

April 2019

LINK



WAIKATO
DISTRICT
NEWS

IN THIS ISSUE

Regatta
celebrations
– see page 3.



This is
who I am –
Noel Smith
– see page 5.



Future of
inorganic
service
– see page 6.



Get your dogs ready
- the Dirty Dog Challenge is back this June

Save the date - the Dirty Dog Challenge is back!

Together with Hamilton City Council we're holding our popular Dirty Dog Challenge on Sunday 15 June at Ngaruawahia.

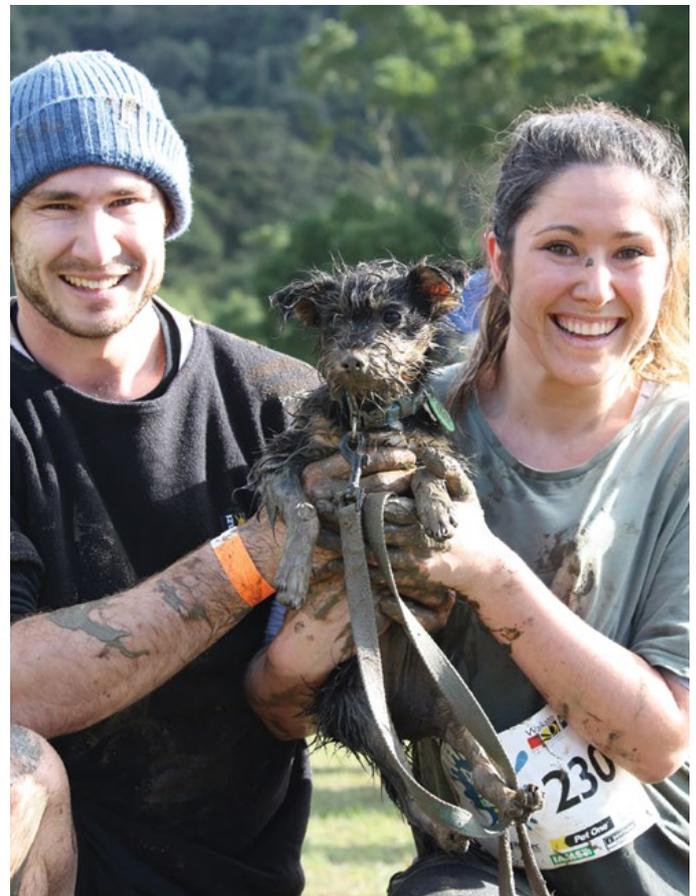
The event starts at 10am and will be held at the Ngaruawahia Christian Youth Centre, on Waingaro Road. Registrations are now open (as of 15 April).

If you like the sound of a mud-filled day of fun with your dog, make sure you come along. There's something for everyone, with 2.5km or 6km options.

All proceeds from the event will go towards helping animals in our communities.

You'll find more information, including how to register, on the Waikato Pound Pups Facebook group and on our website: www.waikato.govt.nz/dirtydog

Check out page 7 for another event recently held by our Animal Control team.



MAYOR'S MESSAGE



As you may know, this year is a local government election year, with local body elections for District, City and Regional Councils, and District Health Boards happening in October. For that reason the next few Link magazines will be notably quiet when it comes to the voice of your elected members. We want to give everyone running for Council a fair crack at publicity so we make a special effort not to use our Council channels to promote our incumbent elected members, myself included!

If you think you would like to run for Council I'd encourage you to visit www.votewaikato.co.nz. We always need fresh ideas and energy in local government and our growing district is no different. If you are a community minded person please think about putting your name forward. And if you're not, at the very least please make sure you vote and check in with your friends and families to make sure they vote too. Local government voting levels are historically low, generally in the 30% turnout range. This robs many people of a voice in local decision making, as it is predominantly older people who vote in local government.

Three yearly elections are not the only time to get involved in local decision making. Our Council is working hard to engage with you on the things that matter, and in ways that work for you. One example is the community Blueprints. Over the last 6 months we've been working with our communities to determine what their priorities are. This information will be used by us as we shape up our long term plans and budgets. Thank you to those of you who attended the Blueprint drop in sessions.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Allan Sanson', written over a thin horizontal line.

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council

TOP 5

Tips for reducing your single-use plastic

Our Facebook followers gave us their top tips for reducing their single-use plastic. Our top 5 are listed below:

1

“Encourage the kids to take reusable containers for cooking classes”

- Diane Tyson

2

“Replace plastic bottles of body wash/shampoo/conditioner with bars of soap and shampoo/conditioner bars”

- Angela Skinner

3

“Buy your household staples in bulk in paper/fabric bags and cut down on your meat consumption to reduce buying prepackaged food”

- Stacey Stewart

4

“Avoid single-use yoghurt pots by making home-made yoghurt or purchasing larger containers which can be used to store or freeze leftovers”

- Louise Hopkins

5

“Rather than buying packaged food try exchanging fruit, veggies and home baking with neighbours and friends.”

- Lisa Pulman

Council has regatta presence

Waikato District Council were proud to feature at this year's Turangawaewae Regatta, held at Turangawaewae Marae on the banks of the Waikato River, in March.

Not only did Council have projects to talk about at its stand, staff were also on the water, taking part in the annual corporate waka ama challenge for the first time. The WDC team paddled hard and placed third behind Tainui and Fonterra.

This event is a popular one for locals and visitors alike and Council was thrilled to be involved in such a fabulous celebration of culture and local pride. We'll certainly be back again next year.



Waikato District Council participated in the Turangawaewae Regatta corporate waka ama challenge.
Photo: Wade Burke

BRINGING THE WORLD TO THE WAIKATO

Gareth Bellamy

Bringing the world to the Waikato is a feature that tells us a little more about Waikato District Council staff who are from around the world.

Name: Gareth Bellamy

Job title: Road Safety Engineer

Country of origin and how long you lived there: I am from Wales and lived there most of my life.

How long have you been in NZ?
15 years, I am now a citizen and my partner Lisa and I call this place home.

What do you love about the Waikato District? The people. I feel welcomed and valued in my community. The Welsh and the Kiwis share many of the same qualities in this regard.

What is the biggest difference between life in New Zealand and life in your country of origin? We appreciate the opportunities New Zealand has provided. Kiwis recognise success from doing the hard yards. I also love the give it a go, number 8 wire attitude.

What do you miss most about home? My family, though they have visited and we keep in touch via video messenger. The people here are so warm and friendly and always interested in what you're doing. This is our home now.

What's one thing about life in your home country that most New Zealanders would not know about? The Welsh language (Brittonic) is one of the oldest European languages, we like to sing too. But everyone knows that one!

You need to convince someone to go on holiday to your country of origin. What do you say?
The Welsh people share the same kindness and friendliness that Kiwis show and given the influences Kiwi coaches like Warren Gatland has had on our rugby team, Kiwis are welcomed like brothers and sisters into the valleys of Wales!



Welshman Gareth Bellamy with his partner Lisa on their lifestyle property in Raglan.

THIS IS WHO I AM

Noel Smith

This is who I am is a feature that tells us a little bit more about our elected members.

Name: Noel Smith

Ward: Newcastle

Family: Married for 41 years with three adult children and two delightful grandchildren

Use three words to describe the Waikato district: Our home and farm, which reflects the beauty of the Waikato.

What is the biggest issue facing the Waikato district in the next few years? Being able to meet the needs and aspirations of our varied and diverse communities.

Describe the Waikato district: Sparsely populated and expensive to service, but still a great place to bring up a family.

What do you think is Waikato district's best kept secret? Our rural hinterland.

Favourite holiday destination? NZ: Queenstown for its magnificent scenery and activities. World: Bavaria for the scenery and castles.

If you could go to one place in the world you've never been to before, where would it be? Antarctica – it's just such an exciting and isolated place with such magnificent wild life.

Worst job you've ever had and why? Cleaning up after fatal motor accidents when I worked for the New Zealand Police.

What annoys you the most: People who worry about the little things.

Your favourite album: All of the Beatles albums.

Best film: Shawshank Redemption

Best thing on TV: History and National Geographic channels

Radio station: Coast

Worst thing on TV? Reality shows

Favourite meal: Beef stroganoff

If you could meet any celebrity, who would it be? David Attenborough – the natural world interests me.

You've got a day off, what do you do? Get on the tractor or do some other job on the farm.



Councillor Noel Smith would love to go to Antarctica to see its magnificent wild life.

THIS IS WHAT I DO

Kevin Stokes

This is what I do is a feature that tells us a little more about Waikato District Council staff and what they do.

Name: Kevin Stokes

Family: My husband Henry, children Laura, Morgan and Harrison (twins), stepdaughters Maddie and Sophie and grandson Blake.

Role: Northern Infrastructure Programme Manager

How long have you worked for Waikato District Council? 2 years

What does your role involve? The purpose of my role is to provide better coordination between developers, Community Boards, Councillors, Council staff (planners, engineers, project managers etc) and contractors to deliver better outcomes for the community and provide a central point of contact for these parties.

What's the most rewarding aspect of your role? Seeing outcomes that provide opportunities for the communities and being able to deliver 'win – win' outcomes for all.

What has been the most challenging aspect of your role? When you are considering any new project for a community it can be difficult to make sure you have covered all the bases (both existing and new).

Tell us something about your role that most people won't know about: My role works with the 'here and now'. There is a large number of policies, strategies, district plans, reserve management plans, development contributions and somehow you need to take all that and create an outcome that fits everyone's needs.

Why is Waikato District Council a great place to work? You get the opportunity to share your knowledge with others and gain some new knowledge along the way. Working with a wide range of communities and departments sometimes there is some laughter along the way. My role is very rewarding as you get to change lives, communities and the way Council looks at things.



Northern Infrastructure Programme Manager Kevin Stokes enjoys being able to deliver win-win outcomes for all.

Lower speed limits kick in



Lake Road at Horsham Downs is one of many roads in the district affected by the latest round of speed limit changes.

Drivers should be prepared to lower their speed on some roads in the Waikato District from this month.

Lower numbers will be going up on many speed limit signs in the district after Waikato District Councillors' adopted the latest set of amendments to the Waikato District Council Speed Limit Bylaw 2011 in February.

Council sought feedback on its 2018 Proposed Amendments to the Waikato District Council Speed Limits Bylaw 2011 in October last year.

Council started a three-year programme to address speed limits through this bylaw two years ago.

Year Two's focus was on high risk rural roads and roads affected by rapid growth, mainly around the Ngaruawahia, Tamahere, Tuakau, Horsham Downs and Te Kowhai areas.

The majority of submitters supported the proposed lowering of speed limits on roads proposed for a speed limit reduction.

Speed limit signs will be adjusted and the new speed limits will come into force once that is completed, estimated to be late April 2019.

To see a list of roads with lower speed limits, please go to the Road and Transport section of our website.

Lowering speed limits is just one tool used to make our roads safer – other tools include significant investment in capital road safety improvements, changes to intersection controls, street lighting, road marking and signage as well as driver education programmes.

Early engagement with the community on this latest round of amendments revealed that people overwhelmingly wanted safer speeds around where they live, and safer speeds where their children go to school.

Waikato District Council Road Safety Engineer Gareth Bellamy thanked all those that got involved with the consultation process.

"We believe that increased conversation about road safety, including safer speed limits, has a knock-on effect, in that it does lead to people thinking a little more about their driving habits," he said.

"Council appreciates the community's contribution towards making our roads safer and we look forward to their input in the next round of consultation."

This coming year's proposed amendments will be on roads in the Raglan, Whatawhata and Rotokauri areas, as well as other roads brought to our attention through Year Two's consultation process.

Council's inorganic service not being run

Waikato District Council's inorganic service, which is traditionally held around this time of year, is not being run.

The service will not be run this financial year (ending June 2019). Inorganic wasn't included in the refuse and recycling targeted rate for 2018/19, Council's Acting General Manager Service Delivery Roger MacCulloch says.

"We are working with our contractors on the timing of the next collection - nothing has been decided on yet."

Council is asking all those who have started to put their

inorganic items out on the kerb, to bring it back onto their property.

"The future of the inorganic collection will be part of a solid waste review which will be done this year and will help us form the next Long Term Plan (LTP). You will be able to give your feedback as part of this review later this year," Mr MacCulloch says.

Tamahere Park taking shape

One of the major attractions at Tamahere Park is almost complete.

Progress has been rapid since the start of the year on this project, with a number of key features on track to be finished in June.

One of the most highly anticipated features by the youngsters of Tamahere is the skatepark – and that is all but finished. All major retaining structures within the skate park are complete along with the quarter pipe, double quarter pipe with table top, pool bowl, launch ramp, drop-in bank and half-court basketball court. Construction is well under way on the concrete wall ride with one other feature item and three smaller feature items were being constructed this month. At the time of writing, the skate park was due to be completed by the end of April however it is possible some of the bolt-on items such as rails may extend to mid-May.



The skatepark at Tamahere Park is nearly finished.

Meanwhile all concrete paved areas, pole lighting and top-soiling have been completed within the Piazza area of the park. The car park is due to be complete at the beginning of April, and the concrete paths, and the planting of trees and up-lighting by the end of April.

And the kids will be excited to hear that all the earthworks for the fantastic playground are complete and equipment has started to go in. Some of the equipment is still being manufactured but the playground is due to be completed by mid-June. Some playground features to look out for include the tuna (eel) net, mouse house, hammock swings and water lily carousel.

In terms of the neighbouring commercial hub, two blocks are complete. The Four Square is operating and other tenants include a clinic, chemist, sushi shop, hairdressers, accountant and chiropractor. The other two blocks are still under construction.

“All in all we are very happy with how well this project has progressed so far this year,” says our Community Projects Manager Paul McPherson.

“We’re looking forward to July when the community will be able to enjoy this wonderful new facility in Tamahere.”

Pound Pups Pool Parties

Thank you to everyone who attended the Waikato Pound Pups pool parties.



We invited people to bring their dogs along for a swim on the final day at Tuakau Centennial Pool and Ngaruawahia Pool and the events were a huge success. “This was a chance for us to give something back to our furry friends,” says Animal Control Education and Engagement Officer, Zoey Jackson. “It was a fun day for dogs and their owners and we loved getting to meet the dogs in our communities. It was also an opportunity for people to meet our Animal Control Officers and Pound staff, and ask any questions they may have about dogs and dog ownership.”

There are approximately 14,800 dogs in the Waikato district. Waikato District Council’s Animal Control team work hard to educate the public about dogs and how to be a good dog owner. As well as speaking at schools as part of the Dog Smart programme, they also have a Dogs in Libraries programme where people can go and read to one of our friendly dogs.

All the money from the pool parties was donated to 3 great charities that support Waikato Pound Pups: Humane Society of New Zealand, DC Rescue Dogs and Tokoroa Animal Rescue.

“These charities help us to re-home dogs from the Pound and without their help we wouldn’t be able to re-home as many as we do.”

This is the second year the Pound Pups Pool Party event has been held.

Water restrictions lifted

It was a long, hot summer but water restrictions in the Waikato district have been lifted.



Our water advisor Chris Parker can visit your home to help you check your appliances and check for water leaks. This service will finish at the end of June though, so book in now.

Waikato District Council Waters Manager Karl Pavlovich is pleased to see water alerts lifted in the Waikato district. "We thank our communities for their effort over the summer. It's good to see that the community appreciates that water is a precious resource and are being responsible with water, especially in summer." For the latest on water alerts and for water saving tips, see www.smartwater.org.nz.

If you would like to take part in this valuable service before it finishes, please call us on 0800 492 452 to book a time with Chris.

Don't forget – the valuable water saving service we introduced last year is coming to an end at the end of June. The service sees water advisor Chris Parker visit your home to show you how to check your appliances and how to check for water leaks. This service has led to great savings in water and lots of people saving money on their water bills.

Blueprints feedback now closed

Consultation has now closed on the draft Blueprint, thanks to those who attended our drop-in sessions and have made their voices heard throughout this process so far.

Feedback is now being looked at and priorities for each town and the district as a whole will be decided on. The final Blueprint will next be discussed at the Strategy and Finance meeting in May and is expected to be adopted by Council its meeting in June.

Proposed targeted rate for foodwaste in Raglan

Raglan residents have just a few more weeks to have their say on a proposed targeted rate for a foodwaste service.

Raglan residents are being asked if they would be prepared to pay a targeted rate of \$1.52 per week (or \$79.29 per year) to have the service continue. Submissions are open until 5pm Friday, 26 April 2019.



Consultation on the proposed targeted rate for a kerbside foodwaste collection in Raglan closes on 29 April. Have your say now.

For more information visit www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/foodwaste

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT COUNCIL BUSINESS?

 /WaikatoDistrictCouncil

 twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict

 waikatodistrict.govt.nz

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Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office

2 Dominion Road
Tuakau

Dates for the next Link: Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 17 - 21 June 2019. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact news@waicd.govt.nz with your address details so we can look into the non-delivery. Please note that if you have a 'No Junk Mail' sign on your mailbox we can't deliver the newsletter.