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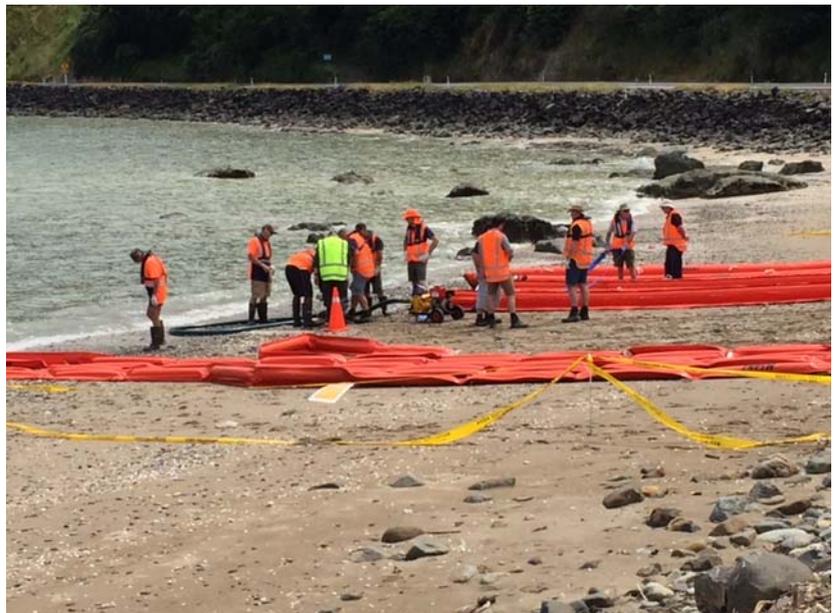
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#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

December 2015

[Hamilton Public Transport Joint Committee](#)  
Tuesday 1 December 2015 – 1.00pm

## Diesel spill exercise on Thames Coast



A major oil spill exercise run by Waikato Regional Council and involving staff from a number of other agencies was held on the Thames Coast last week.

The exercise was designed to test our response to the simulated sinking of a fishing vessel at Tararu Bay.

During the exercise staff set up land, sea and rapid deployment booms around buoys standing in for the sunken vessel.

A wildlife assessment was carried out, as well as modelling of where diesel might spread to, which would enable us to make some decisions on how to respond.

[Lake Taupo Protection Project Joint Committee,](#)

Taupo

Thursday 3 December  
2015 – 1:00pm

[Healthy Rivers Wai Ora Committee,](#)

Taupo

Friday 4 December 2015

– 12.00pm

[Aka Aka Otaua Drainage Subcommittee,](#)

Waiuku

Friday 11 December 2015

– 9.00am

[Council](#)

Tuesday 15 December

2015 – 10.30am

[Chief Executive Employment and Remuneration Committee](#)

Tuesday 15 December

2015 – 2.00pm

In addition to regional council staff, we were joined by representatives from Mighty River Power, the Department of Conservation and the Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.



## Crowds turn out to 'have a go'



Kale Hunter was among the many people who turned out for this year's Have A Go Day in Hamilton's Civic Square.

The 18-year-old from Huntly first attended last year's event to "have a go" at getting on and off the buses, and to get some journey planning advice.

Since then Kale has become a confident user of the regional council's public buses, travelling with his friends to Hamilton to do shopping.

Being able to travel by bus has given Kale some much-needed independence, and next year he'll be using public transport to get to his business management classes at Wintec.

Last week's Have A Go Day was Hamilton's largest ever, and was used to promote a range of disabled-friendly products and services.

It is the fourth year Waikato Regional Council and CCS Disability Action have run Have a Go Day on the buses, and the second year they've been joined by Hamilton City Council and Life Unlimited in Civic Square. The event was timed to coincide with International Day of Persons with Disabilities, a global event to celebrate disability and educate the public.



Kale Hunter, 18 from Huntly, has gained greater independence after attending last year's Have A Go Day.



The council's **BUSIT team** had enquiries from a number of people wanting to know more about travelling by bus.

## Festive season timetables online now

A blue banner with white text. The main text reads 'Festive season buses'. Below it, in smaller white text, it says 'Check before you travel - changes in bus services over the festive season'. At the bottom, a red banner contains the text 'Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Waikato Regional Council'. On the right side, there is a logo for 'BUSIT!' with the website 'www.busit.co.nz' and a phone number '0800 468 222'. The logo is decorated with a holly leaf and red berries.

**Festive season buses**

Check before you travel  
- changes in bus services over the festive season

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Waikato Regional Council

**BUSIT!**  
www.busit.co.nz  
0800 468 222

## Great progress at restoration site

We've been working closely with the Mangapiko Streamcare Group on a river restoration project, and recently attended a field day at the site.

It was a great opportunity for staff from our integrated catchment management directorate to see the progress made along this stretch of stream, just out of Te Awamutu.

The restoration project has involved removing poplars and willows, fencing the streams, planting native plants and repairing eroded banks.



At the field day, our biosecurity officer Ben Elliott (pictured) talked to the group about a number of pest plants that pose a threat in our region. In this photo he's holding a piece of **alligator weed**, which is unfortunately at this site.



An area of the Mangapiko Stream that was previously overrun with willows. It's now fenced and planted, and the willows have been removed. The project has had the support of a number of funders.



Planting of native plants along waterways creates 'green corridors' which helps to improve biodiversity and ecology.

[For farmers](#) ▶▶

[We're hiring](#) ▶▶

Ruben's website has been updated!



[Ruben the Road Safety Bear's website](#) now looks good no matter what device you're using.

Ruben is the mascot for our council's young road user safety programme and each year teaches more than 23,000 children aged up to about 7 years old about road safety.

His new-look website has lots of great messages for kids and information to help parents and caregivers.

There are lots of new activities and some of the old favourites too. There is content for children and adults plus the opportunity for children under 7 years old to join Ruben's Kids Club.

Ruben also has Apple and Android smartphone applications to download for free with games, and colouring and interactive storybooks.

## Popular Cathedral Cove park and ride bus service returns for 2015/16



**WE'RE MAKING IT EASIER TO GET TO CATHEDRAL COVE**

**Cathedral Cove** is one of our nation's treasures but parking at the start of the walking track is at a premium. Drive to the **park and ride** carpark on Hahei Beach Road and let us take you to the top of the hill and back.

The **park and ride service** operates every day 10am-6pm between Sunday 27 December and Monday 1 February, and then again over Waitangi weekend.

Fares are very reasonable.

Stay up-to-date on Facebook  
[www.facebook.com/busitwaikato](http://www.facebook.com/busitwaikato)

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**Waikato**  
REGIONAL COUNCIL  
Te Kaitiaki & Te Taiāpaki

**THAMES**  
COROMANDEL  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## Enjoying the Christmas cheer...safely

We want you, your family and friends to make it safely to your destination and home again this festive season, so our road safety team has put together these top road safety tips.



If you're hosting a Christmas or New Year party:

- serve substantial food and have non-alcoholic drinks available
- keep an eye on everyone, especially young people
- arrange transport, ensure they have a sober driver or let them stay overnight.

And if you're heading away on a summer holiday road trip, consider the safety of you and your family by making sure your car is roadworthy.

- Prepare your vehicle – check your tyre pressure and condition, fluid levels, lights, and clean your windscreen.

- Prepare yourself – be rested before a long drive, plan the trip so you share the driving and take regular breaks to minimise fatigue. Ensure children are correctly restrained in an approved car seat. Check your load security and trailer coupling locks when towing a boat, trailer or caravan.

## Merry Christmas from Waikato Regional Council



### Ngā mihi o te Kirihimete

From the staff at Waikato Regional Council, we'd like to wish you a happy and safe festive season.

All our offices will be closed from 3pm on Thursday, 24 December 2015 and will reopen at 8am on Tuesday, 5 January 2016.

While our offices are closed, you can call our freephone 0800 800 401 any time to:

- report air or water pollution
- report unsafe water activities in or on a river, lake or harbour
- make a general enquiry or information request.

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Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240

Freephone 0800 800 401