

JUN-JUL 2015

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## Celebrating Matariki

Matariki rere ki pae mahara – Matariki a time to remember and reflect.

Matariki represents many things but most importantly it's a festive time, a celebration of people and the rich cultural fabric of Aotearoa.

Matariki, more commonly known as Maaori New Year, is a small but distinctive star cluster whose appearance in the sky marks the start of a new phase of life.

In ancient times Matariki arrived at the end of the harvest and was a time of plenty, sharing and celebration.

In celebration of the 2015 Matariki Festival we're holding three key events that are not to be missed.



## Tino Reka Te Kai - Matariki Menu Challenge

Puha, kina, watercress, kamokamo, pikopiko, tuna, mussels, fish, pork, honey ... all produced in the Waikato. What's the best dish? You be the judge!

Waikato Food Inc, in association with Waikato District Council, presents Tino Reka Te Kai – Matariki Menu Challenge.

Celebrating the excellence of kai grown and produced locally, participating restaurants and cafes will be creating a Matariki inspired dish using at least two ingredients grown or produced in our district.

All you need to do is try these dishes then vote for your favourite and be in to win a weekend for two at the Dreamcatcher Lodge, Raglan plus a dinner voucher at one of Raglan's best eateries, all courtesy of our competition sponsors.

So get eating and get voting!



## The Matariki Travelling Suitcase Art Exhibition

Nga Toi (The Arts) a Matariki-themed exhibition comprising pieces from local Waikato artists has been collated.

Each piece reflects an interpretation of Matariki or one theme of the Matariki Festival.

Dubbed the "Travelling Suitcase" exhibition, these specially commissioned pieces will be on display throughout the Waikato district. So make sure you visit your local library or Council office to view these amazing pieces.



## Waikato District Matariki Library Competition

Entries are now closed but we'd like your help choosing the People's Choice winner. Visit our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil](http://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil) and vote for your favourite by 19 July.

If you want to know more about these events visit <http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/Matariki.aspx> or give us a call on 0800 492 452.



# Mayor's message

**Someone once said you can either let life happen or be an active participant.**

Recently we completed three days of submissions to our Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) and it was heartening to see members of communities around the district actively participating in what is planned over the coming years.

While yet to be formally adopted, one of the outcomes of the LTP is that many of our libraries will be open longer, making resources and some Council services available to more people at different times. This great initiative came from people having their say.

Our District Plan is also being reviewed and we're pleased to have been "on the road" around the district recently getting your views. You can read more about that on page 6.

Anzac Day 2015 was a humbling experience, not only for its poignant significance, but in terms of the huge community pride and levels of participation witnessed in the various commemorations. Some of this has been captured on page 7.

Something we can be less proud of is the high number of incidents on our district's roads – especially on our rural roads. And we do have a significant number of rural roads. Winter brings with it fog, rain and other challenging conditions, so I urge you to take particular care when on the road.

Matariki signals the beginning of new things. For Council it is a new cycle of LTP and implementing new initiatives. Looking forward, we are a council fortunate to be able to support growth around infrastructure and the employment opportunities that brings, along with expanded rates which help minimise impacts on average ratepayers.



**Allan Sanson** Mayor  
mayor@waidec.govt.nz



## Save time and money - register your pooch now!

If you pay for your dog registration before 20 July you'll receive a discounted fee! To make it even better, we're also offering the opportunity to win a \$250 prize pack, including a year's free registration to everyone who pays online before 20 July.



If you're a registered dog owner you should have received your renewal notice in the mail, along with information about changes to the Dog Control Policy and Bylaw and an easy guide to paying your registration fee online. If you didn't receive your reminder notice, let us know by emailing [AnimalControlTeam@waidec.govt.nz](mailto:AnimalControlTeam@waidec.govt.nz) or phoning 0800 492 452.

Pay your fee at [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/payit](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/payit) using a credit card or by searching for 'WDC Animal Control' in your internet banking. Visit the dog registration page on our website for detailed instructions.

Then, simply sign and send your renewal notice back to us in the envelope provided. Once we've seen your payment, we'll send your dog tags to you within ten working days. It's that easy.

Paying your dog registration doesn't just mean your pooch is legal; it helps deliver safer communities, drastically increases your chances of finding your dog if it goes missing and supports dog education in schools.

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### Dog registration fees

- New dog owners or approved owner status \$72 (or \$92 without discount)
- General owner status \$98 (or \$118 without discount)
- Selected owner or farm dog status \$43 (or \$63 without discount).



# Big upgrade planned for Ngaruawahia waterworks

There's a big piece of work coming up later this month which will affect your water supply, as well as access to and from the town centre via Waipa Bridge. (That's the bridge that runs across Waikato River and just south of Riverview Dairy on Great South Rd).

Some of the town's drinking water and wastewater pipes under Waipa Bridge need replacing. To do this, we need to turn the water supply off to some houses for a brief time. We'll let you know which houses will be directly affected but houses at the northern end of the town should be prepared for disruptions.

We're also managing traffic in the area so the bridge will be down to one lane or a detour required. Emergency services will still have access.

The work is scheduled to take place from Wednesday 22 through to Sunday 26 July so before then you could start collecting and storing clean drinking water, just enough for your family. We'll be setting up an emergency water station in the area so if you run out you'll be able to collect fresh drinking water.

During the work your water supply will vary from low pressure to none at all.

Conserve water at all times. Don't flush the loo unless you need to; limit showers, and clothes washing; don't leave taps running and check they're not dripping, just normal smart water habits.

## STAY UPDATED

- [www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil)
- [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz)
- Radio Tainui community notices

## We're giving back to the community one tree at a time

Groups of Council staff recently took the opportunity to give back to the community, and the environment, by helping plant around 1500 trees at Lake Rotokauri, and a similar number at Lake Kainui.

The project provided staff with a chance to learn about some of New Zealand's indigenous plants, especially those that grow well in our district, while helping to replenish local vegetation.



Waikato District Council team with planting contractors at Lake Rotokauri



# Home is Waikato District

This year each edition of Link will feature different communities in our district. Let's take a visit to Whangamarino and Newcastle.

Whangamarino Ward

Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward

Onewhero-Te Akau Ward

Huntly Ward

Hukanui-Waerenga Ward

Ngaruawahia Ward

Newcastle Ward

Raglan Ward

Eureka Ward

Tamahere Ward

## What makes WHANGAMARINO WARD GREAT?

Whangamarino is one of the district's most diverse; from coastal and rural views in Mangatangi and Maramarua's forests, to brands like Peplers and Lewis Road Creamery, Lake Waikare and the roar of Hampton Downs.

It's rich in history. In 1863, Cameron's forces crossed the Mangatawhiri stream, which was a pivotal event to the New Zealand land wars. Pa and battle sites dot the landscape along SH1 to Rangiriri's reconstructed pa.

As the viticulture cradle of New Zealand, Te Kauwhata Wines won gold in 1906 in Paris, and Whangamarino wetlands ecological values are internationally renowned.

**Jan Sedgwick**

Whangamarino Ward Councillor  
[jan.sedgwick@waik.govt.nz](mailto:jan.sedgwick@waik.govt.nz)



## Meremere Community Hall - not long now

Planning is underway for the opening of Meremere's new Community Hall with construction work scheduled to end in July.

The new facility replaces the previous hall built circa 1920s and revamped in the late 50s to service a growing workforce in the district. Its design has been finalised after consultation and input from the community and will service a wide range of community groups, sports and functions.

A \$582,519 Lotteries Board Grant has assisted with the design and construction of the facility, Trust Waikato granted \$100,000 and WEL Energy Trust granted \$40,000 towards the Hall Capital Works build. Trust Waikato also granted \$5,000 to the Meremere Community Development Committee to purchase tables, chairs, crockery, cutlery and general supplies.

Council has also committed \$411,200 to the project.

# Welcome to NEWCASTLE WARD

Highlighting my ward is like having to choose my favourite child particularly as Newcastle encompasses three distinct communities, each with a unique, vibrant personality, driven by community heart and soul.

Te Kowhai – a well-established village yet promising further development in the near future as a result of strategic structure planning in past years.

Rotokauri – resting conveniently on Hamilton City's boundary it boasts a quiet country lifestyle where residents experience nature reserves.

And last, but certainly not least, Whatawhata, perhaps our hidden gem. Nestled between the bustle of the city and the beach, it still holds plenty of country living areas waiting for development.

*You should come and meet us one day.*

**Noel Smith**  
Newcastle Ward Councillor  
[noel.smith@waikato.govt.nz](mailto:noel.smith@waikato.govt.nz)



## Our Te Otamanui Walkway project

*Thanks to Amanda Schaaque, Te Kowhai News for sharing this story and photos.*

One of Te Kowhai's most significant projects is the reclamation and regeneration of the Te Otamanui Lagoon. Featuring a 60 acre lake with a three kilometre long gully, the lagoon has been a key focus for some long-term thinking and action.

Keen to enhance the lagoon and future-proof local walking and leisure requirements for years to come, locals presented their vision to Council nearly 10 years ago. Their foresight has now delivered a 6-10 kilometre walkway starting in the centre of the village and following the Te Kowhai Stream and Te Otamanui Lagoon to the Waipa River.

The first section of the walkway was opened in December 2013; the second in March 2015.

The Te Kowhai community has led the walkway's development, with progress depending entirely on the generosity and goodwill of the many landowners, and sheer grunt work of local community groups and volunteers.

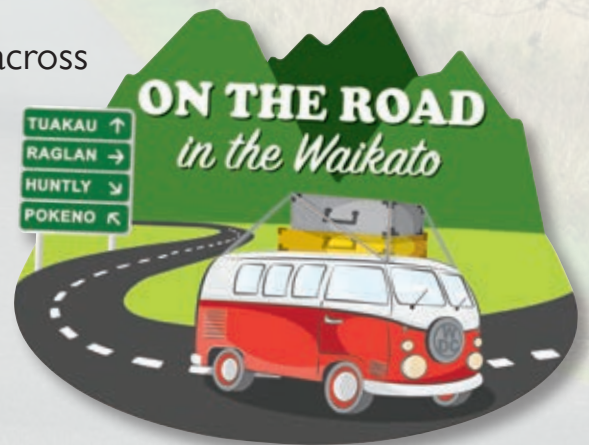




# On the road in the Waikato

## — reviewing our District Plan

For the last five weeks we've been making pit stops across the district chatting to you about our District Plan. We have a District Plan to protect the uniqueness of our district and to guide the way land is used, developed and subdivided. The District Plan Review is our opportunity to revisit all the existing rules and see if they're still working effectively.



There are a variety of areas the District Plan regulates:

- What type of activities you can do on your land, how much noise you can make, whether you can operate a business, aspects of building design and location.
- Subdivision of land and what can or can't occur on other properties in your neighbourhood.

Thanks to everyone who has joined the journey and come along to one of our drop-in sessions.

If you haven't been able to make it, send your feedback on any part of the District Plan that's important to you to [districtplan@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:districtplan@waidc.govt.nz)

## WHAT'S next?

All your ideas and suggestions will help us develop the Draft District Plan, this is a big piece of work and we aim to have it completed by the end of 2016. From here we'll share the draft plan with you and ask for further feedback. The goal is to have an operative District Plan in place by 2020.

## Waikato district still in high demand

Over the last six months LIM (Land Information Memorandum) applications have hit record high numbers as more and more people want a slice of the great Waikato district.

Since December 2014 we have received 815 LIM applications, nearly 60% more than the same time a year ago.

Sue Duignan, General Manager Customer Support, said the Consents Team is "consistently busy".

"In the last nine months we've responded to 3327 Duty Planner queries.

We've received 248 more property enquiries than the same period last year and 61 more Resource Consent applications."

We aim to deliver information as quickly as possible but due to the extraordinary demand we may need to use the full time frame allowed.





# ANZAC DAY 2015 - We will remember them

Our district commemorated the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landing. Here's a snapshot of memorial events from around the district.







## Get ready for the big ShakeOut!

9.15am October 15 is the national 'ShakeOut' earthquake drill. This important event will ensure we know how to "get thru" an earthquake. Registrations are now open, so get your school, business or household registered today at [www.shakeout.govt.nz](http://www.shakeout.govt.nz)

## Get ready for the big

New Zealand

# Shake Out

9.15am 15 October 2015

GET READY  
GET THRU

SIGN UP

Got a question about Council business?  
Email [communications@waikato.govt.nz](mailto:communications@waikato.govt.nz)



WHEN  
WET

## Winter driving

Frosty, foggy, wet days make for hazardous driving conditions meaning you need to allow extra time for your journey and keep your speed down.

It's a good idea to double the two second rule; have at least four seconds between you and the car in front. Make yourself seen by travelling with your headlights dipped during the day.

Planning a long trip? Check the weather and road conditions and plan your route. Always choose safety over convenience.

## Flush a mug

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to allow minute traces of metals to accumulate in water standing in the fitting for several hours.

Although the risk is minimal, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a cupful of water from your drinking tap each morning to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

## Changes to Service Request

### How can we help you?

Spotted a pot hole in the road, overflowing litter or fresh graffiti? It's now easier and more efficient to tell us about work that needs to be done in our district.



Visit [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/requestit](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/requestit) and let us know what needs to be fixed.

Got an issue you need to report outside normal offices hours?  
Call 0800 492 452.

## Winter Tip

A household plan is the most important part of your household preparedness. What will you do if you can't reach your family or flatmates during a disaster? Where will you meet?

Have a flat or family meeting and make your plan today. Visit [www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz](http://www.waikatoregioncdemg.govt.nz) to download a household plan card.

### Get Thru winter tip #1...

Develop or update your Household Emergency Plan. Learn more about the hazards in your area.

GET READY  
GET THRU

[www.getthru.govt.nz](http://www.getthru.govt.nz)



Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 1-7 September 2015. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact [communications@waikato.govt.nz](mailto:communications@waikato.govt.nz) with your address details 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.