

# LINK



APR-MAY 2015 ■ ■ ■

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## Courage, Compassion, Camaraderie, Commitment, Community

As this edition of Link goes to print, our communities are preparing to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landing where, at 9am on 25 April 1915, New Zealand soldiers joined their Australian comrades and began their World War One campaign.

The events that took place at Gallipoli that day meant 25 April, Anzac Day, would become a day of everlasting significance for all New Zealanders and Australians.

For some of us our only link with this event is the annual ritual of attending an early morning Dawn Parade, or wearing a red poppy to acknowledge the men and women who defended our freedom during this battle, as well as those who serve our country today.

For others their connection is with the local RSA.

Formed in New Zealand in 1916 by returning ANZACs during World War One, the RSA provides support for service men and women and their families. This is their community.

Over 103,000 members currently enjoy the 180 RSAs across the country and although membership numbers are steady after a period of decline Ngaruawahia RSA representative Wendy Diamond, says a new found awareness of RSA values has prompted local interest.



“Our community has been built on courage, compassion, camaraderie and commitment. People join the RSA because they want to connect with the values we foster, because it’s a great place to socialise and bring the family. They also want to keep New Zealand communities safe, fun, healthy, and connected.”

To encourage membership growth the RSA is providing new incentives.

“Traditionally our organisation has been for Returned and Service members only. However over the years this has changed to include associate memberships and more recently, youth memberships.”

“We’re also working on options for local businesses to enable them and their staff to take advantage of the uniqueness of the RSA and all it offers.”

Want to join the RSA? [www.rsa.org.nz/membership](http://www.rsa.org.nz/membership)



### Lest we forget

*“They shall not grow old, as we  
that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them nor  
the years condemn,  
At the going down of the sun  
and in the morning,  
We shall remember them.”*



# Mayor's message

**It's been a busy few months. The consultation period for the Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) closed mid-April, with hearings almost complete and adoption of the district's path for the next 10 years expected in June.**

There are some significant decisions and projects for the district in the LTP. It has been great to have conversations and get your view. Thanks to all for your valuable input into this, our bylaw review processes and the recent Dog Control Policy. All contribute to the district's future and our quality of life.

Recent NZ Transport Agency funding announcements are especially noteworthy. We now have certainty the Waikato Expressway will be completed. It is a great achievement and brings with it further potential to grow and develop.

With growth comes the need to plan for and manage it. The Waikato District Plan is central to that important Council function and is to be reviewed shortly. This is a long-term project and another opportunity for you to contribute to the district's future.

Meanwhile we look continuously to improve. A change to note is the "Request for Service" on Council's website where we have been working to make service requests easier for you. Around July that part of the website will also have a new look.

With a number of contracts expiring on 30 June, Council has made a strategic decision that bringing together a range of contracts under an alliance will provide the best outcome for ratepayers. This approach does not change how we handle that part of our business; the work will still be done. We expect to announce the outcome of that tender process very soon.



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

# Celebrating Matariki



**This year marks the third annual Waikato district Matariki Festival.**

Matariki is a small, but distinctive, cluster of stars which appears in the winter sky in June. In the Maaori calendar, Matariki is the start of the new. It is time to celebrate past and present whanau, bountiful harvest, and change and growth in all things. It's a celebration of what we have, and what we have to give.

To mark this there are a number of events happening across the district throughout June and July. As part of the festival our libraries are holding a Matariki competition. This is an opportunity for residents to celebrate and spread the Matariki message through the written word and the arts.

Whether you fancy yourself as an author, an artist or both, there's a category for everyone to enter.

There are three sections – short stories, poetry and art, where the entrant can design a book cover.

More information and entry forms are available on our website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz) or from any Waikato district library. Entries close 5pm, Friday 3 July 2015.

For more details on what's happening visit our website or contact us on 0800 492 452.





# The Food Act

- what it means for you



No matter if you're involved in the preparation and sale of food at shops, cafes or restaurants, growing and harvesting produce, cooking sausages for the local school fundraiser or preserving jam to sell at the farmers' market – you have a responsibility to make sure that the food you sell is safe and suitable to eat.

The government has introduced a new Food Act 2014. The new act, which comes into effect from 1 March 2016, recognises that each food business is unique and outlines different requirements for businesses based on the food they produce.

For example, if you're preparing higher risk foods, such as in a cafe or restaurant, you'll operate under a Food Control Plan with more stringent food safety requirements. If you're producing lower risk foods like jams, pickles or confectionery for sale, you'll operate under one of three levels of National Programmes.

If you sell your own fruit and vegetables directly to the consumer at roadside stalls or farmers' markets, all you have to do is continue to sell safe food.

Yes - you can hold a sausage sizzle or home baking sale to support a charity or community event up to 20 times in a calendar year without the need to be registered or undergo checks, but you always need to ensure that the food is safe and suitable to eat.

If you're unsure about how the changes will affect you, or if you want to get involved early, call our Environmental Health Team on **0800 492 452**.

## Planning to build or renovate?

Whether you're building a house, adding a storey to your home, erecting a garage, starting a business or subdividing – every building project must comply with the Resource Management Act (RMA).

The RMA protects land and the environment. Just because you own a piece of land doesn't mean you can do what you want on it or with it – we need to think about how our neighbours and others in our communities are affected.

The RMA recently underwent significant changes which affect how you apply for resource consent. Your application now requires more specific and detailed information. For example, in addition to an assessment of environmental effects, you may be required to include an assessment on the objectives and policies of the District Plan and RMA. All infringements you are applying for will also need to be identified in detail. As well as these new requirements, the RMA now directs Council to return all incomplete applications.

To help you through this new process we recommend you engage the services of a qualified planning consultant. In addition to this, we're offering a pre-application service to provide valuable advice on:

- the changes to the RMA and what they mean for you
- what information you'll need to provide with your application
- what specific issues or effects will need to be addressed.

Using a qualified planning consultant and our pre-application service will save you time and money and help ensure your application is not returned.

Find out more at [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz) or call our Duty Planner on 0800 492 452.



# Home is Waikato District

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

## EUREKA

### Country living at its best!

Sharing its boundaries with Hamilton City, Waipa and Matamata-Piako districts, Eureka Ward is home to a diverse mixture of farms, lifestyle blocks, local businesses, sites of heritage and cultural significance, art galleries, sports clubs and more.

With the advantage of country living close to city amenities and the popular rural towns of Morrinsville and Cambridge, it's the best of both worlds.

Our local schools offer first-class education and facilities with their rolls continuing to grow.

Our Community Committees in Eureka, Matangi, Newstead and Tauwhare work closely together identifying great projects and innovations to improve the lifestyle in our communities.



**Rob McGuire**

Eureka Ward Councillor  
[rob.mcguire@waidc.govt.nz](mailto:rob.mcguire@waidc.govt.nz)

Awaroa ki Tuakau Ward

Whangamarino Ward

Onewhero-Te Akau Ward

Huntly Ward

Hukanui-Waerenga Ward

Ngaruawahia Ward

Newcastle Ward

Raglan Ward

Eureka Ward

Tamahere Ward

### Did you know....

Fonterra and Glaxo Smith Kline both established their roots in Matangi.

The factory, established in 1885, was the first Glaxo site in New Zealand and the first New Zealand Cooperative Dairy Factory, a major forerunner of Fonterra. A distinctive feature of the factory is the onsite residences built for the factory managers known as "The 7 Sisters".

### How Eureka got its name

There are many tales to consider. One story is about a man named William Steele who went riding to search for a suitable place for his headquarters. Upon reaching a hilltop he announced 'Eureka I have found it!'

Another, from 1875, is about a group lunching in the sun on a hill. One of them asked the place name of where the picnic was being held. Having learned it was unnamed the suggestion was made that Eureka sounded a good name as it was the initials of the first names of all the ladies present.



# TAMAHERE

## Creating a modern village

Due to its location and attractive country living lifestyle, Tamahere is one of the highest growth areas within the Waikato District.

The closure of Newell Road on to the busy Airport Road and the construction of a new link road – Wiremu Tamihana Drive – have opened up exciting opportunities that enable the creation of a modern village.

Development of the Tamahere Recreation Reserve starts this year and, along with the potential of a quality commercial development that will be connected by a 'piazza' type community focal point, will only enhance Tamahere's popularity as the lifestyle of choice.



**Wally Hayes**  
Tamahere Ward Councillor  
wally.hayes@waidc.govt.nz



One possible option of Tamahere's Recreation Reserve.

## Tamahere

Tamahere Church Cemetery contains the official war grave of one man who served in the New Zealand forces during the First World War. This is Lieutenant Te Iritima Uatuku who died of a form of tuberculosis on 31 August 1917.



## Te Awa Cycleway update

NZTA is currently leading discussions with Te Awa and Waikato District Council around the best location for a cycleway between Hamilton and Cambridge.

To learn more about the Te Awa Cycleway visit their website <http://te-awa.org.nz>



## Meanwhile in Tamahere...

Shelley, Simon and their two boys moved from Hamilton six years ago.

**What do you enjoy about Tamahere?**

A friendly community, handy to the city, quietness of the countryside.

**What significant changes have you seen in this time?**

Closing Newell Road has reduced the amount of traffic making it safer for our kids to walk or ride their bikes. The new footpath along Newells Road is also handy – although it doesn't go the whole way along! Of course Punnet Café opening was also a good thing.





# Less waste – SAVE MORE

We're depleting natural resources 50% faster than the planet can renew. Recycling can make a difference.

Recycling one tonne of paper saves:

- 17 trees
- 300 litres of oil
- 26,500 litres of water
- 2.5 cubic metres of landfill.

Glass is 100% recyclable and can be recycled endlessly.

If you recycle five glass containers per week, over the course of a year you recycle 260 glass containers. This will save 26,004 watts of energy!

What can 260 containers a year do?

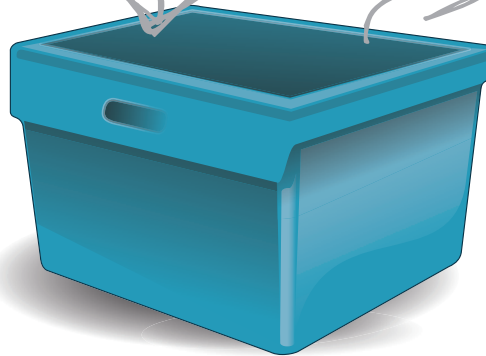
- light a compact florescent bulb for 2 months 16 days
- operate a computer for 3 days 14 hours
- operate a TV for 2 days 9 hours.

Each household gets one of these free



What's in your bin

- glass bottles, jars
- rinsed/squashed plastic household containers – Types 1, 2, and 5 in all areas except Tuakau & Raglan where plastics 1-7 are collected
- aluminium and steel cans, empty aerosol cans, foil plates.



What's out

- loose paper or cardboard, supermarket bags, other plastic bags, polystyrene food trays or Tetrapaks, ie juice cartons, plastic containers larger than 5 litres, window glass, lightbulbs, broken glass, drinking glasses or ceramic dishes, fuel, oil or chemical containers.

## How to Recycle Cardboard





# Rubbish dumping

## - not ka pai in our district!

Visitors out to enjoy our district's beautiful scenic spaces are instead stumbling upon bags of illegally dumped rubbish.

In Mercer rubbish is being dumped on our river banks attracting large rats to the area, causing harm to birds and fish and damaging plants, soil and waterways. Similarly, Port Waikato's Sunset Beach and Maraetai Bay continue to be polluted with piles of household rubbish.

Rubbish frequents the roadside in Onewhero where bags are often torn open by animals leaving garbage strewn across the road. Reserves throughout the district are treated the same and have become popular dumping grounds.

Not only does illegal dumping look bad, it can be insanitary, dangerous and a risk to the community and the environment.

There are no rubbish collection points in the Waikato District. Any rubbish being dumped is illegal and the skyrocketing cost to clean it up falls on ratepayers.

Sue Duignan, General Manager Customer Support urges people to report any dumping they see and record details of the vehicle involved (registration plate, colour, make and model) so legal action could be taken.

"People need to speak up, and communities need to stand together to stop this happening in their neighbourhoods," she says.

If someone is caught illegally dumping (including household rubbish, plants and any green waste) they are fined \$400. If the litter is injurious to health a fine of up to \$7500 can be issued.

Any illegal dumping should be reported to Waikato District Council on 0800 492 452.



## New dog rules *now in place*

We're a district of animal lovers. Across our district we have 13,615 registered dogs and last month the Animal Control team responded to 255 calls.

To allow people to enjoy the benefits of owning a dog while minimising potential danger and nuisance to the community, we have a Dog Control Policy and Bylaw.

Earlier this year we received 221 submissions that were both in support of and against various aspects of the policy and bylaw. The main discussion was whether dogs should be prohibited from the main streets of our towns.

After hearing from members of the community Council decided to allow dogs on the main streets of Raglan, Te Kauwhata and Tuakau, as long as they are on a lead and are not left unattended or tethered.

Sue Duignan, General Manager Customer Support says, "We understand the need to briefly leave your dog tied up while you pop into a shop but dogs are not allowed to be left unattended for more than a few minutes. We hope dog owners can continue to be responsible and respectful of everyone using the main streets."

Dogs are still prohibited on the main streets of Huntly and Ngaruawahia where the communities appear to be happy with the status quo.

"There were a number of requests from the Raglan, Te Kauwhata and Tuakau communities asking for the ban to be removed. However, there were no requests for Huntly and Ngaruawahia," explained Sue Duignan.

As part of this process Council has also made a commitment to review signage throughout the district to ensure areas where dogs are prohibited, leash only areas and dog exercise areas are clearly marked. The rule of thumb still applies though – if you're unsure, keep your dog on a leash.

Read the full policy at [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz)





## Gypsy Day

It's a fairly unique part of the Kiwi farming calendar. The first of June is officially the start of the new dairy season and has come to be known as "Gypsy Day" with hundreds of stock and people movements off and on dairy farms. Before moving stock, make sure you have the right permits from Council; have plenty of staff on hand; wear helmets and high visibility clothing if your team is operating quads and bikes.

**Motorists** – Stuck behind a moving vehicle? Be patient, farm vehicles are normally pretty good at pulling over to let you pass when they have enough room. Don't take a chance to overtake when it's not safe. It isn't worth the risk.



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

## 5 reasons to get your dog registered

If you are the owner of a dog, its yearly registration notice will be sent out soon and your payment is due by 20 July. Here's a few reasons why it's important to register your dog:

1. If your dog goes missing, having it registered drastically improves your chances of getting it back
2. Part of your registration fee goes towards dog control services which help deliver safer communities
3. The cost of the registration is far less than the fine for being caught without one
4. It's the law. All registered dogs throughout New Zealand go on a national register, this means even if your dog ends up in the South Island, it can be traced back to you
5. A portion of your dog registration fee goes towards dog education in schools.

## In 10 years ...

Thanks for your feedback on our district's 10 year plan. During the four week consultation we attended various community events and received significant feedback on key issues which we're collating now. Late May we'll hold public hearings for people wanting to present their submission to Council. In June we'll prepare the final Long Term Plan 2015-25.

## On the road in the Waikato

Our district is unique from top to bottom, from beaches to ranges, expressways to gravel roads – how we live, work and play varies across the district.

From June we'll be making pit stops throughout the district to chat to you about the way land is used, developed and subdivided.

Get ready for the journey to begin and look out for how you can join us on the road as we review our District Plan rules.



## Rate remissions and postponements

If you're a cultural, sporting or religious organisation you could be entitled to a rates remission.

You'll need to apply for a remission in writing stating your reasons but you can learn more on our website, or call our Rates team on **0800 492 452**.

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 6-10 July. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact [communications@waidec.govt.nz](mailto:communications@waidec.govt.nz) with address details by 17 July 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.