



Nestled within the verdant beauty of South Waikato, Dunham's Point Reserve is one of the District's designated camping areas. The reserve offers a serene retreat amidst the stunning landscapes that adorn the banks of the Waikato River.

If you're seeking solace in nature or embarking on an adventure along the Waikato River trail, Dunham's Point Reserve promises an unforgettable experience amidst the pristine beauty of South Waikato's landscapes.

*Photo credit: Life on the Road NZ*

## MARAETAI ROAD INTERMODAL BUSINESS PARK: THE BEGINNINGS

The South Waikato District Council is pleased to provide an update on the progress of the Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park development, a significant project aimed at enhancing economic growth in Tokoroa.

Under the oversight of Camex, the appointed contractor, we are pleased to report that the development is proceeding according to schedule. Following the successful completion of site clearance, efforts have transitioned to the critical task of land levelling, essential for the forthcoming phases of development.

"The teamwork and dedication shown by all involved have been instrumental in achieving our milestones on time," said Joanne Salvacion, Project Manager. "As we enter the next phase of development, our focus remains on ensuring that every aspect of the business park meets the highest standards."

With an anticipated completion date slated for late April/early May next year, the Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park is expected to become a key driver of economic activity within our district. Upon its completion, the Park will feature comprehensive intermodal connectivity to ports of Tauranga and Auckland.

"I am excited about the economic potential that the Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park represents for our district," commented Nick Murphy, Acting Executive Manager Delivery. "This project is a testament to the collaborative efforts



of the South Waikato District Council and our partners in driving forward sustainable economic growth."

As part of our commitment to community development, the South Waikato District Council remains dedicated to creating an environment conducive to sustainable economic growth. This business park reflects this commitment, and we look forward to its positive impact on our region.

### IN HOUSE

Produced in-house for South Waikato residents by the SWDC Communications Team.

Editorial: Brooke Sullivan and Lisa Chunder  
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# COUNCIL MOVES A STEP CLOSER TO MUCH NEEDED HOUSING IN TOKOROA

**Much-needed housing in Tokoroa is a step closer following Council's decision on 24 April 2024 to proceed with a formal application to the Department of Conservation (DOC) for partial revocation of Stanley Park.**

Council is applying to change the use of part of Stanley Park and sell it for community and affordable housing to help meet the significant housing need in the town. The balance of the reserve would be retained for open space and to develop an inclusive playground.

Council has considered submitters' views and objections raised during formal consultation and at the Hearings and Deliberations meeting and has determined that partial revocation of Stanley Park for community and affordable housing offers greater benefits to the community than retaining it all as reserve, especially as the current one-hectare reserve gets very little use by the public.

As such, Council will now proceed with an application to DOC for partial revocation of Stanley Park, as is required under the Reserves Act 1977.

If the application to DOC is successful, it will enable Council to subdivide the land into residential sections and then sell them to a developer to build 19 much-needed homes. These will be a mix of community and affordable housing. Council will also develop a new inclusive playground and toilets on the remaining Stanley Park.

Social housing is in high demand in the district, with 147 applicants requiring a total of 261 bedrooms in the South Waikato, according to the Ministry of Social Development's Housing Register (December 2023).

A new road and footpath will be formed using the current Council-owned 20 Manaia Street site to increase the Reserve's street visibility and safety of users and provide improved access to the playground and the new homes.

Council will involve the community, whānau and most importantly, local children in the design of the playground to make sure it meets their needs and provides a fun, accessible and inclusive space to play.

Council received 45 submissions on the proposal during formal consultation from 24 January to 23 February. Seven of the submissions were from organisations and one was from Council's iwi partner Raukawa. Three people spoke to their submissions at the Hearings and Deliberations meeting on 14 March.



Council's Reserve Management Plan sets out housing as one of the specific reasons that Council will consider selling open space. Currently, there are five other parks near to Stanley Park, offering similar experiences for local residents. Council anticipates the decision from DOC could take several months.

## We Shall Remember Them

As dawn broke on Thursday 25 April, the South Waikato community emerged from the embrace of a chilly morning to honour their fallen heroes on ANZAC Day. Despite the sting of one of the District's earliest frosts, with temperatures dipping below a single degree (brrr!), the collective spirit of remembrance drew crowds to ceremonies across the District.

In Tokoroa, the dawn parade unfurled as a poignant tapestry of tribute, boasting one of the largest turnouts witnessed in half a decade. The gathering wasn't just a generational affair; it embraced a diverse cross-section of ages, a testament to the enduring relevance of honouring those who've served. Organised by the steadfast hands of the RSA (Tokoroa and Putāruru) and the Tirau Community Board (Tirau), with unwavering support from dedicated Council staff, the ceremonies provided a sacred space for New Zealanders to unite in collective remembrance and contemplation.

For those present, it wasn't merely a day marked on the calendar; it was a solemn opportunity to reflect on the valour and sacrifice of the brave men and women who've defended the nation's honour in conflicts spanning the globe. From the hallowed grounds of Gallipoli to the rugged terrains of Afghanistan, their legacy endures in the hearts of a grateful nation. The ceremonies, steeped in tradition and reverence, paid homage to those who made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of peace and freedom.

But ANZAC Day wasn't solely about sombre reflection; it also served as a reminder of the resilience and camaraderie that defines the Kiwi spirit. As the ceremonies concluded, the community was invited to partake in the warmth of fellowship, accompanied by steaming cups of tea and live entertainment. Amidst laughter and shared stories, the echoes of remembrance mingled with the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

As the day drew to a close, and the last strains of music faded into the evening sky, one phrase lingered in the collective consciousness: "Ka maumahara tonu tātou ki a rātou" - "We shall remember them, always".

# SWIFT SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

**S**WIFT (South Waikato Investment Fund Trust) are keen to connect with local businesses in South Waikato to see how they can support you to access specialised 1-on-1 business growth training. For eligible businesses, you can receive funding from Regional Business Partners (RBP) Network and SWIFT to access business development support.

Stories from local businesses who have taken up on this opportunity speak for themselves. Bevan Wood, a local business owner said, "I wouldn't be where I am now without RBP, SWIFT, Soda Inc and BSP ( Business Success Partners). When you are a business rookie like I was, one of the best things to do is get a business advisor to help you out. I'm glad I did. I've recommended to other businesses that they should connect with SWIFT to see how they can get business support to help their growth."

Another local business owner, Rachael Beale, says "SWIFT's support has meant I have been able to work with people who are experts in their field, such as Courtney Haines, who helped me further develop my skills."

If you would like to connect with SWIFT to see how they can support the growth and development of your business, they would love to hear from you. Simply email [info@swift.org.nz](mailto:info@swift.org.nz) to get in touch.



**"I WOULDN'T BE WHERE I AM NOW WITHOUT RBP, SWIFT, SODA INC AND BSP..."**

Council's Child Car Seat Recycling project received an astounding 53 car seats since the project kicked off in January. Keep it coming South Waikato! Given the huge support from the community, Council will keep this project active for the rest of the year. Expired and damaged car seats can be dropped for free at the Tokoroa Transfer Station. For more information visit: [www.seatSMART.co.nz](http://www.seatSMART.co.nz).



## WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

When soft plastics, lawn clippings and rubbish mix with recyclables, they contaminate the whole batch. Remember, recycling isn't a guessing game. Check out Council's website for what goes where: [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz).



# CHORUS CABINET ART BRINGS COLOUR AND LIFE TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

The Chorus Cabinet Art initiative began in 2010 to try to reduce the amount of vandalism to the telecommunications cabinets. It proved so successful that Chorus decided to extend the initiative throughout the country.

The latest painted cabinets in Tokoroa can be found on Paraonui Road, State Highway 32 (Maraetai Road) opposite the Tokoroa Hospital - Gate 3 and opposite Kelso Street. The artist Te Aroha Tauroa, says she's really enjoyed painting the Chorus cabinets, it felt like performance art.

"I've had lots of compliments from the public in the form of thumbs up, honking horns, people calling out, kids and adults stopping to look and to ask what I'm doing. People have also stopped to give me drinks, food, chocolate, fruit and I've also had three prospective commissions," she said.

On average 170 murals are completed each year.

The programme is helping to promote a sense of community belonging, identity and pride while also helping to discourage anti-social behaviour. Be sure to take a stroll in our town to view these beautiful new additions to the neighbourhood.



Right: The artist says this cabinet was asking for something cheery. She has titled this work "Manu tukutuku", both contemporary and traditional kites flying freely in the greenbelt.

Location: State Highway 32 (opposite Kelso Street)

Below: This artwork is titled "Whanau". The Kowhaiwhai design represents our whānau and acknowledges our support system.

Location: Paraonui Road



## PUTĀRURU POOLS COMPLETE FINAL PHASE OF UPGRADES: READY FOR SUMMER

In a bid to enhance the experience for users, the Glenshea Memorial Pool in Putāruru has wrapped up its latest round of renovations, marking the completion of a series of upgrades spanning the past two financial years.

Contractor Jacobs Construction completed the relining of both the adults' and children's pools, along with replacing and grouting broken pool tiles, on Tuesday 7 May. The refurbishments build upon a comprehensive improvement plan initiated previously. The first phase saw a rejuvenation of the changing rooms, including upgraded facilities for both genders and enhanced storage areas, plus a new barbecue area, further enhancing the pool facilities.

Last year, the pools received other enhancements, including the expansion of the parking area to accommodate more visitors, an entry kiosk, upgraded perimeter fencing and railings along the Glenshea Memorial Park footpath. The efforts have culminated in the successful completion of the pool relinings, marking the conclusion of the upgrade initiative. With the renovations now finalised, the Glenshea Memorial Pool is ready to accommodate swimmers and sun-seekers alike come summer.



# PUTĀRURU NETBALL COURTS TRANSFORMED INTO MULTI COURTS

The netball courts at Glenshea Park in Putāruru recently underwent a fantastic transformation.

The courts were earmarked for a complete renewal as part of the Long Term Plan for this financial year.

The old, tired surface was replaced with new asphalt and fresh line markings were added, breathing new life into the six courts. But that's not all - these revitalised courts now offer the versatility of hosting basketball games as well, making it a true multi-court facility for the community of Putāruru.

Phil Parker, Parks and Reserves Manager, says that Council heard the voice of Putāruru youth wanting an outdoor basketball court and allowed for this as part of the surfacing upgrade.

Council also intends installing streetlights, ensuring a safer, better illuminated carparking area for people using the courts.

Despite the project encountering some minor setbacks along the way, the feedback from the community has been very positive. It's wonderful to see the enthusiasm and support from the community.



## EXCITING LAKE MOANANUI UPGRADE!

Council's Parks and Reserve's team recently replaced the damaged surfer swing with a brand new Jungle Cube in the rope play area.

We are thrilled to see how this latest enhancement will enrich the play experience for our community's tamariki. The Jungle Cube encourages physical activity, coordination, and social interaction, which are essential for the healthy development of children. We hope that our young ones will have hours of fun exploring, climbing, and creating new adventures in this vibrant and dynamic play space.



Council is committed to maintaining and improving our public spaces to ensure they are safe, enjoyable, and accessible for everyone. The installation of the Jungle Cube is just one of the many steps we are taking to upgrade and enhance our recreational areas. We look forward to seeing the smiles and hearing the laughter of children as they discover the joys of the new Jungle Cube at Lake Moananui Reserve. So come on down and experience the latest addition to this beautiful playground – a place where imagination and adventure come to life!

# Community-Led Restoration Revitalises Ngā Hau E Whā

Nine of the iconic Talking Pole ceramic tile panels at the Tokoroa War Memorial Sportsground have undergone deterioration over time, prompting a restoration initiative. The restoration project, ignited by Mariata Couch and John Paki when they observed the deterioration of the panels, has become a labour of love. Dedicated to preserving these cultural treasures, Mariata and John have invested countless hours of their own voluntary time into repainting and touching up the taonga. Their vigilant efforts have spurred a collaborative initiative with the Council's Parks team.

The ceramic tiles named Ngā Hau e Whā, originally painted by hundreds of members of the community in 2013, hold significant cultural and historical value. Mariata Couch, John Paki, and Graham Hickford, former members of the Talking Pole Trust, have volunteered their labour to assist in the restoration process.

The restoration work is being conducted in one of the storerooms at the Sports and Events Centre. Four panels have already been fully restored over the last four weeks, with five panels left to complete.

Once the restoration is completed, the panels will be re-installed onto their frames. To enhance their longevity and protection against environmental factors, an improved UV sealant product will be applied annually.

Mariata and John's involvement in the restoration project underscores their deep passion and connection to the Talking Pole ceramic tiles. With over 500 tiles in total,

they possess an intimate knowledge of nearly every story behind each tile, including the individuals who painted them and the significance of their artwork.

Council is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring the proper maintenance of the Talking Pole ceramic tile panels once the restoration is completed. Recognizing the invaluable cultural and historical significance of these panels, Council is dedicated to their ongoing preservation.

Their combined efforts ensure that these cherished artifacts remain vibrant symbols of community pride and identity for generations to come. Council expresses profound gratitude for the invaluable assistance provided by Mariata Couch, John Paki, and Graham Hickford, whose dedication ensures the preservation of these cultural treasures for future generations.



## Harvesting operations to commence in Cougar Park

Starting Thursday 4 June, extensive harvesting operations are slated to commence within Cougar Park, spanning key areas such as Cats, PJs Pride, Eastern Passage, and Stream Trail. The initiative, spearheaded by Manulife Forestry Management in collaboration with the Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club, aims to ensure the sustained health and vitality of the Park's natural resources.

In the interest of safety, Park closure during weekdays from 5 am to 4 pm has been mandated to facilitate the harvesting process. Restricted zones will be demarcated with clear signage and tape, serving as a precautionary measure to safeguard both visitors and workers involved.

All Park users are urged to adhere to the marked boundaries diligently. Respecting these restrictions is not only paramount for personal safety but also contributes to the

smooth execution of the operations and those who are working. While weekdays will see limited access, the Park will reopen its gates after 4pm, allowing visitors to relish the open areas, including Spice Trails, the Flintstone area, Kahu, Tikitiki, Pokaiwhenua, Go Go Gadget, and Humpty Dumpty. However, caution is advised to steer clear of any taped or barricaded zones, even during weekends, as the harvesting activities continue.

Acknowledging potential inconvenience, gate access may be temporarily restricted to facilitate the process. Security personnel stationed at the Newells Road entrance will offer assistance and ensure the smooth flow of information regarding any operational changes.

As the harvesting operations unfold, lasting until the festive season, efforts will be made to minimize disruptions and restore any affected tracks promptly. Expressing gratitude

for community cooperation, the Tokoroa Mountain Bike Club underscored the collective responsibility in ensuring visitor safety and the Park's rejuvenation.





IT'S  
TIME TO  
REGISTER  
YOUR  
POOCH!

That time of year has come around again where our pooch parents need to register their dogs. Reminder - make sure you pop into Council by Wednesday 31 July to pay your annual dog registration fee. If you miss the deadline you will incur an additional 50% penalty fee on top of your dog registration fee.

Did you know that you can pay your dog registration off with a direct debit payment plan? You can pay your registration off with payments from as little as \$10 a week per dog. Just pop into the Council offices and ask our lovely staff to set up an account for you!

It's all well and good us telling you to register your fur babies, but where do your fees actually go?

Let's have a look at the total Animal and Compliance service BEHIND the new registration tag...

- Fit-for-purpose vehicles - patrols and response, fuel, maintenance, branding and equipping to ensure Officers can provide for public safety.
- Heavy duty, fit-for-purpose protective uniforms.
- Trained Officers familiar with relevant legislation.
- Negotiation of voluntary handovers of dogs costs, but it's better than potential expensive court costs!
- Property visits for every complaint to educate, investigate and/or uplift.
- Dog poo bag dispenser and bags - including supply and filling.
- Education and support for people struggling to properly care for their dog.
- Door-to-door programme in August looking for known registered dogs that have not yet had their registration renewed.
- Pound management - keeping it clean and hygienic, feeding, watering the dogs twice daily, seven days a week; rotating dogs in the exercise yards and walking the dogs.
- Public and dog owner safety - by getting roaming and aggressive dogs off the streets.
- Our staff field over 100 calls a year from concerned residents about 'the dog next door'. These are investigated and education support provided. If the situation doesn't improve, the dog is uplifted and held either for seven days or longer depending on the dog's behaviour and temperament. The team put a huge amount of time and effort into animal welfare because animal cruelty is distressing for our community.
- Adopt a Dog programme - all dogs are desexed, microchipped and vet checked so that when the dog is adopted it is unable to have (potentially unwanted) puppies, is legally microchipped and healthy. Many dogs spend longer than seven days in the pound too. Our team spend time assessing dogs for suitability for rehoming.
- Officers are on call 24/7 to ensure public safety - largely around dog attacks and aggression.

## SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETS TO ENHANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE STRATEGIES

In a recent gathering hosted at the South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services Trust, the South Waikato District Council Local Welfare Committee convened for its quarterly meeting. The primary aim of the meeting was to bolster collaborative efforts among various agencies and stakeholders within the district, particularly in the realm of emergency management.

Representatives from several key organisations were in attendance, including TCOSS (Tokoroa Council of Social Services), Ministry of Social Development, Waikato Group Emergency Management Office, South Waikato District Council, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand, Hearing Dogs for Deaf People NZ and Activate Church.

The meeting provided an invaluable platform for members to share updates on ongoing initiatives and discuss strategies to enhance emergency response capabilities, particularly in light of local and regional hazards. Group Welfare Manager, Sia Tanaki, presented key insights gleaned from the 2023 Cyclone Gabrielle response reports, authored by former Police Commissioner Mike Bush and former Governor General Sir Jerry Mateparae. These reports examined the response efforts in Hawkes Bay and the broader national context following Cyclone Gabrielle and the Auckland Anniversary Floods.

One of the focal points of the meeting was a group discussion centered around a hypothetical scenario where a local community experienced a prolonged power outage. Members engaged in strategic deliberations, contemplating the potential impact on the community and outlining measures to mitigate the ensuing challenges. This exercise served to enhance preparedness and coordination among the various agencies involved.

Looking ahead, plans were discussed for future meetings, with a particular emphasis on a tabletop exercise slated for later in the year. This exercise aims to provide the committee with practical insights into coordinating an effective response tailored to the local region's needs.

The gathering underscored the commitment of the South Waikato District Council Local Welfare Committee to proactively address the challenges posed by emergencies and strengthen the resilience of communities within the district. Through ongoing collaboration and strategic planning, the Committee endeavors to enhance its capacity to respond effectively to unforeseen events, ensuring the safety and well-being of residents.



# TOKOROA MOVES INTO BIG CITY BUSINESS MODE WITH NEW CO-WORKING SPACE AT PŪKENGA RAU LEVEL 1

Tokoroa is moving into big city business mode with a new co-working space designed to support emerging local businesses and established companies, while providing off-site meeting rooms for large scale organisations and regional businesses needing a South Waikato base.

Dubbed Level 1, the co-working space in the new Pūkenga Rau building is owned and operated by South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT).

SWIFT Chief Executive Amanda Hema says the intention is that Level 1 will be more than simply serviced office space.

“We want Pūkenga Rau Level 1 to build the local business community by encouraging social and professional engagement that will continue to raise the capability and capacity of businesses operating in South Waikato.”

SWIFT has already secured its first tenant, early learning provider Central Kids, which won the For Purpose and People’s Choice awards at the Waikato Chamber of Commerce Business Awards presented in November 2023. SWIFT won the Community Contribution award at the same event.

“We’re delighted to have Central Kids, an excellent, award-winning South Waikato business that operates 52 early learning services around the central North Island, as our anchor tenant.

There is clearly a synergy between their work in education and SWIFT’s focus on workforce development and capability building in the community.”

Central Kids Chief Executive Christine Hall said she was looking forward to moving her head office team to the brand new Pūkenga Rau Level 1 office and working alongside SWIFT and other Pūkenga Rau Level 1 tenant companies.

“For many years our head office has been based in Putāruru and we’ve really enjoyed being part of that community. However, with a distributed leadership team and the flexibility of remote working, we no longer need such a large building and conference centre. Our new space at Pūkenga Rau Level 1 gives us the office and meeting space we need, the location is convenient to many of our early learning services, and being in a shared space also helps us build stronger relationships with other organisations like SWIFT.”

Amanda said SWIFT’s coworking approach will provide an all-inclusive memberships with tenants receiving dedicated fully serviced desks, consumables and office facilities with access to a hi-tech boardroom, meeting rooms, free tenant and visitor parking.

“We see the shared office space being ideal for a start-up business that has outgrown the spare

bedroom, or a local company who needs off-site space for visiting contactors or who have an overflow of staff. Regional organisations needing to find a base in the district will also be well serviced by Level 1.”

She said tenants in Pūkenga Rau Level 1 would benefit from the collegiality of fellow tenants including Central Kids and support from SWIFT’s education and mentoring programmes.

Each desk membership is priced at \$500 per month. Interested businesses should contact Kiani Tuhua at [kiani.tuhua@swift.org.nz](mailto:kiani.tuhua@swift.org.nz).

The launch of Pūkenga Rau Level 1 follows hot on the heels of the Waikato Chamber of Commerce launching in South Waikato to help local businesses make connections through the 14,000 chambers around the world that represent 45 million businesses.

Amanda said SWIFT and the Waikato Chamber of Commerce are complementary with SWIFT focusing on local capability development and the Chamber being able to provide regional, national and international connections.



Amanda Hema (left) and Christine Hall



SWIFT team at Waikato Business Awards



Central Kids team at Waikato Business Awards



The Pūkenga Rau building in Tokoroa



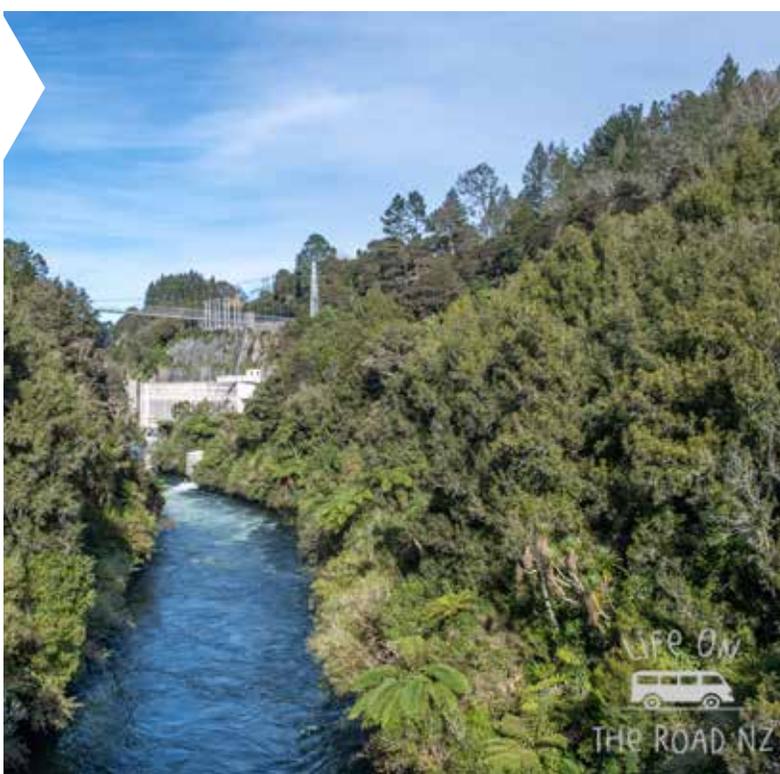


## WELCOME TO THE SOUTH WAIKATO DISTRICT

When you move to a new district there are various things you really need to know fairly quickly! Like, "When is my rubbish day?" "Where is the nearest library?" "Who is my local Councillor?" among so many things.

### Here's where you get much of that information :

- Access the South Waikato District Council website: [www.southwaikato.govt.nz](http://www.southwaikato.govt.nz) and make it a favourite. It has contact details for Council, the whereabouts of your libraries, your rubbish collection day, how to register your dog, pool opening hours, among heaps more (scan the QR code to access the website).
- Download Antenno on your mobile device. Enter your address (eg, 2 Here Street) and you will receive notifications from Council relevant to your address. You can also use this app to report things to Council, like water outages, potholes, flooding etc.
- Follow/like Council's Facebook page for up to date and regular information - [www.facebook.com/southwaikatodistrictcouncil](http://www.facebook.com/southwaikatodistrictcouncil). We post daily. Our Facebook page is a great source of information. Antenno and Facebook are particularly important during flooding or emergency events!



## SOUTH WAIKATO INDOOR POOL SWITCHES TO ECO-FRIENDLY CHLORINE

In a move towards sustainability and safety, Tokoroa Indoor Pool has embarked on a transformative journey, transitioning from traditional chlorine gas to a cutting-edge, environmentally friendly solution. Aquacare's innovative on-site generated 1% Sodium Hypochlorite system promises not just a safer environment for staff and patrons but also significant cost savings and operational efficiencies.

The conventional method of using chlorine gas poses inherent risks, requiring careful handling and storage. With Aquacare's system, Tokoroa Pool bids farewell to these concerns. By generating Sodium Hypochlorite on-site through a process of electrolysis, safety hazards associated with handling dangerous goods are eliminated entirely. This means no more worrying about storage requirements, training costs, or emergency management plans, ushering in a new era of peace of mind for pool operators.

But the benefits don't end there! The Aquacare system boasts numerous advantages over traditional methods. Its 1% Sodium Hypochlorite solution not only proves more cost-effective but also contributes to better water quality and clarity. With a lower pH level compared to commercial alternatives, it reduces the need for costly pH correction measures, making it a win-win for both the environment and the budget.

Furthermore, the system's reliability is second to none. With remote monitoring and routine maintenance by Aquacare's dedicated technicians, any potential issues are swiftly identified and addressed, ensuring uninterrupted operation and customer satisfaction.

Notably, the transition to Aquacare's system is seamless. With no upfront costs for installation and the provision of high-grade salt at no extra charge, Tokoroa Pool can focus on providing a clean, healthy environment for swimmers without worrying about financial burdens.

Looking ahead, Tokoroa Indoor Pool is poised to set a new standard in aquatic facility management, embracing sustainability, safety, and efficiency at every turn. With Aquacare's support and expertise, the future looks brighter than ever for this cherished community asset.



# ADDITIONAL WEIGHBRIDGE ENHANCES EFFICIENCY

Our District's waste management system received a significant upgrade with the installation of an additional weighbridge at the Transfer Station on Newell Road. The project was completed in May this year. The additional weighbridge was funded through the Weighbridge Infrastructure Funding Initiative which is part of the Government Covid19 Response and Recovery Fund.

The Tokoroa Transfer Station opened in November 2020 after the old landfill was closed. With an average of 30,000 vehicles passing through its gates annually, the additional weighbridge will provide a more efficient experience for users. The transfer station is a one-stop-shop for recycling, green waste and household rubbish. There are also free drop-off points for child car seats, household steel, car batteries, liquid paint and chemicals.

The Transfer Station offers a user-friendly experience with clear line markings and directional signage, including traffic lights on both weighbridges. The addition of the weighbridge aligns with Council's commitment to the environment and growth in the district. The Tokoroa Transfer Station is open six days a week, Tuesday through to Saturday from 9am to 4pm and Sundays from 9am to 5pm. The Transfer Station is closed on Mondays.



# Tirau WWPS Upgrade: Enhancing Infrastructure for Growth

The upgrade to the Patetere Street Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS) in Tirau has been a significant undertaking.

The upgrade stemmed from a complete modelling assessment conducted for the district. The upgrade was also crucial to accommodate the anticipated growth within our district, as outlined in the Long Term Plan (LTP). By preparing for growth, we ensure that our infrastructure can support the evolving needs of residents and businesses alike.

Over the construction phase, care was taken to minimise disruptions to the community. Retaining the existing pump station while work was ongoing was a key strategy in ensuring continuity of service. The pump station will be fully operational by the end of May. Once operational, it will contribute to maintaining a robust and reliable system for wastewater management.

Physical works commenced in February 2024, with the upgrade set to be fully completed by the end of May 2024.

With the successful completion of the Tirau wastewater pump station, we move one step closer to realising our goal of a sustainable and resilient District for generations to come.



# Rise in social media scams targeting local communities

In recent months, an alarming trend has emerged, with false stories inundating local community pages, luring unsuspecting users into clicking on malicious links. This surge in online deception serves as a stark reminder of the importance of vigilance and digital literacy in safeguarding ourselves and our loved ones.

From fabricated news articles promising sensational revelations to fake giveaways enticing users with unrealistic prizes, these scams often prey on our curiosity and desire for easy solutions. However, behind the facade lies a dangerous trap, ready to compromise personal information, infect devices with malware, or even extort money from victims.

Here are some crucial tips to help you stay safe:

**1. Verify Before You Click:** Before clicking on any links or engaging with unfamiliar content, take a moment to scrutinize its legitimacy. Verify the source, check for grammatical errors or inconsistencies, and be wary of sensational claims.

**2. Guard Your Personal Information:** Refrain from sharing sensitive personal details, such as passwords or financial information, on social media. Legitimate organisations will never request such information through unsolicited messages.

**3. Educate Your Elders:** Many older adults are active on social media but may be more susceptible to online scams due to lack of familiarity with digital platforms. Take the time to educate and empower them with essential cybersecurity knowledge to protect themselves online.

**4. Report Suspicious Activity:** If you encounter a scam or suspicious content on social media, report it to the platform's administrators immediately. By doing so, you can help prevent others from falling victim to the same deception.

By remaining vigilant, staying informed, and looking out for one another, we can collectively thwart the efforts of scammers and ensure a safer online environment for all.



## NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



**Save the date! Events happening from June - August**

**Pride in Putaruru Matariki movie – The Mountain** - 28 June at 10am - FREE ENTRY.

**Sunday Movie: Wicked Little Letters** - 30 June at 2pm - Tickets \$10.

**School holiday movie: Paw Patrol The Mighty Movie** - 10 July at 10am - \$5 entry.



**Te Waihou Music Awards:** 12 to 14 July - \$3 entry to auditions / \$5 entry to Finals.

**School Holiday movie: Teenage Kraken** - 17 July - \$5 entry.

**Bluelight NZ Free movie:** Film to be confirmed - 18 July - Free Entry.

**Sunday Movie: Uproar** - 21 July at 2pm - \$10 entry.

**Paws Charity Fundraising Concert - Out of The Rain** - 10 August - \$25 entry.

## CONTACT THE PLAZA

Phone: 07 883 8596/0276 559 715

Web: [www.plaza.org.nz](http://www.plaza.org.nz)

Email: [theplaza@plaza.org.nz](mailto:theplaza@plaza.org.nz)

Facebook: [theplazaputaruru](https://www.facebook.com/theplazaputaruru)



## TIPS TO COPE WITH SUNSTRIKE

Sunstrike can be a hazard during winter driving, when the sun lingers lower in the sky.

What you can do to avoid or reduce the chance of sunstrike:

- **Be prepared:** Sunstrike will most likely occur during sunrise or sunset. When driving at these times, especially when turning or driving toward the sun, be extra cautious. Remember that you can also experience sunstrike from your rear view mirror.
- **Keep your windscreen clean:** Dust and grime on your windscreen can worsen the effects of sunstrike. Regularly clean both the inside and outside of your windscreen.
- **Wear sunglasses:** If the sun is in your eyes, wearing sunglasses can help reduce glare. However, be aware that shadows on the side of the road may appear darker.
- **Use sun visors:** Your car's sun visors can block direct sunlight and improve visibility.
- **Use headlights:** Even during the day, using your headlights makes your vehicle more visible to other drivers who may also experience sunstrike.
- **Watch for shadows:** Areas in the shade may appear darker when the sun is low. Be cautious of pedestrians stepping out from shadows, especially near crossings and schools.
- **Pull over if needed:** If you experience sunstrike, consider pulling over and waiting a few minutes until your eyes adjust or visibility improves.

We hope these tips help you stay safer on the roads!



# SWSEC'S GREEN CARPARK MAKEOVER



In a heartwarming display of community collaboration, Waratah and the South Waikato District Council's (SWDC) Parks and Reserves team joined forces to breathe new life into the South Waikato Sport & Events Centre car park.

On a bright May morning, members of both teams rolled up their sleeves and got to work, armed with shovels, saplings and a shared vision of enhancing the local environment. Over the course of the morning, the team planted a variety of beautiful trees and plants, selecting species that would beautify the area and also contribute to the ecological health of the surroundings.

This collaborative initiative not only enhances the visual appeal of the car park but also underscores the importance of community partnerships in fostering a sense of pride and belonging among residents. It serves as a shining example of the amazing things that can be achieved when individuals and organisations come together with a shared purpose.



# READ IN TOUCH? PROVE IT...

... and be in to win a lucky dip \$50 supermarket voucher.

We will be running this competition every issue. The answers to the five questions below are in this issue – June 2024. You have to get them all correct to be in the draw.

Text your answers and your name to 027 287 5980 or private message our Facebook page by 30 June 2024.

1. **When is the Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park Development scheduled for completion?**
2. **When did the Chorus Cabinet Art initiative begin?**
3. **What is the latest addition to the Lake Moananui Reserve's playground?**
4. **When is the deadline for dog registration fees?**
5. **What is the name of the co-working space in the new Pūkenga Rau building?**

Congratulations to Cecilia of Tokoroa who was drawn as the lucky winner for the April 2024 In Touch competition. Thank you to all those who entered. Try again this issue!

The correct answers were:

1. \$250, 2. Elmo, 3. Significance & Engagement, 4. Invest in Women, 5. \$90.



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