

# NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

## NOVEMBER 2017



Last month I advised that a “Future of our Libraries” Survey had been sent to all residents. Thank you to those who completed the survey. A large number of very well considered and helpful comments were received with the 436 surveys returned from Eureka Ward residents - a total across the district of 5328 surveys were returned. We have had one workshop so far to consider the results and we will be having further discussions with our neighbouring Councils before any decisions are made.

In my last two newsletters I have commented that we have been preparing the **draft of our District Plan (DDP)**. This is now ready for feedback, so we are holding a series of drop in sessions to talk about the key issues that may effect your property, community and / or the whole district. The session for Eureka and Tamahere Wards will be held at the **Tamahere Community Centre on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December – any time between 2pm & 7pm.**

Staff and Councillors will be there to discuss the DDP which includes information on:

*What is the District Plan and how does it affect growth; Amenities (Home occupations, noise, dust etc); Biodiversity, landscape & natural character areas; Country living and village subdivision; Earthworks (which includes farm tracks, cleanfill etc, building platforms), Hazardous substances & solid waste; Industrial, business and businesstown centre zones; Infrastructure and energy; Natural hazards & climate change; Residential subdivision; Rural zones & special use zones; Heritage & tangata whenua.*

Are you involved in a community group or other organisation in the Waikato District? Applications are opening in December and January for a range of Council-administered funds to support community projects and events for the next year. There are funds for supporting creative and performing arts, heritage, conservation and a range of other community projects and events.

Three funds have closing dates in February for the first round of applications:

- Discretionary Grants funds – opens 1 Dec; closes 2 February
- Creative Communities Fund – opens 1 Dec; closes 23 February
- Heritage Project Fund – opens 19 January; closes 23 February

The Community Wellbeing Trust has a single funding round which opens on 26 January and closes on 30 March. For more information go to [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding).

The work on the **Expressway** ramps up now that the earthmoving season has recommenced. Traffic is now travelling over the Morrinsville Road Bridge and the Ruakura Rail Bridge has opened for construction traffic. This bridge is a vital part of the haul road allowing construction traffic to travel across road and rail traffic. Puketaha Road is being widened to allow for the installation of a dedicated right-turn lane. This will keep traffic flowing while the bridge foundations are being built.



**Ruakura Rail Bridge**

I was very interested to read in the latest NZTA update of the science around the placement of the myriad of orange traffic cones we see every day.

*The Alliance has four full-time qualified traffic management staff plus contracted crews at specific sites. The layout of the orange traffic cones is planned well in advance by the Traffic Managers to allow motorists to travel in a safer and more efficient way. There is a science behind traffic management and understanding how a driver reacts to visual cues is part of the science – e.g., the way the cones are arranged will affect how fast people drive.*

Section 10A of the **Dog Control Act 1996** requires each local council to report annually on its dog control policy. In the 2016-17 rating year there were 14,791 known dogs in the Waikato District owned by 9250 owners - approximately 20% of these dogs were on a property of more than 20 hectares. We employ 11 staff and last year our teams responded to more than 3000 complaints that ranged from dog attacks, barking nuisances and roaming complaints. We also responded to 376 service requests involving roaming livestock. Our team follows a policy of approach, engagement and education before enforcement, finding that this approach has had a positive impact on their relationship with dog owners, the health and safety of staff and service satisfaction of our customers.

If you have a **swimming pool or spa** you should have received a letter detailing your responsibilities and advising you of inspection details. Because of legislative changes all pools need to be inspected every three years to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of the Building Act. If you want to discuss this with us phone 0800 492 452 - the Duty Inspector is available every morning from 8am to 10am.

***I hope you have an enjoyable holiday season with your friends & family – drive safely and take care in the water.***

**Contact me anytime - Rob McGuire: Councillor Eureka Ward**  
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