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COUNCIL MEETINGS

September 2014

Regional Transport Committee
Monday 1 September – 9.30am

Waikato Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Joint Committee

LAWA's river of the month

September welcomes the arrival of spring, a season marked by new beginnings. So it's fitting that a stream undergoing significant rejuvenation thanks to the efforts of Waikato's Mangakotukutuku Stream Care Group is river of the month on the [LAWA website](#).

New regional pest management plan operative

Waikato Regional Council's new regional pest management plan is [now available to read online](#).

The plan was adopted by the council on the casting vote of chairperson Paula Southgate. [Read more about the council decision here](#).

Pest control is one of the council's largest expenditure areas. The work directly benefits many ratepayers, as effective management of pests preserves native species and protects tourism, agriculture, horticulture and aquaculture.

The plan sets out why and how more than 150 pests will be controlled in the Waikato region over the next 10 years.

The plan itself will usher in new rules to keep on top of the spread of Canada goose, red-eared slider turtles and the damaging pest plant tutsan. You'll find more information about these three pests in the print issue of *Your Waikato*, being delivered to homes in the week beginning 22 September.



Monday 1 September –
1.00pm

Regional Public Transport
Plan Development
Committee

Tuesday 2 September –
11.00am

Waipa Zone
Subcommittee

Tuesday 2 September –
10.00am

Hamilton Public Transport
Joint Committee

Tuesday 2 September –
1.00pm

Waihou-Piako Zone
Subcommittee

Wednesday 3 September
– 10.00am

Central Waikato Liaison
Zone Subcommittee

Friday 5 September –
10.00am

Lower Waikato Liaison
Zone Subcommittee

Monday 8 September –
10.00am

Hearings Appointment
Subcommittee (if
required)

Tuesday 9 September –
9.30am

Strategy and Policy
Committee

Tuesday 9 September –
10.00am

Finance Committee

Wednesday 10
September – 10.00am

Contracts Subcommittee

Wednesday 10
September 2014 –
3.15pm

Aka Aka Otatau Drainage
Subcommittee

Friday 12 September –
9.00am

Thames Valley Drainage
Subcommittee

Monday 15 September –

Council wins national boat safety award



Congratulations to our maritime services team, who have won a national award recognising their boat safety work for the region and New Zealand.

The award was presented at the conclusion of the country's first ever boating safety conference, hosted by Coastguard Boating Education in Auckland.

The supreme Boating Safety Award recognises the regional council's lead role in the development of the Marine Mate smartphone application in 2013, which gives water users across New Zealand easy access to all the information they will need when heading out onto the water.

The award also takes into account the release of [five videos with information for boaties on how to safely make bar crossings](#).

"Collaboration has been the key to success with both of these projects – we couldn't have achieved all we have without the support of central and local government agencies," said maritime services programme manager, Nicole Botherway (pictured on the far right).

"Marine Mate was only released a year ago and has been downloaded more than 17,000 times. Our developer MoGeo has been an amazing guide and helps us stay up to date with the latest developments to ensure the app meets the needs of boaties around New Zealand.

"The bar crossing films were a challenge to project manage – the weather, tides and people all had to be aligned on the same day – however, we have been able to produce five films which will hopefully help boaties safely navigate one of the most dangerous activities they could undertake on the water," Mrs Botherway said.

Bus, walk, cycle or carpool to work
22-28 September 2013

10.00am

Nga Wai o Waipa Co-
Governance Forum
Wednesday 17
September – 2.30pm

Lake Taupo Protection
Project Joint Committee
Thursday 18 September –
10.30am

Waikato Central Drainage
Subcommittee
Friday 19 September –
10.00am

Council meeting
Thursday 25 September –
10.30am

Visit our website for
[meeting agendas and
minutes](#), and details on
where each meeting is
being held.



Grant for leading edge school project

Good luck to Rhode Street School in Dinsdale on their leading edge ecological island project.

The council's finance committee agreed to an \$11,000 grant from the **environmental initiatives fund** this week after hearing of the way the project helps with environmental education and promotes sustainability.

A report to the committee said the school is widely recognised as a leader in environmental education and health promotion.

"The school is focused on ecological sustainability and social responsibility," the report said.

They have completed many projects over the past seven years at the school including the establishment of vegetable gardens, a nursery and a nature walk.

Then in 2011 students had the idea of building an "ecological island" to showcase and protect our natural environment. It now incorporates three shipping containers which act as an interactive classroom.

Elements of the project the \$11,000 from the council will go towards include insulation and lighting for the containers, the construction of a student-designed swing bridge to the island and a drawbridge for disabled access. The school is also looking at renewable energy options, which the council will consider funding separately.

Activities on the island will include the school's environmental "Green Team" of students hosting Rhode Street students and other schools.

Rhode Street School is already a Green Gold Enviroschool with its principal Shane Ngatai well known for environmental learning initiatives, said committee chairwoman Jane Henneby.

"The committee is happy to support the project's completion as our staff believe it has potential to be an internationally recognised facility providing multiple opportunities for learning, research and development well into the future."



One of these is not like the other...



It's great to see that a project we funded last year is getting some positive on-the-ground results.

The Port Waikato Beachcare group is taking a holistic approach to managing the Port Waikato sandspit, involving not only dune restoration but also biodiversity work, which they're doing in conjunction with the Department of Conservation and the Ngati Karewa -Ngati Tahinga Trust.

The volunteers have been trying to attract caspian terns to Port Waikato's sandspit, and recently installed a bird call player and some painted decoys. Just after they'd finished setting up, several caspian terns dropped in - a moment captured by the beachcare group's leader, Karen Opie!

Meanwhile, in the past 12 months the group has contributed a total of 422 volunteer labour hours, with:

- 70 volunteers removing debris from the sand-spit during a dune clean-up day
- 6 working bees, with planting of 5450 native plants in the dunes.

The volunteer group last year received a \$30,000 grant through our environmental initiatives fund.

Farming practices at your fingertips



Farmers now have the costs and benefits of various farming practices to improve water quality at their fingertips.

Interactive online versions of a set of 'menus' of farming practices released as booklets last year are now available at www.farmmenus.org.nz.

The menus assess a range of practices for cropping land, and dairy and drystock farms that improve nutrient management and reduce impacts on water quality.

Farmers can use the menus on their home computer, tablet or smart phones to sort practices on the basis of:

- likely water quality benefit in terms of reducing nitrogen, phosphorus, sediment or micro-organisms
- cost and benefit to the farm business.

Development of the menus was prompted by farmers asking Waikato Regional Council what they could do to improve water quality in rivers. So Waikato Regional Council worked together with eight industry partners for 18 months to develop [booklets of menus of practices for dairy, drystock and cropping](#).

Since their release last year, over 2000 booklets have been distributed to farmers and rural professionals.

The web menus make decision making information even easier to access. Farmers can cut and paste farm management practices straight into their environmental farm plans. The menus link to other industry websites for more information. They will be continually updated and online videos added in the future.

For farmers



We're hiring



Summer student employment opportunities



Are you in tertiary study and looking for summer work? We're [recruiting for summer students now](#) to assist with specific projects over the summer break!

Group looks at urban impacts



Stakeholder representatives on the [Healthy Rivers/Wai Ora project](#) recently learnt about urban effects on rivers.

The Collaborative Stakeholder Group (CSG) visited Hamilton city's water and wastewater treatment plants during their August workshop.

Hamilton's water treatment plant takes and treats water from the Waikato River to supply drinking water to 150,000 people and 5000 commercial users.

The threat of algal blooms is an ongoing issue for the water treatment plant. Algae are difficult to test for and the plant has activated carbon filters to remove cyanotoxins produced by blue-green algae.

The CSG heard about the rules and regulations that control discharge of municipal sewage, urban stormwater and industrial wastewater to the river. Hamilton City Council takes a 'best for river' approach and is continually investing in technology to keep up with growth in the city.

Collaborative Stakeholder Group chairperson Bill Wasley said: "It's great to hear about Hamilton City Council's ongoing improvements to municipal discharges to the Waikato River. Along with farmers and many other groups they're working toward improving the health of the river.

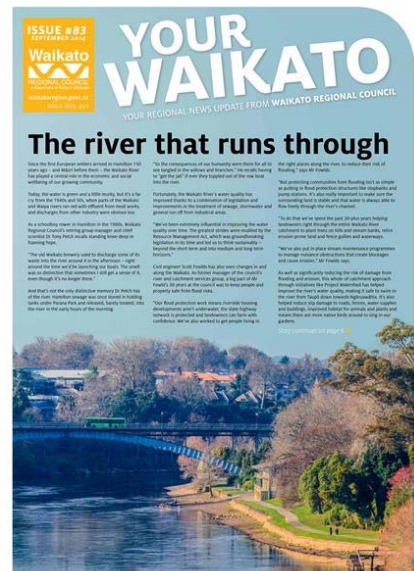
"In developing policy, the CSG is considering the full range of sources of contaminants to the river," he added.

The CSG will visit Lake Ohakuri hydroelectric power station, Wairakei geothermal power station and Kinleith Pulp and Paper Mill in September. These facilities all use Waikato River water.

**What is Healthy Rivers:
Plan for Change/Wai Ora:
He Rautaki Whakapaipai?**

Keep a lookout for 'Your Waikato'

The printed September issue of *Your Waikato* will be arriving in letterboxes in just over a week's time, so keep a lookout for your copy! With Hamilton celebrating its 150th birthday since European settlement, we've got a story reflecting on the changes to the 'river that runs through'. This issue is jam-packed with stories, and you'll be able to read about some great environmental projects we're working on in conjunction with a number of people, groups and organisations in our community.



Share our news!

We'd love you to share this e-newsletter with others so they're up-to-date with our latest news. You can do this via:



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