

November | Noema
Whiringa Aa Rangi 2020

LINK TE HONONGA

WAIKATO DISTRICT NEWS
NGAA PAANUI O TE TAKIWAA O WAIKATO



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Glow worms shining in the Nikau caves

Eight places to explore this summer

If you've ever wondered what to do in your own backyard here in the Waikato district, then chuck these gems on your summer bucket list to explore!

1 If you've already conquered the famous Hakarimata steps or if you don't want to tackle so many steps, drive north towards Huntly to find the Kauri Loop Track. You'll find rewarding views of the Waikato River weaving through Huntly, and views towards Hamilton once you've reached the top.



2 There are a number of hiking trails in the Hunua Ranges, to the very north of the district. Waterfalls, sparkling reservoirs and native bush are just some of the sights on offer. Grab a map and spend a day exploring and soaking in the scenery.



3 Summer is soft fruit time. Wander to the south east of the district to discover many orchards where you can pick your own strawberries, blueberries and raspberries. Don't forget to grab an ice-cream once you've filled your punnets.



4 Head west through the countryside to discover glow worms shining throughout the Nikau Caves. There's a neat bush walk and cool café there too.



5 Raglan on the west coast has something to offer everyone. With great eateries, unique shops, world-renowned surf and fantastic beaches, you'll need a few days to take it all in.



6 Organic produce, local crafts and delicious street food – a morning at the market is hard to beat. Pokeno in the north, and Raglan to the west, Tamahere Country Market in the south and many more – the choice is yours.



7 Head north west to Port Waikato for a wild day out. Black sand beaches, rugged coastline, west coast walks and great fishing at the river mouth – it's all here.



8 You can experience the splendour of the mighty Waikato River on foot, or by bike, on the Te Awa River Ride. Start your trip in Ngaruawahia and you can go all the way to Hamilton.





MAYOR'S MESSAGE

This year has been a huge year for change for New Zealanders, for our businesses and for local government. Like so many organisations, our Council has taken the opportunity to embrace working and delivering services differently.

We continued to offer crucial lifeline and council services during the lockdowns, supported the community when they needed it most through our civil defence response, and worked on improving our services – including more digital customer service options. This is all in the spirit of delivering value for money to our residents and ratepayers.

One of those developments was the creation of a fortnightly e-newsletter. You can sign up at our website www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/subscribe. This way you can stay connected to Waikato district news (almost) as it happens.

I believe Waikato district is a great place to live, work and raise a family. So you can be sure that my councillors and I, alongside our great staff and partner organisations, are working hard to make sure we embrace the opportunities that come from growth.

We are positioned in the middle of New Zealand's fastest growing urban areas. It provides its challenges but on balance, and with good data and planning, it means we can invest in the social and physical infrastructure we sorely need to build truly liveable, thriving and connected communities.

Thanks for taking the time to read this newsletter and staying connected to your local Council.

Mayor Allan Sanson



The next Long Term Plan

We provide local services and infrastructure that our communities need to survive, thrive and prosper. As council, we are responsible for a wide range of services including roads, water reticulation, sewerage and rubbish collection, libraries, community halls, parks, playgrounds, recreation services, regulations, community and economic development, and town planning. These are all services you rely on, but they come at a cost.

The better and more services we offer, the bigger the burden of rates that falls on your households and businesses. We realise that in today's climate we are not in a position to 'gold-plate' our services and so, through the Long Term Plan 2021-31, we are looking forward to working with you to find what is fit-for-purpose for you and your community.

The Waikato district is a geographically large council area with a number of small communities, so in some cases we lack the benefits of scale when it comes to managing our infrastructure. But those characteristics are also our strengths. We have a great mix of rural and village lifestyle which gives our communities choice and variety, all while allowing you to live close to major cities for employment and recreation. This means the Waikato district is able to offer truly liveable, thriving and connected communities. This next Long Term Plan period will see us be prudent in the way we manage rate increases over time. We will always focus on value for money for you, our residents and customers.

We know not everyone wants to frequently be talking to their council – many people just want to be able to trust us to deliver services for good value and get results. But we understand that much of what we do has a huge impact on our communities – and on peoples lives – and there will be times where people want to have their say, and point us in the right direction. We understand this which is why, as we get ready to prepare our Long Term Plan, you should expect to hear more from us in the coming months.

Formal consultation on the Long Term Plan starts in late March. To be notified of this important consultation, register your interest at <https://shape.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/>



Subscribe

to our

newsletter

and go in

to win!

You can now receive all of our latest news and information directly to your inbox each fortnight. To subscribe visit our website waikatodistrict.govt.nz/subscribe and complete the short sign-up form.

Everyone who subscribes before 14 December will go in to win a \$100 petrol voucher to use to discover our beautiful district this summer.

20 questions about recycling

1. Is recycling the most important thing I can do at home to reduce waste to landfill?

In New Zealand, per capita, we are increasing our waste generation, so reducing your use of single use products, reusing items, reducing and composting food waste and scraps are the more important things you can do. Check out the waste hierarchy on page 5.

2. What's the big problem with waste and recycling going to landfill?

The biggest problem with landfill is waste and recycling going into the land. It's easy not to be conscious of it; we put our waste out every week and it disappears.

Landfills are anaerobic, meaning waste that ends up in landfill does not breakdown and turn into compost. Instead, it produces greenhouse gases such as CO₂ and methane, which have negative impacts on our climate.

The more waste we landfill, the more landfills we need.

3. So, they're not great for the environment then?

Nope. In the last few years, there's been two instances where coastal erosion and bad weather have exposed closed landfills in the South Island. This causes destruction to local eco systems and waterways with considerable cost to carry out clean-up.

Landfills can also catch fire due to types of waste being disposed of that can emit dangerous fumes and put a strain on emergency services.

4. Why should I recycle?

To keep waste out of landfill, and to prevent further damage to our waterways, our oceans, and our food systems. It also reduces the amount of litter that finds its way to our oceans.



5. What can I put in my recycling crates?

Rinsed glass in one crate, clean plastics numbered 1, 2, 5, in another, plus clean tins and cans. Try keeping cardboard out of crates as it can take up a lot of space. When out shopping, see if you can grab a few boxes and put small paper and card into that.



6. How do I find out what number a plastic container is?

Plastic can be one of the most confusing materials to identify for recycling. Somewhere on the container there will be a triangle with a number within it. Often this is located at the base of the container (see above).

7. Why can't I put plastics 3, 4, 6 and 7 in my recycling crate?

They have very low value, and they contaminate other higher value plastics (1s, 2s and 5s) when mixed with them. The higher the contamination level, the more processing required to sort, resulting in higher costs. So unfortunately, apart from Raglan, they need to go in the rubbish bag and off to landfill.

8. Why does Raglan take 1-7s plastics?

Xtreme Zero Waste are collecting a small amount of other plastics. They work in partnership with industry on innovative projects that could potentially use these lower value plastics.

9. What are examples of 1s plastics?

Water bottles, sodas, some takeaway containers, some washing-up liquid.

10. What are examples of 2s plastics?

Milk bottles, cleaning products.

11. What are examples of 5s plastics?

Dips and margarine tubs.

12. Why should I clean my recycling?

A dirty product can be a contaminated product, as well as being a health hazard to our amazing runners and collectors and our sort line staff who process and separate our recycling. Overly contaminated recycling will go to landfill.

13. Why should I separate my recycling?

It just makes good sense to separate at home.

Having glass separate is really important. Not only is broken glass a hazard for our processors but having it amongst other recycling can lead to all recycling going to landfill. It is easier for our contractors to colour sort and separate at kerbside.

14. What happens to my recycling once it is picked up?

Once it gets picked up at the kerb, it goes to the local transfer station to be sorted by real people and in some cases with the help of mechanical plant.

Those people sorting our recycling may be our friends, neighbours, or whanau – so clean product is important. Once it is hand sorted, its baled and goes to Auckland, Wellington or overseas.

15. Why can't I put plastic bags in my recycling?

Soft plastic is difficult to recycle. Replace plastic bags with reusable bags.

16. Wow, this all just sounds like too much hard work, why should I bother?

It really isn't. It's all about changing our behaviour to benefit our environment long term. Once you get in to the routine of reducing plastic use, reusing it where you can and just giving your recycling a quick rinse and separating your recycling when you put it out on the kerb, it's easy!

Want to reduce your waste some more? We have 20 reusable gifts to give away. Email your name and address to ilumvmyreusables@waidc.govt.nz

17. If reducing plastic use is better than recycling, is there anything happening to reduce the use of plastic in packaging of consumer products?

Reducing and reusing are more important. Just like single use plastic bags were phased out in 2018, there is more work to phase out other low value plastics. In the meantime, remember your reusables.

18. What's the Government doing to reduce waste in New Zealand?

As part of a wider plan to reduce the amount of rubbish ending up in landfills, the Government recently announced six products to be declared 'priority products' for the establishment of regulated product stewardship schemes under the Waste Minimisation Act. The products are:

- Plastic packaging
- Tyres
- Electrical and electronic products (e-waste)
- Agrichemicals and their containers
- Refrigerants
- Farm plastics

This would help ensure everyone involved in their design, production, sale, and use contributes to diverting the materials in them from landfill at the end of their useful life.

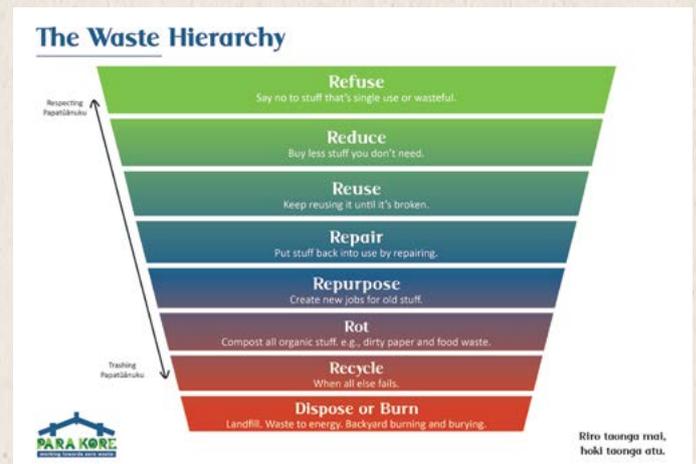


19. Why doesn't China and other countries take our recycled plastic anymore?

China used to take over 50% of the world's recycling, but in 2017 they decided to introduce restrictions. Plastic is one of the many products that was affected.

Other markets opened in Asia but these were not viable and in some cases have also introduced restrictions.

The introduction of the Basel Amendment in 2021 will likely require permits issued by the importing or receiving country to export particular grades of mixed plastic products. This will likely increase the cost to export.



20. Where can I find out more about recycling, reducing and reusing plastic?

Check out these local, regional and national groups:

<http://xtremezerowaste.org.nz>

<http://www.parakore.maori.nz>

<https://katemeads.co.nz>

<https://therubbishtrip.co.nz>

<https://mainstreamgreen.co.nz/>

You Tube – The Story of Stuff.



Animal Control programmes

Dogs in Libraries

Research shows that sitting down and reading to a friendly dog can help a child's fear of being judged and over time their reading ability and self-confidence improves. This programme has been run in other parts of New Zealand and across the world with fantastic results.

Each session is 15 minutes long and will be held in a quiet corner of the library with an Animal Control Officer there to help facilitate the session. Sessions must be booked in advance. You can book your child in by free phoning 0800 492 452 or visiting www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/dogsinlibraries



Dog Smart

Did you know our Animal Control team offer a free dog education programme that teaches kids how to approach a dog they do not know, and how to avoid being bitten by a dog? One of our Animal Control officers can visit your child's school for a 45 minute session with one of our friendly dogs. The aim of these sessions is to teach kids how to stay safe around dogs. We will also give an insight into the daily routine of an Animal Control Officer. Each visit can be tailored to suit different age groups.

New Zealand is a country of dog lovers but unfortunately not all dogs are properly socialised or contained. There are more than 15,000 dogs in the Waikato district so it's important to teach your kids how to keep themselves safe.

Schools across the Waikato District can book in to these sessions by free phoning 0800 492 452 and asking for our Education and Engagement Officer by emailing info@waidc.govt.nz



Our dogs

Both of these programmes use dogs that have been trained and tested to ensure they have the right temperament, are healthy and safe. We've got big dogs, small dogs, fluffy dogs – they all look different but they have one thing in common. They LOVE people!

Water use in the hotter months

As we head into what is predicted to be a hot summer, it's important we all be conscious of our water use.

While most of the Waikato district did not have water restrictions last summer, we can't be sure of what will happen this year. Increased temperatures and low rainfall may require us to follow water restrictions this summer. This means we will be asking all residents to be mindful of how they use water and to try to save where they can.

Residents on Auckland's network, which includes Pokeno and Tuakau, have been on restrictions since May. This is due to be reviewed in December, but as the water supply is still recovering from this year's record-breaking drought, restrictions of some sort will likely continue. For more details about these restrictions visit www.watercare.co.nz.



Four tips to be a water-saving hero

Spend a minute less in the shower: save 12 litres

Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth or shave: save 4 litres

When possible, use a half flush when flushing the toilet: save 6 litres

Fix a leaking tap: save 33 litres a day

Did you know?

Washing machines use an average of 122 litres of water every load. Can you commit to washing one load less each week and save a whole lot of water? Don't be a drip, be a water-saving hero.

Want to know more? Visit Watercare's website here: waterforlife.org.nz/water-saving-tips

Support throughout a drought

For farmers, lifestyle and small block owners who may find themselves affected by a drought this summer, here is some information to plan and get through the coming months.

Feed planning and coordination

Drought conditions along with COVID-19 impacts are still being felt in our rural communities meaning there will be feed shortages and financial challenges.

Free feed planning and coordination services are available to ALL farmers and stock owners, nationwide. Call to talk through your feed plan to get through the coming months:

- Dry stock – 0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352)
- Dairy sector – DairyNZ 0800 4DAIRY (0800 4 324 7969)
- Other – AgFirst 0508 AGFIRST (0508 243 477)

Once you have your feed plan, order in food as soon as you can. Some imported feeds may take up to 12 weeks to arrive. You could try:

- Feed merchants
- Feed noticeboard – <https://agrihq.co.nz/feed-noticeboard>
- TradeMe
- Your local Facebook, farmer or lifestyle groups
- Neighbours and friends

The **Waikato-Hauraki-Coromandel Rural Support Trust (RST)** is a great place to start for a free and confidential chat. This network is run by local people who know farming. RST facilitators are trained in helping people in stressful situations like a drought, and they run training and social events in their areas. They can put you in touch with services that you need, whether it's financial and business advice or health services.

Professional Farm Business Advice Fund

A new fund to get advice for struggling farmers is now open – qualifying farmers can now apply for up to \$6,000 to pay for financial or business advice from an independent consultant. The fund is managed by Rural Support Trusts – contact your local facilitator for more information on 0800 787 254.

Help is just a phone call away

There will always be tough times but the great thing about the NZ farming sector is that you will never be on your own. Whether you call a neighbour, a mate or an organisation, know that you're not alone.

Here's just a few that will be able to help:

- Rural Support Trust – 0800 787 254
- Federated Farmers – 0800 327 646
- Dairy NZ – 0800 4324 7969
- Dairy Women's Network – 0800 396 748
- Rural Women NZ – 04 473 5524
- Beef & Lamb NZ – 0800 233 352
- Healthline – 0800 611 116
- Plunketline – 0800 933 922
- Drug and Alcohol Helpline – 0800 787 797
- Gambling Helpline – 0800 654 655
- Need to Talk – free call or text 1737

Te Huia passenger rail

Good news, work on the train station in Huntly is nearly complete!

The team have finished the platform itself and the shelters have been installed. Next on the to-do list is fencing and signage which will be taking place over the coming weeks.

The construction of the park and ride carpark is going well and will likely be finished in late November.

The Te Huia service was delayed and is expected to be up and running early next year. For updates on this, keep an eye on our social media channels.



The Huntly Train Station is nearly finished



Council offices and libraries will extend the close down period slightly this year

Christmas and New Year close down period

To reflect what many partner organisations are doing for the close down period, our offices and libraries will be closing down at 3pm on Thursday 24 December and will officially re-open to the public on Monday 11 January.

In previous years when we've opened our office and libraries immediately after the public holidays, we have been extremely quiet as most organisations are closed and residents are still enjoying their summer holiday.

Keeping our doors closed for this extra period, while we're not so busy, gives staff the opportunity to take leave and enjoy a longer holiday with their family.

Alcohol licensing applications go online!

We've made it easier and more cost effective to let the public know when you have applied for an alcohol licence. It will also be easier for people to find details about current alcohol licence applications online.

As of Monday 2 November, people applying for a new alcohol licence or renewing a licence don't have to publish a public notice in the newspaper, instead they can complete a template in the application or renewal form and the notice is then advertised on the Council website.



Letting the public know about your alcohol license is now cheaper and easier!

GOT A QUESTION ABOUT COUNCIL BUSINESS?

 /WaikatoDistrictCouncil

 twitter.com/WaikatoDistrict

 waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Postal Address

Poutaapeta Mahi
Waikato District Council
Private Bag 544
Ngaaruawaahia

Huntly Office

Te Tari O Raahui Pookeka
142 Main Street
Huntly

Ngaaruawaahia Office

Te Tari O Ngaaruawaahia
15 Galileo Street
Ngaaruawaahia

Raglan Office

Te Tari O Whaingaroa
7 Bow Street
Raglan

Te Kauwhata Office

Te Tari O Te Kauwhata
1 Main Road
Te Kauwhata

Tuakau Office

Te Tari O Tuakau
2 Dominion Road
Tuakau