

Summer edition

LINK

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS
December 2017



Perry Bridge a great new attraction

More than a thousand people came out to celebrate the opening of the Te Awa River Ride and the stunning new Perry Bridge in early November.

This section completes a project which now sees a river-side cycleway connecting Ngaruawahia with the Hamilton Gardens.

The trail between the Ngaruawahia Golf Club and the Horotiu Bridge creates an uninterrupted 25km cycle path linking Ngaruawahia with the southern end of Hamilton City. The project was initiated by the Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust in 2010 and this northern section has been funded by the NZ Transport Agency, Waikato District Council and more than a dozen community funders.

"We are thrilled to finally be opening this important section of Te Awa – and in particular the stunning new Perry Bridge. This is a great example of what can be achieved by combining an amazing vision with strong partnerships and a supportive community," Te Awa River Ride General Manager Jennifer Palmer says. "Opening the Ngaruawahia to Horotiu section with the community has been a

real highlight. This link will provide commuters in the north Waikato surrounds especially those in close proximity to Hamilton a path to cycle to work and to events, easing congestion, pollution and enabling exercise to be integrated into their daily lives," NZ Transport Agency Central North Island Regional Relationships Director Parekawhia McLean says.

Students from schools either side of the river have designed and produced stunning mosaics to sit in perpetuity alongside the landmark structure. Students from Ngaruawahia High School and Horotiu Primary School guided by Ngaruawahia artist Tracy Huirama-Osborne have spent several months developing the artwork. This will be installed before the end of the year.

When complete, Te Awa will be a 70km shared cycle / walkway running alongside the Waikato River, between Ngaruawahia and Horahora.



From left, NZTA's Regional Relationships Central North Island Director Parekawhia McLean, River Ride Trust Chairman Simon Perry and Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson officially open the Perry Bridge.

INSIDE

Top 5 walks and free things to do in the district



Page 4 & 5

Council and Trust grow gardens' tourism potential



Pages 6

Christmas New Year hours



Page 7

Mayor's Message



Welcome to this special bumper edition of Link. This edition we're focused on celebrating the great stuff to do around our district while the sun shines and (some of us) have some spare time on our hands.

This summer is a particularly special one for our cycle and walking network.

We've now got a brand new (...and bright green) bridge, the Perry Bridge between Ngaruawahia and Horotiu, thanks to the generous folks at Brian Perry Charitable Trust and a number of others. This project has been delivered in conjunction with us at Waikato District and by NZTA.

Whether you're ready to cycle from the Hakarimata's to Hamilton (maybe after a quick dash up the Hakarimata's 1349 stairs) or take a leisurely cycle along the banks of the Waikato River, the now completed Ngaruawahia to Hamilton section of the Te Awa River Ride is a must do this summer.

This summer Link is packed with ideas for fun things you can do locally with your families or with visitors. Check out pages 4 and 5 for the top 5 free things and walks in the district and pages 10 and 11 for the district's top 5 hidden gems and activities to do with the kids.

Allan Sanson

Mayor, Waikato District Council

Summer's a great time to go camping

We've got some beautiful places to visit so why not come and stay for a few days?

We allow freedom camping in a self contained vehicle in our district, but some areas are restricted or prohibited. Please check our website to make sure you know where these areas are. Also please be aware that you'll only be able to stay for a maximum of three nights.

www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Saving water outside your home

It's been a wet old year but summer is finally here. And while most of us are hoping that the sun will finally start winning the battle over dark clouds and persistent rain, the change of season inevitably increases the pressure on our precious water supply.

Here are some simple ways to reduce your water use over the summer months. Remember, small savings add up to make a big difference!

SMART WATER STARTS WITH YOU!

In your garden:

- Water your garden early in the morning or later in the evening to reduce water loss to evaporation.
- Drip line irrigation and soaker hoses are two of the best ways to water shrubs, plants and vegetables, as they water the root zone directly. Sprinklers can lose a lot of water to evaporation and run-off.

Involve the kids:

- Encourage your kids to become leak detectives, looking for leaky taps or pipes around the garden or inside the home. Fixing leaks can help save up to 500 litres a day.
- Kids love to play with water. Check out some water play ideas that use less water at www.smartwater.org.nz/smart-water-play. For example, instead of using water balloons, try making sponge water bombs. They're great fun for all ages, use less water and can be reused over and over.

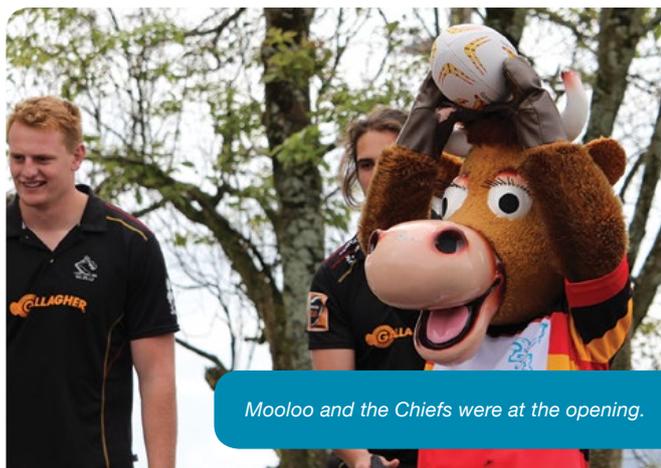
Outdoor jobs:

- Wash your car and your pets on an area of lawn that needs watering.
- Use a broom instead of your hose when cleaning areas like patios and driveways.

For more tips and information on saving water visit www.smartwater.org.nz



Not in a self-contained vehicle? Don't worry, we've got plenty of great holiday parks and camping grounds in our district, including Raglan's Kopua Holiday Park. Make sure you ring ahead and book as it does get very busy over the summer period. You can also stay in DOC camping areas. Check out our website for more information.



Mooloo and the Chiefs were at the opening.



Performances, including one from I-Jay Huirama, were a highlight of the event.



Cycling gold medallist and Te Awa River Ride Trustee Sarah Ulmer was at the opening.

Cycleway unveiled

More than a thousand people came out to celebrate the opening of the Te Awa River Ride and the stunning new Perry Bridge in early November.



More than 1000 people were at the official opening of the Perry Bridge in November.



Locals enjoy the opening of the Perry Bridge.

Top 5 walks in the district

Hakarimata Summit – Ngaruawahia

Of course the world-famous-in-Ngaruawahia Hakarimata's have to make the list. As one of the most popular walks in the Waikato region, the 335 metre climb from Brownlee Avenue to the summit has hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. 1349 steps to the top also provides a wonderful training ground for all sorts of people. Add it to your bucket list – you'll be glad you did.

Waireinga/Bridal Veil Falls – Raglan

A trip to the Bridal Veil Falls is an attractive easy walk through native forest following the Pakoka River to the top of the falls. This section of track is designed for assisted wheelchair use and is suitable for children's pushchairs.

The two viewing platforms at the top of the falls provide spectacular views of the falls and surrounding countryside. From here, the track slopes steeply down stairs to a midway viewpoint.

The track continues down more stairs to the bottom view bridge and information shelter where there is a magnificent view directly across the pool and up at the falls.

Access is via Te Mata Road off the Hamilton/Raglan Highway (SH23). Turn left into Kawhia Road, 1km past Te Mata and travel another 4km to the car park. People are not advised to swim.

Harker Reserve – Onewhero

Harker Reserve is a QEII protected native bush. The shaded walking path leads from Punt Hill to Vivian Falls. Horses and dogs on leads are permitted on the track.

The reserve is home to Vivian Falls, a 12m "horsetail" waterfall, where you can relax and take in the peace of the native bush scenery. Access is off Onewhero-Tuakau Bridge Road, Onewhero.

For more walk options in the Waikato district make sure to check out www.doc.govt.nz. Please note that many of the walking trails in the district don't allow dogs. We recommend checking before you take your pooch for a wander.

www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz



Pukemokemoke Bush Loop Track – Whitiakahu

The Pukemokemoke Bush Loop Track boasts over 300 native plants including matai, totara, kauri, kanuka and kahikatea, great picnic spots and stunning views of the wider region.

Consisting of around 40 hectares, Pukemokemoke Reserve includes nine sites of interest which are marked along the track; these include a log hauler site, the kauri grove, the lookout and the stopover paa.

The remains of the old stopover paa can be found about half way up the track from the bridge and deep trenches, food pits and other architectural features can still be identified amongst the fauna that has now taken over the site.

The lookout at the summit of the track provides stunning 360 degree views of the region, with the Hakarimata Range, Mt Te Aroha and more all clearly visible on a fine day.

Access is off Gordonton-Whitiakahu Road (next to the quarry) with the circuit taking approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

Mount William Walkway – Mangatawhiri

From the McMillan Road end, the track follows a farm fence line with markers to the Mount William Scenic Reserve. The reserve hosts a wide variety of native trees and shrubs, including kauri, hard beech and king ferns. From the Mount William summit (373m) there are expansive views to the West Coast and Firth of Thames. The track is 2.5km one way, which will take you around 3 hours there and back.

Know before you go: keep to the track when crossing private farmland and take care around stock. Leave farm gates as you find them (open or closed).

Top 5 free things to do in the district

Taste of local history – Rangiriri

Learn about the north Waikato's past by visiting the remarkable earthworks at Rangiriri paa, a Maori fortified settlement. Access is from Rangiriri so swing off the highway when you're passing and take a look. The paa site features the remains of fortifications where Maori were attacked by British troops in 1863.

Venture out to Port Waikato

Go fishing off the wharf, take a picnic to have at the playground, buy an ice cream from the dairy and build black sandcastles! Watch the surfers or brave the surf yourself.

Taitua Arboretum – Whatawhata

Located just inside the district, but owned by Hamilton City Council, Taitua Arboretum near Whatawhata is a great place to explore. The arboretum is home to a large tree collection, several lakes and a good network of walking tracks. It's a popular spot for an afternoon picnic so add it to your list to visit this summer.

Lake Puketirini – Huntly

This man-made lake is a fantastic spot to investigate on a hot summer's day. The lake has been developed from a disused coal-mined pit and is perfect for kayaking, boating, water-skiing, walking or cycling and a dip if you need to cool off. The lake is also often used for waka ama training.

Dog agility park – Horotiu

Te Kowhai's old playground equipment has been put to good use, with Council using it to create a dog agility park in Horotiu.

The dog park can be found on the corner of Horotiu Road and Great South Road (on AFFCO land), and it's already proving to be a big hit with locals (both two and four legged!).

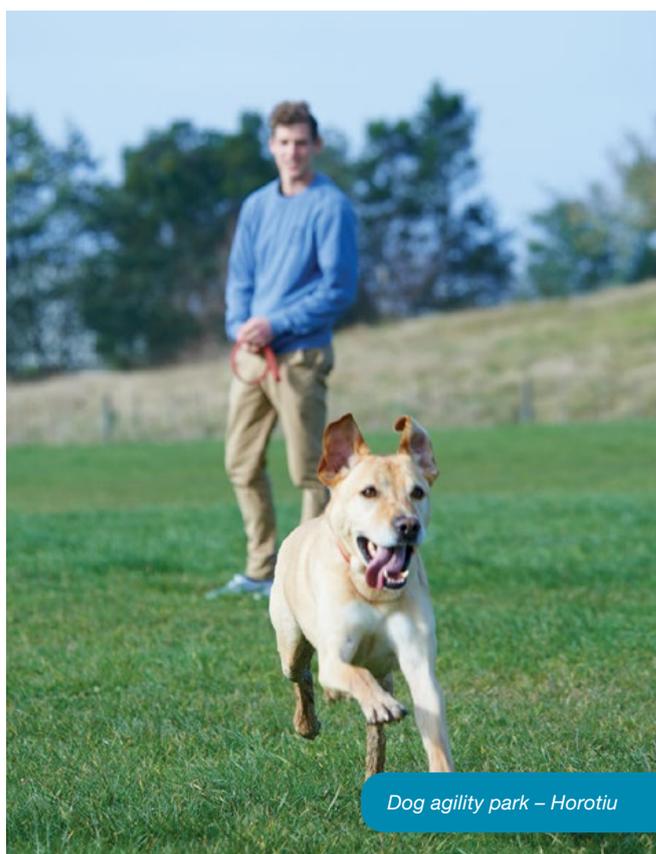
Don't worry if you don't have a dog though, the equipment is fun for young people too!



Port Waikato



Lake Puketirini – Huntly



Dog agility park – Horotiu

Council and Trust grow gardens' tourism potential

A shared vision for Woodlands Estate and Gardens to become a well-known place where communities and visitors can come together to share in the history and enjoyment of the site is coming to fruition.

Waikato District Council and the Gordonton Woodlands Trust entered into a Memorandum of Understanding last year which saw the Council take over the maintenance and development of the gardens.

Since then the Council and the Trust have formed an effective working relationship which has resulted in a long-term development plan for this Garden of National Significance.

Projects within this plan include: improved signage; construction of a destination playground; installation of a hand pump and water wheel and renovations to the music lawn.

Over the past year, a considerable amount of work in the gardens has been carried out by the Council and the Trust.

This has included increasing access to the garden areas; replacing old plantings; tree maintenance and planting programmes and renovation of English-style gardens and hedging.

The Trust has also made strides to ensure the income from the use of the historic homestead, grounds and function centre is maximised.

Woodlands Estate and Gardens has played host to a multitude of weddings and public events, including a successful Pioneer Day which attracted over 2000 visitors over three days, and a wedding expo.

And with summer well and truly here, there is cricket being played at the estate's picturesque cricket oval on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Overlooking the oval is the outstanding café, Profs @ Woodlands which is open on Friday nights so you can take in the twilight cricket with a quiet drink or take part in its weekly quiz nights.



All in all, the gardens are looking lovely and the people of the Waikato District are encouraged to go along, take a look for themselves and spread the word this summer.

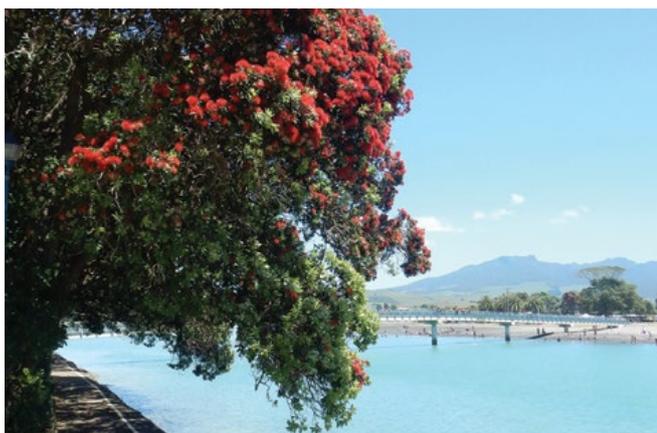
What: Woodlands Estate and Gardens

Where: 42 Whitikahu Road, Gordonton

When: Opening hours are – Gardens, daily from 10am-4pm (donations appreciated); Historic Homestead, daily from 10am-4pm (\$2) and Prof's @ Woodlands Café, 9am-3.30pm Mondays-Thursdays, 9am-9pm Fridays and 9am-4pm on weekends.

For more details go to: www.woodlands.co.nz or www.profs.co.nz

Photos: Stacey Solomon



Heading to Raglan for the day?

Raglan township can get really busy over summer so why not park down by the rugby club on Cross Street. There's plenty of parking and it's a quick walk along the foreshore to the wharf and just a short stroll to the main street. Got a bit more time? Why not walk along Cliff Street, past the beautiful flowering Pohutukawas and into the CBD. It's still only a 1.5km walk and you'll get to take in the beautiful sights of the harbour and the trees.



Christmas and New Year hours



District-wide kerbside collection

Collections across the district the week leading up to Christmas Day continue as normal. There will be no collection on Monday 25 December or Monday 1 January which means each week after Christmas and New Year; collections will take place one day later except for Raglan, where collection will take place two days later. By Monday 8 January, services will return to normal.

Normal collection		Date to be collected	Raglan Collection Only
Mon 25 Dec	Changes to	Tues 26 Dec	Wed 27 Dec
Tues 26 Dec	Changes to	Wed 27 Dec	Thurs 28 Dec
Wed 27 Dec	Changes to	Thurs 28 Dec	
Thurs 28 Dec	Changes to	Fri 29 Dec	
Fri 29 Dec	Changes to	Sat 30 Dec	
Sat 30 Dec			
Sun 31 Dec	No changes to Port Waikato collection	Remains the same	
Mon 1 Jan	Changes to	Tues 2 Jan	Wed 3 Jan
Tues 2 Jan	Changes to	Wed 3 Jan	Thurs 4 Jan
Wed 3 Jan	Changes to	Thurs 4 Jan	
Thurs 4 Jan	Changes to	Fri 5 Jan	
Fri 5 Jan	Changes to	Sat 6 Jan	
Sat 6 Jan			
Sun 7 Jan	No changes to Port Waikato collection	Remains the same	

*Te Uku and Te Mata remain the same over the Christmas New Year period

**Glen Murray rural recycling collection will be on 13 January 2018.

Refuse and recycling

Refuse and recycling transfer stations and resource recovery centre hours;

Date	Huntly Transfer Station 07 828 9719	Te Kauwhata Transfer Station 07 826 3456	Xtreme Zero Waste, Raglan 07 825 6509
Mon 18 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Tues 19 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	Closed
Wed 20 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Thurs 21 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	10am-3pm	Closed
Fri 22 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sat 23 Dec	10am-4pm	Closed	12.30pm-4.30pm
Sun 24 Dec	10am-3pm	10am-3pm	8.30am-4.30pm
Mon 25 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tues 26 Dec	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed 27 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Thurs 28 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	10am-3pm	Closed
Fri 29 Dec	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sat 30 Dec	10am-4pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sun 31 Dec	10am-3pm	10am-3pm	8.30am-4.30pm
Mon 1 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tues 2 Jan	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wed 3 Jan	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Thurs 4 Jan	7.30am-4.30pm	10am-3pm	Closed
Fri 5 Jan	7.30am-4.30pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sat 6 Jan	10am-4pm	Closed	8.30am-4.30pm
Sun 7 Jan	10am-4pm	11am-4pm	8.30am-4.30pm

Libraries

Between Christmas and New Year we are operating a library service only.

Date	Waikato District Libraries	Meremere Library
Fri 22 Dec	All sites closed at 3pm	
Sat 23 Dec	9.30am-12.30pm	
Sunday 24 Dec	Closed	
Mon 25 Dec	Closed	
Tues 26 Dec	Closed	
Wed 27 Dec	9am-5pm*	2pm-5pm
Thurs 28 Dec	9am-5pm**	Closed
Fri 29 Dec	9am-5pm	9am – 12noon
Sat 30 Dec	Closed	
Sun 31 Dec	Closed	
Mon 1 Jan	Closed	
Tues 2 Jan	Closed	
Wed 3 Jan	Resume normal business hours	

*Ngaruawahia and Raglan Library late night until 8pm

**Huntly, Tuakau and Te Kauwhata late night until 8pm

Swimming pools

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

Council offices

Waikato District Council offices will be closed from 3pm Friday 22 December. Normal hours will resume on Wednesday 3 January, 2018.

Emergency calls (all hours)

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



Connecting with Council

Got an idea or an issue you want to discuss? Contact your local Councillor or Community Board/Committee member. They're elected to represent you and are always happy to discuss any questions or issues you may have.

Mayor and Councillors



Allan Sanson (Mayor)
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E: mayor@waidc.govt.nz



Dynes Fulton (Deputy Mayor)
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Jan Sedgwick
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Community Boards

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Ngaruawahia

Chair: James Whetu
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Onewhero-Tuakau

Chair: Bruce Cameron
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E: glenullen@gmail.com

Raglan

Chair: Bob MacLeod
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E: bobmacleod66@gmail.com

Taupiri

Chair: Dorothy Lovell
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E: dlynlovell@gmail.com

Community Committees

Meremere

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North East Waikato

Chair: Bryce Shuker
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Pokeno

Chair: Helen Clotworthy
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Tamahere

Chair: Dallas Fisher
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Te Kauwhata

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Another adrenaline-pumping attraction pops up in Raglan



Raglan's pump track.
Photo: Jane Alice/Raglan Surf School

What is a pump track?

A short continuous track with rollers and berms that can be ridden without pedalling.

The latest attraction for thrill-seekers in Raglan is already proving popular for all those keen for a bit of fun on wheels.

Bikers, skateboarders and scooter riders are making the most of the new pump track at Papahua, next to the Kopua Camp.

Renowned trail ride builders Empire of Dirt have constructed the state-of-the-art track, which has been landscaped by Council staff.

The project is funded by the Kopua Camp Board, and Raglan Ward Councillor Lisa Thomson sees the track as an exciting addition to Raglan's many must-do activities.

She also congratulates the Kopua Camp Board for backing the project.

"I think the Board could see how much enjoyment the track would bring to our community when they were presented with the design.

"It's in the perfect spot, right next to Council's skate park and playground, which are probably the most used areas for families, our youth and visitors," she says.

"I know in the lead-up to the track's completion there were adults and kids who couldn't wait to ride the track."

The reaction on social media has also been extremely positive.

When track builders Empire of Dirt posted an update on the project, hundreds of comments came in from around the country including:

"Another reason to go to Raglan", "Now that's an epic pump track", "Reason number 127 why moving here was a good idea" and "The boys would love this. Stopover when we go to Auckland?".

Don't let booze ruin a good holiday

Be aware of the local rules before you pull out the brewskis.

Ngaruawahia, Taupiri, Huntly, Te Kauwhata, Meremere and Raglan all have a permanent liquor ban in their central business district. 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's also permanent bans in place at Sunset Beach. Many of our reserves also have bans during night time hours.

What this means for you: If the location is within a liquor ban area then you're not allowed alcohol – to drink it or to take it in to the area. However, if you're of a legal age to drink, you can drink alcohol on licensed premises or associated al fresco dining areas. You can also purchase alcohol to take home as long as the container remains unopened.



The district's top 5 hidden gems

Te Awa Cycleway

The Ngaruawahia to Horotiu section of the cycleway has been completed and is ready to ride this summer. The green Perry bridge which was installed and opened this year is a highlight of the section. The bridge is part of the Te Awa Great River Ride and allows pedestrians and cyclists access to the cycleway. Waikato District Mayor Allan Sanson believes the bridge will become a landmark in the district. We think the coolest part is that it glows in the dark.

Ngaruawahia's Kiingitanga Heritage Trail – Ngaruawahia

Ngaruawahia is the home of the first and current Maaori King and has a long history of Maaori settlement. This history is celebrated in a heritage trail immediately adjacent to State Highway 1. Discover The Point, the meeting of two rivers (Waipa and Waikato), and view the gun turret from the British gun boat, Pioneer. The heritage trail is a 1500 metre circuit.

Zealong Tea Plantation – Gordonton

New Zealand's one and only tea plantation is on the Waikato side of the Hamilton/Waikato border. Here you can taste the world's purest Oolong tea at the tea house or take a tour with tasting and high tea included (cost involved).



Zealong Tea Plantation – Gordonton



Manu Bay – Raglan

Manu Bay – Raglan

Manu Bay (also known as The Point) is a world famous surfing area. Located about 6km south of Raglan, The Point came to international attention in 1966 after it was featured in the movie 'Endless Summer'. Every year Manu Bay is home to several international surfing competitions.

Manu Bay is also home to a walk through Bryant Reserve, "tattooed rocks" and great fishing and boating.

Whangamarino Wetlands – Te Kauwhata

The Whangamarino Wetlands is internationally recognised as one of the most important lowland wetland ecosystems in the Waikato region. Located between Meremere and Te Kauwhata, several threatened species, including wetland birds, fish and plants can be found there.

Covering a total area of more than 7,200 hectares, the Department of Conservation manages the majority of the wetlands while Fish and Game manage the rest.

Nearby is Meremere Redoubt, one of 22 earthwork forts built between Auckland and Pirongia. On the Whangamarino Historic Walk you can see the Whangamarino Redoubt and Te Teoteo's Paa – two key sites of conflict during the Waikato War of 1863-64.

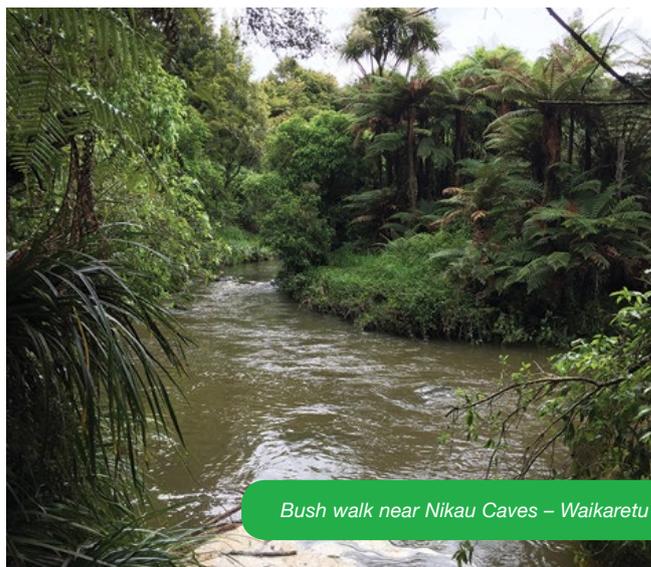
Getting there: The wetland is located between Mercer and Te Kauwhata, to the east of State Highway 1. The Whangamarino Redoubt is off State Highway 1 south of Mercer via Oram Road. You can also drive to the wetland via Island Block Road at Meremere, or Falls Road from Te Kauwhata.

Note though, that there is no vehicle access into the wetland, but there are boat ramps on both these roads if you want to get closer to the water and explore the wetland by boat or kayak.

Top 5 things to do in the district with kids

Bush walk near Nikau Caves – Waikaretu

This short walk is perfect for those wanting to experience a bit of remote nature. Here you will find a stream that's easy to swim in with a walk taking no more than 30 minutes with its own set of small caves – what's more to love? The award-winning Nikau Caves café is also worth a stop while you're out that way, where you can book in for a caving tour. Access is via a marked picnic sign on Waikaretu Valley Road a few hundred metres before the café.



Bush walk near Nikau Caves – Waikaretu

Lake Hakanoa Walkway and the Green Cathedral – Huntly

Lake Hakanoa is famous for its beautiful scenery. Take a walk around the lake - just one of Huntly's most sought-after attractions. The entrance to the walkway is at the end of Park Avenue in Huntly Domain. The track is pram and wheelchair friendly. Here you will discover the Green Cathedral, an idyllic spot often chosen for weddings or a picnic.



Lake Hakanoa Walkway – Huntly

Visit one of the district's many libraries

The district has libraries in Tuakau, Te Kauwhata, Meremere, Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Raglan. The libraries have wonderful collections for children and youth along with great programmes like Dogs in Libraries. Check out your local library for more info and be sure to stop by for your summer read.

Rock hunting

Collect some rocks from the beach, paint them at home on a rainy day and then go out and hide them for other kids to find in a rock treasure hunt – and find some yourself. Lots of communities have their own Facebook pages set up for this, for example TuakauRocks.

Ice cream in Pokeno

Pokeno is world famous in the Waikato for the size of its ice creams. Stop off this summer for a special treat.



Ice cream in Pokeno

Just Briefly



Keeping cool in our swimming pools



Don't forget this summer that the Waikato district has three community swimming pools located in Ngaruawahia, Huntly and Tuakau. For more information, including entry fees and further details on hours, visit: waikatodistrict.govt.nz/recreation/swimming-pools

Taking the boat out?

We've got boat ramps at rivers, lakes and coastal areas. You'll find maps on our website

www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/recreation/boat-ramps

Please be aware that Lake Kainui and Lake Puketirini are available to boats between October and May but you'll need a key. The Lake Kainui key is at the Ngaruawahia Council office and the Lake Puketirini key is at the Huntly Council office. Please also note that there is a fee.



Apply for funding

Applications are opening over summer for a range of Council-administered funds to support community projects and events in 2018.

There are funds for supporting creative and performing arts, heritage and conservation among others – so get your thinking caps on and tell us what you need.

Three funds have closing dates in February for their first round of applications for the year:

- Waikato District Council Discretionary Grants Fund (closes 2 February 2018)
- Creative Communities Fund (closes 23 February 2018)
- Heritage Project Fund (closes 23 February 2018)

The Waikato District Community Wellbeing Trust Fund has a single funding round for the year which opens on 26 January and closes on 30 March 2018.

Go to www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding to find out more.



Fire season comes early

Fire and Emergency New Zealand has introduced a Restricted Fire Season for open fires that started on 1 December and finishes on 31 March 2018. This change in fire season provides a consistent approach to fire seasons throughout the Waikato area. The restriction requires anyone lighting an open air fire to obtain a Fire Permit from Council before commencing. For more details go to our website, www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/fire.

Dates for the next Link

Our next edition of Link will be distributed from 19-24 February 2018. If you don't receive your Link during this period please contact communications@waidc.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.

Got a question about Council business?

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-  waikatodistrict.govt.nz