

LINK

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS

October – November 2016



Waikato
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kāunihera āa Takiwā o Waikato

Waikato District Council's Placemaking Team presented a mini book exchange to the Pokeno Community Committee as a placemaking initiative.

Building communities through 'Placemaking'

Waikato District's population is expected to grow by about 26 per cent to more than 88,000 people in the next 15 years, so your Council is looking for ways to help build our communities as our townships grow.

One way is to get your ideas about improvements that will revitalise our towns' community and public spaces, and that will turn these spaces into 'your place'.

Waikato District Council has established a 'Placemaking' team – Community Development Advisor, Lianne van den Bemd, and Senior Planner, Betty Connolly – who have been promoting the 'placemaking' concept to interested residents and groups in Tuakau, Pokeno, Huntly, Ngaruawahia, Raglan, Te Kauwhata and Tauwhare over the past year.

In Tuakau, residents are working with Council to redesign the empty carpark space on the corner of George and Liverpool Streets.

In Pokeno the Community Committee has worked with the community to decide on a place to establish a mini 'book exchange' built and donated by Council's General Manager Strategy and Support, Tony Whittaker (along

with books donated from one of the Council's libraries).

With help from Huntly residents, Garden Place is to be refurbished in the coming year starting with new seating around the tree, and little free libraries are planned for other spaces in the town.

In Ngaruawahia the local Youth Action Group is running a competition that will see a giant photo frame set up for locals and visitors at Ngaruawahia Domain (The Point).

One of Raglan's placemaking champions is newly-elected Raglan Ward Councillor Lisa Thomson who is leading the charge to discuss ideas about the next project in the town following an early Raglan initiative to construct some rustic furniture for the Raglan library.

Residents in Te Kauwhata and Tauwhare are new to the concept, but are keen to come up with ideas for a project that will reflect the local community.

Watch these spaces!

Information about placemaking, the philosophy behind it and the advantages for our district can be found on the Waikato District Council website (search for 'placemaking' on the site), or by contacting the Waikato District Council Community Placemaking Team Betty Connolly (Betty.Connolly@waidc.govt.nz) and Lianne Van Den Bemd (Lianne.VanDenBemd@waidc.govt.nz).

So get your thinking caps on and give us a call!

Check out our Annual Report Summary which is included with this issue of LINK!



INSIDE

Summer fun in the Waikato



Page 2

Recognising our built heritage



Page 3

Project presses 'Go' button for site work



Page 7

Summer News



Freedom camping in our district

The Waikato district has some amazing towns and beaches and we highly recommend you visit some of these great spots over the coming summer months.

We have some great accommodation options, including camping grounds and first-class motels. If you're planning to camp, it's important to be aware that the Waikato District Council Freedom Camping Bylaw 2016 came into force on 17 October.

The bylaw allows freedom camping in a self-contained vehicle for a maximum of three nights anywhere in our district except areas that are listed as prohibited or restricted.

There are 24 prohibited areas across the district, including a number of areas in Raglan, such as Manu Bay Reserve and surrounding area, Kopua Domain, and the CBD and wharf. In Port Waikato the prohibited areas include Maraetai Bay Reserve and Sunset Beach carpark. There are also a number of areas that have restrictions. For more information visit waikatodistrict.govt.nz/camping



Check before lighting a fire this summer

Before lighting any fires, you need to check if you require a permit and if there is currently an open or closed fire season.

You can do this by visiting waikatodistrict.govt.nz/fires and if you do require a permit you can apply online.

Strong winds and extremely dry conditions can make lighting a fire potentially dangerous, so the best time to light a fire is when a permit is not required, so get started now before the heat of summer kicks in.

If a fire you light gets out of hand, even if you have a permit, you're liable for any damage or costs.

Things don't always go to plan; so make sure you have a safe escape route, adequate resources to control the fire and flexibility to change your plans to suit the weather. And remember, if your fire gets out of control, always call 111.

Liquor ban areas – to keep our community safe

Did you know many of our towns have permanent liquor bans in public places?

Ngaruawahia, Taupiri, Huntly, Te Kauwhata, Meremere and Raglan all have a permanent liquor ban in their central business area. In Raglan this is extended to a large surrounding area each year from 23 December to 6 January.

In Tuakau, the CBD has a ban between 7pm and 7am daily.

There are also permanent bans in place at Sunset Beach, and Auckland City Council has a permanent ban in place at

Karioitahi Beach. Many of our reserves also have bans during night time hours. Alcohol consumption in public places can lead to offensive and dangerous behaviour, which is why we have the liquor ban areas. What this means for you if you are of legal age to drink:

You may:

- Drink alcohol on licensed premises or associated al fresco dining areas

- Purchase alcohol to take home as long as the container remains unopened.

You may not:

- Consume alcohol in public places within the liquor ban areas
- Possess or take alcohol into public places within the liquor ban areas.

Planning a summer party?

If you're planning a party this summer be considerate of your neighbours and take a few simple steps:

- Inform your neighbours about the event in advance
- Ask them to phone you if the noise is too loud

- Consider the timing of your event
- Keep doors and windows closed to contain the noise
- Reduce the bass level of the music
- Ask guests to keep the noise down when entering or leaving your home.

If you experience noise that you feel is too loud call Council anytime on 0800 492 452. As we have to assess the noise level, it's important to call us when the noise is occurring.

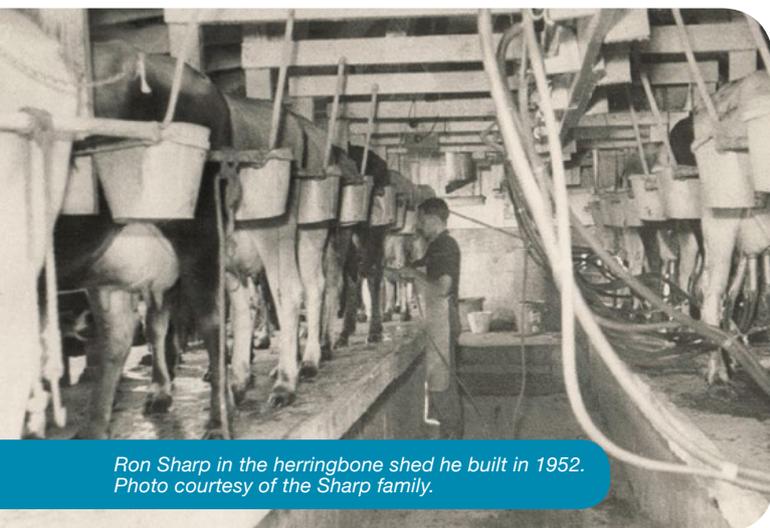
Recognising our built heritage

There is a wealth of historical buildings and structures in the Waikato district according to the heritage consultant who is reviewing our 'built heritage' as part of a wider District Plan review.

Dr Ann McEwan of Hamilton-based Heritage Consultancy Services is a Professional Teaching Fellow in Architecture and Planning at the University of Auckland. "Waikato district has a diverse range of fascinating heritage buildings on its built heritage schedule from a nationally significant milking shed to a landmark pub at Rangiriri and a World War II defensive structure near Raglan," she says.

The milking shed is none other than the first herringbone cowshed that revolutionised farming practice around the world. It was built in 1952 by Gordonton farmer and inventor Ron Sharp, to relieve his back and knees from having to stoop an estimated 2,400 times for every cow he milked during the milking season – or 240,000 times for a then-large 100-cow herd.

Inspired by the angle parking once available for cars all the way down Hamilton's Victoria St, Ron 'angle parked' his cows on a platform with their udders within easy reach. It saved him about 225km of walking each dairy season, and meant he could handle up to 90 cows an hour compared with 30. It also facilitated the expansion of the dairy industry, enabling farmers to manage herds three to four times larger than before.



Ron Sharp in the herringbone shed he built in 1952. Photo courtesy of the Sharp family.

With beer being the traditional tippie for the New Zealand working man, it's no surprise that pubs and hotels are numbered among our heritage buildings, Dr McEwan says.

These include the Rangiriri Tavern, which has been a hostelry site since 1869. Rebuilt in circa 1905, after the first hotel burnt down, it's just a stone's throw from the site of some of the fiercest fighting in the New Zealand land wars – and some claim it's haunted by the wife of the original proprietor.

Not only did the land wars leave us a heritage of battle sites and soldiers' monuments, but World War II saw the construction of an intriguing concrete road block that flanks Old Mountain Road at Waitetuna. Waikato's version of Stonehenge is actually a tank trap built by the Home Guard to prevent enemy tanks from reaching Hamilton after a seaborne landing at Raglan.

Every social movement that has guided our district's settlement and development has left its mark among our historic buildings. Churches and schools predominate and include the Gothic Revival style Christ Church at Taupiri (1904), as pictured below, St Mary's Pokeno that opened in 1900 with bells and stained glass from London, and the original late Victorian Tamahere school building that dates from 1884. The Plunket movement contributed the Raglan Plunket Rooms, built in 1948 and still in use today.

Interwar civic and commercial heritage buildings that feature on the district plan include Huntly retailer Les Kosoof and Sons (now L Kosoof Ltd) and the neoclassical Tuakau Memorial Town Hall. And then there are historic family homes ranging from the beautiful 1870s two-storey Woodlands homestead in Gordonton to the little rows of railway cottages in Ngaruawahia and Huntly.

Dr McEwan says there are currently 143 buildings and structures on the built heritage schedule in the District Plan and others have recently been identified for possible inclusion, through the Tuakau and Ngaruawahia structure plan reports and by members of the district's Heritage Forum.

In recognition of our heritage, the Waikato District Council provides the Heritage Assistance Fund to assist with the conservation, restoration and protection of listed heritage items within the district that are not council-owned. The funding is available on a three-yearly cycle and will be open to applications for the next round of funding this month. Go to waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding



Greenspace



Smart Water coordinator Sally Fraser with a few of the watering cans you can win this summer just by signing up for our newsletter.

Water meters

The majority of water meters have been installed across non-metered properties in Ngaruawahia, Raglan and Huntly. Meters are a key part of having a plan in place to make sure our district has a sustainable supply of quality treated water now and for the future generations.

In January those on meters will get the first of two trial readings before the charging system begins on 1 July 2017. It's important you don't pay us any money at this stage because your water targeted rate covers this until 1 July 2017 but we encourage you to take a good look at your reading. You'll be able to see how much water you use and how much this would cost you if you were being billed. The trial reading will also come with handy tips on how to read your meter and how to be smart with your water usage. It will also show you how to determine if you have water leaks so when 1 July comes, you won't be paying for any unused water. Once your trial reading arrives, give us a call if you need to discuss anything.

Smart Water starts with you

With summer just around the corner it's timely to brush up on our Smart Water smarts. Long, hot days in the Waikato district often mean we need to think about how to be a bit smarter with how we use water.

There's lots you can do inside and outside your home to help conserve water. Visit smartwater.org.nz for great tips including this one: now is the time to get mulching in your garden around shrubs and trees which will help them thrive in dry conditions. Mulch can retain up to 70 per cent of water in the soil, which otherwise could be lost through evaporation. When using mulch it is recommended to apply a thick layer (about 75-100mm).

You can also keep in the loop with water restriction changes as summer rolls in by visiting smartwater.org.nz/subscribe

By doing this you'll get info and updates direct to your inbox. We also offer giveaways during summer including handy watering cans. If you subscribe now, two people will win a watering can like the ones pictured here with Smart Water coordinator Sally Fraser.

Trails strategy a step in the right direction

After extensive work by staff and the community we've adopted the Trails Strategy.

This important document will help us be better prepared for future recreational growth across the district. Work on the Trails Strategy began mid-2015 and included a number of discussions with different community groups to make sure the framework matched their hopes and desires for trails in the district.

The strategy maps out a spatial 'vision' for the district which helps us to identify opportunities for track improvements and expansions while providing direction for prioritising and creating new trails.

It's also very different to what others are doing as it features aerial photos which map out potential future trails. The inclusion of these maps takes the strategy from being simply strategic to actually being practical and a useful decision-making tool.

We couldn't have produced such a forward-thinking and innovative document without such great input from you – our fantastic communities so thanks a bunch!





Christmas and New Year hours



District-wide kerbside collection

Collections across the district the week leading up to Christmas Day do not change. There will be no collection on Monday 26 December or Monday 2 January which means each week after Christmas and New Year, collections will take place one day later. By Monday 9 January services will return to normal.

Normal collection		Date to be collected
Mon 26 Dec	Changes to	Tues 27 Dec
Tues 27 Dec	Changes to	Wed 28 Dec
Wed 28 Dec	Changes to	Thurs 29 Dec
Thurs 29 Dec	Changes to	Fri 30 Dec
Fri 30 Dec	Changes to	Sat 31 Dec
Sat 31 Dec		
Sun 1 Jan	No changes to Port Waikato collection	Remains the same
Mon 2 Jan	Changes to	Tues 3 Jan
Tues 3 Jan	Changes to	Wed 4 Jan
Wed 4 Jan	Changes to	Thurs 5 Jan
Thurs 5 Jan	Changes to	Fri 6 Jan
Fri 6 Jan	Changes to	Sat 7 Jan
Sat 7 Jan		
Sun 8 Jan	No changes to Port Waikato collection	Remains the same

*Current pickup for Te Uku and Te Mata remain the same over the Christmas-New Year period.

**Rural collections (Onewhero, Glen Murray) remain unchanged over the holiday season but Pukekawa's drop off day for January will be held on Tuesday the 3rd instead of Monday the 2nd of January.

Refuse and recycling

Refuse and recycling Transfer Stations and Resource Recovery Centre

Date	Huntly 07 828 9719	Te Kauwhata 07 826 3456	Raglan Resource Recovery Centre 07 825 6509
Mon 19 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8:30am-4:30pm
Tues 20 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	Closed
Wed 21 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8:30am-4:30pm
Thurs 22 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	10am-3pm	Closed
Fri 23 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sat 24 Dec	10am-4pm	Closed	12.30pm-4.30pm
Sun 25 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 26 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tues 27 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed 28 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Thurs 29 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	10am-3pm	Closed
Fri 30 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sat 31 Dec	10am-4pm	Closed	12.30pm-4.30pm
Sun 1 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 2 Jan	Closed	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Tues 3 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed 4 Jan	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Thurs 5 Jan	7.30am-4.30pm	10am-3pm	Closed
Fri 6 Jan	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sat 7 Jan	10am-4pm	Closed	12:30pm-4:30pm
Sun 8 Jan	10am-4pm	11am-4pm	8:30am-4:30pm

Libraries

There will be no late night opening the week between Christmas and New Year. Between Christmas and New Year we are operating a library service only, excluding cemeteries which will be managed from the Huntly office.

Date	Waikato District Libraries	Meremere Library
Fri 23 Dec	All sites close at 3pm	
Sat 24 Dec	Closed	
Sun 25 Dec	Closed	
Mon 26 Dec	Closed	
Tues 27 Dec	Closed	
Wed 28 Dec	9am – 5pm	2pm-5pm
Thurs 29 Dec	9am - 5pm	Closed
Fri 30 Dec	9am – 3pm	9am – 12noon
Sat 31 Dec	Closed	
Sun 1 Jan	Closed	
Mon 2 Jan	Closed	
Tues 3 Jan	Closed	
Wed 4 Jan	Resume normal business hours	

Swimming pools

Date	Tuakau	Huntly	Ngaruawahia
Wed 21 Dec	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm
Thurs 22 Dec	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm
Fri 23 Dec	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm
Sat 24 Dec	10am – 6pm	9am – 5pm	12pm – 5pm
Sun 25 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 26 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tues 27 Dec	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	12pm – 5pm
Wed 28 Dec	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm
Thurs 29 Dec	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm
Fri 30 Dec	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm
Sat 31 Dec	10am – 6pm	9am – 5pm	12pm – 5pm
Sun 1 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Mon 2 Jan	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	12pm – 5pm
Tues 3 Jan	10am – 6pm	10am – 6pm	12pm – 5pm
Wed 4 Jan	10am – 6pm	6:30am – 7pm	12pm – 5pm

Council offices

Waikato District Council offices will be closed from 3pm Friday 23 December. Normal hours will resume on Wednesday 4 January 2017.

Emergency calls (all hours)

For all emergency calls regarding Council services, free phone 0800 492 452.



Special Delivery

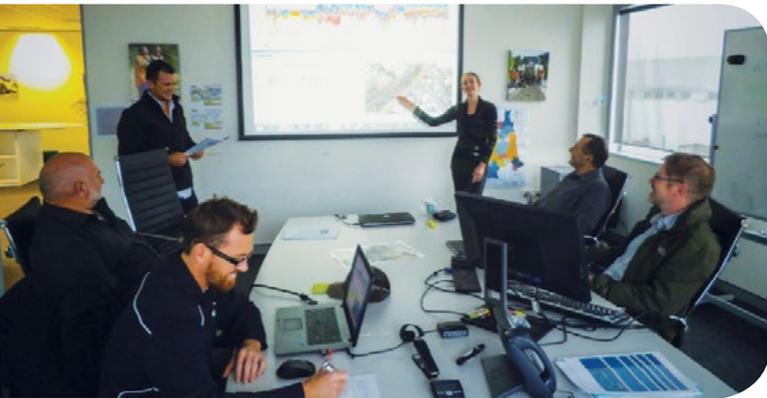
Roads – how are they planned?

This series outlines our services and facilities because we aim to deliver the best. Learn about what they are, what we do, how we do it and why we do it – so we can help you get the most out of them.

Asset planning

The key to successfully managing the roading network across the Waikato district is to fully understand the condition of our roads and what we use them for.

Council's roading arm, the Waikato District Alliance, has roading asset managers and network engineers who physically drive the entire network to collect data and information. Doing this familiarises them with the state and condition of our roading network.



The Alliance also uses a vehicle with lasers aimed at the road to record and collect high speed data about our roads. This is then used to add to the knowledge of the asset managers and engineers to develop a schedule of work.

The entire network is divided into sections that are similar in performance and condition. Council's roading network has 3407 sections. These sections are then ranked and prioritised for reconstruction based on a number of things such as ride quality, skid resistance, surface rutting and traffic volumes.

The asset managers create a 10-year Forward Works Programme (FWP) based on this and the levels of service the community needs.

This FWP gives the Alliance the basis of funding applications to their two funders – Waikato District Council and the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA). The decisions, which are driven by data along with the knowledge of the network, are used to justify the required funding.

The network engineers and safety engineers proactively identify safety issues on the network. Some of the safety issues are also identified by members of the community.

These safety deficiencies are also ranked based on various criteria to ensure that the highest risk sites are given top priority.

Once the annual physical works programme is completed we hand this over to the design teams who then develop a solution for each section. They ensure improvements are made to the section at an affordable level.

“The Alliance also uses lasers to collect high speed data. This is then used to add to the knowledge of the asset managers and engineers so they develop a timeline of work.”

Road reconstruction sites are surveyed and designed to improve ride quality and comfort. This takes into account any safety improvements that need to be implemented during construction. The team also design the required strength of the road to allow for traffic growth on each section.

What it comes down to is a combination of data and engineering experience, judgement and local knowledge to form the basis of how we build your roads.





An artist's impression of the Kay Road Bridge when it is complete and landscaped.

Project presses 'Go' button for site work

This month Waikato's largest roading project presses the 'Go' button on full-scale work on construction for the Hamilton section of the Waikato Expressway.

Over the next two summers, the City Edge Alliance which is responsible for the project plans to shift more than four million cubic metres of soil. That's equivalent to 114 rugby fields piled five metres high.

In October work begins on the bridge near Horsham Downs and on other local roads east of Hamilton city. Kay Road is now closed to through traffic at the bridge site with traffic diversions being built around all bridge sites to keep traffic flowing. Speed restrictions will apply.

Key bridges are being built early for truck and earthmoving equipment access, as well as to keep these vehicles off local roads and minimise traffic disruption.

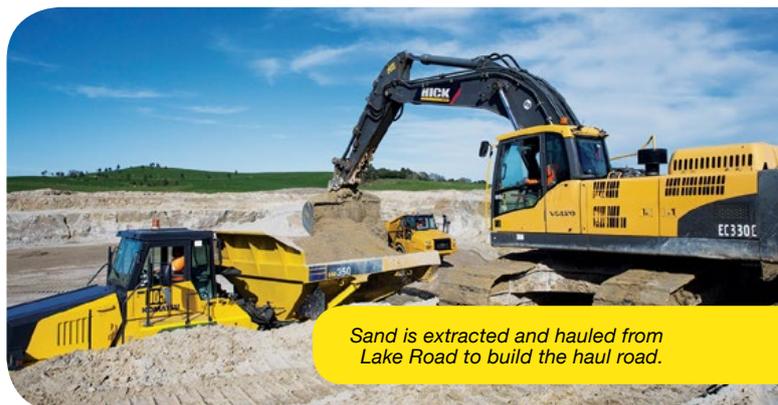
Here's what you can expect to see before Christmas 2016:

- From Lake Road, the road for earthmoving will extend south. It is expected to cross Osborne Road in Horsham Downs during October for large trucks to cross to haul sand and soil. There will be traffic signals and barrier arms for traffic control at Osborne Road. Locking gates are also being installed on the shared cycle/walking path and a traffic supervisor will be on duty for students going to and from Horsham Downs School.
- Kay Road is now closed to through traffic for approximately 13 months while the bridge is built. A 20 metre-deep cutting is being excavated through Kay Road as weather permits. This will give access south for trucks and earthmoving, and the Kay Road bridge will cross the expressway.
- Bridge construction will begin at Gordonton Road in December. A two-lane, sealed traffic diversion will be built around the site.

- November sees work start on the Rail Overbridge to cross the East Coast Main Trunk line at Ruakura Road. A two-lane, sealed traffic diversion around that site is already being developed. A large culvert is also being constructed on the southern side of Ruakura Road, with traffic reduced to a single lane at times.
- At Morrinsville Road (SH26), bridge construction will begin in December/January. Work on a two-lane, sealed traffic diversion will start around the bridge site in October.
- At Tamahere, work on the East-West Link Bridge is expected to begin in earnest early in 2017. However, some of that work may be done in November/December this year.

The Hamilton Section of the Waikato Expressway will reduce traffic congestion, improve safety, reduce travel times and boost economic growth in the Waikato. Completion is expected in 2020.

You can learn more about the CityEdge Alliance and Waikato Expressway at nzta.govt.nz/projects/waikato-expressway/hamilton



Sand is extracted and hauled from Lake Road to build the haul road.

Just Briefly



Due to deadlines

Putting this issue of LINK together, we were unable to showcase your newly elected Council.

Keep an eye out on your local newspaper and our website for a full rundown on who our elected members are for the next three years.



Did you know...

Untrimmed trees near overhead power lines cause a fifth of unplanned power outages in our communities? But trimming trees around power lines is extremely dangerous and a job for the professionals. Please, don't take the risk. Phone WEL Networks qualified arborists on **0800 800 935** or visit wel.co.nz

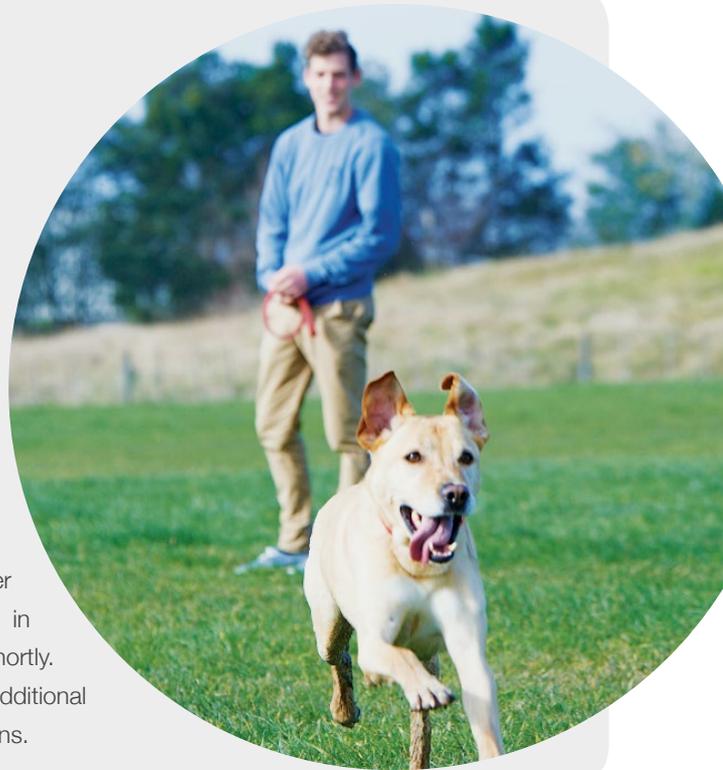
There are now more places for your pooch to play!

New dog exercise areas are planned for Pokeno and Tamahere.

Earlier this month, Council agreed to turn part of the Pokeno Domain and part of Tamahere's Te Awa Reserve into dog exercise areas under the Dog Control Bylaw. There are currently more than 700 dogs registered in Pokeno and more than 800 dogs in Tamahere.

In order to see what the community wanted, we carried out a number of engagement activities between 20 July and 24 August. This involved letters to dog owners within these areas as well as

to residents in neighbouring areas. We also attended market days and there were several articles in the local media. We received 150 submissions, with 95 per cent in support of an area in Pokeno and 80 per cent supportive of an area in Tamahere. Work will start shortly. This will include installing additional fencing, rubbish bins and signs.



Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed 23 January – 28 January 2017.

If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waidc.govt.nz with your address details by 10 February 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?

Find us here:

[/WaikatoDistrictCouncil](#) 

twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict 

waikatodistrict.govt.nz 

Postal Address

Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia

Huntly Office

142 Main Street
Huntly

Ngaruawahia Office

15 Galileo Street
Ngaruawahia

Raglan Office

7 Bow Street
Raglan

Te Kauwhata Office

1 Main Road
Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office

2 Dominion Road
Tuakau