

LINK

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS

November 2017

Snapshot of 2016/17
Check out our Annual Report Summary
included with this issue of LINK.

Waikato
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera aa Takiwaa o Waikato

Students catch a glimpse of the past

School children have witnessed first-hand the rich cultural heritage of the Horotiu area after visiting an archaeological site on the Te Awa River Ride project.

Archaeologists, working alongside tangata whenua, have uncovered a site of considerable national historic significance during construction of the cycleway.

The discovery of evidence of pre-European Maaori long-term occupation and activity along the Waikato River bank is considered to be an exciting find for archaeology in New Zealand.

Students from Te Rapa School and Horotiu School were taken on a tour by Waikato District Council staff, contractors and archaeologists to see for themselves why the site suggests that people were both living and working at the site by the river.

Food storage pits examined on the site have determined that not only were people living there for a long time, but that there were multiple layers of occupation.

The site has yielded evidence of kumara gardening, particularly puke ahu, similar to those on display at the Te Parapara Garden at Hamilton Gardens.

Hints of the types of lifestyle and craftsmanship of the people have also been identified during investigations.



Horotiu School student Nui Nepia shows what an adze preform (cutting tool) looks like.

Some examples include shell artefacts thought to be associated with working flax and stone artefacts used for detailed woodwork.

Significantly some of the stone used for these tools is sourced from well outside the Waikato, suggesting the existence of established long-distance trade routes across New Zealand. The site's proximity to the navigable Waikato River supports this suggestion.

Organic materials encountered by the archaeologists on site allow further insight

into the everyday lives of the people living on the riverbank.

Bones from butchered animals and shells in middens provide information on what they were eating, the presence of coastal shellfish already suggesting that the trade routes were being used for food as well as stone resources.

Charcoal fragments retrieved from fire places have the potential to provide a timeframe around when this bustling site was occupied through radio carbon dating and information on what the environment was like at the time.

Today the site falls within the rohe of the Ngaati Mahuta, Ngaati Waikai and Ngaati Wairere and the Maaori associations of the features and materials encountered thus far provides a tangible link with the tupuna of the ancestors who lived in this area.

Excavations have now finished with work on the cycleway now in full swing. The material recovered continues to be analysed so we can have some inclination as to how long ago people were there. *Continued page 7.*

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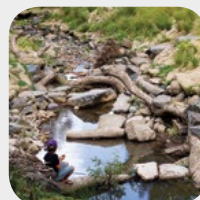
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www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Mayor's Message



It's amazing to look back on the last financial year and see what an incredible time for the Waikato District it has been, despite record rainfall, flooding and numerous slips on our rural roads. We're the third fastest growing district. We've had above average business and job growth. We've been recognised by the Government as a crucial growth-council by its backing of our Housing Infrastructure Fund proposal to support new infrastructure needed to support the development of new housing and strong communities.

This tells the story of a district facing a growing population, and therefore increased demands on us for services and infrastructure. We will be picking up the challenges of a growing district through our long term planning. You will hear – and see – more from us about the long term direction of our district over the next six months. If you want to check in in the meantime, visit www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/LTP

One of the big ticket items of our LTP will be how we manage water and wastewater in our towns. It has become clear that all councils will be required to meet higher standards in the future – in terms of drinking water and waste water. Our priority is to keep our people safe and to protect our environment in the most efficient way possible. While we have great staff, our Council (like many councils) is struggling to recruit and retain the expertise we need to run our water and wastewater services to the standards now demanded. We are heavily reliant on outside consultants for help – and that comes at a cost. It is clear that, on its own, our Council cannot provide the kinds of services our communities will need and should expect in the future. So we must do something differently and what is best for our ratepayers and our community.

Given this, we are doing a lot of work on what the best way for us to deliver water and wastewater services in the future would be. We are assessing a proposed shared-services non-asset owning water company model, favoured by Waipa and Hamilton City Councils, against our status quo and against a third option, the creation of a Waikato District Council owned asset-owning water company that would be run with support from our partners, Watercare and Waikato-Tainui.

In December our Council will deliberate on our preferred option and then we will consult you, our communities, about how this could affect you before we decide the path ahead.

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council

Horsham Downs intersection has a heart of glass

Better use of glass waste is the thinking behind a trial being run by the Waikato District Alliance.

The intersection of Horsham Downs and Lake Road is being used as a pilot site for the use of beer bottle glass sand asphalt and the product is performing well.

When Road Science New Zealand approached the Waikato District Alliance with the idea of using sand made by crushing beer bottles the team jumped at the chance.

"We're always looking at ways to innovate and improve environmental sustainability where possible," said Capital Works Manager Steve Uffindell. "There was no hesitation in finding a suitable site from within the current resurfacing renewal programme."

The beer bottle sand is manufactured by DB Breweries who launched the recycling initiative to play its part in reducing natural sand transportation and beach erosion.

The Road Science team found that incorporating the glass sand into one of its asphalt mixes it resulted in a product that handled exactly the same as a conventional asphalt while improving its resistance to deformation. "This single project has used the previously non-recyclable material created by almost 120,000 bottles and produced an asphalt that has so far outperformed the existing material," says Mr Uffindell.

"From a sustainability perspective, the re-use of man-made materials such as this, now and in the future will hopefully reduce the consumption, of scarce finite materials."

The Waikato District Alliance is monitoring the trial site and the team is investigating the possibility of incorporating the beer bottle glass sand asphalt as standard practice for its resurfacing renewal programme on roads in the Waikato District.

The Waikato District Alliance is a joint venture between Waikato District Council and Downer NZ formed in 2015 to manage and maintain the roading assets of the Waikato District.



Beer bottle glass sand asphalt has been used for work on the Horsham Downs and Lake Road intersection.

Play hard, drive straight, have a sober driver

Councils across the Waikato and Bay of Plenty are following Waikato District Council's lead when it comes to this summer's sober driver campaign.

Following the success of Council's production of beer bottle stickers promoting responsible behaviour at the point of alcohol consumption at Harbour View Hotel in Raglan last summer, the campaign will be expanded this year.

Labelled Play Hard Drive Straight, Have A Sober Driver, the campaign will make resources available to licensed premises throughout the Waikato District in the form of bar mats, coasters and posters.

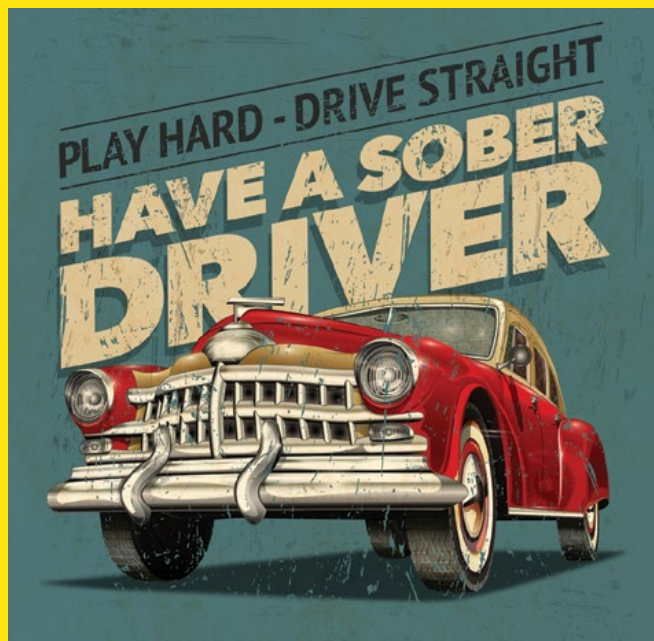
The campaign will be backed up by activities at the beach in Raglan to further engage with youth who may not visit licensed premises.

Messages including, "Beers with your mates same time next week? Bring a sober driver", "Extra thirsty, extra drink, extra care. Have a sober driver" and "Hot sun. Cold beer. Have a sober driver. Legend", aim to spark safety conversations at the point of drinking.

Road safety co-ordinator Megan Jolly said retro-style beer stickers with similar messages used at Harbour View Hotel, in collaboration with owner Jeff Holloway, really hit the mark.

"Surveys at Harbour View Hotel indicated that the stickers were indeed generating meaningful conversations about the need for a sober driver," she says.

"No one wants to share the road with someone who is over the limit and by taking last year's campaign a step further we hope the message gets out to even more people."



"Other neighbouring councils have requested the use of the designs and have expressed an interest in running similar campaigns, which is fantastic news."

Alcohol was a factor in 18% of all car crashes in the Waikato District, and 30% of all fatal or serious injury crashes from 2006-2015.

For more information contact Megan Jolly on mfj@xtra.co.nz or 021 298 9920

How much is your property worth?

If you own property in the district you should have received a revaluation notice for your property by now. The new rating value will be used to calculate your rates from the start of the next rating year, from 1 July 2018.

Every three years we are required to revalue all the properties in the Waikato district, and we employ Quotable Value Ltd (QV) to undertake this process. The rating value is a reflection of what a seller might expect to receive if they sold the property at the time of the revaluation (1 July 2017) excluding chattels (e.g. carpets, drapes, and light fittings).

A change in your rateable value does not mean rates for your property will change by a similar percentage. The rating valuation is only one part in determining the total rates you will pay. Waikato District Council does not collect more rating income

as a result of increased property values or less rating income if values decrease.

If you have not already received your 'Notice of Rating Valuation' please email the Waikato District Council rates team on rates@waidc.govt.nz

If you have concerns about your new rating value we encourage you to contact Quotable Value Limited (QV), on 0800 787 284. Or you can lodge an objection online at www.ratingvalues.co.nz Objections must be lodged no later than 24 November.

Greenspace



Perfect the art of being smart

As we head into the warmer months, demand for water goes up, sparking the need for smart thinking around its usage. One of the easiest ways to save water and energy is to shorten the time you spend in the shower.

Don't know how long you spend in the shower? Just follow these easy steps:

- 1 Start your timer (a phone/clock or watch will work) and turn your shower on.
- 2 Hop into your shower when the water is warm.
- 3 Finish your shower and stop the timer.
- 4 Once you know how long you spend in the shower, set a goal to reduce your shower time by a couple of minutes each week.

You might be surprised at how much water and power you can save over a year. Here are more useful ways to be smarter with your water and not waste it:

Laundry

- Hold off doing laundry until you have a full load.
- Need to replace your washing machine? Look out for the blue stars water rating label – the more stars it has, the less water it uses.



Kitchen

- When washing fruit and veggies fill a small bowl of water instead of leaving the tap running.
- Only put the dishwasher on when it is full.

Bathroom

- Turn the tap off when you brush your teeth.
- If you have an old toilet, stand a full plastic drink bottle in the cistern to save water every time you flush.
- While the shower is warming up, use a bucket to catch the water. It's easy to carry out of the house so you can keep your veggies happy in summer.

Garden

- Put a thick (10cm) layer of mulch around the base of your plants – this will keep 70% of the water in the soil which would otherwise evaporate.

For more tips and information on saving water visit

www.smartwater.org.nz

Girls make their mark on road safety

Three Mangatawhiri School students have taken a proactive approach to improve road safety in their community.

Jorja Bryant, Cayley Fox and Teina Lang recently wrote to Council Road Safety Engineer Gareth Bellamy about their efforts to tidy up the community and make it a safer place. Gareth then visited the school, listened to the students' concerns before visiting the places they thought could do with improving. The students' proactive approach, and Council's willingness to listen, has resulted in some maintenance and key road safety risks being identified and added to the to-do list. To thank Jorja, Cayley and Teina for their efforts, Gareth attended a recent assembly and presented them with appreciation certificates.



Mangatawhiri School students Jorja Bryant, left, Cayley Fox and Teina Lang have been presented appreciation certificates by Council Road Safety Engineer Gareth Bellamy.

This approach isn't a first for Council though. Our roading team often have school students get in touch with road safety suggestions. It's one part of the job that is really valuable, Gareth says. "To have students like Jorja, Cayley and Teina take an active interest in their community and the safety of others is testament to the type of people we'll have living in the Waikato district in the future."

Lifting the lid on Low Impact Design

Excess stormwater can cause a number of issues and Waikato District Council is currently investigating alternative solutions to combat these.

One of the most environmentally friendly solutions to reducing the impact of stormwater is Low Impact Design (LID) methods.

Stormwater is rainwater that has fallen onto roads, roofs or other hard surfaces and often contains chemicals or pollutants (this could be as simple as sediment picked up from your roof or the ground).

LID is an approach to planning and designing urban areas to make use of this valuable resource and reduce the harm it causes to our rivers and creeks.

Impacts of stormwater on waterways

In natural environments, rainwater mostly evaporates, gets absorbed by plants or soaks into the ground.

Urban development dramatically changes these processes, clearing land of vegetation and covering it with 'hard' surfaces that cannot let water through.

As a result, rainwater runs off these surfaces, through stormwater drains and straight into our waterways – many times as polluted stormwater – in a very short time.

This changes the timing, speed and volume of water flows, which can affect our waterways and bays.

Some of these impacts include:

- Reducing flows in waterways most of the time, with unnaturally high flows after it rains.
- Making some beaches unsuitable for swimming after heavy rain.



An example of the benefits of daylighting can be seen in this image of Boffa Miskell's award-winning project for Auckland Council at La Rosa Reserve. Photo: Claire Hamilton.

- Changing the habitat of fish and other aquatic animals, and affecting their breeding habits.
- Eroding stream banks and degrading streams.

Design approaches

LID uses better urban planning and design to use stormwater in a more environmentally friendly way, stopping it from reaching our waterways by mimicking the natural water cycle.

Low impact design options

LID includes a range of treatment options, such as: rain barrels or tanks, planter boxes, soak holes, rain gardens, permeable pavements, and daylighting (bringing stormwater pipes to the surface by restoring streams to a more natural state).

STREAM DAYLIGHTING

Daylighting means bringing stormwater pipes to the surface by restoring streams to a more natural state.

It allows more stormwater to get absorbed and gradually be released by soil and plants.

This not only slows and controls stormwater flows but it also helps remove pollutants from the water — meaning that the overall water quality is improved.

Naturalised streams offer multiple benefits over pipes, including restored habitats, enhanced stormwater management, and a natural asset for the community to enjoy. Stream daylighting is becoming an internationally recognised way to manage urban waterways.

Opportunities in Raglan

Council is investigating a site in Raglan for stream daylighting work. There are multiple benefits of such an investigation.

These include:

- Improved flow capacity and water quality, through the use of planting, in Raglan Harbour.
- Opportunities for flood mitigation in Raglan.
- Potential for the development of educational opportunities through the engagement of local schools through the process.
- Increased community engagement and investment, therefore ensuring the project is cared for and can evolve as it becomes an important open space for the community.

For more information about Low Impact Design please go to www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/LID

Animal Antics

Animal Control tackles the elephant in the room

The Animal Control team is well aware that people think of them as ‘dog catchers’ but that doesn’t sum up what they do.

They’re the ones that help if your child is bitten by a stray dog, your pet is lost or stolen, or hit by a car.

“We keep an eye out for dogs roaming the streets so that they don’t get hit by passing cars, into fights or hurt someone,” says Animal Control Team Leader Megan May. “We’re also the ones out there dealing with stock on the roads so that you can drive home safely. And we do it because we care. Not because we love rules or want to make your life difficult.”

Our Animal Control team work hard to re-home unwanted or abandoned dogs through our Pound. Many of these were allowed to breed because their owners didn’t get them de-sexed.

“Over the past year, we’ve managed to find 242 dogs homes, which we are really proud of. We showed them love and helped them find a family.”

Megan says their biggest priority is educating people. “We’d love to reduce the amount of enforcement we do. In most instances, people want to do the right thing but they might not know what that is. We want to work with our customers, help them understand their responsibilities and educate them on what it means to be a good dog owner.”

“Over the past few years we’ve introduced the Dogs in Libraries and Dog Smart programmes to interact with school children,



Helen Williams has joined the Animal Control Team as its Education and Engagement Officer.

and we’ve recently introduced a maternity cover position that will focus on education and engagement for the next 12 months.”

Helen Williams is our new Animal Control Education and Engagement Officer and she’ll be visiting schools and working with youth groups.

Helen has a busy year ahead, including promoting microchipping and de-sexing, helping new dog owners understand what they can do to look after their furry family members, and she’s hoping to introduce bilingual content to our school programmes.

Helen’s tip of the day: If you get your pet microchipped, make sure the microchip number is recorded with Council and on the national database.

Another friendly face joins Dogs in Libraries team

Twelve-year-old Boo, a black and grey Labrador with a heart of gold, has joined our Dogs in Libraries team.



Meet Boo, the latest member of the Dogs in Libraries team.

Our Dogs in Libraries programme is offered in all our libraries and involves children practicing their reading to one of our dogs.

“There’s a quiet corner where your child can sit and read to one of our dogs, in a relaxed and friendly environment,” says Animal Control Team

Leader Megan May. “Library staff and an Animal Control Officer are present at all times. The programme has been extremely successful.”

Research shows that sitting down and reading to a friendly dog has been found to help a child’s fear of being judged and over time their reading ability and self-confidence improves.

At the grand old age of 12, Boo knows exactly what she likes – she loves pats and her favourite thing in the world is food! Her favourite book is The Pokey Little Puppy.

Boo joins Koey, a 2 year old Labrador Boxer cross, and Charlie Brown, a five year old Shih Tzu cross.

All three were previously adopted from the Waikato Pound, which makes them even more special.

Contact your local library to book in a session.

Local history uncovered

Continued from page 1

Students from Te Rapa Primary School and Horotiu School visited an archaeology site on the Te Awa River Ride project along the banks of the Waikato River recently and discovered all sorts of exciting exhibits and items from our past.



Archaeologist Zac McIvor from the Opus heritage team shows students around the site.



Thomas Rink and Reuben Rink speak with archaeologist Kirsty Potts.



Horotiu students, from left, Alexis Williams, Monique Le Brocq, Manaia Davidson and Karen Camoin enjoyed their day.



Horotiu students, from left, Olivia Flemming, Manaia Davidson, Monique Le Brocq and Alisha Brown take a closer look at the site.



University of Otago archaeologist Ian Barber shows students around the site.

Just Briefly



Got feedback? We want to hear it

We've now made it easier for you to give us feedback. We're committed to providing quality service and your feedback will help us to identify where there are opportunities for improvement and help us to enhance our services. Forms are available at all council offices and libraries, or you can complete the form on our website: waikatodistrict.govt.nz/feedback. Our promise is to listen to your comments or concerns, be open and honest about our mistakes and look at ways we can improve. We also want to know what we're doing right. If there's something you love, or we're exceeding your expectations, please tell us.

Got a swimming pool or spa pool? You'll need to get it inspected



As a result of legislative changes, all pools will need to be inspected every three years to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the Building Act 2004. If you own a pool or spa pool, you should have received a letter detailing your responsibilities and advising you of inspection details. Please feel free to chat to us if you have any questions or concerns by phoning 0800-492-452. There is a Duty Inspector available every morning from 8am to 10am.



District Plan roadshow coming in November

We have nearly completed a new draft District Plan that we want to share with you in a series of Open Days throughout the district before we formally notify it next year. So we're coming to your town in late November or early December to talk to you about the changes we're planning. See the dates and venues below and make sure you diarise the one closest to you. We've been working hard for three years to identify and manage some key issues for our district and we look forward to discussing with you the solutions we have come up with.

Town	Where	When
Tuakau	Supper room, Tuakau Memorial Hall, George St	Mon 20 Nov, 2-7pm
Mangatangi	Supper room, Mangatangi Hall, 1517 Kaiaua Rd	Wed 22 Nov, 2-7pm
Pokeno	Pokeno Hall, Market St	Thur 23 Nov, 2-7pm
Te Kauwhata	Te Kauwhata Rugby Club, Te Kauwhata Domain	Tues 28 Nov, 2-7pm
Huntly	Huntly RSA, 42 William St	Wed 29 Nov, 2-7pm
Raglan	Supper room, Raglan Hall, Bow St	Thur 30 Nov, 2-7pm
Te Kowhai	Te Kowhai Hall, 612 Horotiu Rd	Tues 5 Dec, 2-7pm
Tamahere	Meeting room, Tamahere Hall, 35 Devine Rd	Wed 6 Dec, 2-7pm
Ngaruawahia	Ngaruawahia Memorial Hall, Galileo St	Thur 7 Dec, 2-7pm

Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 11 December to 16 December. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waide.govt.nz with your address details by 20 December 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.

Got a question about Council business?

- [/WaikatoDistrictCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/WaikatoDistrictCouncil)
- twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict
- waikatodistrict.govt.nz

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Raglan

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Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office
2 Dominion Road
Tuakau