

NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

As you may have seen in the *Matangi Link* the Expressway is making good progress and the bridge over Matangi Road is completed. We are endeavouring to get the footpath on Matangi Road extended over the next 2-3 years. This financial year the existing footpath will be completed to the Matangi Hall, and hopefully a bit beyond, which will assist school children and residents to get safely to the hall. I am working with staff to get markings for a slip lane into Taplin Rd and a tidier finish to the overall look of the area between Good Street and Taplin Road.

Matangi has, with 30 other rural communities, joined the **Little Library scheme** and the library has now been placed on Tauwhare Road in Matangi Village. I hope residents will make good use of this – it is a *Take a Book/Leave a Book* system. Thank you to Kitty for organising a group of residents to erect the library.



Matangi District has received funding from Council's Heritage Fund to create a **Roll of Honour** for those from the Matangi District who died on service or were returned servicemen in **WW1**. (I note on the list names of men from families now in other districts in Eureka Ward). On Remembrance Day **11th November at 11am** the Honours Board will be dedicated. The names on the Honours Board can be found in the *Matangi Link* <https://matangilink.nz/2018/10/11/matangi-100-years-ago-was-your-family-here>. The Committee would like to know of any relatives of those on the Roll of Honour who will attend the dedication. Phone Ian Wallace 829 5848 to let him know.

To ensure the **Southern Districts Water supply** has good water reserves to cater for unforeseen shut downs from the Hamilton City supply we have asked staff to progress plans for a new water reservoir. NZTA have agreed that we can site it on surplus expressway land around Matangi.

The plans for the **Hamilton to Auckland start up passenger rail service** continue. Our Council is supporting train stations in Tuakau and Huntly and has committed to cost share funding with NZTA. I understand that the carriages for the train service are being revamped. WRC, WDC and HCC have engaged a consultant to complete a business case for the three councils to consider at meetings in November. I will continue to give you updates in future newsletters. There was a front page article in the *Waikato Times* of Saturday 3rd November with more information.

Submissions to the **Proposed Waikato District Plan** closed on 9 October - thanks to those who made a submission. Council is now summarising the submissions which will be published. After a period for further submissions the hearing process will begin.

I frequently receive phone calls about **rubbish dumping**. This is a huge problem in the district and I note that last year 746 requests were received to collect rubbish. We have now set up a *Let's Stop the Dodgy Dumpers* Facebook Group - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/dodgydumpers>. You can also report dumping online or phone 0800 492 452. **For safety reasons do not touch any dumped material.**

In my last newsletter I mentioned the end of free access to **Hamilton City libraries** for Waikato District residents – thank you for all the feedback I received. We put another proposal to the City Council last month but unfortunately the city rejected the proposal but acknowledged our cross-boundary connections and said it would initiate wider cross-boundary discussions with WDC. Our CEO Gavin Ion in a recent press release commented that *People don't think about territorial boundaries when they go about their lives, whether visiting Hamilton Gardens (Hamilton City) travelling to Raglan or the Hakarimatas (Waikato District) or popping out to Lake Karapiro to swim or water ski (Waipa District) These are all highly valued and visited regionally-used assets and to be fair libraries are similar.*

We will continue to work with the city with cross-border collaboration but in the meantime our Council is working on a proposal for library access for our residents and the Councillors from the four WDC Wards around the city affected by the rejection of the proposal will be consulted. I voted to retain the current arrangement when it was originally debated as I felt we were getting good value for money and the feedback Councillors received after the decision was announced endorsed my stand.

If you have new neighbours who are not on the *Matangi Link* mailing list, please encourage them to subscribe so they can keep up to date with local news and see my monthly newsletters.



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