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KEY DATES

Council meetings

18 November, 1pm:
Waikato CDEM Group
Joint Committee

28 November, 10am:
Council

Visit [our website for full meeting details](#), including agendas.

Meet the team



The 14 Waikato regional councillors voted in during last month's local body elections have been sworn-in and a new chairperson and deputy elected.

The first meeting of the new three-year term was held last Thursday at the Hamilton Gardens. Fifth-term councillor Paula Southgate was elected as the new chairperson and new councillor Tipa Mahuta as deputy.

The council is next due to meet on Thursday, 28 November when committee chair and deputy chair appointments will be made.

Want to reach your elected representatives? Contact details for the councillors are now available on [Waikato Regional Council's website](#).

New councillors sworn in: Back row (L-R): Stu Kneebone, Stuart Husband, Bob Simcock, Timoti Bramley, Hugh Vercoe, Clyde Graf, Peter Buckley. Front row (L-R): Tipa Mahuta, Kathy White, Paula

Southgate, Theresa Stark, Alan Livingston, Jane Hennebry, Lois Livingston.

Buckle up, take the test and win!

Think you know our seatbelt laws? Well, buckle up and test your knowledge in this short quiz and you'll go in the draw to win a \$50 fuel voucher.

A new quiz features every month on the Waikato Regional Road Safety Education Group's **'Reduce the Risk' website**.

The road safety education group is led by Waikato Regional Council, working in conjunction with other regional safety stakeholders including the NZ Transport Agency, NZ Police, ACC and councils.



Applications sought for \$6000 scholarship

Right now we're seeking applications for the Roger Harris (Waihou Valley Scheme) Scholarship.

This scholarship is dedicated to helping students whose families live in the Waihou Piako zone rating area study civil engineering or resource management with a particular focus on river and catchment management. It provides up to \$6000 toward the cost of university fees.



Thames, Ngatea, Paeroa, Waihi, Te Aroha, Morrinsville, Matamata, Tirau and part of Putaruru are all within the Waihou Piako zone rating area. So if your family lives in one of these communities and you're enrolling in a civil engineering or resource management degree for 2014, make sure you get an application in for this scholarship by 6 December.

To find out more, including application details, visit www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/funding.

Volunteers sought to muck in at Tairua



If you're keen to roll up your sleeves for a day and don't mind a bit of mud, we would love to hear from you.

The first stage of mangrove clearance at Tairua is about to get underway and we need the help of at least 20 people to get the cut mangroves back to the shoreline.

The communities in this area – Tairua, but also Pauanui and Hikuai – have been the driving force behind getting this consent, so we're keen to keep them involved. To volunteer, please call Jordan Downes on 0800 800 401 or email jordan.downes@waikatoregion.govt.nz.

We're hiring ▶▶

For farmers ▶▶

150 turn out for field day



A one-off event on ways to boost farm profits and improve environmental protection drew 150 people at the end of last month.

The field day was held by Waikato Regional Council, NIWA, AgResearch, Beef & Lamb NZ, NZ Farm Forestry Association and the NZ Association of Resource Management at the Whatawhata Hill Country Research Station.

"We had a mix of farmers, rural professionals, scientists, policy makers, iwi and others who are interested in hill country farming and

related environmental management," said the council's sustainable agriculture co-ordinator Bala TikkiSETTY.

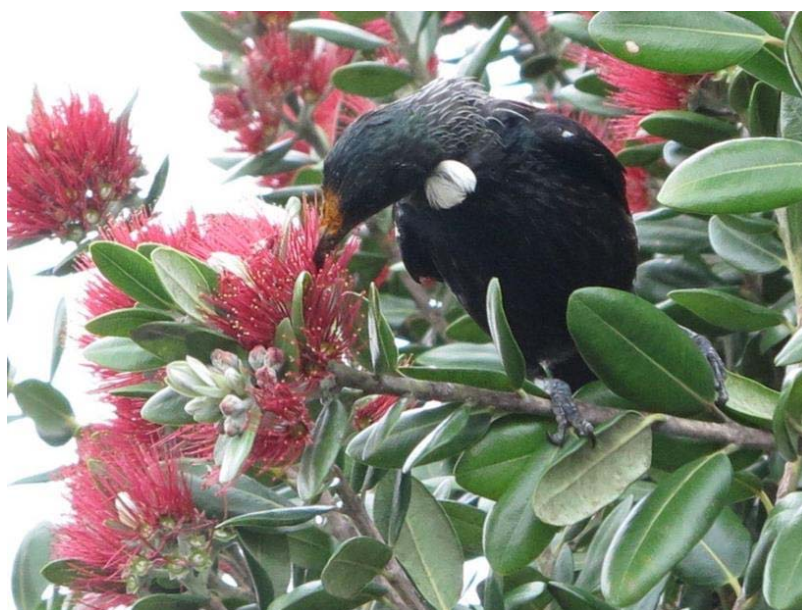
"It was very pleasing to get good feedback from the people in attendance, both in terms of the content and the process."

Presenters discussed the results of a series of farm-scale experiments that began in 2001 at the Whatawhata research station. These experiments assessed the costs and benefits of a range of management practices to reduce the effects of hill country farming on the environment.

"The area had erosion and weed reversion challenges, poorly performing beef and sheep breeding enterprises, and degraded streams," he said.

Changes made included conversion of the steepest land to plantation forestry, indigenous forest restoration, intensification of the farming enterprises on to easier terrain with better pasture production, changes in stock type, poplar planting for soil stabilisation and exclusion of livestock from streams. Significant improvements have followed.

Seen a tui? Click to tell us!



If you're out and about in Hamilton you may have noticed the beautiful sounds of tui singing in the trees overhead. Well, we'd like to know about it! It takes just a minute to [go online to report your tui sighting](#), but this information is vital to our Hamilton Halo team, which is working to bring tui back to the city.

We'd also like to know when and where you've seen a bellbird, kākā or kererū.

All these native birds are relatively easily recognised, and can be found throughout the Waikato. They are important to the native ecosystem

functioning as they are key distributors and pollinators of native plants. They can also help act as 'bioindicators' of ecosystem health.

Photo: Kevin Harrison

The 2012/13 year in review

Head online to read about the successful and busy 2012/13 period, which saw the Waikato Regional Council substantially achieve its performance targets in the first year of the 2012-2022 Long Term Plan.

We reached some significant milestones during the past financial year, which included celebrating the completion of the \$21.7 million Tui Mine remediation project. And following a marathon public process, decisions on our most significant policy document, the Regional Policy Statement, were released during the reporting period.

Positive year-end financial results will allow the council to fund important one-off projects and reduce future rates requirements.

Read more in the [Annual Report 2012/13](#).



Life saving Raglan bar crossing course for boaties

Waikato Regional Council is supporting a popular bar crossing education day being run by Raglan Coastguard this month.



The course is being held at the Raglan Bowling Club on the corner of Wallis and James streets on Sunday, 17 November from 8.30am.

The cost is \$30 for people who pre-pay or \$35 cash on the day. Attendees need to bring a lifejacket with them, as a trip out to the bar is included.

"Bar crossings are a high risk activity, even for the most experienced boatie," said the regional council's navigation safety programme manager, Nicole Botherway.

“This course is a great way to get information on how to keep safe when crossing the Raglan bar for those people who haven’t already learnt to do so or who need a refresher. It could save your life, and the lives of your friends and family,” Mrs Botherway said.”

Regional council harbourmasters will be in attendance on the day and will be able to talk about the new bylaw which makes it compulsory to wear lifejackets in vessels under 6 metres and in vessels of all sizes when crossing a bar.

Course numbers are limited, so pre-register by calling the Coastguard secretary Brigid Green 07 825 8089 or email raglancoastguard@gmail.com.

Safety guidelines to follow when crossing a bar are available on [Waikato Regional Council's website](#).

Healthy rivers a step closer



Final membership of a group that will play an important role in developing policy for restoring and protecting the health and wellbeing of the Waikato and Waipa rivers is a step closer.

Community applications and stakeholder nominations for representatives to be on a Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) for the *Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora:He Rautaki Whakapaipai* project have recently closed.

A total of 65 applications and nominations have been received for the 20-strong CSG, comprising 16 sector representatives and 4 community representatives.

Once formed, the group will represent the community and stakeholders in developing a regional plan change, and will make recommendations to the project partners – Waikato and Waipa River iwi and Waikato Regional Council.

A wide range of sectors will be represented on the group, including dairy, local government, environmental NGOs, Māori interests, energy, sheep and beef, horticulture, forestry, tourism and recreation, rural advocacy and water supply takes. Sectors have been asked to nominate their own representatives.

Three of the 16 sector representative seats were yet to be allocated, and sector stakeholders were also invited to make nominations for these.

The CSG membership is likely to be announced later this year.

Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora:He Rautaki Whakapaipai is occurring in the Waikato and Waipa river catchments. The proposed plan change is expected to be notified in November 2015. More information is available at www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyivers.

Take back your TV, save the environment

TV TakeBack has started in the Waikato region, ahead of the switchover to digital television on 1 December.

Televisions contain harmful materials such as lead, mercury and phosphorus, which need to stay out of our landfills. TV TakeBack means your TV won't contaminate our precious land or water by going to landfill.

Details on where and when people can drop off their old TVs are available at

www.tvtakeback.govt.nz. Take advantage of a Government subsidy and drop off old TVs for no more than \$5 at locations around the region. It's free to drop off TVs in some districts, with district councils covering the \$5 charge.



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