

Aug-Sep 2009



THE LINK

Waikato District News

Our kids can't swim

Kiwi kids swimming skills are sinking fast.

This is Water Safety New Zealand's (WSNZ) view, as only one in five 10 year olds can swim 200m, the benchmark WSNZ considers necessary to swim and survive in the water.

In response to this disturbing trend, community swimming pools are springing into action and are offering learn to swim classes throughout the year.

Ian Richards, Manager of Total Leisure Concepts, who run the Genesis Energy Huntly Aquatic Centre said learning to swim needs to be a priority as New Zealand already has one of the worst drowning rates in the world.

"Water safety should be a fundamental life skill for all New Zealanders. As a community

swimming pool we feel we have an obligation to help people learn to swim in a safe, controlled environment.

"Indoor public swimming pools are the perfect place to learn to swim. The weather is never an issue, and you can use the winter time to become a competent swimmer, then hit those beaches with confidence in the summer," he said.

The Waikato District has community swimming pools in Huntly and Ngaruawahia. Learn to swim classes are held during the year at the Genesis Energy Huntly Aquatic Centre ■

Genesis Energy Huntly Aquatic Centre
Wight Street, Huntly
☎ 07 828 8402
🌐 www.tlc.net.nz



Learn to Swim classes – Term 3 (Aug-Sept 09)
Monday to Thursday 3.30pm – 6pm
Classes caters for all levels

Learn to Swim classes – Term 4 (Oct – Dec 09)
The programme will be extended with additional classes for pre-schoolers.

Mayor's message

Council is watching closely the progress of the 'Super City' in Auckland. It is important that we understand the ramifications of this structure, and be in a position to make good decisions on future local government boundaries in the Waikato.

Good progress has been made on our roading contracts, and we have received very competitive tenders for major upgrade works. Having such a large network means we have to be very vigilant to maintain and enhance service levels. We hope to have half of our major construction works programme out for tender by mid spring.

Alongside this, Council is working hard with the New Zealand Transport Agency to progress the Waikato expressway. This is a vital opportunity for the new Government, and it is paramount that we embrace it.

The Raglan museum is now at crunch time decision wise. Council is seeking confirmation from two remaining bodies that funding is still available and if so, we will then move to complete the detailed design stage for the project.

Consultation has taken place with Raglan residents on the replacement of the Kopua footbridge. We hope to progress this project quickly as any delay will cause additional costs to the building of the bridge, and an extra \$120,000 will have to be spent on maintaining the current bridge.

Council plans to notify the Te Kauwhata Structure Plan shortly, and an Issues and Options Paper is being consulted on for Raglan to provide direction for the development of a Structure Plan for the area. Later on in the financial year, Council will involve the Tamahere community in the review of the Tamahere structure plan.



Peter Harris
Mayor



eDay

12 September 2009

eDay is an annual recycling event which gives New Zealanders an opportunity to recycle electronic equipment like computers or mobile phones in an environmentally sustainable way. eDay this year will be held on Saturday 12 September.

In 2008, over 16,550 cars dropped off 87,056 items during eDay. A total of 946 tonnes of e-waste was diverted from New Zealand landfills. This year the goal is to divert over 1,000 tonnes of e-waste from our landfills ■

You are able to drop your rubbish off to two recycling centres in the Waikato District on eDay:

Xtreme Waste

186 Te Hutewai Rd
RAGLAN
Ph: 07 825 6509

Opening hours on 12 September:
1.30pm – 4.30pm

Recover NZ

93 Mc Vie Rd
HUNTLY
Ph: 07 828 9719

Opening hours on 12 September:
7.30am – 4.30pm

Noise, noise and more noise!

Raucous parties, blasting stereos, screeching building alarms; most people have had the unpleasant experience of being woken up in the early hours of the morning because of excessive noise. So what can you do to make the noise stop?

Council receives between 700 – 800 noise complaints each year. In fact noise is undoubtedly one of the most contentious issues Council deals with, and for ongoing issues it is probably one of the most difficult to resolve.

A reasonable level

Some level of noise is normal and everyone should expect a degree of noise from time to time. People have the right to make noise at a reasonable level.

Noise control is not intended to regulate normal residential activities such as mowing the lawn and driving vehicles on the road. However you do have the right to have **excessive noise** reduced or stopped.

What is excessive noise?

Be aware that just because a noise can be heard, it does not mean that it is 'excessive'. The definition of excessive noise is set out in the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA).

"One off" noise events such as loud parties and stereo noise are by far the most common excessive noise complaints. These noises may arise from musical instruments, electrical appliances, machines, and also from a person or group of people.

Stopping the noise

At any time of the day or night you have the right to have **excessive** noise stopped or reduced. Contact Waikato District Council on 07 824 8633 or 0800 492 452, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Council employs a security firm who will respond and act as Noise Control Officers. The officer will make an assessment of the noise, and if it is deemed

to be excessive under the RMA, an excessive noise notice will be issued to immediately reduce the noise to a reasonable level.

The noise notice is in force for 72 hours and if the noise reoccurs during that time, any equipment making the noise can be seized.

Farming activities

Noise limits specified in the District Plan do not apply to farming activities, which includes horticulture.

With increased subdivision and development of lifestyle blocks, people are moving into rural areas with the belief that it is quiet, and do not realise the noises that may be associated with rural activities.

For example, complaints about the noise of the neighbouring farm's cows will not be investigated.

However, this does not give a free reign to make as much noise as you like. The RMA contains a general duty for occupiers of land to take the best practicable option to reduce the emission of noise. Action can be taken to enforce this when noise is considered to be unreasonable. This can apply whether or not the noise complies with noise limits specified in the District Plan or a resource consent.

Commercial noise

Noise complaints may also arise from activities undertaken on commercial properties. Noise limits for particular activities may be specified in the District Plan or a resource consent. If the noise level is above the specified limit, it can be extremely complex to resolve. Assessments of the noise need to be made over time, with noise levels measured and compared with the limits. Measurement and assessment of noise is highly technical and must be carried out in accordance with NZ noise standards. Often an acoustic engineer may be required to carry out an assessment ■

Help your wastewater system work better

Council needs your help to ensure that our district's wastewater treatment systems work properly.

You can help us operate an efficient and clean smelling system by:

- Preventing stormwater runoff from your land or roof entering the waste water pipes
- Only flushing toilet paper NOT tampons, sanitary pads, condoms, paper towels, newspaper, stockings, rags, or clothing
- Not flushing items that don't biodegrade easily, including tea bags, hair, coffee grounds, egg shell
- Not flushing or washing down cooking fats, grease or oils
- Minimizing the use of garbage disposal units – compost instead
- Not using lots of chlorine, toilet chemicals or blocks to clean the bowl
- Using plungers or pipes snake to unblock drains rather than strong chemicals ■

.....
If you have any queries, please contact:

Hudson Cameron
Plants Engineer
0800 492 452
.....



Upgrade work taking place at Maramarua wastewater treatment plant

Leading the way Enviroschools

Imagine...a generation of innovative and motivated young people, who instinctively think and act sustainably. Children who know how to cook, bake, and grow vegetables in their own gardens, and have an appreciation for their environment.

Sixteen schools throughout the Waikato district are working towards this vision as part of the Enviroschools programme which teaches children about recycling and caring for the environment.

Council has supported the Enviroschools programme since 2002, contributing \$15,000 annually to this great initiative, as part of Council's Waste Minimisation Programme aiming for Zero Waste to Landfill by 2020.

Teacher Emma Jordan of Ngaruawahia Primary School says students throughout the school have really come on board with the Enviroschools programme and taken responsibility for their own classroom waste.

"It is a big eye opener to see how much everyday waste can actually be recycled" she said.

All the rubbish bins throughout Ngaruawahia Primary School have been replaced with a plastic/glass/aluminium bin for recycling, a paper bin and an "extras" bin.

"It was a bit of a shock for everyone at first, not having our usual big classroom bin, but students and teachers have all adjusted to it and the kids enjoy sharing the new responsibilities. The aim is to only empty our big skip once a term, saving money and our planet," Ms Jordan said ■



If you want to find out more about Enviroschools check out

🌐 <http://www.enviroschools.org.nz/> or

🌐 <http://www.ew.govt.nz/For-schools/>

Artz for artz sake!!

The creative and the colourful will take pride of place on stage during the upcoming Huntly Artz and Design Festival.

The two-day Festival, scheduled for 9 and 10 of October, has already attracted keen interest and the organisers are expecting this year to be one of the biggest yet.

Festival organiser, Claire Gregson said the show, which is held every two years was a highlight in the Huntly township's arts calendar.

"With a Supreme Prize of \$3000 we are able to attract an excellent calibre of entrants from a wide region. The talent that the designers show is exceptional and the show is a lot of fun," she said.

The general entry categories this year include Fibre Art, Scrapbooking and Cardmaking, Painting, Photography, Dolls and Teddy Bears, Garden Art and Students Painting.

The sections for the Wearable Artz Show include: Wonderful Wetlands, Hello Tomorrow, The Ferrari of Fashion, Trendy Transformation, Energy in Transition, Iconic Indigenous Imagination.

Tickets for the Festival are now on sale from Plants & Pots Boutique, 81 Main Street, Huntly, and Allen Fabrics, 64 Main Street, Huntly.

Gala Award Extravaganza
8pm, Friday 9 October 2009
Huntly College Hall
Tickets \$20 adult, \$12 student

Exhibition
6pm onwards
Friday 9 October 2009
Huntly College Gym
Gold coin donation

Exhibition and Art and Craft Stalls
9.30am-3.30pm, Saturday 10 October 2009
Huntly College Hall and Gym ■



For more information please contact:

☺ Claire Gregson
✉ cgregson@xtra.co.nz

☺ Diane Dean
☎ 07 828 7628

☺ Annette Harris
☎ 07 828 4640



Parents can play role in reducing young driver crashes

Did you know in New Zealand, 15 – 19 year olds are more likely to die in traffic crashes than from any other cause of death? Young drivers are six times more likely to crash than 45-49 year olds.

So why do young drivers crash? - speed and alcohol are factors but there are also underlying factors such as inexperience, maturity and overconfidence.

Driver education

Council promotes driver education that addresses a young adult's lack of knowledge, and inexperience with driving.

Parents often don't know how much practice is enough. The New Zealand Transport Authority (NZTA) recommends a new driver get 120 hours of supervised driving practice, as research shows drivers are then 30 percent less likely to have a crash when they end up driving alone.

It is recommended that driver education include some formal lessons at the start, then include practice with a

parent or another suitable licence holder (must have held a full licence for 2 years or more) and then finish off with some formal lessons prior to sitting the test.

Practice

NZTA and ACC have put out a free programme called 'Practice' for learner drivers and parents.

The Practice programme consists of:

- Free driving videos to show you how to learn key driving skills
- Free driving simulation CD Rom so you can practice your driving wherever there's a computer
- Free driving manual written by driving instructors to help teach you all the practical stuff

Participants in this programme can win petrol vouchers to help pass their restricted licence test ■

More information about this programme can be found at

👉 www.practice.co.nz

☎ 0800 practice

What's happening

Briefly

Dutch Tulip Festival

A cultural event held at the Hamilton Gardens with Dutch food, art and craft, music, and performances by the Waikato Dutch Folkdancers.

☐ Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 September 2009
🕒 9.30am – 4.30pm

📍 Hamilton Gardens, Cobham Drive, Hamilton
✉ koetjesenkalfjes@hotmail.com

Keep New Zealand Beautiful Week

A national event which encourages everyone to get involved and help keep roadsides, parks, beaches and streets clearer of rubbish. Rubbish bags and gloves are provided for free, with organized drop-off points for collected rubbish.

☐ Friday 4 – Friday 11 September 2009
☺ Narelle Watts

✉ narelle.watts@waidc.govt.nz
☎ 07 824 8633

The Gallagher Great Race

The Gallagher Great Race Festival is a rowing regatta on the Waikato River through central Hamilton. The penultimate race has the two women's crews racing for the Bryan Gould Cup and then culminating in the "Great Race" between the two men's crews who race for the coveted Harry Mahon Trophy.

☐ Sunday 27 September 2009

The race starts at Anne Street with the finish line at the Ferry Bank (Grantham St)

🌐 www.thegreatrace.co.nz/

Waikato Home and Garden Show

The Waikato Home & Garden Show showcases the largest range of products, and ideas for building, redecorating, furnishing and gardening your home.

☐ Thursday 1 – Sunday 4 October 2009

📍 Claudelands Event Centre, Brooklyn Road, Hamilton

🌐 www.waikatohomeshow.co.nz/clients/waikatohomeshow/startupnew.htm

Stock crossings converted into underpasses

Council has worked closely with landowners over the past few years to replace road crossings with underpasses. Stock crossings in the district should be phased out by the end of 2016.

Council has worked with farm owners to identify when specific stock crossings will be closed, in line with Council's Livestock Movement Policy.

New farm owners however may not be familiar with this policy, so we ask vendors if you are selling your farm, out of courtesy please make the purchaser aware of the following:

- How to manage the stock crossing
- Council's conditions regarding the stock crossing

A new farm purchaser should always check the Land Information Memorandum (LIM) report to ascertain if it is a permitted stock crossing, and what Council's conditions are regarding the crossing.



Tree roots damage roads

Tree roots are a common cause of damage to roads, costing Council \$80,000 - \$100,000 annually to repair.

Some of the damage caused to roads include slumping or cracking in the tarseal that creates safety issues for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Waikato District Council would like to work with landowners who have existing trees growing near roads, to look at their impact on the carriageways and to look for practical solutions where trees are causing an issue.

Council is also asking landowners to, where possible, avoid planting large trees closer than 15metres from the road edge.

If you have any questions, or trees that you believe may be an issue please feel free to contact:

☺ Kurt Abbot,
Operations Manager
☎ 07 824 8633
✉ kurt.abbot@waidc.govt.nz



GENERAL
ENQUIRY
LINE

freephone
0800 492 452

T. 07 824 8633
publicenquiries@waidc.govt.nz

Huntly Area Office
9am-4pm
142 Main Street
T. 07 828 7551

Ngaruawahia District Office
8am-5pm
15 Galileo Street
T. 07 824 8633
F. 07 824 8091

Raglan Area Office
9am-5pm
7 Bow Street
T. 07 825 8129

Waikato District Office
Postal Address:
Private Bag 544
Ngaruawahia
NEW ZEALAND
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Waikato

DISTRICT COUNCIL
your community partner

Printed on 100%
recycled paper