



YOUR WAIKATO

YOUR REGIONAL NEWS UPDATE FROM WAIKATO REGIONAL COUNCIL

***Make a difference in your community.
Together, we can.***

SOUTH WAIKATO BEEF AND SHEEP FARMER KEN HUMPHREY IS AMONG DOZENS OF LANDOWNERS ACROSS THE REGION GEARING UP FOR PLANTING THIS WINTER. COLLECTIVELY, THEY'LL PLANT 60,000 NATIVE TREES AND SHRUBS.

The eco-sourced plants have been made available through Waikato Regional Council's annual native plant supply programme, which supports restoration projects of all sizes.

Like many farmers, Ken spent years clearing plants to increase the amount of land available for productive use. Over the past 13 years he's been replanting his 162 hectare farm at Piarere, adjacent to the confluence of the Pokaiwhenua Stream and Lake Karapiro, with the help of his family and the regional council.

"When I think back, I should have been doing a lot of this work 20 years ago. Things have changed, we're now more aware of the impacts of farming and steps we can take to turn things around. So, like so many other farmers we're replanting what we'd cut down as scrub."

Until recently, more than three hectares of wetland, surrounded by steep banks, had been grazed. But with no scrub the banks were susceptible to slip and sheet erosion and the wetland had been damaged by stock.

This year Ken has been working with the council's land management officer, Joanna Nash, who provided him with a range of options for restoring the area. As a result, Ken has retired the land and just

finished fencing it off and planting 3000 native plants. It's vital work which in time will enable the wetland to do its job, filtering nutrients before they enter our waterways.

By using eco-sourced plants, which are grown from seeds found in the area where they will be planted, Ken's ensuring they'll be resistant to local disease and will thrive.

The council has covered 35 per cent of the cost of the fencing and planting, and additional support has come through the South Waikato Environmental Initiatives Fund.

"I think there are many farmers especially who are unaware of the hassle-free help that is available to them from the council," he said.

It's not the first time the regional council has supported restoration work on the Humphrey family farm. Thirteen years ago Ken retired some land along the Pokaiwhenua Stream, fencing it off and carrying out indigenous planting.

Already he has seen the benefits of recent restoration work. Birds are returning and a native worm he'd never seen in his lifetime on that farm is thriving.

From the Humphrey's home there are views across the farm to the Waikato River. It's a daily reminder of the precious resource which he feels responsible for helping to protect. "We've got to think about the next generation. I want to leave the property in better condition than when I took it on."

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Waikato



REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera ā Rohe o Waikato

waikatoregion.govt.nz

0800 800 401

Something for farmers to chew over

Menu choices for all tastes in farming – dairy, drystock and cropping – will be on the table at Waikato Regional Council's Fieldays stand at PF19 in the main pavilion this year.

The three menus, developed with industry, list and assess a range of practices to help farmers improve nutrient management and reduce impacts on water quality.

Using the latest research, the menus rate each practice's effectiveness at reducing amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment and micro-organisms entering waterways. The menus also indicate and comment on the cost and benefit of each practice's on the farm business.

The menus have been developed by Waikato Regional Council's Healthy Farms team and the Upper Waikato Primary Sector Partnership. The menus have also been

endorsed by a number of agricultural industry organisations, including Dairy NZ, Beef+Lamb New Zealand and the Foundation for Arable Research.

"I think the menus might be a first for New Zealand. They're practical tools with a focus on multiple water quality benefits that we've designed for farmers and farm consultants, with the help of experts from the main agricultural sectors. We're so pleased to be able to offer such an innovative tool, which industry has endorsed," said Waikato Regional Council agricultural advisor, Ross Abercrombie.

If you don't pick up a takeaway menu from our Fieldays site, you can view the menus and order copies at www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/menus or on freephone 0800 800 401.



Working together for healthy rivers



A major project to help restore and protect the health of the Waikato and Waipa rivers is of such importance to the region it will need input from as many voices as possible.

Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai involves Waikato and Waipa River iwi and Waikato Regional Council.

A key feature of the overall approach for developing the plan change is a Collaborative Stakeholder Group, and stakeholders and the community will be asked to nominate representatives for this group. See the diagram for more information on the group and its role.

"This is a complex issue, and the community and stakeholders are key to the solution," said regional council policy and transport group manager, Vaughan Payne.

Once developed, changes to the regional plan will help, over time, to reduce sediment, bacteria, and the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorus entering water bodies, including groundwater. Changes will include limits on the amount of these contaminants entering water bodies, and timeframes for achieving these limits.

Tackling water quality issues will prevent them becoming more difficult and costly to fix. Changes to the regional plan are also required by the *Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River/Te Ture Whaimama o Te Awa o Waikato* and the Government's National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2011.

Visit our website for more information and to register to receive project updates.



www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers



Collaborative Stakeholder Group

- Central channel for stakeholder and community involvement
- 12-30 stakeholder representatives and community members, nominated by stakeholders and community
- Farming, forestry, energy, tourism, business, councils, tāngata whenua, environmental and recreational interests, community groups
- Intensively review and deliberate on technical material and on stakeholder and community views

RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS

Waikato and Waipa River iwi and Waikato Regional Council make formal decisions

Council's website wins top national award

Want to know more about Waikato's environment, economy and more? The latest information is on our website, www.waikatoregion.govt.nz, which has just won a top local government award.

The Supreme Website award – handed out at the Association of Local Government Information Management's (ALGIM) Online Services Symposium in Wellington – is based on the results of an annual audit of 78 council websites in New Zealand.

It takes into account how well a site meets New Zealand Government web standards, how quickly enquiries from the web are answered and how accessible the website is for someone who is visually impaired. The web standards look at the quality of the content, design and technical issues.

More than 1.7 million pages on our website have been viewed by people in New Zealand and from around the world in the past 12 months, showing that council information and services are being accessed from any place, at anytime.

Aside from the home page, people are most interested in situations vacant, river levels and rainfall, and fresh water quality.

New clean burner gives better heat

It took just a week for a retired Tokoroa couple to notice the benefits of their new woodburner – the house was warmer and they were burning less wood than usual.

Mike and Heather Cowling-Wilson first started using the woodburner last month. "I imagine we'll be spending a lot less on wood in the future, it's lasting a lot longer in the new burner," Heather said.

"The heat from the new burner is definitely a lot better than the last one. In fact, it's so good that we can't sit or stand too close to it! I've got some health issues and need the type of heat that a burner gives off."

With help from Waikato Regional Council and South Waikato District Council's Warm Homes Clean Air (Tokoroa) Programme, the couple's old multi-fuel burner was replaced last December with the cleaner burning, compliant woodburner.

"We are retired and there was no cost to us," said

Heather. "The installation only took a couple of hours. They put covers down so there was no dirt, they took the old fire out and took it away. There were no problems and the service was very nice."

Wood fires are a major source of air pollution in some areas of the Waikato, and can produce large amounts of harmful contaminants.

The regional council is responsible for managing air quality under the Resource Management Act 1991 and has developed a range of policy tools to ensure good air quality is achieved within the region. In 2012/13, we allocated \$150,000 to help people in Tokoroa replace old inefficient woodburners and open fires with clean heat appliances.

Funding is still available for qualifying Tokoroa households to help improve the town's air quality. More information is available on South Waikato District Council's website or by phoning 07 885 0340.





Creating a natural haven in the city

On a Saturday afternoon Grant Blackie will ring around a group of mates looking for people willing to pick up a spade and help with planting or weeding around the Mangakotukutuku Stream.

There's never a shortage of helping hands to carry out this vital stream and gully restoration work, on Hamilton's south-western border.

Over seven years the Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group (MSCG), of which Grant is chairperson, has worked to enhance the native biodiversity and ecological health of the stream and gully area.

They've carried out extensive weeding and planted 8000 native plants in the 2295 hectare catchment.

Most recently fish habitats have been established for eels and kokopu in the stream which runs through Sandford Park, as well as a wetland suitable for the threatened black mudfish. This project was initiated by MSCG and engineering consultants Tonkin & Taylor, and has been funded mainly by the Waikato River Cleanup Trust to the tune of more than \$140,000. The Department of Conservation has also contributed \$5000.

"It's amazing that so many threatened fish species are living in this modified urban stream," Grant said.

"We expect the 'kokopu condos' and 'tuna townhouses' designed by Waikato Regional Council ecologist Bruno David will help the fish thrive. And in the future, we hope to see significantly more fish in these waterways as a result of this work."



AND THAT'S THE RIPPLE EFFECT

Around the Waikato there are people working to create and maintain a healthy environment for us all to enjoy. From small backyard actions to major environmental restoration projects, all are having a positive effect on our environment.

It's these individual local actions that add up to great results – and that's The Ripple Effect.

You can make a difference too. Community action groups dotted all over the Waikato are making ripples for a better environment, and they are always on the lookout for a helping hand (or spade) from volunteers. Check out their ripples on www.makearipple.co.nz and get involved.

You can also share what you're doing – in your own backyard or with a group – by recording your own ripple on the website.

www.makearipple.co.nz

He said many of the current 50-plus volunteers own gully sections that back onto the stream. They want to look out on native plants, not weeds, and enjoy the sights and sounds of native birds.

Rat control within Sandford Park is being planned for the spring to improve the survival rate of fledgling native birds.

"I have been involved in a number of care groups over the years through my Waikato Regional Council role, but this is a practical way to do something for the environment on my own back doorstep," Grant said.

The next planting day will be 3-4.30pm on Saturday 13 July at Sandford Park. For details, visit www.makearipple.co.nz.

Plan approved for future management of kiwifruit Psa



A plan which sets out the future strategy for managing Psu-V on kiwifruit orchards in New Zealand was last month approved by the Minister for Primary Industries, Nathan Guy.

The Waikato has 85 commercial kiwifruit orchards, totalling around 361 hectares of a variety of kiwifruit. The first reported case of Psu-V in the Waikato was on an orchard near Te Awamutu in August last year. Since then, a total of 20 orchards have been confirmed with Psu-V.

Waikato Regional Council was initially involved in raising awareness and helping the Waikato industry respond to the outbreak.

Psu-V, a bacterial disease that affects kiwifruit vines, was first detected in a Te Puke orchard in November 2010 and could cost the industry up to \$885 million over the next 15 years.

The National Psu-V Pest Management Plan

(NPMP) sets out clear objectives for the kiwifruit industry and all those associated with it, including beekeepers, nurseries and kiwifruit processors. Kiwifruit Vine Health (KVH), established to lead the industry response to the Psu-V incursion, will manage and implement the plan.

In the NPMP, Waikato is a 'recovery region'. These are heavily infected regions and generally have more than 35 per cent of kiwifruit hectares on orchards with Psu-V identified.

The objectives for a recovery region are to:

- reduce Psu-V inoculum levels
- support the recovery pathway to commercial kiwifruit production
- reduce the risk of Psu-V spread to other regions.

Visit www.kvh.org.nz/NPMP for a full version of the NPMP, along with other relevant documents.

Stand up for Waikato

There are two ways you can be involved in the decisions Waikato Regional Council makes. Become a councillor, or vote.

For this year's 2013 local government elections, people will have the opportunity to fill one of 14 regional council seats – 12 members will be elected from 6 general constituencies and 2 from 2 Māori constituencies.

Our councillors meet regularly to discuss and make decisions on a wide range of issues which affect the 400,000-plus people living in the Waikato.

The council provides governance and management of the natural resources upon which our primary sector and export economy are based, as well as flood protection infrastructure to keep people

To be eligible to stand as a candidate you must be:

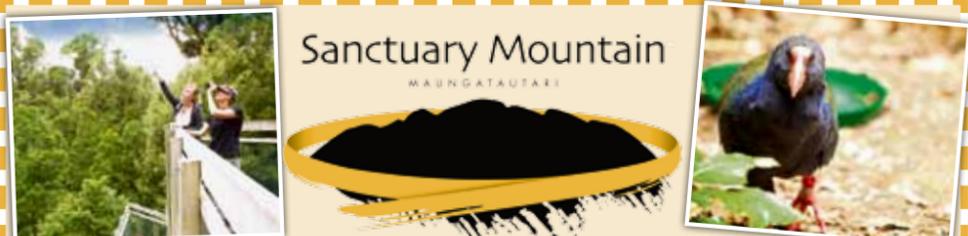
- enrolled as a Parliamentary elector anywhere in New Zealand
- a New Zealand citizen (either by birth or naturalisation ceremony)
- nominated by two electors whose names appear on the Electoral Roll for the constituency for which you wish to stand.

Nominations open next month. Visit our website for the latest information on the 2013 elections.

and billions of dollars of urban property, productive farmland and state roads safe. Our biosecurity and biodiversity activities safeguard our environment and economy, our transport planning and provision keeps the region moving, and our emergency management planning enables us to respond to natural events, such as floods, earthquakes and tsunamis.

Talk to your current councillors. Visit www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/councillors-and-committees for their contact details.

www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/elections



ONE FREE PASS

Experience New Zealand the way it used to be at Sanctuary Mountain (Maungatautari). The largest pest-proof fence in the world protects this mountain sanctuary, where you'll find an ancient forest alive with native wildlife including some of New Zealand's rarest and most endangered plants, insects, birds and fish. The Southern Enclosure is popular with visitors, featuring 5km of well-maintained walking tracks, kaka and weta nest boxes, feeding stations for a variety of birds and a canopy tower offering amazing views over the forest canopy.

www.sanctuarymountain.co.nz • www.facebook.com/savingmaungatautari

This coupon entitles the bearer to 1 free double or family pass to the Southern Enclosure for up to 2 adults and up to 3 children.
Not valid with any other offer. Valid 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014.

Excellence in road safety awarded



Jo Carling

Waikato's retired road policing manager Leo Tooman wants excellence in the area of road safety to be recognised and encouraged.

So, the man who spent 48 years working with others to help cut the road toll and improve road safety in the region has introduced the 'Leo J Tooman Road Safety Award', naming Waikato Regional Council's Jo Carling the inaugural winner.

Mr Tooman said Ms Carling has demonstrated "such leadership, initiative and dedication as gives promise of success to road safety within the Waikato police district".

Ms Carling has worked six years for the regional council and leads the road safety team. She has most recently been involved in developing the region's new three-year road safety strategy,

which was adopted by the council late last month.

Ms Carling said: "I am humbled and honoured to have received this award from Leo, who has been a strong advocate for road safety in the Waikato and has never lost sight of the human tragedy caused by crashes."

The regional council's road safety team develops regional road safety campaigns, and also runs the Young Road User programme targeting preschool and school-aged children.

"The success of our work is due to the great partnerships we have with equally passionate road safety stakeholders who come from a large number of organisations," Ms Carling said.

www.reduce therisk.co.nz



OUR ROAD SAFETY AIMS

The 2013-2016 Waikato Road Safety Strategy is an action plan that sets out how we will:

- halve the number of road related fatalities by 2040
- reduce road related serious injuries by 25 per cent by 2040.

www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

Successful clean-up of marine infestation

An infestation of Mediterranean fanworm successfully removed last month from two barges moored in Coromandel Harbour is a timely wake-up call for boaties to be aware of marine pests.

It was the first time the unwanted organism, otherwise known as *Sabella*, had been found in the harbour, with the discovery made by divers sent down by the Coromandel Marine Farmers' Association.

Waikato Regional Council worked jointly with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and local marine farmers to clean-up the barges, which have since returned to Auckland.

A survey of the area has found no evidence of fanworm anywhere else, but follow-up monitoring will be carried out to ensure it does not establish.

This pest can be notoriously difficult to eradicate and is already established in Auckland and Whangarei, but appears to have been eradicated in Lyttelton. It attaches to hard surfaces like rocks and concrete and can spread rapidly on dirty boat hulls. It forms dense groups and competes with native species for food and space, potentially affecting oyster and mussel production.



Photo: G. Read, NIWA

BOATIES: WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- Keep your boat's hull clean.
- Dispose of any debris removed from your boat in land-based bins.
- Keep your antifoul coating in good condition and reapply as required.
- Check and clean your hull and other equipment – buoys, mooring lines, fishing gear, boat trailers – before moving to a new location.



Report any suspected sightings of the fanworm to MPI's pest and disease hotline – 0800 80 99 66.

www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/mediterranean-fanworm

Plan delivers better services, less cost

2.9%
PROJECTED RATE INCREASE

1.3%
ADOPTED RATE INCREASE

The average rates increase for Waikato Regional Council ratepayers will be 1.3 per cent when the 2013/14 Annual Plan is adopted at the end of the month.

General rates paid by all properties will decrease but targeted rates will increase for some properties to pay for improvements to flood protection infrastructure and land drainage.

The rates contribution has reduced by \$1.2 million and is down from the 2.9 per cent average increase projected in the draft annual plan released for public comment in March.

The rating decrease has been possible through general efficiencies, joint procurement initiatives and the application of surpluses from the 2012/13 financial year.

The council received 150 public submissions on the draft annual plan and heard from 45 submitters who opted to appear in person over two days of hearings in Hamilton last month.

The suggestions, comments and viewpoints expressed in the submissions helped to shape the final plan, due to be adopted on 27 June 2013.

- The 10-year works programme to upgrade and maintain stopbanks on a priority basis has been confirmed, with \$2.2 million being invested in 2013/14.
- The contribution to Maungatautari ecological island has increased from \$275,000 to \$300,000, funded from the natural heritage rate.
- Funding of \$150,000 is budgeted for the replacement of clean heat appliances in Tokoroa on the understanding

that South Waikato District Council recognises Waikato Regional Council's request for a bylaw.

- The council will investigate some smaller scale floodway improvement works at Graham's Creek, with details to be finalised through further talks with the community and Thames-Coromandel District Council.
- The Government last month confirmed its commitment to protecting Lake Taupō's water quality, with a \$3 million funding injection spread over 3 years from 2015/16. This now allows Waikato Regional Council and Taupō District Council to release our reserve funds to complete the project to reduce the amount of nitrogen leaching into the lake.

A decision on the ratings option to pay for flood protection work completed last year to protect Te Puru, on the Thames Coast, will be made on the day the plan is formally adopted.

www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/annualplan



Your Waikato is produced on paperstock certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). PEFC is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation which promotes sustainably managed forests through independent third party certification.

401 GREY STREET, HAMILTON EAST
PRIVATE BAG 3038, WAIKATO MAIL CENTRE, HAMILTON 3240

FREEPHONE 0800 800 401
www.waikatoregion.govt.nz

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