

NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



It is hard to believe we are into the second quarter of 2017. Eureka Ward has had its fair share of flooding during the last few storms and the sodden ground is having an affect on cropping on the Ward's mainly flat terrain. It must be many years since we have had so much autumn rain because my sons have only a vague recollection of tractors and combines sinking in the peat – something I remember well from when we bought our farm in the 70's..

Council staff worked long hours to remedy road and infrastructure **storm damage** around the district and during the storms we received daily updates on this from our civil defence staff.. Many hot dry summers, and now flooding, is causing endless problems with road sinkage and seal breakup. I am aware that a large number of roads in my Ward need reshaping and rehabilitation but, with 2,364 kilometres (km) of roading in the District, I have to compete for roading funds. I drive around the Ward on a regular basis to identify any infrastructure problems but let me know if you have noticed any road subsidence or cracking in your area; also contact me if you have experienced any problems with council drains on your road or property during the storms so we can investigate.

Over the next 15 months Council will prepare its **Draft Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-28**. We attended a workshop last month to commence discussions about the long term strategic direction for the district. A Long Term Plan is a financial and community planning document that we are required to review every three years and sets the direction Council is heading by establishing agreed community outcomes and goals. The 2018-28 LTP will be finalised and adopted in June 2018.

As part of this process we held an Extraordinary Council meeting late last month to approve the **Annual Plan 2017/2018 Consultation Document** and proposed amendments to fees and charges. The Annual Plan is our budget and explains how Council will fund projects, services etc for this financial year. This year we are consulting with ratepayers on rating for wastewater systems. This will involve consulting with around 1/3rd of our ratepayers who benefit from reticulated wastewater services – **if you have a septic tank and DO NOT pay a wastewater rate this will not affect you.**

We are holding a Drop In session at Matangi Hall on Wednesday 3rd of May to outline the proposed waste water rating strategy for Matangi and answer any questions you may have. Please take the opportunity to join us anytime between 3pm and 6pm on 3rd May.

We are not consulting on any other part of the AP as there are no other significant changes to the works programme but we will engage about projects in Eureka Ward as they begin – key projects for 2017-18 include 1.016km of road rehabilitation, 8.01 km of road re-seal and the installation of a reservoir to meet future growth needs for water. We are currently securing a site for the reservoir.

The inorganic refuse collection will begin in May. In a change from the planned service, in 2017 inorganic rubbish will again be collected from the kerbside outside properties. The pickups will take place over four weeks beginning 1 May – **the week for your collection is dependent on your normal recycling collection day.** A flyer will be delivered giving the dates for your area along with the Do's and Don't's for collection and what they will collect. All the details are on the following website <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/services-facilities/refuse-and-recycling/inorganic-collection> or you can phone me for more information.

Last year Council called for submissions on the proposed **Easter Trading Policy 2017**. 1268 submissions were received and 51% were in favour of shops being able to open on Easter Sunday in Waikato district. The Policy and Regulatory Committee recommended that the Policy be adopted at the April Council meeting. In line with the feedback I received from residents in Eureka Ward, I voted against the policy being adopted. It was passed with eight Councillors in support and four opposed..

The **Waikato Expressway construction** continues apace. Last month Councillors visited sites in the southern sector of the **Hamilton Section** to be given an update on progress. We also visited the Project Visitor Centre at the contractors headquarters near Ruakura and received an ecology briefing and viewed the aerial flythrough video. Many of the bridges on the Hamilton Section will be built "top down" They are built on the ground and then the expressway route will be excavated beneath. To see how this process works, read the project newsletter on the NZTA Website - Hamilton Section www.nzta.govt.nz/hamilton.

Waikato District Council has created a **dog agility park** at Horotiu on the corner of Horotiu Road and Great South Road using recycled playground equipment - this facility has been very popular with dog owners. The District will be creating more agility parks as other playgrounds are removed.

The *Eureka Express* and Eureka Hall Committees have installed a **defibrillator unit (AED)** at the Eureka Hall. It is on an outside wall in a lock box – the code is accessed by phoning 111. If your district is interested in purchasing a similar unit the Express Committee would be happy to pass on all the information – contact them at editor@eurekaexpress.co.nz The unit was sourced through St John, and HeartSafe assisted with the cost of the lock box.

If you have a project or an event and are seeking financial assistance, there are a number of **funding opportunities** available from Council to help make it happen. **e.g** Waikato District Council Discretionary Grants Fund, Creative Communities Scheme Fund, Waikato District Community Wellbeing Trust Fund, Heritage Assistance Fund and Heritage Project Fund Applications must be made on the appropriate form and closing dates for applications are on our website. . Before lodging an application, we suggest you discuss your project with our Community Development Adviser Lianne to ensure you meet the eligibility requirements. I am a member of most of the Funding Committees so phone me if you need further information, visit our website at www.waikatodistrictcouncil.govt.nz or contact the Community Development Advisor Lianne van den Bemd, Waikato District Council, Private Bag 544, Ngaruawahia, phone 07 824 8633 or e-mail lianne.vandenbemd@waicd.govt.nz.

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