

# NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR



It is hard to believe that summer is nearly over – I can't remember any other summer of such contrasting day to day weather patterns. As I write this newsletter, Cyclone Gita is passing over NZ and big swells and strong winds are predicted for the east coast of our district. However, so far, I haven't received any reports from staff of any major damage. It is a big relief that the Waikato is not to be in the path of the storm, but I feel for those who have suffered major damage. New Zealand, particularly the South Island, has experienced more than its fair share of earthquake and storm damage to infrastructure and property in the last seven years.

The Eureka & Tamahere Wards Heritage Committee has been meeting regularly to discuss ways and means of archiving photos, maps and historical information obtained from local groups, schools, families etc. Last year we received funding to establish a website and this is due to go on line on or about 15<sup>th</sup> April. Basic information on Eureka, Puketaha and Tamahere districts is already on line. There will be a process for you to add information to the site – more details to follow.

Council reconvened in early February and we have been holding multiple workshops to fine tune the Draft District Plan (DDP) and Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018-28

- Feedback on the DDP closed on 22 January. Staff will consider the feedback before the plan goes out for formal consultation in mid-2018. For further information on this process, visit [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/districtplanreview](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/districtplanreview).
- Waikato District is growing rapidly, and it is crucial we plan well for this growth. Information on the LTP will be available on our website at [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/longtermplan](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/longtermplan). On Wednesday 14 March a month-long consultation process will begin on the LTP which details e.g. our budgets, planned works, proposed rate increases for the next 10 years and more. We welcome feedback which must be received by 9am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

The February issue of the District newsletter "Link" is now available on line at <https://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/news/link-newsletter>. An excellent way to read about our people, places and events and receive information from Waikato District Council.

In my November newsletter I mentioned various funding streams are available each year for community groups and organisations in Waikato District. For more information go to our website [www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding](http://www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz/funding).

Once a year there is also an opportunity to apply for funding to the Wellbeing Trust. This Trust was formed when, in 2010, the Waikato Foundation Trust proposed *to distribute its capital fund to projects or trusts to fund projects of a community nature which will result in long term benefits to as many people as possible within the geographical area of the three constituent territorial authorities namely Hamilton City Council, Waikato District Council and Waipa District Council.*

The Waikato District Community Wellbeing Trust was established to receive these funds and \$2.56 million was transferred to the Waikato District Community Wellbeing Trust in 2011/12. The Trust distributes funds that:

- Promote the social, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the Waikato district and its communities; and
- Deliver on the aspirations and community outcomes of the Waikato district identified and promoted by the community and endorsed by Waikato District Council.

If you think your group may meet the criteria for funding, the Community Wellbeing Trust has a single round of funding which opens on 26 January and closes on 30 March.

Every five years, NZ run the census – the official count of how many people and dwellings there are in New Zealand. By asking everyone to complete a set of questions about themselves and their household a snapshot can be captured of who is living in, and visiting, New Zealand. **The census provides a wealth of information for government and local government to understand more about the people who live in New Zealand and to help make good decisions about where services are needed.**

The next census is on Tuesday 6 March 2018. Letters with information will arrive in your mailbox from 23 February. This census will be different as Stats NZ are aiming to collect more information from you online. You will receive a letter with information in your mailbox any time from 23 Feb which will contain an access code for your household. **Paper forms will still be available for those who do not have access to a computer or prefer to fill in a paper version.**

To request a paper form phone 0800 236 787 and select the option to *request paper forms*. You will need to authorize that you (or the person you are calling on behalf of) is a resident of the address. To help with this, have your access code letter handy. Once your paper forms are ordered, they will be sent to you via mail so check your letterbox. Complete your census (making sure you complete all forms that are supplied). Place your completed census forms in the envelope supplied and post them to the return address. This is an important step to ensuring your completion is registered - the new process means that you should not wait for a field officer to collect these.

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