

Open Waikato has been driven by our commitment to being a very business-friendly Council. We're determined to help our district grow in a sensible and sustainable way. Council is committed to working closely with the community and to play our part in leading a successful and thriving district.

We have so much to offer, not only to investors, but also as a place to live and visit.

Open Waikato will help tell our story... and it's a powerful one to tell! ■



Mayor's message

As Council it's our job to advance the Waikato district and support our communities. We're responsible for delivering a broad range of services to you while also keeping an eye on the budget and applying a prudent approach.

It's always a balancing act and this year's general rate increase of 1.89 per cent reflects this. We believe this minimal rate increase provides a good balance where we will see progress and development while still maintaining the level of service our communities expect.

We're a growing district and the costs of infrastructure and roading will always be key issues for Council, as not only do these assets benefit current residents but they are integral for the future progress of the district.

We're also committed to achieving some exciting things for the Waikato and this year there is a strong focus on helping out community projects, which is a win for our smaller communities.

At the moment, we're in the process of drafting the Long Term Plan (LTP) for 2015-2025. The Long Term Plan sets the direction for the district and describes the activities of the Council, showing the whole picture of how the activities are managed, delivered and funded.

Some of you may have been involved in the workshops we held earlier this year which have helped shape the strategic direction of the draft document. The next step is our roadshows which will be held during October and November. They are an opportunity to find out more about the key issues and projects that face the district over the next 10 years.

I would encourage you to get involved by attending a roadshow or discussing any issues or projects with your respective community board/committee so that they can be considered in this process.



Allan Sanson
Mayor
mayor@waikato.govt.nz

Want to know more about the LTP?

Visit our website: www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/LTP.aspx

Phone: Shelley Monrad, Corporate Planner, 0800 492 452



What do you think about the Link?

Nearly 200 people took the opportunity to tell us what they thought about our Link newsletter through our reader's survey. Thank you, we really appreciate the feedback!

The Link is one of the ways we try to keep our residents and ratepayers up-to-date with key happenings at Council and we're always looking for ways to improve.

Overall we received very positive feedback with the majority of survey participants thinking it was a good quick read, with relevant information and handy news updates.

Over half of the participants said they liked the bi-monthly frequency of the newsletter and would prefer it to be in hard copy. Only a small percentage said they would prefer an electronic newsletter.

We received some great ideas about content with many people wanting more bylaw updates and council news stories. There was also a strong call from our smaller communities to see the inclusion of more local stories. Formatting and design tips were also received.



The winner of our Link survey competition is Bronwen Simmonds.

Congratulations Bronwen you have won a mini fire safety kit, a perfect addition to your civil defence kit or to have in the car.

Can you tell me

Q

How do I report a blocked pipe, dog matter or roading issue to Council?

A

It's easy. Visit our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz and click on the 'Request for service' tab on the home page. There you will be able to lodge your request which will come through to our Council staff to action.

You can even register for status updates so you can follow the progress of your request for service.

For noise control issues, it is still best to contact us directly on

0800 492 452. By calling us right away, we can get someone to follow up as soon as possible.

Q

A

How do I apply for a rates rebate?

The purpose of the Rates Rebate Scheme is to provide a subsidy to low-income homeowners and ratepayers on the cost of their rates. The maximum rebate is \$605.00.

To qualify, you must be the homeowner, living at the property and paying the rates as at 1 July 2014. The income

eligibility for a rebate is \$24,250 but if you earn more than this a year, you could still be entitled to a rebate depending on the total cost of your rates and the number of dependants.

To apply, wait until you receive your rates assessments from both the Waikato District Council and Waikato Regional Council, then come in and see us. Bring both assessments, and information about your income for the tax year ended 31 March 2014. Applications can be made at any of our offices.

We encourage you to get in early and apply so that the rebate can be credited to your rates account.

The close off date for rates rebates is 30 June 2015.



Got a question about Council business you want answered? Email us at communications@waidc.govt.nz

Get ready for inorganic refuse collections

Planning is underway for the 2014 inorganic refuse collection. This year, collections will be completed in line with your normal rubbish collection day but we'll provide more information about specific weeks closer to the date. In the meantime, to help you prepare for what will and won't be picked up, here's a checklist.



Yes! We can take

- ✓ Furniture eg chairs, tables, cabinets
- ✓ Lawnmowers and bikes
- ✓ Televisions
- ✓ Carpet
- ✓ Metal items from household renovations, (eg corrugated iron, pipes up to 2m long)
- ✓ Appliances (eg washing machines, stoves, fridges)



Sorry, we can't take

- ✗ Any standard bagged rubbish
- ✗ Glass windows and windscreens
- ✗ Garden waste, tree trimmings and soil
- ✗ Commercial and farm waste
- ✗ Bricks and broken concrete
- ✗ Oil, paint and chemicals
- ✗ Fibrolite or asbestos
- ✗ Car bodies or car engines
- ✗ Builder's waste
- ✗ Household renovation materials (eg timber)
- ✗ Batteries and gas cylinders/gas bottles
- ✗ Wire of any description
- ✗ Tyres

The renovated Raglan Library and Council Office was revealed to the public in July.

7 Bow Street

— was once home to the —

Raglan
POST OFFICE



A slice of history...

Raglan Library

From post and banking to books and rates, 7 Bow Street has always been in the business of serving the Raglan Community.

It's the hub of Raglan and has housed Waikato District Council for the past two decades but what was 7 Bow Street before that?

We all know it as the Raglan Library and Council Office, but prior to Council purchasing the building in 1994 it was home to another key community facility, the Post Office.

For 12 years New Zealand Post operated out of the site which was built in 1982.

In 1990 the Post Office was joined by Post Bank and the two operated as a dual facility until 1 July 1994, when the then Mayor, Angus MacDonald, officially opened the facility as Council's Raglan base and it has been our Raglan home ever since.

Fast forward to 2014 and we have just given the building a makeover.

On 28 July the refreshed Raglan Library and Council Office was revealed to the public after being closed since March 2014 for the renovations.

The works saw the building receive a brand new roof, window seals, guttering and flashings, new counters, and a new toilet for the disabled.

More space was also created by moving the shop front out and removing an interior wall and an old safe previously used by the Post Office.

A team of enthusiastic Raglan Placemakers then went to work on the interior, creating a vibrant and creative new space for library users.

The Raglan Placemaking committee put their heads together and came up with some fabulous concepts which

they then turned into reality with a little hard work.

Bright bean bag chairs were created from kite fabric; furniture was constructed from pallets and old book covers were used to decorate tables. And the best part is all of the items were created from donated, recycled materials.

The finished product is a warm, inviting and environmentally-friendly space with a distinctive Raglan flavour. It was a great example of the Council and community working together to achieve a fantastic outcome.

Council wishes to thank everyone for their patience throughout the renovations and to all those who contributed ideas towards the look and feel of the internal space.

We hope you love your refreshed library and office as much as we do. ■

Making civil defence strides

This time last year we profiled our Local Civil Defence Emergency Management Co-ordinator, Kelly Newell. Fast forward 12 months and Kelly has made exciting progress in the civil defence space.

Since coming on board in July 2013 Kelly has been busy working on improving Council's ability to respond to a civil defence emergency. This has included establishing a functioning Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at our Ngaruawahia Office.

The centre is a dedicated facility with communications equipment and resources required to respond to an emergency at short notice. The Local Controller decides if and when the EOC needs to be activated.

Kelly has also been busy rallying the troops and has succeeded in putting 93 Council staff through a foundation civil defence course. Some staff members have also been designated to key roles such as Welfare Manager and Recovery Manager.

"The staff have put their hands up as volunteers, so to get such a great response has been really heartening," Kelly said.

The next step is the intermediate level Civil Defence Emergency Management training for staff required to work in the EOC. Kelly's current focus is on developing a local civil defence plan which will be completed by the end of the year.



Local Civil Defence Emergency Management Co-ordinator Kelly Newell in the Council's new Emergency Operations Centre.

The local plan will determine the priorities and goals for civil defence emergency management across the Waikato district over the next three years. "The aim of this plan is to build and strengthen our capability and resilience for a disaster in our district." Kelly has also begun looking to our communities.

When disaster strikes it is ordinary members of the public, not emergency services, who will be first to respond and as a Council we recognise that no-one knows the community better than the people that live and work within it, which is where community response planning comes in.

A Community Response Plan is a plan that is activated by the community in a civil defence emergency and is to ensure people are self-sufficient for the first 72 hours and is tailored to the needs of the specific community.

It is Council's goal to ensure all of our communities are equipped with their own Community Response Plan. ■

Being prepared for an emergency is everyone's responsibility - if you would like to know more about what you can do to prepare please visit www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz

Win \$500 credit on your rates

Choose to pay your rates the easy way through direct debit and you could win a \$500 credit on your rates thanks to BNZ.

Easy pay

The easy way to pay your rates

Sign Up by 23 September 2014...

...and be in to WIN
\$500
credit on your rates

thanks to **bnz**



In August you will receive your rates assessment and first instalment notice. Sign up to pay by direct debit during 1 August - 23 September 2014 to enter the draw to win a \$500 credit on your rates.

Paying by direct debit is definitely the way to go. Payments from your chosen bank account will automatically be made on time to Council, which means no dates to remember. If your rates or water charges increase or decrease, Council will automatically amend the payments in agreement with you.

So pay your rates the easy way by setting up a direct debit and be in to win. The winner will be drawn by 30 October 2014 and notified in writing.

Note: The prize draw is available to new direct debit customers only. Direct debits are only available from New Zealand bank accounts and not via credit card. ■



Supporting whitebait fishing

into the future

In late July, a series of well-attended community meetings were held to discuss aspects of the whitebait fishery between Tuakau and Port Waikato.

These came after the release, earlier this year, of a combined Waikato Raupatu River Trust and Waikato Regional Council report identifying a range of matters relating to fishery and environmental health, as well as the safety of stands and baches on that part of the Waikato River.

The meetings introduced the different agencies involved in the work and their roles, information about rules and regulations around the fishery, and advice about what is required of those fishing for whitebait.

With a common goal of a sustainable fishery, agencies are keen to work with whitebaiters, initially improving a database

to know what is out there and taking a gradual approach to give people time to make their own improvements.

Short-term goals over the next 18–24 months are for our council to work with people to ensure safe buildings and structures, and for the regional council to eliminate raw sewage discharge into the river. Information on building rules is available at www.buildwaikato.co.nz or from our offices.

The Huakina Development Trust, Land Information New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry of Primary Industries are working alongside the trust, regional council and our council on this project.

The full report into the fishery is available at www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/TR201318

Wiremu Tamihana Drive

Tamahere's new road linking Devine and Airport Roads will be known as Wiremu Tamihana Drive. Council's Infrastructure Committee voted unanimously in favour of the name further acknowledging Wiremu's contribution to the community.



Wiremu Tamihana, Tamahere's first person of historic significance. Image source: Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki.

Work is well underway on the road which is designed to reduce through traffic using Newell Road between State Highway 1 and Airport Road (SH21). It should also direct mainstream traffic to use the new Waikato Expressway system. Congestion will be reduced at the SH1-Airport Road intersection and could contribute to future development options providing access to a proposed village hub on Devine Road.

Fulton Hogan is at the end of phase one working from Devine Road north of Tamahere School to Airport Road, near Regal Haulage. The final 25 metre wide corridor will include a two-lane road plus berms, plus a parking and manoeuvring area.

WANT TO STAY UPDATED?

Email: linkroadtamahere@waidc.govt.nz

Online:

www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Link-Road-Tamahere.aspx and www.tamahereforum.co.nz/



Spotlight

ON COUNCIL

Our Roding team is responsible for 2,444kms of road in the Waikato district including the 25.7kms of the former State Highway 1. Roding Manager, Chris Clarke explains some of the day-to-day jobs his team is responsible for.

Who manages what?

We're responsible for urban and rural roads, sealed and unsealed, while NZ Transport Agency maintains the State Highways. Recently, ownership of State Highway 1 North (near Taupiri) and State Highway 39 (near Ngaruawahia) was transferred from NZ Transport Agency to Waikato District Council and that's a result of the Ngaruawahia Waikato Expressway stage opening last year. Now we have full responsibility of maintenance and incident response for these additional corridors.

▶ We facilitate the safety of all road users on every road across our district. To do this we work closely with other agencies including NZ Transport Agency and Waikato Regional Council

What we fix and when

Our roading programme is developed as part of the Long Term Plan (LTP) process which means any significant projects that get underway are planned well in advance. This long-term works programme includes major work, for example, the permanent repair to Wainui Road due to slip damage, Tamahere's new link road or major improvements.

At the start of each financial year we're also allocated a short-term works programme budget which is what we use to fix the pot holes and temporary slip repairs. These items are entered into a priority list and completed as staff resource allows. "Each year we'll spend an average of \$2,943 per kilometre for sealed roads".

The other stuff we do

We oversee other bits and pieces around our roads like drainage, vegetation, signs, stock crossings, bridge maintenance



and street lighting. That's because these issues can affect road access. We also work closely with our Animal Control team when we have reports of wandering stock. Now's a good time to remind farmers to check their boundary fences as wandering stock can be catastrophic for drivers and their passengers.

Please drive to the road conditions

Drivers in the Tuakau Bridge - Port Waikato Road area are being asked to drive to the road conditions as Council completes significant maintenance work in the area.

Road Safety Co-ordinator, Megan Jolly (pictured) says drivers need to remember this is a rural road which can present a number of issues. "With next to no shoulder on the road in places, and roadside hazards such as ditches and power poles, it's important to keep your speed down. There's very little leeway for driver error". ■



Megan Jolly

Our next edition of Link will be distributed during 20-24 October. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waikato.govt.nz no later than 31 October so we can look into the non-delivery.



The year ahead

Want to know what Council will be working on in the coming year? Interested in how it will be spending ratepayer money? Then check out our Annual Plan 2014/15 which is now available on our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz and in all Council offices and libraries.

Annual Report released in October

We're in the process of compiling our Annual Report for 2013/2014. The Annual Report is expected to be adopted on 6 October. The full document and a summary will be available on our website.

Tuakau residents what do you think?

Come and see the first draft of the Tuakau Structure Plan at an open day on Thursday 11 September 2014. Held in the Tuakau Town Hall from 2pm to 7pm, the key principles of the plan will be shared with you for your comment. Amendments will then be made and we'll be on track to have the Tuakau Structure Plan finalised by the end of the year. **We're nearly there!**

The Tuakau concept plan being discussed at the 27 March workshop



Community views sought on alcohol and gambling

We want your thoughts on alcohol licensing and gambling to help us draft two policies. These policies cover the location, number and opening hours of places selling alcohol, and how many gambling venues and pokie machines should be allowed in the district and where they should be located. Come along to a public meeting to learn more.

- Monday 18 August: Raglan Town Hall Supper Room, 5.30pm-7pm
- Tuesday 19 August: Ngaruawahia War Memorial Hall, 5.30pm-7pm
- Wednesday 20 August: Huntly Riverside Room, 5.30pm-7pm
- Monday 25 August: Te Kauwhata St John Hall, 5.30pm-7pm
- Wednesday 27 August: Tuakau War Memorial Hall, 5.30pm-7pm

What's happening in Pokeno?

There's lots going on in Pokeno at the moment, so come and hear an update on Council's current projects. These projects include wastewater and water reticulation and the anticipated northern rail overbridge. It's also an opportunity to provide feedback on how Market Square could be developed into a vibrant community facility. There will be concept drawings of Council's preferred option on display for discussion. The open day will be held on Saturday 30 August 2014, 10am – 2pm in the Pokeno Hall.



If you have an event or activity in your area and would like to share it, let us know, email communications@waikato.govt.nz