

JUN-JUL 2014

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WAIKATO DISTRICT ***** MATARIKI FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING the Maaori New Year!

June - July

Celebrating Matariki

This year marks the second annual Waikato District Matariki Festival, which kicked off earlier this month.

Matariki is a small but distinctive cluster of stars which appears in the winter sky in June. In the Maaori calendar, Matariki is the start of the new year and a time of harvest, sharing and celebration.

To mark this there are a number of events happening across the district throughout June and July, including clay classes, lighting displays, an art exhibition, storytelling and a New Year's Eve party.

For all the details on what's happening and where, see Council's website or contact us on 0800 492 452.

As part of the festival our libraries are holding a Matariki short story/comic

competition, which is an opportunity for residents to celebrate Matariki by taking part in something fun and creative.

The competition is centred around the following seven words – all of which must be included in entries: Grow/Whakatupu(-ria), Celebrate/Whakanui, Star/Whetu, Dark/Po, Eyes/Karu, Feast/Hakari and Vehicle (eg car, train, boat)/Waka.

Winners will be decided by a panel of judges from around the district, with book vouchers up for grabs. There will also be a People's Vote winner, which will be determined by a public vote on the Waikato District Council Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil.

Whether you fancy yourself as an author, an artist or both – there's a category for everyone to enter,



Last year's Festival of Lights in Ngaruawahia was thoroughly enjoyed by all and this year's Festival of Stars is shaping up to be just as great.

both adults and children alike. More information and entry forms are available on our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Waikato-District-Matariki-Festival.aspx or from any Waikato district library. **Entries opened Monday 5 May and close 5pm, Friday 27 June 2014**



Mayor's message

I was really heartened by the level of community engagement during the recent Annual Plan process.

We received 755 submissions, which might seem like a lot, but I was motivated by this high response rate as it demonstrates you want to work together with Council to make the Waikato district an even better place to invest, live and visit.

It also showed the 12 public meetings Council held during the consultation phase really engaged our communities. I enjoyed meeting you and having some robust discussions which provided Council with plenty of food for thought.

The Annual Plan is a big deal. It's a summary of what Council hopes to achieve for the Waikato district in the coming year.

For the first time we held hearings in three different locations – Tuakau, Raglan and Ngaruawahia, making it easier for you to come and discuss your submissions with Council.

At the hearings we discussed a number of issues at length, including supporting our rural fire brigades, providing more and better public toilets, improving footpath and roading maintenance, investing in bilingual signage and reviewing how our community halls operate. There were also large numbers of community groups seeking grant funding.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to come to the hearings and those who submitted in writing. I do believe together we can build a well-planned and well-financed future.

To see the outcomes of the Annual Plan process and what Council has identified as priorities for the year ahead visit our website.

Council is now busy working on the upcoming Long Term Plan 2015-2025. We will discuss this more with you in October.



Allan Sanson
Mayor
mayor@waikato.govt.nz

Understanding your rating value



Every three years we are required to revalue all the properties in the Waikato district. In July we will begin this process and you may notice that your rating value will change.

How does a revaluation impact your rates?

Your new 2014 valuation will be used to calculate your rates from the start of the next rating year, being 1 July 2015.

Be aware that a change in your rateable value does not mean rates for your property will change by a similar percentage. The rating valuations are only one part in determining the total rates you will pay.

What if you disagree with the rating value on your property?

You are entitled to object to your new rating value.

Details on how to do this will be contained in your revaluation letter which we will post out to you in October.

FLUORIDE INTRODUCED TO NORTH WAIKATO COMMUNITIES

From July, we will introduce fluoride to water supplies in the district's northern communities as part of our Community Water Fluoridation Policy.

In 2012, Council adopted the policy which endorsed the continuation of fluoride for Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Horotiu water supplies, and included a future option to extend it to other communities.

Waikato District Council General Manager Service Delivery, Tim Harty says the policy was well received by various representatives from the affected communities.

"We shared the policy with Te Kauwhata, Meremere and Taupiri community representatives who were very supportive of the campaign. We also received support from the

Waikato District Health Board and their Medical Health Officer."

Mr Harty says Council appreciates there is significant discussion about fluoride at present however the support they've received from the district indicates they should continue with a project they offered the community two years ago.

"Last year's decision by Hamilton City Council (HCC) to remove fluoride from their water supply had a direct effect on our southern districts. We surveyed the 2500 Waikato properties affected by HCC's decision, of those who replied, 76 per cent voted in favour of fluoride."

Fluoride will be added to the Te Kauwhata water plant which supplies Te Kauwhata, Meremere and Springhill Prison. ■

Quick facts

- 1 Ngaruawahia, Huntly, Horotiu have fluoridated water supplies.
- 2 2500 Tamahere, Matangi, Tamahere, Tauwhare and Eureka properties receive their water supply from Hamilton City Council (HCC).
- 3 In September 2013, HCC removed fluoride from their water supply. Waikato District Council surveyed affected residents who voted 76 per cent in favour of fluoride. This information was presented to HCC as part of its referendum. HCC later agreed to reinstate fluoride however this decision is still under judicial review.
- 4 Onewhero, Raglan, and Tuakau don't have fluoridated water supplies.

Register your dog early and save

Yes, it's that time of year again. Dog registration is due in July so plan ahead and make sure you keep your pooch legal.

Waikato district dog owners are being asked to register their dog by 20 July 2014 to receive a discounted rate.

For the third year running, Council is offering savings of up to \$22 for those who register their dog promptly.

All dog owners should have now received their renewal notices reminding them that registration for the year 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015 is due.

Waikato District Council General Manager Customer Support, Sue Duignan said dog registration is not only a legal

requirement, but is also in the best interest of your pooch.

"The registration information about your dog goes onto a national register which helps in locating and identifying owners in the case of wandering, lost or stolen dogs. It also helps keep track of dogs that have changed owners or districts, or that have a history of complaints."

Ms Duignan encouraged dog owners to pay their fees promptly.

"The best thing to do is get in early, get the discount and keep your dog legal. By registering dogs, the Council can ensure residents enjoy the benefits of dog ownership while minimising the risk of danger, distress and nuisance to the general public." ■



Dog registration fees

- New dog owners or approved owner status \$91 (or \$69 with discount)
- General owner status \$117 (or \$96 with discount)
- Selected owner or farm dog status \$62 (or \$41 with discount)

Failure to register a dog can result in dogs being seized, an infringement fine of \$300 or prosecution.

More information on dog registrations is available on our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

► What do you think about the Link?

Got two minutes? Tell us what you think about our Link newsletter and you could **WIN a mini fire safety kit**, perfect to have as part of your civil defence kit or in the car.

This is your opportunity to tell us what you think about the Link, as it's one of the ways we try to keep our residents and ratepayers up-to-date with key happenings at Council.



Simply complete the survey and send it back to us by **31 July 2014** to be in to win. The winner will be notified by telephone on 1 August.

☒ Please tick your preferred options

1 How much of the newsletter do you read?

- ☐ More than half
- ☐ Less than half
- ☐ Only sections that interest you

2 How relevant do you find the information?

- ☐ Very relevant
- ☐ Relevant
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not relevant at all

3 How readable is the Link?

- ☐ Easy to understand
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Difficult to read
- ☐ Comment _____

4 What would you like to see in future newsletters?

- ☐ Bylaw updates
- ☐ Council work stories
- ☐ Council news
- ☐ More community stories
- ☐ Councillor updates
- ☐ More images
- ☐ Other _____

5 What is the ideal frequency of the Link?

- ☐ Bi-monthly
- ☐ Quarterly
- ☐ Annually
- ☐ Other _____

6 Would you prefer to receive Council news in a different format?

- ☐ E-newsletter
- ☐ Newspaper article
- ☐ Mailed hard copy newsletter
- ☐ On rates notices
- ☐ Other _____

7 What do you like about the Link?

8 What don't you like about the Link?

Fold here

FreePost Authority Number 803



Communications Team
Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia 3742

Fold here

To enter the prize draw

please complete the following details:

Name: _____

Mobile: _____

Home phone: _____





Flush a mug

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate when water stands in the fittings for several hours. Although the health risk is small, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mug (or large glass) of water from your drinking water tap each morning before use to remove any metals from your drinking water.



Award winning water operator

Congratulations to Ryan Laurenson, our Water Reticulation Cadet who was awarded the prestigious title of Young Operator of the Year at the 2014 Water Industry Operations Group of New Zealand awards.

From Ngaruawahia, Ryan joined Council as a trainee cadet in 2012 and over the past two years has become the first modern apprentice in New Zealand to complete a National Certificate in Infrastructure Works (Level 2) and the National Certificate in Water Reticulation, Planned and Reactive and Maintenance (Level 3).

Supervisor, Ross Dillon nominated Ryan for the award and he says the award acknowledges an industry trainee whose enthusiasm and passion to learn about the water industry was displayed in their training and progress. **Well done Ryan!**



Ryan Laurenson (right) receiving his award from Water Industry Operations Group Chairman, Mike Monaghan.

BYLAW UPDATE

Speed Limit Bylaw consultation continues

A hearing into Council's annual Speed Limit Bylaw review reconvened this month after the initial hearing was adjourned. Twenty three submissions relating to 16 proposed speed limit amendments across the district have been received.

Feedback on new water bylaw

Council received seven submissions on the proposed Waikato District Council Water Supply Bylaw which will combine the former Franklin district and existing Waikato district water supply bylaws. The new water bylaw applies to the protection and operation of the public water supply system in the Waikato district.

The outcome of these two hearings was not available at the time of printing – for updates visit the 'News' section on our website or check out our Facebook page.

Working on whitebait

For the past 18 months we have been working with various partners on issues affecting the sustainability of the whitebait habitat at Port Waikato. In July a series of public meetings is planned to continue this work. Dates and venues will be advised on our website.

Our next edition of Link will be published in August. Got a question you'd like answered or information to share with the community? Email communications@waidc.govt.nz