



MATARIKI

Matariki holds immense significance in our community. It's a time for remembrance, joy and peace. We honour those we've lost, celebrate our present blessings, and eagerly anticipate the promise of a new year.

SOUTH WAIKATO OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Mayor Gary Petley is enthusiastic about the District's business prospects. Several inspiring projects are currently underway, aiming to benefit the communities that proudly call South Waikato home!

"We have created a vision for the next 30 years and are investing significant capital to support and enable residential, industrial and commercial development. We recognise growth is the key to lifting the whole community – jobs, higher incomes, more facilities."

Chief Executive Susan Law says Council is business-friendly, committing the necessary resources to attract new businesses and make it easy for them to get established and operate.

"We want to be a district where it is easy for entrepreneurs and companies to do business."

Council is developing the \$20 million Maraetai Road Intermodal Business Park in Tokoroa. This has already been 90% sold.

An example of a business that saw the economic benefits in setting up in Tirau and be part of a new era of growth in the District is health food company Nothing Naughty, which made a sound decision to relocate from Tauranga and has not looked back, growing at over 50% per year!

Imagine a forest of 90,000 exotic and native trees, not only providing all the benefits that growing trees deliver to the environment but also

a happy home to 320,000 laying hens. Better Eggs is a proudly family owned South Waikato-based forestry free-range poultry farm pioneer, whose hens are free to roam the forest and behave as nature intended, while laying in warm, comfortable, safe barns – the best of both worlds!

To ensure there is a well-educated workforce, the newly opened \$14 million Pūkenga Rau South Waikato Trades Training Centre situated at the northern end of Tokoroa will train engineers, construction and automotive workers and more.

Beyond business and industry, people are being drawn to live in the region. Housing developer Ultimate Group is working on a \$200 million development of 400 residential homes in Putāruru and the Council has committed to a 19-unit affordable housing precinct and all ability playground in Tokoroa.

Across the District, from Tirau, through Putāruru to Tokoroa south it's a no brainer for businesses to put down roots in the District.



IN HOUSE

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

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Print: SCG Communications



Haere mai new citizens

It's always a special moment to see people from all corners of the world become Kiwis!

On 31 May, His Worship Mayor Gary Petley and Council staff officially welcomed 12 new citizens who hail from Samoa, Zimbabwe and the Philippines, who have chosen to call New Zealand their home. We're so proud that you have chosen Aotearoa New Zealand - and the South Waikato - to be your home.



Kia ora
Talofa Lava
Kia Orana
Bula Vinaka



FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT FOR FIRST HOME BUYERS

Ka Uruora ki te Raki and Raukawa have partnered to deliver this programme to anybody wishing to become financially empowered, and especially those wanting to buy their first home who may not know how to go about it, or even believe that they can buy a home in these financial times.

The topics are presented in interactive three-hour workshops over five weeks and include:

- How to reduce debt and start saving
- Understanding debt and your rights, lending tiers and avoiding loan sharks
- Housing pathways
- Having a money plan
- Learning about insurance
- Doing your own credit check annually which ensures that nobody else is posing as you and raising debt in your name
- Looking ahead and keeping you in your home
- And much, much more.

The dates and venues will depend on where there is interest and may be held in Tokoroa, Putāruru, Te Awamutu and Hamilton.

To register your interest, contact Nane on 0800 728 5292, or 027 245 5063, or email info@rauikawa.org.nz.



UPDATE ON RE-OPENING OF TE WAIHOU/BLUE SPRING



Following closure of Te Waihou Walkway / Blue Spring, Council has been actively engaging with various parties to address the issue. Re-opening the track has been one of our main priorities. In November last year, Council engaged a consultant to chart out a fresh track from Leslie Road, away from the dangerous bluff. Earlier this year, the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) gave Council the green light with an approved resource consent.

Council continues to collaborate with the landowner and local iwi to ensure a smooth implementation of the alternative walkway. Fast forward to July 2024, Council has started an open public tender process for the construction of the new track. Work will begin following the winter months. Council still aims to have the track open by early/mid-November. Stay tuned to the Council's website and social media for more updates.

RECYCLING ISN'T RUBBISH

You might have noticed Tracey, Council's Recycling Educator, making her rounds across the District early each morning.

Her mission? To monitor the contents of our recycling wheelie bins and keep contamination levels in check. When recycling in the truck is severely contaminated, the entire load gets rerouted to the landfill. Unfortunately, this means that all the well-intentioned recyclables end up as waste.

Taking care with your recycling matters! It's not just about the environment; it's also about respecting your neighbours who took care in preparing their recycling. In South Waikato, contamination levels hover around 10%, but the cutoff point is 12%. Beyond that, the truck's contents head straight to the landfill—something that happens more often than we'd like.

So, what causes contamination? Dirty nappies, eggs, green waste, soft plastics, offal, etc—these items don't belong in the recycling bin. Soft plastics are a common culprit. If you can scrunch it up in your hand, it's destined for the rubbish bin. Lastly, cleanliness matters. Rinse or wash your recyclables before tossing them in. On a positive note, Tracey engages in daily conversations with community members. People appreciate her insights and want to do the right thing.

WONDERING WHAT WASTE GOES WHERE?

Check out the Waste Directory on what goes where. This Directory lists everyday items such as batteries, keyboards, jam jars, cardboard, toasters, bedding, and many more and then tells you where it should go.

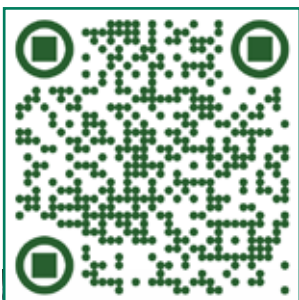
Some products are collected kerbside and go in one of the following:

- Red lid wheelie bin – for rubbish
- Yellow lid wheelie bin – for all recycling except glass
- Glass crates – for glass only

Other items aren't collected kerbside and can be taken elsewhere, such as:

- Transfer Station Hazardous Waste store
- South Waikato Achievement Centre for e-waste
- Local charity shops
- Local car dealers
- Local scrap metal dealers

All products have a place to go; we just need to learn where to put or take them. If you're unsure, consult www.southwaikato.govt.nz or scan the QR code below.



The first ever roller disco was held at the Sports and Events Centre in July and was hosted by Skatescool NZ. The arena was buzzing with skate lessons from 5pm-6pm and then the disco started from 6.30pm. All skates were provided.



The 50-minute lessons were tailored to teach the participants skills to help them skate better. We had over 100 participants and we received some great feedback about this activity.

The team will be back to host another Roller Disco in Tokoroa on Friday 6 September 2024. All ages and levels are welcome. Costs apply.

In July, the Leisure Service Team Lifeguards helped to raise awareness and essential funds dedicated to the training and equipment of over 2,000 Coastguard volunteers and the maintenance of 106 rescue vessels across 63 units nationwide. Our Leisure Services team, comprising 10 members, committed to collectively swimming 100km and raising \$3,000. Notably, over the past 10 months, our team has been instrumental in providing the Coast Guard's safe boating programme to 17 schools, reaching 1,965 students and 102 teachers in the District.

WHAT'S HOT WHAT'S NOT

Our community has been putting in some hard work on their household recycling, however a lot more still needs to be done to get our recycling contamination under control. Sadly, just one contaminated yellow bin can contaminate the whole recycling truck.



Tagging has again reared its ugly head, this time at Tokoroa's Colson's Hill Lookout. Tagging is vandalism and wilful damage and displays a lack of respect for our beautiful town.



Empowering Local Enterprises: Highlights from the South Waikato Business Growth Workshops

Thanks to a flurry of expert-led workshops, business owners in our community have had the opportunity to enhance their skills and knowledge in critical areas such as social media, ChatGPT, and business strategy.

South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT), always on the lookout for opportunities to support our local enterprises, discovered available funding from Regional Business Partners (RBP) specifically for group workshops focusing on business growth. Recognising the potential benefits, “we were eager to leverage this funding and contribute additional resources to make these workshops accessible and affordable for our local businesses,” says Kiani, SWIFT’s Community Liaison.

Kiani continues, “At the start of the year, we reached out to the community to ask: What workshops would you like to see?”. The responses were invaluable in shaping the workshop lineup, ensuring they met the actual needs and interests of our business community.”

The team from Daisy Digital Marketing kicked off the series with a workshop on creating an organic social media presence. Participants learned the ins and outs of crafting engaging content, building a loyal audience, and leveraging social media platforms to boost their business visibility. The insights gained were practical, actionable, and tailored to the unique needs of small businesses.

Next up were Jeremy and Jamie from Mosaic Partners, who delivered an eye-opening workshop on leveraging ChatGPT in business. The session explored the



transformative potential of AI in automating customer service, generating content and enhancing overall business efficiency. Attendees left with a newfound appreciation for AI tools and practical strategies to integrate them into their operations.

Finally, business strategist Kim Hill led an impactful three-part series covering business strategy, financial acumen, and effective leadership. This comprehensive series armed participants with critical knowledge and resources to refine their business strategies, understand their financial metrics, and lead their teams more effectively. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees already implementing the lessons learned.

Looking Ahead

“With the success of these workshops, we are thrilled to announce that more funding is available for the next quarter. We are eager to hear from you about which workshops you would like to see brought back to the district. Your input will continue to guide us in providing valuable opportunities that support the growth and success of our local businesses,” says Kiani.



Sign up for ShakeOut!

New Zealand ShakeOut, our national earthquake drill, is taking place on Thursday 24 October 2024 at 9:30 am. You can register your participation - either as an individual or company, club, school etc at the ShakeOut Website.

ShakeOut is held across the world to remind people of the right action to take during an earthquake - Drop, Cover and Hold.

Whether you’re doing the drill for the first time or you’ve done it before, taking part in New Zealand ShakeOut 2024 is as easy as 1-2-3!

If you’re on a coast, you can also participate in the Tsunami Hikoi. This is where you can practice your evacuation walk to high grounds in your area.

The ShakeOut website has heaps of information and resources including workplace preparedness plans, home emergency plans, lesson plans, teaching resources for schools and more.

Sign up here: www.shakeout.govt.nz



DROP down on your hands and knees. This protects you from falling but lets you move if you need to.



COVER your head and neck under a sturdy table or desk. If there is no shelter nearby, cover your head and neck with your arms and hands.



HOLD on to shelter until the shaking stops. If the shaking shifts your shelter around, move with it.

JORDYN FINDS HIS NICHE THANKS TO MARK JONES AND WORKIT

Jordyn Paraire was nearing the end of Year 13 at Tokoroa High School and was going to be signed out without finishing his school credits, thinking he could go straight into the workforce.

Today Jordyn has completed his school credits and is happily employed as an apprentice spray painter by Mark Jones Paint & Panel Ltd whose owner Mark Jones is delighted with his work ethic and performance.

Jordyn's change in outlook and fortune has been helped by WORKit, a programme set up three years ago by South Waikato District Council and the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs with funding from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to help youth get into jobs.

Mayor Gary Petley says since it started WORKit has supported 257 rangatahi with 176 obtaining full-time employment in South Waikato with 66 local businesses.

"WORKit acknowledges its partnership with valued stakeholders including South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services, Raukawa, WACT, Moving Mountains, YMCA, Tokoroa Council of Social Services (TCOSS), South Waikato Pacific Island Community Services, and the 66 supportive employers.

"Together, their steadfast commitment to providing essential pastoral care for rangatahi and fostering community empowerment exemplifies the transformative impact of our collaborative efforts."

WORKit Connector Paniora Daniels says Jordyn's mother contacted WORKit in search of pastoral care for Jordyn when he was going to leave school and was not sure what career path he wanted to take.

"We developed a plan for Jordyn to finish his final credits first and then for WORKIT to help him to find employment. He gained his credits and signed out of school.

"We worked closely with Jordyn, enrolling him on a Youth Employability Programme (YEP) course facilitated by WORKIT in conjunction with MSD to establish his 'why'. WORKit put him through a driver licence programme with Exodus Driving so he could obtain his restricted licence. He then enrolled in a fork hoist course for his Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) licence," says Paniora

Mark Jones says Paniora brought Jordyn in to have a look at the workshop as he had an interest in the automotive industry. Once Jordyn completed his last year of High School, he started work with the company in November 2022.

"Jordyn initially showed interest in the panel beating side however once he tried his hand in the spray-painting side he found his feet very quickly. He hit the ground running, showing a great work ethic and was eager to learn the trade. He got into colour-matching early on and showed he had the eye to be a very good car painter.



"We started Jordyn off on his automotive refinishing apprenticeship in October 2023 and as he's got more experience under his belt, he's been improving in leaps and bounds in both the prep work and the spray-painting side of the job. We look forward to seeing how he grows within the industry."

Paniora says Jordyn's whānau is also very pleased with his progress and independence. Their biggest fear was him leaving school and not being sorted with a career pathway.



SWIFT CONTINUES TO ENHANCE EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Following last year's inaugural South Waikato Investment Fund Trust (SWIFT) Scholarship Scheme, which saw 23 recipients receive funding totalling \$50,000 to support their tertiary study, SWIFT will soon open its 2024 Scholarship round.

SWIFT Chief Executive Amanda Hema says the scholarship programme is not only for school leavers. "SWIFT endorses 'whole of life' education and welcomes applicants who are in employment looking to upskill and /or members of the community who are looking to reintegrate into the job market by upskilling or to gain employment in another industry sector".

The scholarships are open to returning applicants as constant upskilling and development is also encouraged.

"The scholarships aren't just a 'one and done'. If an individual continues to study for extended years beyond their programme or qualification, they are welcome to apply each year."

Those students eligible for the Government's 'Fees Free' scheme can apply for \$1000 towards course related costs, while others can also seek an additional contribution towards their fees of up to \$4,000.



Applications are welcome from 1 September – 31 October 2024. More details can be found at www.swift.org.nz/scholarship-scheme/ or by emailing info@swift.org.nz.

Wrapping Up a Successful Journey: The South Waikato Governance Mentoring Programme

In October 2023 SWIFT proudly launched the South Waikato Governance Mentoring Programme in collaboration with Community Governance Aotearoa and Mentoring Foundation NZ. This six-month initiative aimed to foster leadership, enhance governance skills, and strengthen community connections.

With a mission to cultivate effective governance in South Waikato, SWIFT took on the crucial role of identifying local participants, coordinating events, and serving as a point of contact throughout the programme. The selected cohort comprised 12 dynamic individuals, matched into six mentor-mentee pairs. Each pair represented a blend of diverse backgrounds and experiences, reflecting the rich tapestry of our community.

The mentors in this programme brought a wealth of knowledge and expertise, showcasing the incredible talent present in our District. Their commitment to sharing their insights and guiding their mentees was instrumental in the programme's success. The mentees, eager to learn and grow, brought fresh perspectives and a willingness to embrace new challenges.

Over the six months participants engaged in a series of workshops, one-on-one sessions, and group activities designed to enhance their governance skills. Topics ranged from strategic planning and financial oversight to effective communication and ethical leadership. The collaborative environment fostered not only skill development but also the formation of lasting relationships.

The success of this cohort is a testament to the power of mentorship and the potential within our community. SWIFT remains committed to supporting initiatives that foster growth and development.

Programme mentee, John Natua says "a highlight for me has been the relationship I've built with my mentor that will continue beyond this programme and all the learnings that came from his experience".

Programme Mentor, Gray Baldwin says, "I've lived in South Waikato for a long time, we do governance and have good people that do interesting things with cool organisations in our backyard."



Left to right: Norman Barker, Gray Baldwin, Kiani Tuhua, Leighton Littlewood, Chloe Jones, Arama Ngapo and John Natua

WHAT'S NEW AT THE SOUTH WAIKATO SPORTS AND EVENTS CENTRE

Are you looking for the perfect place to celebrate a birthday? Look no further! The South Waikato Sport and Events Centre is excited to announce the launch of their new party packages designed to make your loved one's birthday celebrations unforgettable.

The party packages offer a variety of options to suit your needs, whether you're planning a small gathering or a large bash. You name the activity and they will deliver!

The South Waikato Sport and Events Centre is ideally situated and offers a picturesque view through to forest and park grounds. The dedicated team is here to ensure your event runs smoothly, offering full support from planning to execution.

Their prices include 3 hour room hire, and one staff member for one hour to deliver your chosen activity.

For more information:
Email: sportsandevents@southwaikato.govt.nz
Tel: 07 885 1059
Address: 23 Mossop Road, Tokoroa



LET'S PARTY!

WHEN COUNCIL CONSULTS

From time to time, Council formally consults with its community on a range of activities, services, projects, initiatives, bylaws, plans and policies.

REQUIRED BY LEGISLATION

Consultation can occur because we're legislatively required to. This is outlined in a number of Acts of Parliament that govern what councils do (such as the Local Government Act 2002). An example of this is the Long Term Plan that we consulted on this year.

HIGH PUBLIC INTEREST

Consultation can also occur because the issue is of high public interest or high cost. An example of this is the consultation we did on Partial Revocation of Stanley Park. This initiative had a high level of public interest.

HIGH COST

An example of a project that is consulted on due to high cost was when we asked for community submissions on Fees and Charges 2024-25.

TACTICS

We use a range of tools to capture as many people as possible. We advertise in our local newspaper (now the The Waikato Local / Waikato Times), use our community newsletter In Touch (if timing allows), run radio adverts, post to social media, use our mobile phone app Antenna, and produce posters, flyers and a number of other tactics. We also get out and about into the community, taking Council's consultation material directly to the people by holding our own public meetings or drop-in sessions, being present at large community events, liaising directly with known interested groups and using our email and other networks.

Our Elected Members are also active in this space as they are often a point of contact for the community.

FIND OUT MORE

All consultation material is made available on our website www.southwaikato.govt.nz – CONSULTATION (just under the search bar).

Make the link above a favourite and keep checking in. We haven't always got something open for consultation but when we do, it would be great to hear from you.



NEWS FROM THE PLAZA



Events happening in August - October

- **Across the Great Divide - Wednesday 28 August at 7pm - \$15 entry** *World music in a true folk roots' fusion! Acoustic Americana meets Celtic Spirit! Here come Across the Great Divide, featuring traditional, contemporary and original songs and tunes from Celtic, Scandinavian and Americana roots.*
- **Ladies Night Dinner - 11 September from 6pm.**
- **Orchestra Central Trust present: The Adventures of Pat the Patete - Sunday 15 September at 3pm - \$15 adult, \$10 child.** *Introducing the sounds of the orchestra and taonga pūoro (traditional Māori instruments), this is a charming family-friendly story about courage, guardianship and the environment around us.*
- **SWPICS Vaccination - Thursday 19 September from 2pm to 4pm.**
- **Elvis Presley tribute concert - Saturday 21 September from 6.30pm - \$25 entry.**
- **Waste-ed with Kate Meads - Tuesday 1 October from 6pm to 8pm - \$10.**
- **School Holiday Movie - IF - Wednesday 2 October at 10am - \$5 entry.**
- **Bluelight NZ Free movie - TBC - Thursday 3 October at 10am.**
- **SWPICS Vaccination - Thursday 17 October - 2pm to 4pm.**

Sign up to The Plaza's monthly newsletter through their website www.plaza.org.nz to keep up to date on their upcoming events.

CONTACT THE PLAZA

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BLACK ICE

With winter hanging around for a wee while, a new danger has appeared on the road. Black Ice!

What is black ice?

Black ice (sometimes also called clear ice) is a thin coating of ice on the road. While the ice itself is not black, the black road beneath shows through hence the nickname. You can sometimes spot it by looking for shiny patches on the road.

Where could I encounter black ice?

Black ice can occur on any road surface after a heavy frost but is most likely to occur on areas of the road that are shaded from the sun by trees or roadside banks.

Some of the areas where black ice is known to occur in the District are Mossop Road and Wiltstown Road as well as parts of State Highway 5 between Tirau and Rotorua. These areas are monitored by our roading contractors during winter and gritted when needed.

One of the big dangers with black ice is that it can linger on the road, black ice has been seen on the road at 3pm in the afternoon due to the surface never receiving any direct sunlight, so always be wary of shaded parts of the road even if the road seems clear of frost.

What should I do if I encounter black ice?

Stay calm, keep your wheels pointed in the direction of travel and wait for the sliding to stop. Once you are safe, and if possible, contact Council to notify us so our roading contractor can make the area safer.



Putāruru local takes third place in the wood chopping Rookie World Championships



Cleveland Cherry, a Putāruru local, was placed third in the wood chopping Rookie World Championships in Italy. He says it was an honour to represent New Zealand on the world stage.

Cleveland was introduced to woodchopping at 14 when his dad started the sport, and their first show was in Tokoroa.

He is part of the Tokoroa Axeman's club, "Being part of the Tokoroa Axeman's Club has been awesome. The Club members have always backed me. This competition, which started in Tokoroa with tons of support from local businesses and the Club, is now held nationwide, including this year's event in Invercargill," he says.

Emotions on placing third at the Stihl Rookie World Championship

"Placing third at the Stihl Rookie World Championship brought mixed emotions. Although I aimed for gold, I was stoked to make the podium. I'd like to thank Stihl NZ, Stace, and Jack Jordan for their support during the competition."

Future goals in wood chopping

Looking ahead, he will compete in Brisbane with a North Island Team at the Red Cliff Show. "While I am now too old for the Stihl Rookies Event, my goal is to qualify for the Stihl Men's competition and the NZ Men's Team."

Advice to young athletes from small towns

"To young athletes from small towns, I advise taking every opportunity presented to you. You never know where your talents may lie or where they will take you until you give things a try.

Growing up in South Waikato has greatly influenced my success. In every sport I've pursued here, there have been incredible local people running, fundraising, coaching, and managing them. Without these dedicated individuals, young people wouldn't have the opportunities they do, so it's important not to let these chances pass by.

My success is testament to the support and encouragement from my community."

READ IN TOUCH? PROVE IT...

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

We run this competition every issue. The answers to the five questions below are in this issue – August 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 September 2024.

1. What is the right action to take during an earthquake?
2. What is the cutoff point percentage for contaminated recycling?
3. Name one of the causes of recycling contamination.
4. When does the SWIFT Scholarship Scheme open for applications?
5. Name one of the reasons Council formally consults.

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

The correct answers were:

1. April/May, 2. 2010, 3. Jungle Cube, 4. 31 July, 5. Level 1



Antenna is a mobile phone app that is FREE for users to download from Google Play or the App Store.

Install the app. Input your specific address(es) - home, work, play, and we send you messages relevant to your address. Users can also use the app to report issues or ideas to us.



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