

envirocare

your environmental news update from Environment Waikato

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water

our biggest asset

Water quality is the number one environmental concern for Waikato people.

Quick facts

- We use about 82,000 litres of water for every person every day, more than half (64 percent) from rivers and streams.
- Surface water is only 10 percent of our Region's total freshwater. The rest is underground in aquifers. About 400 new wells are drilled each year.
- Environment Waikato measures water quality at 10 Waikato River sites and 100 other sites around the Region – check the results on www.ew.govt.nz

But the way we are using our land these days is putting pressure on the water in our rivers, streams and lakes. The more we develop the land for agriculture, cropping, housing and communities, the worse our water gets.

Many of our Waikato catchments are some of the most intensely farmed in the country. Agriculture, particularly dairy farming, is vital to the Region both economically and socially. Farming is worth about \$2.3 billion a year to the Waikato and dairying alone makes up nearly a quarter of New Zealand's foreign earnings each year.

But there's a cost. In the last 10 years nitrogen fertiliser use on dairy farms has increased five fold and the number of dairy cows has increased 32 percent in the last 13 years. We are using more land for cropping. And what goes on the land affects our groundwater, streams and lakes.

A decline is already visible. In a recent report on water quality in Waikato rivers, 28 percent of the 'indicators' – clues to water health – showed a significant decline while only 15 percent showed significant improvement. The current scale of intensifying land use is masking the improvements we are making from things such as fencing streams and effluent management.

A major investigation into intensive farming in New Zealand has just been launched by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. 'Growing for Good: Intensive farming, sustainability and New Zealand's environment' draws on research, trends in Britain and Europe and interviews with

New Zealand farmers, agribusiness leaders, researchers, environmentalists, councils and bankers.

It raises concerns about many current trends and the serious risks to the quality of the environment and sustainability of New Zealand's farming. There is strong evidence that the country's waterways and lakes are becoming nutrient enriched and degraded as farms use more synthetic fertilisers to boost production.

It's a matter of deciding when enough is enough. Agriculture is important to the Waikato Region, but not at any cost. We

Clean water and healthy soils are the basis on which we sustain an important agricultural industry and a healthy community.

have to ask how much our environment can cope with, because a healthy environment is essential for a healthy economy. Clean water and healthy soils are the basis on which we sustain an important agricultural industry and a healthy community.

How much water we have and who is using it is also an issue for the Waikato. We have recently begun a water allocation project designed to help

us manage water sustainably in the future. Competing demands from domestic, industrial, agricultural, power and other users means we may not have enough water for everyone's needs.

We're already concerned about several areas where water is either fully allocated for use or where allocation pressures are rising. These include the Coromandel, Franklin (particularly Pukekohe), Waihou, Reporoa and some parts of the Hamilton basin. We're currently working on these issues and finding out more about how much water people are expecting to be able to use in the future.

New look EnviroCare

It's EnviroCare's 10th birthday and we've got a new look and format. We hope you enjoy it!

In this issue of EnviroCare you'll find more information about the use of water in the Waikato and what we're doing about it. Check out our website www.ew.govt.nz to find out more, or call Environment Waikato's Freephone **0800 800 401**.

**Environment
Waikato**
REGIONAL COUNCIL



CEO's Message

Summer's a great time to enjoy the Waikato's unique watery landscape. We have the largest lake in New Zealand and the longest river, major groundwater resources and internationally important wetlands.

But all is not well with our water. In this issue of EnviroCare you'll find stories about the water in our Region and what we are doing to protect its quality and availability.

There are some major challenges ahead in managing our Region's natural resources, but we will continue working with local councils, industry, key stakeholders and the community to ensure our Region's water is clean and readily available.

Harry Wilson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

New guide for effluent

Fonterra and Dexcel, in partnership with Environment Waikato, have launched a guide for farmers on managing dairy shed effluent.

The guide aims to provide best practice management guidelines for farmers as part of the Regional Action Plan signed in May last year by Environment Waikato and Fonterra. The Action Plan is part of the dairy industry's Clean Streams Accord.

Because farm dairy shed effluent contains nutrients and 'bad bugs', it's important to deal with it effectively so it doesn't affect waterways or groundwater. While a number of systems are available for treating effluent, the guide provides management practices for the main systems used in the Waikato.

Dairy farms produce about 50 litres per cow per day of dairy shed effluent. Minimising the amount of this effluent saves farmers money and improves treatment. It also reduces pumping costs, increasing storage capacity and retention time in pond treatment systems.

The guide also includes information on the fertiliser value of effluent and nutrient management. It outlines the use of pond and land application systems and provides information on maintenance of irrigators and application rates as well as calculations for farmers to measure their effluent use.

Copies of the guide have been sent to every dairy farmer and share milker in the Region. If you haven't received your copy, call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401, or download a copy from our website (www.ew.govt.nz) under the 'For Dairy Farmers' link.

Quick fact

20 percent of groundwater in the Region exceeds Ministry of Health drinking water standards for nitrate.

Landowners caring for water

Farmers are concerned that they're doing things better – but they're still taking the blame for worsening water quality.

Environmental practices on farms have improved. About 80 percent of Waikato dairy farms now put dairy effluent on land instead of discharging from a pond directly into water, and we've seen a significant reduction in ammonium (a toxic form of nitrogen) in our streams.

Farmers are also fencing stock away from water and using more bridges and culverts, which helps to reduce sediment, faecal bacteria and nutrients in water. Environment Waikato and other regional councils worked with the dairy industry to develop the Clean Streams Accord.

Every bit counts. But pressure from more intensive land use is outrunning the gains being made. Our stream and river monitoring shows significant decline in nearly a third of our measurements. We're concerned that total nitrogen and phosphorus are increasing at about half our monitoring sites.

This is a significant issue for our community. Agriculture is and will continue to be a very important part of our economy and who we are. Landowners need to continue to do positive things and use nutrient management. Environment Waikato will continue to work with researchers and industry to develop new ways of managing land use that maintains productive land and ensures a healthy environment.

How much do we use?

Competing demands from domestic, industrial, agricultural, energy generation and other users are putting pressure on our water resources.

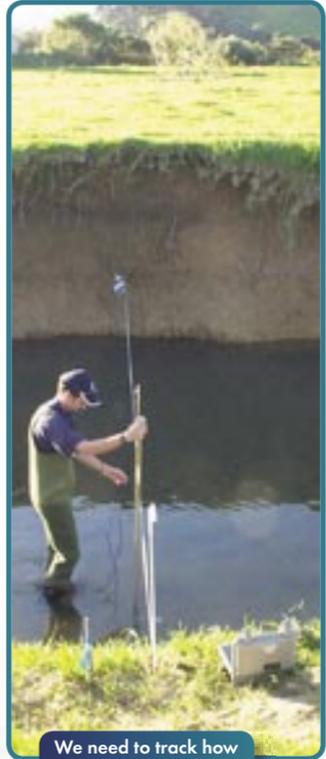
Environment Waikato manages who takes water and how much from surface water and groundwater, and we need to ensure enough water is left in rivers and groundwater aquifers for other uses. In early December we sent out an issues and options paper to interested groups to help us find out more about water use in the Region.

We're already concerned about several areas where there is pressure on water availability – places like the Coromandel, Franklin (particularly Pukekohe), Waihou, Reporoa and some parts of the Hamilton basin.

We're working towards understanding how much water is already being used by people who don't require consents, assessing competing demands for water, quantifying inefficient use and projecting the amount of groundwater that might be needed long-term.

Over-allocating water can affect stream life, place community supplies at risk and threaten recreational and cultural values. There could be uncertainty for long-term water use, not enough water for a wide range of uses, undesirable effects on waterways and the life in them and saltwater intrusion into groundwater.

We need to prioritise different water uses and avoid negative effects on surface water. We also need to develop early warning systems for aquifers so we know when they're running out.



We need to track how much water we use.

Be safe on the water!

Environment Waikato is responsible for managing navigation safety around our coast, lakes and rivers (except Lake Taupo and Taharoa Harbour) to make sure people can water ski, sail, kayak and swim safely in the water.

Make sure you know where it's safe to swim, water ski or go sailing before you head out. You can receive a warning notice or instant fine for not carrying lifejackets, not complying with speed limits, not having your jetski registered and other safety offences against the Navigation Safety Bylaw.

To get a copy of the Bylaw see your local harbourmaster, check out our website (www.ew.govt.nz) under Policy and Plans or call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401.

Top Tips for boating this summer

- Jetskis used in the Waikato must be registered.
- All vessels are required to carry lifejackets of an appropriate size for each person on board.
- Reduce speed to 5 knots within 50m of other boats, or within 200m of the shore.
- Don't water ski during sunset or sunrise.
- Always pass port (left) to port.
- Keep vessel to starboard (right) side of a channel.
- Powered vessels give way to vessels under sail.
- Don't forget to clean your boat of aquatic 'hitchhikers' – weeds and eggs which can transfer to other waterways.
- Take all your rubbish home.



Boats are fun. Use them safely.



What goes down the stormwater drain ends up in the stream.

What's in stormwater?

We're working with district and city councils to set up new consents for urban stormwater diversion and discharges.

We manage urban stormwater to help control local flooding, for health, safety and ecological reasons. What flows off our streets and into stormwater can affect water quality in our streams, lakes and rivers, increase downstream flood flows, increase stream channel erosion and damage ecosystem health and diversity as habitat gets changed.

Councils around our Region are applying for new consents to allow multiple stormwater diversions and discharges from all our towns. Councils need to develop Stormwater Management Plans to take care of stormwater problems.

You can get involved. Consent applications will be publicly notified and you can make a submission. If you've got concerns about stormwater in your area, or if you'd like to know more, contact your local council or call Environment Waikato's Resource Consent Freephone 0800 800 402.

Remember, all stormwater runoff flows to our streams, lakes and rivers. Help to protect our waterways by ensuring that litter and all other waste contaminants are kept out of stormwater drains.

Progress for Taupo

We're making good progress on a solution for protecting Lake Taupo.

A draft variation to the Regional Plan was publicly released last year. How 'manageable' nitrogen will be allocated in the catchment is still the main point of contention between affected stakeholders. We've been meeting with them to define the issues and find a workable solution.

A formal proposed variation (policy change) for Lake Taupo is planned for release in May this year and will be open for public submissions.

Environment Waikato, Taupo District Council and the Ministry for the Environment have been working together to develop a structure for managing public funding for the Lake. Details will be in our Draft Annual Plan which will be released in late March, and the Fund's management entity will operate from July 2005.

Water – it's an urban problem too!

In towns and cities, you can help our water supply and the quality of our waterways by conserving water and preventing contamination.

Water is not an infinite resource. In summer especially we have to be aware of how much water we use.

Top Tips for conserving water at home

- Check for leaks around the house (water pipes, toilet cistern, taps).
- Use the half-flush button instead of the full-flush button while flushing the toilet – it saves five litres of water each flush!
- When brushing your teeth, turn the tap off between rinses.
- Take a shower instead of a bath.
- Use a bucket of water to clean your car and turn your hose off between rinses.
- Mulch plants to prevent evaporation and to reduce the need to water.
- Water the garden using water from the sink or bath (grey water).

Loving the coast to death

Our love of the coast is putting stress on our precious beaches.

Coastal property, especially beachfront property, has soared in value and demand over the last 20 years. We now have more beachfront development, ranging from large scale subdivisions to building a house on an existing section.

As there's only so much coastal land available, we're tempted to use as much of the coastal zone as possible. Beachfront properties are usually built on the upper boundary of a 'beach system'. However, there's a serious potential risk to properties that fringe sandy open coast beaches.

Sand is stored in the sand dunes, on the beach itself and off shore in the surf zone. The natural exchange of sand (caused by wind, waves and currents) between these storage areas causes changes in the position of the shoreline along a sandy beach.

Over time – from days to centuries – the shoreline position may change considerably within the 'active beach zone', depending on changes in weather patterns. This natural change in shoreline position can cause problems if we build within the 'active beach zone'.

To reduce the risk to property from short term changes, properties should be set back away from the 'active beach zone'. Having a buffer zone like this allows the beach to behave naturally and reduces the need for erosion protection like seawalls, retaining natural character so everybody can enjoy the beach.



Getting too close to the sea.

Putting sand dunes to work

The beach's 'buffer zone' from the sea is its sand dunes, so it's important we understand the job they have to do.

Sand is stored above high tide on the dunes. This acts as a buffer against natural erosion caused by waves and tide forces. To improve their ability to store sand and buffer the beach, vegetation (sand grasses and other plants) traps and binds the naturally moving sand grains to form and reform dunes, especially after erosion. Vegetation on sand dunes is vital to ensure that sand is trapped within the buffer zone to reduce the effect of natural coastal erosion.

As well as planning for the risks from short-term shoreline change, we also need to plan for the effects of climate change. Scientists predict a rise in sea level of about 50 cm over the next 100 years and an increase in the frequency and intensity of storms.

These changes may increase the risk to property from coastal erosion and flooding along all coastal margins, not just the open coast. Low lying areas next to estuaries could be particularly prone to flooding due to higher sea levels and increased rainfall in storms.

The greatest advantage we have when dealing with the effects of climate change is time. Planning for the inevitable now will save a great deal of time, money and stress in the future.

Want to know more about coastal hazards in the Waikato? Call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401 or check out our website www.ew.govt.nz/enviroinfo/hazards/naturalhazards/coastal

Quick fact

➤ We support almost 50 community-based Care groups working locally to enhance our Region's environment.



Eroded dunes make access difficult.

Choosing Futures Waikato

The 13 councils in the Waikato Region are working together to find out how residents and ratepayers would like to see the Region develop. Environment Waikato Chief Executive Harry Wilson said all the councils in the Waikato Region are working together to identify a set of Regional community outcomes.



"These will be focussed on Regional issues. Together, the councils in the Waikato Region have developed Choosing Futures Waikato, a process to look at Regional community outcomes and Regional initiatives.

"The councils also need to identify community outcomes for their own areas, alongside the Regional process.

"The districts need to be able to address specific requirements of their own communities as well as the broader Regional issues. This provides opportunities for the community to contribute at the local and Regional level, without unnecessary duplication and 'consultation fatigue'", Mr Wilson said.

Choosing Futures Waikato recently held a workshop for key community stakeholders.



Your community – your future

'Community outcomes' are statements about what communities want to achieve now and in the future – our aspirations and priorities.

The Local Government Act 2002 gives local and regional councils an opportunity to identify outcomes which will help direct the work they and other community service organisations do over the next 10 to 20 years.

After consulting communities to find out what they want, councils and other organisations decide what they can do to help achieve them through their own consultation, creating a guide for the community's overall planning for social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being.

How do we get started? At least every six years, consultation with key community stakeholders, residents and ratepayers will identify and prioritise a set of community outcomes. This will be happening over the next six to nine months.

Through their Long-Term Council Community Plans, councils present their proposals for action to the community. Key community organisations and councils explore ways to share information and work together on action plans.

At least every three years councils must report back to communities on progress. Accurate monitoring and reporting means developing appropriate measures and indicators to assess progress and collating a wide range of information.

Sustainable futures

Sustainable Futures New Zealand – a network of local and Central Government agencies, research providers, businesses and community groups – aims to work locally to help people define, achieve and sustain their quality of life.

The network is developing a 'sustainability analysis' that will help people understand what they have now, and how different scenarios of the future may develop. The key will be successfully integrating social, economic and environmental issues to help people with 'big picture' thinking and planning.

With a focus on the Waikato Region during 2005, Sustainable Futures New Zealand have identified two local projects:

- **South Waikato District Council**
Examining the consequences of land conversion, particularly forestry to dairy, and what the district might do to create economic diversity and social stability.
- **Northern Waikato urbanisation**
Balancing urban expansion and infrastructure development and conserving the unique environment that drives expansion.

The group hopes to share knowledge and methods developed to help other communities. For more information on Sustainable Futures New Zealand, call Beat Huser on Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401.

Want to know more about the Regional community outcomes process? Visit the Choosing Futures website www.choosingfutures.co.nz and you can also read about Environment Waikato's community outcomes process on our website www.ew.govt.nz

Local community outcomes



Some districts completed most of their community consultation last year, so the type of consultation being planned will vary from district to district.

Environment Waikato will be working with local councils where possible in their local consultation with residents. Policy and Strategy Group Manager Clare Crickett said it was important that Environment Waikato developed effective partnerships with local councils.

"We share responsibility for the Region with the district councils and we aim to work together to achieve the best possible results. Particularly in terms of our expertise in environmental science and management, we feel we have a lot to offer the local community outcomes processes."

To check out what is planned in your district, contact your local council or look on the Choosing Futures Waikato website, www.choosingfutures.co.nz and follow the links to your local council.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Choosing Futures Waikato is hosting a series of workshops throughout the Waikato Region in early 2005. They're an ideal opportunity for you to put forward your views on what's important for the social, cultural, economic and environmental well-being of the Region – now and in the future. This information will be used to identify the Waikato Region's community outcomes – priorities for the Regional community.

During these informal sessions, which run 6 pm to 9 pm, you can meet and talk with Choosing Futures Waikato project members and others who are interested in the future of the Region.

2005 Workshops

February 14	Ngatea
February 17	Tatuanui
February 22	Hamilton
February 24	Ngaruawahia
March 2	Thames
March 7	Taupo
March 8	Putaruru

Register today!

Call **Choosing Futures Waikato**
Co-ordinator **Gavin Thomas**
on (07) 838 6672, email
gavin.thomas@choosingfutures.co.nz
or check out the website
www.choosingfutures.co.nz

Taking a new approach

We're taking a new approach to emergency management in New Zealand. The aim is to build communities which can manage in an emergency. Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) agencies are working together to deal with all types of hazards to reduce the damage emergencies can do in communities and make them more self-reliant.

We've established a CDEM Group to manage emergencies in the Waikato - 11 local authorities within the Region who work with emergency services.

This group includes Waipa, Waikato, Waitomo, Otorohanga, Thames-Coromandel, Matamata Piako, Hauraki, South Waikato and Taupo district councils, Hamilton City Council and Environment Waikato. They work with emergency services like Police, Fire, Ambulance and Health Boards to minimise the damage, prepare the community to respond to emergencies and help it to recover as quickly as possible afterwards.

Because of the number of councils in the Region, the spread of our population, our difficult landscape and 'hazard-scape' (the hazards we face), three Emergency Operating Areas (EOAs) have been established within the Waikato Region in Thames Valley, the Southern area (Otorohanga and Waitomo) and the Waikato Valley. These three areas each have an Emergency Operations Centre to manage emergencies. If it's a really big event, a Group Emergency Operating Centre would manage it. A new Group Centre was recently opened in Hamilton.

Our CDEM Group Plan, which sets out the risks we face and how we'll manage them, is based around the **4Rs** of emergency management:

- Reduction:** identifying and analysing risks to human life and property.
- Readiness:** developing capabilities before an emergency.
- Response:** taking action immediately before, during or directly after an emergency.
- Recovery:** getting communities restored after an emergency.



Flooding - a regular event in our Region.



DANGEROUS TERRITORY!

New Zealand's landscape and relatively isolated geographic location, means we are threatened by significant hazards which can threaten lives and destroy property, roads and networks and communities.

We saw this twice last year during the Manawatu and Bay of Plenty floods, and Environment Waikato staff were there to help out our neighbours with specialist assistance. Recently, we have also witnessed the devastation caused by a tsunami in South-East Asia.

The Waikato Region faces threats from flooding, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tsunamis. Environment Waikato has recently completed an assessment of tsunami risks to the Eastern Coromandel Peninsula, and further work is underway to help reduce risks to communities from this hazard. We are also part of the CDEM Group working to reduce and manage risks from all significant hazards in our Region, including emergency events like widespread power failures and biological hazards such as animal disease outbreaks.

Today, we know more about the hazards and risks we face than we did 10 years ago, what causes them and their effect on our communities. Better understanding and effective planning means there's a great deal we can do to further reduce the effect of hazards on our communities.

Get involved!

For the first time, you can have a say on what's in the CDEM Group Plan. From mid-February to mid-March 2005, the Plan is available for comment. See the [Waikato CDEM Group website www.waikatoregioncdem.govt.nz/plan.htm](http://www.waikatoregioncdem.govt.nz/plan.htm) for more information on how to make a submission. The Plan will be approved by the Waikato CDEM Group in early May 2005. Download a copy of the Draft Plan from the website or call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401.

Top Tips

what to do in an EMERGENCY

To help you make it through an emergency, you and your family should have a survival kit and be prepared to manage for up to three days.

Food and water - enough for three days

- Canned or dried food
- Can opener
- Primus or barbecue
- Bottled water

Emergency items

- First Aid kit and essential medicines
- Toilet paper, plastic bags for emergency toilet
- Pet supplies
- Waterproof torches and spare batteries
- Radio, spare batteries - check batteries every three months

Emergency clothing

- Wind and rainproof clothing
- Sunhats
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Outdoor shoes

Supplies for babies and small children

- Food, drink, clothing, favourite toy

Special supplies for disabilities

- Hearing aids, glasses, mobility aids

Want to know more?

Look inside the back cover of your phone book for useful information about what to put in a survival kit, and what to do in an emergency. Your local council can also give you information on preparing for a natural disaster, tell you where your nearest Civil Defence centre is and how they are prepared for emergencies.

Trash to Fashion

Enviroschools Expo

Guided Gully Walk

Big Float

join in,
get out there

Explore!
our environment

FESTIVAL OF THE ENVIRONMENT
March 5-20, 2005

Over 30 fun family events on offer!
Check out the Events Diary at
www.explorefestival.co.nz
or call 838 6878
for more information.

GREAT E-SCAPE for environmental festival

Are you an Amazing Race groupie or a sucker for Survivor? Then get a team of four together and join Environment Waikato's Great E-scape on March 5.

This action-packed one-day adventure through Waipa and Hamilton is part of the 16-day Festival of the Environment and is guaranteed to test your team's environmental knowledge.

Last year's winning team was Ecolab's 'Clean Team'. Team captain Don Short said the event was "a fantastic experience which exceeded all our expectations."

Events Co-ordinator Kim Macrae-Jonson says the E-scape is designed to be fun as well as help participants learn more about our Region's environment and discover what they can do to make a difference.

If you want to take up the E-scape challenge, call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401. Places are limited to 20 teams so be quick!

Pests on the PENINSULA

Animal pests are a problem across the Coromandel Peninsula.

Feral goats eat forest undergrowth and regenerating plants, affecting the stability of slopes and soils and increasing the effects of erosion. Possums eat forest foliage, killing trees and reducing their ability to help slow water that runs off hillsides and down valleys.

The Peninsula Project aims to reduce the number of animal pests by supporting private landowners to carry out animal pest control and co-ordinating work with Department of Conservation (DoC) operations on Crown land.



Last year Central Government gave more money for Crown land animal pest control on the Thames Coast after lengthy lobbying by Environment Waikato and Thames-Coromandel District Council. DoC is starting ground and aerial operations to reduce the number of possums and goats along the Thames Coast, starting in the Kauaeranga Valley, Tararu and Te Puru catchments and moving north over the next few years.

A number of groups around the Peninsula have achieved great success in controlling pests. Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group trustee Roger Elliot says populations of birds are proliferating, especially kaka. Before organised kiwi protection, they only saw a solitary pair of kaka. Now they're common and a flock of over a dozen are often seen.

The group operates 1200 bait stations for possum control, over 500 Fenn traps and has caught 400 stoats, 20 weasels and 80 feral cats in four years. Roger says they've also caught a few fingers. "Humans are not included on our pest list. This part of the programme we call 'swear and release'."

Who cares about scrub?



Scrub has long been thought of as weedy wasteland, suitable only for clearing.

Today we know that native scrub - short, dense vegetation made up of shrubs, ferns, and young trees - has lots of values. These values include providing habitat for many threatened species such as kiwi, a nursery for native forest and a good cover for steep unstable hillsides.

Environment Waikato has a new factsheet that describes these values, and tells you lots more about scrub, including how you can make money from it.

Clearing any type of vegetation may require a consent. If you're planning to clear any native forest or scrub, check the rules with your local and regional council.



Call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401 for a free copy of 'Who Cares About Scrub?'



BIODIVERSITY forum grows

Waikato's Biodiversity Forum now has over 260 members from management agencies, iwi, research agencies and community groups.

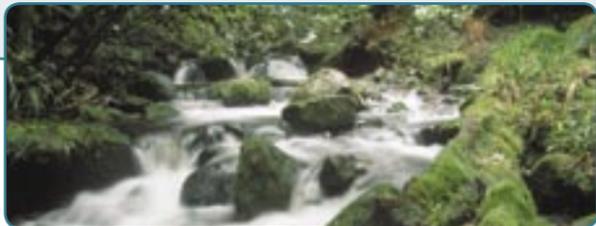


All the members of the Forum share a common goal of improving biodiversity across the Region. Biodiversity is the variety of life, recognising the wide diversity of plants, animals, and micro-organisms and the ecosystems they form.

The Forum has held two meetings this year in Te Kuiti and Taupo, highlighting the work of local community groups and sharing a variety of information on biodiversity work, ideas and technical information advice. It has developed a vision for its work in the Region: Waikato - a place for our living taonga - where the community values and works collaboratively to protect, enhance and restore indigenous biodiversity.

Healthy biodiversity is about providing clean water, fresh air, replenished food sources and stable land that sustains all life through production and nature protection. Communities embrace a holistic approach to biodiversity and recognise its importance for their cultural, spiritual and social well-being.

The Forum plans to continue taking a lead to support, encourage and coordinate the activities of individual landowners, communities and agencies in protecting biodiversity. It is also managing projects such as Biodiversity Advice Waikato (0800 BIODIV), the Guide to Ecological Restoration and Reconstruction Opportunities, biodiversity workshops and other projects as they are developed.



protect our water!

Colour in this picture of a cow fenced well away from a stream and be in to win an Environment Waikato Funpack. Get your entry in by March 15, 2005 to: EnviroCare, Freepost Environment Waikato, PO Box 4010, Hamilton East.

Please tick

Under five 5-10 years 11-15 years

Name _____

Address _____

WINNERS of our Pests and Nasties competition were:

Under five

Olivia Simmonds of Waitoa and **Steven Christie** of Morrinsville.

5 to 10 years

Ryan Roberts of Waihi and **Alyssa Miles** of Te Kuiti.

11-15 years

Keijia Wang and **Magriet van der Dolder** of Hamilton.

kidscare



How many **water** words?

To celebrate our new-look EnviroCare, here's an extra competition for Kids Care readers.

W A T E R

How many words can you make from **WATER** using each letter as many times as you like? Send in your list to: EnviroCare, Freepost Environment Waikato, PO Box 4010, Hamilton East, by March 15, 2005.

The entry with the most words wins an Environment Waikato fun pack!

Don't forget to include your name, address and age.

wordfind

See how many of these words about water you can find in this Wordfind. They're written forwards, backwards, sideways and upside down.

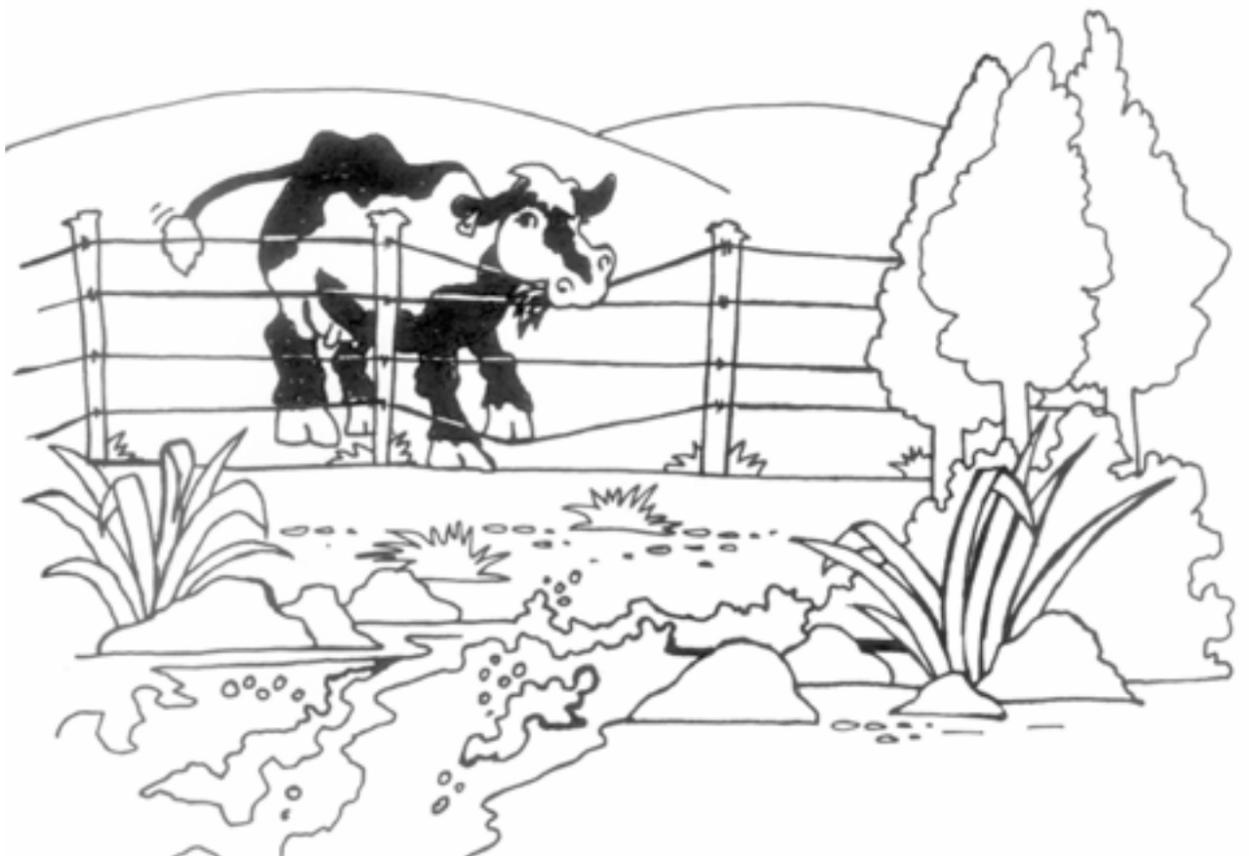
ENVIRONMENT WAIKATO
WATER
ALLOCATION
CLEAN STREAMS
CONSERVE
RIVER
ELECTRICITY

FLOOD
EROSION
CATCHMENT
WATERWAY
STOPBANK
RAIN
KAYAK

HEALTHY
DRAIN
WAIHOU
FLOW
TIDE
SWIM
WATER QUALITY

NITROGEN
FISH
LAKE
WETLAND
MONITOR

W	A	T	E	R	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	S	N	I	A	R	Y
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R	R	C	O	Q	Y	A	S	T	O	P	B	A	N	K	K	T	R
Y	I	H	S	M	P	R	T	R	C	U	H	P	B	M	A	E	E
H	V	M	I	L	A	K	E	I	S	H	I	S	I	O	Y	R	T
T	E	E	O	B	C	D	R	Y	O	Y	Y	W	I	U	A	U	A
L	R	N	N	S	U	O	S	T	S	N	S	M	U	F	K	U	W
A	H	T	U	R	S	O	I	I	Y	E	V	R	E	S	N	O	C
E	D	R	A	I	N	L	S	D	M	O	N	I	T	O	R	S	S
H	E	Y	I	L	K	F	U	E	K	N	E	G	O	R	T	I	N
E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	W	A	I	K	A	T	O



GREENDATES

March-June 2005

Royal Forest and Bird

WAIKATO BRANCH

PINUS CONTORTA ERADICATION WEEKEND CAMP

February 26-27
Contact: Philip Hart (07) 856 7992

THURSDAY TALK - JOHN INNES

March 10, 7.30 pm Chartwell Room, Hamilton Gardens off Cobham Drive.
Contact: Colleen Brimblecombe (07) 855 5626

POOR KNIGHTS MARINE RESERVE

March 5-6, \$60 pp boat trip, \$20 pp per night.
Contact: Colleen Brimblecombe (07) 855 5626

TE KOUMA PENINSULA

March 13-14
Contact: Kevin Collins (07) 859 2606, kevcollins20007@yahoo.com

WAIMANA EASTER CAMP

March 25-28
Contact: Philip (07) 889 3968, phart@waikato.ac.nz

TUAHU TRACK

April 9-10
Contact: Maureen (07) 889 3968

AGM

April 21, Chartwell Room, Hamilton Gardens off Cobham Drive, 7.30 pm.
Contact: Colleen Brimblecombe (07) 855 5626

UPPER COROMANDEL BRANCH

WAIOMU COAST TO KAURI

February 19
Contact: Tina Morgan (07) 866 6720

WORKING BEE AT COLVILLE

March 16
Contact: Tina Morgan (07) 866 6720

WAITAWHETA CAMP

April
Contact: Tina Morgan (07) 866 6720

SOUTH WAIKATO BRANCH

MONTHLY MEETING

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month 7.30pm
Contact: Jack or Anne (07) 886 7456

THAMES-HAURAKI BRANCH

JOHANSEN PROPERTY

February 5
Contact: Marcia Sowman (07) 868 8696

EVENING MEETING

February 22, DoC HQ Thames

WAIHOU RIVER CRUISE

February 26
Contact: Marcia Sowman (07) 868 8696

RESERVOIR, OLD COACH ROAD

March 5
Contact: Maggie Read (07) 863 7736

MIRANDA NATURALISTS TRUST

March 19
Contact: Maria Stables-Page (07) 868 1258

HUNUA FALLS

April 2
Contact: Marcia Sowman (07) 868 8696

JOHN WILLIAM HALL MEMORIAL RESERVE WORKING BEE

April 16

EVENING MEETING/AGM

April 19, DoC HQ

HAPUAU KOHE WALKWAY

April 30
Contact: Bill and Hazel Genner (07) 868 9057

Waikato Tramping Club

www.wtc.org.nz

CLUBNIGHTS

8pm, 1st Wed of each month
St Stephens Church Hall, Cnr Ohaupo Rd and Mahoe St
\$2 includes hall hire and supper.

Breakaways Tramping Club

DUNDLE HILL WALKWAY

January 8-9, \$45
Contact: Mick (07) 887 4710

TOOMEY'S CREEK

January 23
Contact: Marian (07) 828 9029

WAIKERE FALLS

February 6
Contact: June (07) 856 3407

WAIHORA TRACK AND LAGOON - PUREORA

February 20
Contact: June (07) 856 3407

KAUAERANGA VALLEY - WAINORA KAURIS

March 6
Contact: Claire (07) 828 8566

OLD DUBBO TRACK, KARANGAHAKE

March 20
Contact: Mick (07) 887 4710

WHANGAMOMONA WEEKEND

April 1-3
Contact: Frances (07) 855 8063

MANGAOKEWA RIVER SCENIC RESERVE

April 17
Contact: Graham (07) 824 1814

Mountain Safety Waikato

All contact: Milli Lovell (07) 823 1260, email: waikato@mountainsafety.org.nz

INTRODUCTORY BUSHCRAFT

February 15, 19-20, May 10, 14-15, \$60

INTERMEDIATE BUSHCRAFT

April 5, 9-10, \$60

BUSHCRAFT SKILLS FOR WOMEN

Available on request, \$60

INTRODUCTORY ABSEIL

May 15, \$40

INTERMEDIATE ABSEIL

March 19-20, \$65

ADVANCED ABSEIL

April 9-10, \$100

BUSH NAVIGATION

March 8 + 13, \$30

OUTDOOR FIRST AID

April 1-3, \$130

RISK MANAGEMENT

March 11-13, \$120

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

March 15 + 19-20

Hamilton Tramping Club

ANANUI FALLS

February 13
Contact: Kevin C (07) 870 5242 or Elizabeth (07) 827 8957

MAUNGATAURI

February 20
Contact: Val (07) 849 4447 or Janey (07) 846 6995

MARAKOPA COASTLINE

February 26-27
Contact: Kevin B (07) 838 1788 or Ruth (07) 856 4196

ABOVE THE BUSHLINE TRAINING

March 5-6
Contact: Kevin C (07) 838 1788 or Ruth (07) 856 4196

WHIRINAKI

March 12-13
Contact: Adrienne (07) 856 0313 or Barb (07) 855 6705

TRIP PLANNING AFTERNOON

March 20
Contact: Isobel (07) 827 5925 or Elizabeth (07) 827 8957

TE UREWERA/ MT HIKARANGI

March 25-28 (Easter)
Contact: Bill (07) 827 1807 or John W (07) 843 1446

ERNIE'S AND RATA LOOP, HUNUAS

April 10
Contact: Joy (07) 826 6705 or Isobel (07) 827 5925

MOKI TRACK

April 23-24
Contact: Gail and Paul (07) 825 2133 or Elizabeth (07) 827 8957

Wanderers Tramping Club

PINNACLES FOREST

February 27
Contact: Carol or Ron (07) 855 5684

PIHA ROAD TO HUIA

March 13
Contact: Carol or Ron (07) 855 5684

REMARKABLE RUAHINES

March 25-28
Contact: Ann (07) 847 2460

WIRES TRACK TO MARATOTO ROAD

April 10
Contact: Des (07) 846 3730

Taupo Tramping Club

Contact: Barbara Morris (07) 378 6620

Taupo Fishing Club

Contact: Russell Rountree (07) 377 1177

Biodiversity Waikato

Contact: 0800 BIODIV (246 348)

Putaruru Walking Group

TOKOROA TOWN WALKABOUT

February 6
Contact: A Groos (07) 886 7456

TAIRUA

February 25-27
Contact: J and R Brown (07) 883 1499

LAKE OKATAINA

March 13
Contact: M Edmonds (07) 883 7542

WAIROA-LAKE TUTIRA

April 21-25
Contact: B and N Lucas (07) 883 1483

Pirongia Te Aroaro O

Kahu Restoration Society

Contact: Carla Vincent (07) 872 8168 or carlajoynz@hotmail.com

Hamilton Anglers Club

Contact: Stephen Martin (07) 855 3762

EONZ Outdoor Education Workshops

Contact: Alison Porter (07) 871 5001
adele_grant@clear.net.nz

Department of Conservation

Contact: Margaret Stephens (07) 838 3363

Monday Bushtrampers (Sport Waikato)

Full day tramps, fortnightly from Memorial Drive, Hamilton, 8 am, \$10. Alternate weeks from other Hamilton venues, 7.30 am. Contact: Helen (07) 843 8692

Hamilton Search and Rescue Group

Meets 3rd Monday each month, 7.30pm, Hamilton Central Police Station
Contact: John Twizell (07) 856 2844

Hamilton Junior Naturalists

Meet every Friday, Hamilton Rose Garden Horticultural Centre, 7 - 8.30pm in term time, for ages 11-17. Contact: John Dale (07) 855 4458, email Junats@Mahipai.co.nz

Guides

Guides Waikato has activities for young people 5-18 years. Call (07) 856 5965 for your local group, write to Box 44, or email guideswaikato@xtra.co.nz

Scouts

Plenty of outdoor opportunities for young people 6-18 years with Scouting Waikato. Call 0800 SCOUTS (726 887) or email scoutingwaikato@xtra.co.nz for activities and events in your district.

Putaruru Water Festival

March 12-20
Contact: Deborah (07) 883 7272

Whaingaroa Catchment Information Day

Sunday, March 6, Raglan Town Hall
Contact 0800 800 401

Councillors' column

Jenni
Vernon
CENTRAL WAIKATO



Welcome to my first column

since being elected as your Councillor and Environment Waikato Chairman. It is indeed a privilege to be representing my constituency first and foremost, and the Region as a whole, and I wish to acknowledge the support of my community for these positions. The role for all Councillors is going to be challenging but we have a talented team with many years' of experience managing Regional issues.

Some of the issues include the implementation of a national air standard, Transpower's transmission lines, water quality, land use changes and catchment management.

Nationally, there is an awareness that when flood schemes were built, the value of economic activity behind stopbanks was not as intense as it is now. Consequently there will be a need to look at the protection they provide and the community's expectations for the future.

Environment Waikato has a regulatory role in the transmission lines, but Councillors are expressing concern about environmental effects on landscapes in the affected areas. The national standard for air quality mainly applies to areas such as Tokoroa, Taupo and Te Kuiti but there is a general responsibility for all of us to use dry wood in home burners and understand that burning tyres is inappropriate.

These are just a few emerging issues for the Regional Council. You can contact me on (07) 825 6868 or Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401.

Want to know more about the

Whaingaroa Catchment?

As part of the implementation of the Whaingaroa Environment Catchment Plan, Environment Waikato is organising an information day to share the research and monitoring that is being undertaken in the Whaingaroa Catchment.

Community groups in the area have been helping to create a sustainable environment from Mount Karioi to the Whaingaroa Harbour. Many different agencies including NIWA and AgResearch, and local groups including Harbourcare and the Whaingaroa Environment Centre, have been involved in research and monitoring. An amazing amount of information has been collected on the status of the catchment.

The information day will be held in the Raglan Town Hall on **Sunday, March 6**. Information will also be available for schools and other groups. The day will give the Whaingaroa community, national and regional agencies, as well as local groups, a chance to learn from each other, discuss possible new ways to help sustainability and assess how catchment management is progressing. It will also be an excellent opportunity to share ideas about the health of our environment. To find out more call Environment Waikato's Freephone 0800 800 401.

Environment Waikato
REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO Box 4010,
401 Grey Street,
Hamilton East.
Freephone 0800 800 401
www.ew.govt.nz

If you have trips and events organised for the autumn months (May-July) send them into EnviroCare by March 15, 2005.