

# NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

In the 2017/18 *Annual Plan* mention is made of installing a water reservoir to meet future growth needs in the southern areas of Waikato District, which includes Eureka and Tamahere Wards. This was to be built in Matangi but, due to a lack of land availability, it will now be built on NZTA land along the Expressway near to Matangi Road. It is now programmed into the Expressway work and it will be 1-2 years before it is built.

Every two years **Waikato District Mayoral Awards** are presented, recognising volunteers and residents who have made a significant contribution to their community. Graham Membery from Matangi district was a recipient in 2015. **If you would like to nominate anyone else from the Matangi district for the 2019 awards please pass their name/s on to me.**

The 2017 award ceremony was held recently and this year awards were presented to eleven district residents including three Eureka Ward residents - Barry Mayall from Eureka and Ivan and Delia Pizzini from Tauwhare. It was a privilege to see Ivan, Delia and Barry being recognised for the contribution they have each made, and are still making, to their respective communities.



I have just received the latest **Expressway newsletter** from NZTA which mentions that: *the first of the bridge beams will be put in place later this month. The Gordonton Road bridge will have 16 beams, each one 31 metres long, weighing 50 tonnes. It will be the first bridge completed on the Hamilton Section and should be open to traffic around August this year. Earthworks will recommence in October 2017 and by that stage the bridges on Osborne Road, Gordonton Road, Morrinsville and Matangi Roads will be finished. The bridges are completed early to allow the dumptrucks and earthmoving equipment to move earth from one site to the next going under or over local roads and railtracks.*

You can read the Expressway newsletters online at <http://www.nzta.govt.nz/assets/projects/hamilton/hamilton-section-project-update-may-2017>



In March I enjoyed another visit to the **Hamilton Gardens** with members of my extended family, some of whom had not been to the gardens for many years. They were amazed at the transformation since their last visit in the '90s.

The Friends of Hamilton Gardens are holding their second Matariki Manu Tukutuku - **Kite Flying Day on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2017** from 11:30am – 2:30pm at the Turtle Lake Hill, Hamilton Gardens (Car Park 1)



There will be kite flying demonstrations, free kites and kite-making for children, or bring your own kites and join in the fun. Sausage sizzle, or pack a picnic. Everyone welcome.

You may also like to become a **Friend of Hamilton Gardens**. *As a friend you will be invited to attend private garden unveilings, receive invitations for behind-the-scenes tours of the gardens under development, receive discounts at local retailers and invitations to special events.* For more information please call the Hamilton Gardens Information Centre on 07 838 6782 or go to <http://hamiltongardens.co.nz/friends>

In January this year Council successfully applied to the Ministry of Social Development for funding to support youth action groups and for young people to mentor each other. "Govern Up" is a programme that will allow young people in communities to join a local youth action group to develop and use leadership skills and to participate in youth-led projects and events. Forty-seven young people are already participating out of a target of 60. A key challenge for Council's Youth Engagement Advisor Shannon Kelly has been to service a larger geographical area with the youth action groups tending to be based around the larger towns in the district with established youth networks. At this time, we have no youth action group in the southern end of the district and Shannon has had little or minimal relationship building with our communities, schools and young people. We hope to use the information from existing groups to help us create youth groups and further leadership opportunities for young people.

Have you visited **Woodlands at Gordonton**? On Whitikahu Road, this historic estate, owned by the Waikato District, has a Garden of National Significance and there is no cost to wander through the extensive gardens. There is a small charge to enter the homestead; a café near the homestead is open 7 days a week. The Woodlands Trust have recently installed a fountain in the middle of the circular lawn in front of the homestead.



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