

DEC-JAN 2015 ■ ■ ■

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## Waikato district offers a wealth **of wilderness opportunities**



Native bush reserve, river cycleways and beach walks are just some of the ways people living in our district can explore the Waikato over summer.

Getting out and about in our own backyard has never been more fun as new walkways have opened up this year and the Te Awa River Ride project takes off.

The Allan Turner Walkway was officially opened in Tamahere during October and includes an impressive bridge across the Mangaharakeke stream, linking Woodcock Road and Fuchsia Lane.

Te Awa – the great New Zealand river ride is gathering momentum with work in progress to link Ngaruawahia to the Horotiu section. There is a 2km stretch of cycleway which Ngaruawahia residents can currently enjoy as it weaves its way alongside the Waikato river – running the length of the town.

The Hakarimata Summit Track in Ngaruawahia is also a very popular destination for walkers wanting a workout!

Coastal walks at Port Waikato and Raglan are well worth doing and both these destinations host Surf Lifesaving patrols over the summer months.

The Raglan beach patrol at Ngarunui Beach and the Sunset Beach patrol at Port Waikato began operating at Labour weekend and will continue until Easter 2015. Hours of operation vary; check out [www.surflifesaving.org.nz](http://www.surflifesaving.org.nz) for more information. If there is an emergency at these beach destinations, always dial 111.





# Festive traditions for our Councillors

Wishing you all a safe and relaxing festive season with friends and family.  
Travel safely, enjoy the sun, surf and your holiday break, from the team at Waikato District Council.



**Allan Sanson** Mayor

Phone: 07 824 5878

Email: mayor@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is spending time with family.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is either at home with family or in Raglan.*



**Dynes Fulton** Deputy Mayor

Hukanui-Waerenga Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 856 6481 | Mobile: 027 275 8892

Email: dynes.fulton@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is enjoying the day with family then spending January relaxing at Pauanui on the Coromandel.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is the David Johnson Pukemokemoke bush reserve at Tauhei. Enjoying the easy track up to the trig station and returning through the Kauri grove.*



**Clint Baddeley** Raglan Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 825 8194 | Mobile: 021 155 3778

Email: clint.baddeley@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is spending time with family at home in Raglan.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is staying home in Raglan and enjoying one of our most popular holiday destinations.*



**Jacqui Church** Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward Councillor

Phone: 09 232 9998 | Mobile: 021 869 976

Email: jacqui.church@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is our family preparation on Christmas Eve together with carols playing which warms us up for our family, friends and whanau day.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is Port Waikato, my home, where our mighty Waikato River mouth meets the Tasman Sea at Sunset Beach. A hidden precious gem of our district.*



**Rosemarie Costar** Onewhero-Te Akau Ward Councillor

Phone: 09 232 8517 | Mobile: 0274 836 378

Email: rosemarie.costar@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is putting up the Christmas lights, although often the Christmas lights get the better of me!*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is Sunset Beach at beautiful Port Waikato.*



**Janet Gibb** Ngaruawahia Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 824 6737 | Mobile: 027 475 3397

Email: janet.gibb@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is getting up early to help my husband milk the cows and see the sun come up in the quiet of the morning.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is walking around Lake Kainui or biking on the Te Awa river path with friends.*



**Wally Hayes** Tamahere Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 856 6616 | Mobile: 027 280 0131

Email: wally.hayes@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is exploring a part of New Zealand I haven't seen before.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is playing a round of golf at Raglan with my mates and then enjoying all Raglan has to offer.*



**Shelley Lynch** Huntly Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 828 9682 | Mobile: 027 334 7352

Email: shelley.lynch@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is our family gathering together and all being in a good mood for the day.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is at Nikau Café (Waikaretu) for lunch, with peaceful views and lovely people and Lake Puketirini (Huntly), fabulous views right on our door-step.*



**Rob McGuire** Eureka Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 824 3696 | Mobile: 027 497 0966

Email: rob.mcguire@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is our family gatherings and holidays at a beach.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is doing "Sunday" drives around the district with coffee stops at some of the many wonderful cafes we have.*



**Lionel Petersen** Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward Councillor

Phone: 09 236 9189 | Mobile: 027 884 9355

Email: lionel.petersen@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is spending time with family.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is taking my grandchildren to Alexandra Redoubt, near Tuakau for a bush walk.*



**Jan Sedgwick** Whangamarino Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 826 3013 | Mobile: 021 804 749

Email: jan.sedgwick@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is using the best cutlery and crockery for a 'grown-ups only' dinner on Christmas Eve and playing golf on the fabulous course at Te Kauwhata with a laid-back lunch on Christmas day.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is the Hakarimata tracks for beautiful bush walks and taking up the challenge to work off the Christmas pudding on the never-ending steps to the Kauri Grove.*



**Noel Smith** Newcastle Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 824 8300 | Mobile: 027 594 3895

Email: noel.smith@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is spending Christmas eve with a special group of friends and family as we have done for over 25 years and then on Christmas Day sitting down to a meal with family.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is staying home on the farm and enjoying some rural Waikato relaxation time.*



**Moera Solomon** Ngaruawahia Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 824 8689 Extn: 8437

Email: moera.solomon@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is visiting the urupa of Taupiri and Ngaruawahia to share with our whanau, thus also bringing in the reason for Christmas.*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is the Te Kōpua camping ground in Raglan - where we have spent so many happy relaxing holidays over the years.*



**Graeme Tait** Huntly Ward Councillor

Phone: 07 828 8864 | Mobile: 027 289 5940

Email: graeme.tait@waidc.govt.nz

*My favourite holiday season tradition is going fishing!*

*My favourite spot in our district to spend time over the summer is playing golf at any of our district golf courses.*





## ► Parks a priority for future development

Council is currently looking at all of the sports parks in the district and planning for the future management, use and development of these parks.

Three sports parks have been identified for assessment in 2015 and concept plans are being drafted for these.

They include:

- Tamahere Recreation Reserve
- Tuakau Recreation Reserve
- Onewhero Recreation Reserve.

Planning will look in to the clubs that currently use our sports parks, policies that apply to each respective park and proposed future development.

There is also a General Reserves Policies Management Plan which we'll talk to you about soon. This plan provides guidelines on all our decision making around parks and reserves.

You'll hear more about our Draft Sports Park Management Plan and General Reserve Policies Management Plan next month. Both will be available for you to provide feedback on in early 2015.

# Smart Water

The hot summer months are on their way and this means we need to be more aware of our precious water resource. Once again the 'Smart Water starts with you' summer campaign will be in action. The aim of Smart Water is to encourage you to make small changes to conserve water over the summer months for long-term benefits. This means everyone young and old has a part to play in conserving water. If we each make a few simple changes to the way we use water we can protect and conserve this limited resource.

Keep an eye out for our water saving tips and stay up to date on when the water alert levels change.



## A month at Council

October was a busy month at Council. Here's a snapshot of some of the work we've been doing in the community:

- 8653 phone calls made to our call centre
- 340 public email enquiries responded to
- 131 LIM applications received
- 72 resource consents issued
- 109 building consents issued
- 823 building inspections completed
- 199 Animal Control callouts responded to
- 125 new dogs registered



# Can you tell me?

**Q** Can I pay my Council invoices online using my credit card?

**A** Yes we are now accepting credit card payments online! You can pay your rates, dog registrations, infringement notices, building applications and other Council invoices online using your credit card. It's quick, easy and convenient! Simply visit [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/payit](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/payit). Please note a 2.49% bank fee is added to all online credit card payments. Waikato District Council does not receive any part of this fee.

**Q** How do I have my say on issues that affect me?

**A** There are a variety of ways you can talk to us about things that concern you in the district. If it's a general enquiry call free 0800 492 452; email [publicenquiries@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:publicenquiries@waidc.govt.nz) or like our Facebook page. You should also contact your local Councillor. They can answer your question or bring the issue to our attention.

Sometimes we ask for comprehensive feedback, or a submission. We list the topics on our 'Have your say' web page, advertise in local newspapers, and on Facebook; all with details on how to make a submission.

Got a question about Council business you want answered? Email us at [communications@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:communications@waidc.govt.nz)

## ▶ LET'S TALK *rubbish!*



Rubbish – it clutters our cupboards, fills our bins and clogs our landfills. There's only so much rubbish we can take so we're reviewing our rubbish and recycling habits.

Why? In 2012 we developed the Waste Management and Minimisation Plan to help achieve our goal of creating a sustainable community with a zero waste policy. To see if we were on the right track we surveyed a randomly selected group of residents and asked what they thought of our current rubbish and recycling services.

Here's what they said:

- Council should do more to reduce waste going to landfill
- More recycling crates and more places to drop off recycling
- More rubbish in bags rather than wheelie bins.

Here's what we propose:

- Over 2,800 houses already receive a weekly rubbish collection but don't have recycling services. We'll extend weekly kerbside recycling to those houses too.
- Everyone who has a regular Council rubbish collection would have access to an inorganic collection by phone request. That means no more mess in our streets during the annual inorganic collection.

- About 15,000 properties are on a fixed rate for weekly rubbish collection, either wheelie bins or bags. They'd change to a pre-paid rubbish service reducing the amount of waste to landfill. This might help the household budget – the less rubbish generated, the less spent on pre-paid bags.
- An upgrade of our Huntly and Te Kauwhata transfer stations. They'll likely be the hubs to process additional recyclables from inorganic collections.

So now we'd like to know what you think of the current rubbish and recycling services in your community and what it could be like in the future. Likely you have received a letter about changes to your property and hopefully provided feedback. We're compiling that information now and will come back to you in March with our preferred options as part of the Long Term Plan process.

To learn more about the proposed services visit our website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/LetsTalkRubbish](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/LetsTalkRubbish)



# Christmas and New Year Hours

## Council offices

Waikato District Council offices will be closed from 3pm Wednesday 24 December. Normal hours will resume on Monday 5 January 2015.

## Libraries

Date	Waikato District Libraries	Meremere Library
Mon 22 Dec	9am - 5pm	9am - 12 noon
Tues 23 Dec	9am - 5pm	Closed
Weds 24 Dec	9am - 3pm	2 - 5pm
Thurs 25 Dec	Closed	Closed
Fri 26 Dec	Closed	Closed
Sat 27 Dec	9am - 12.30pm	Closed
Sun 28 Dec	Closed	Closed
Mon 29 Dec	9am - 5pm	9am - 12pm
Tues 30 Dec	9am - 5pm	Closed
Weds 31 Dec	9am - 5pm	2 - 5pm
Thurs 1 Jan	Closed	Closed
Fri 2 Jan	Closed	Closed
Sat 3 Jan	9am - 12.30pm	Closed

## Refuse Transfer Stations

Date	Huntly	Te Kauwhata	Raglan
Mon 22 Dec	7.30am - 4.30pm	Closed	8.30am - 4.30pm
Tues 23 Dec	7.30am - 4.30pm	Closed	Closed
Weds 24 Dec	7.30am - 3pm	Closed	8.30am - 4.30pm
Thurs 25 - Fri 26 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Sat 27 Dec	10am - 4pm	Closed	8.30am - 4.30pm
Sun 28 Dec	10am - 4pm	11am - 4pm	8.30am - 4.30pm
Mon 29 Dec	7.30am - 4.30pm	Closed	8.30am - 4.30pm
Tues 30 Dec	7.30am - 4.30pm	Closed	Closed
Weds 31 Dec	7.30am - 3pm	Closed	8.30am - 4.30pm
Thurs 1 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri 2 Jan	Closed	Closed	8.30am - 4.30pm
Sat 3 Jan	10am - 4pm	Closed	12.30 - 4.30pm
Sun 4 Jan	10am - 4pm	11am - 4pm	8.30am - 4.30pm

## Swimming Pools

Date	Tuakau	Huntly	Ngaruawahia
Mon 22 Dec	9am - 5pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Tues 23 Dec	9am - 5pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Weds 24 Dec	9am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	12 - 5pm
Thurs 25 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri 26 Dec	10am - 6pm	Closed	Closed
Sat 27 Dec	10am - 6pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Sun 28 Dec	10am - 6pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Mon 29 Dec	9am - 5pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Tues 30 Dec	9am - 5pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Weds 31 Dec	9am - 5pm	10am - 4pm	12 - 5pm
Thurs 1 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Fri 2 Jan	10am - 6pm	Closed	Closed
Sat 3 Jan	10am - 6pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm
Sun 4 Jan	10am - 6pm	12 - 6pm	12 - 5pm

## Emergency calls (all hours)

For all emergency calls regarding Council services, free phone 0800 492 452.

## Refuse and Recycling

Normal collection	Date to be collected
Mon 22 Dec	Mon 22 Dec
Tues 23 Dec	Tues 23 Dec
Weds 24 Dec	Weds 24 Dec
Thurs 25 Dec	Fri 26 Dec
Fri 26 Dec	Sat 27 Dec
Mon 29 Dec	Mon 29 Dec
Tues 30 Dec	Tues 30 Dec
Wed 31 Dec	Weds 31 Dec
Thurs 1 Jan	Fri 2 Jan
Fri 2 Jan	Sat 3 Jan



*Wishing you  
all a safe and  
happy festive  
season*



# IT'S A dog's life!

Our district has a wealth of beautiful parks and reserves that are perfect for exercising your four-legged friend. You can take your dog on a leash in almost all public parks and reserves in our district. We also have off-leash areas throughout the district, including beaches, where dogs are allowed to run free. To view a full list of dog exercise areas visit [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Services/Animals.aspx](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Services/Animals.aspx)

We're reviewing the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw – this policy sets out the guidelines around dog exercise areas, how many dogs you can keep and what happens when a dog is impounded. Keep an eye out on how to have your say about the revised guidelines in mid January.



## Pool Safety – *make it everyone's responsibility*

With summer approaching, pool owners have a legal responsibility to ensure their pool is fenced to comply with the requirements of the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987.

It's Council's policy to undertake spot visits to ensure swimming pool fences comply with the Fencing of Swimming Pools Act 1987 and are safe. Council may visit your property at any time to undertake such a check. Please make sure your pool fencing meets the required standard as stated in the Act. If you're unsure you can call us on 0800 492 452 to check.

If you own a property, but don't live there and perhaps rent it to others, you have a duty to inform any occupiers or tenants of their responsibilities.

Pool owners and tenants also have a duty to ensure that gates and fences are checked regularly and remain in good working order.

If you require further information, brochures are available at all Council offices or you could visit the Waikato Building Consent Group website [www.buildwaikato.co.nz](http://www.buildwaikato.co.nz)





# Community project

## UPDATE 2014

Council and Community Boards have worked with a variety of district organisations to provide funding in order to get some fantastic projects off the ground this year.

### Huntly Community Board

#### Ralph Mine Poppet Head

A replica of the Ralph Mine poppet head was installed between the BNZ and the car park on Huntly's main street to commemorate the Ralph Mine disaster 100th anniversary in September. It is located as close as practicable to the original site of the poppet head. The Huntly Lions Club was the key driver for this project.



### Raglan Community Board

#### Whaingaroa Community Toy Library

Earlier this year, the Raglan Community Board worked with the Whaingaroa Community Toy Library and granted funding to purchase new toys. This toy library has been operating since 2008, and has seen a marked increase in families wanting to hire educational toys for their young ones.

### Discretionary and Funding Committee

#### Turangawaewae Regatta

Council's Discretionary and Funding Committee provided Turangawaewae Marae with some funds to assist with the 119th Turangawaewae Regatta, held in March this year. Some of the key highlights included school crews competing in the kopapa racing, and the grand parade of the mighty waka taua (war canoes). The event is one of New Zealand's most culturally unique experiences and attracts visitors from all over the country.

Funds also went towards the Te Kotahitanga Marae (Te Kumi pa) hosting a Matariki at the Pa event. This included Maaori music and dance, the art and design of making a korowai and a planting session, among other activities. The event attracted in excess of 400 people from the surrounding district.

The Raglan Community Arts Council also benefited from funding to assist with hosting the 2014 inaugural Raglan Arts Trail weekend in January. With 2015 funding, approximately 30 studios will once again open their doors to display a variety of visual arts.

The event showcases and promotes the multi-talented art scene that Raglan is well known for; bringing visitors from around New Zealand.

#### Ohinewai Tennis Club

The Ohinewai Tennis Club received funding to replace the tennis court concrete block wall that collapsed due to bad weather conditions. The wall is a vital component of the tennis club's training activities.

### 2014/2015 Annual Plan (Grants & Donations)

#### Puketaha School / Community Adventure Playground

Puketaha School received a donation to assist with building an adventure area that will encourage students to take risks, problem solve, use initiative, be creative, work collaboratively and have fun! This is located on Council Reserve land, behind the school.

For more information about applying for funding, please contact Council's Community Development Coordinator.





## Looking to buy property in the Waikato District?

Last month we received a record high number of Land Information Memorandum (LIM) applications. This is great news for our growing district but due to the high demand we are currently unable to offer the urgent five day LIM option. All LIMs will be processed within a 10 working day timeframe and as always we will continue to process them as quickly as possible. We will review this again at the end of January 2015.

## Roadworks ahead

Summer is a busy time for our roading maintenance team who nominate the sunnier, longer days between November to March to complete our projects. It's also the most cost effective time to complete maintenance which will ensure our roads are maintained to a high standard and are safe for travellers. We'll always do our best to minimise disruption but if you have any issues out on our roads phone us on 0800 492 452.



## Out There and Active

If being healthy is on your New Year resolution list you should visit Sport Waikato's website for information on programmes and events in your community for young and old. From Under 5 Energize to Sports Clubs, you're bound to find something that fits your lifestyle.

[www.sportwaikato.org.nz](http://www.sportwaikato.org.nz)

## Fire Season

Fire seasons vary depending on weather conditions. With the hotter months on their way, a restricted fire season will be just around the corner. This means if you want to light a fire, you will need to apply for a permit.

For more information and details on how to apply for a fire permit contact us on 0800 492 452 or visit [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Rural-fires.aspx](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Rural-fires.aspx)



## Be a "Legend" on the roads

Did you know that 27% of all crashes in our district involve drink driving?

With recent changes to the alcohol driving limits it's time to be a 'Legend' speak up and offer alternatives for not getting behind the wheel.

It can be difficult to tell a mate not to drive, but no one wants to share the road with someone who is over the limit. Taking someone's keys, offering a couch or giving someone who is over the limit a ride home will help keep everyone safe on our roads.



Stay the night



Take the keys



Have a sober driver

# Legend

Stop a mate driving drunk



Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 3-7 March. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact [communications@waikato.govt.nz](mailto:communications@waikato.govt.nz) with address details by Monday 10 March so we can look into the non-delivery.



# 0800 492 452

[www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz)  
[www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil)



### Postal Address

Waikato District Council  
 Private Bag 544  
 Ngaruawahia 3742

### Huntly Office

142 Main Street  
 Huntly

### Ngaruawahia Office

15 Galileo Street  
 Ngaruawahia

### Raglan Office

7 Bow Street  
 Raglan

### Te Kauwhata Office

1 Main Road  
 Te Kauwhata

### Tuakau Office

2 Dominion Road  
 Tuakau