

NEWS FROM YOUR WAIKATO DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

20 MARCH 2019

This week Waikato District Councillors and staff observed a minute's silence to acknowledge the dreadful tragedy and loss of life in Christchurch on 15th March. Our Mayor Allan Sanson released a statement on behalf of the District expressing sympathy, and wrote - *"These were our people, New Zealanders, some of them refugees who had chosen to make our country home. They died meeting to pray at their Mosque. This was an absolute tragedy,"*

"There really are no words that can adequately describe how deeply sad this event was for the many families and individuals affected and for our country. Our Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern described it as one of our darkest days."

"Today and in the days and weeks to come, our thoughts are with the Muslim community here in the Waikato and in New Zealand and with the people of Christchurch too. Our hearts go out to you" – Allan Sanson

Due to the near drought conditions in the Waikato **the Fire Status for Rural Waikato is still restricted** and by permit only. WEL Networks in a recent communication asked us to remind our residents to keep trees and vegetation near power lines trimmed. During periods of dry conditions and extreme weather a small spark from a power line can cause a fire. As a property owner, you are responsible for trees inside your property and it is important that you keep them well away from any service lines (i.e. lines within your property). Any trees growing within your property, but reaching over onto the roadside reserve, are also your responsibility. However, don't try to remove trees and vegetation near live lines – WEL Networks can turn off the power if you or a contractor wish to undertake trimming. For more information visit www.wel.co.nz/every-day-home-safe or call 0800 800 935.

Further to my comments last month for those connected to the Southern Districts water scheme; you should have received a letter from Council recently asking you to ensure your water meter is accessible. Water meters will be read in the next few weeks and Council are asking that you check that access to your meter is clear to ensure you get an actual and not an estimated reading.

Woodlands Estate near Gordonton is owned by the Waikato District. There is no charge to visit the estate and wander through their extensive gardens. There is a nominal cost to visit the homestead. You could visit Woodlands in April during their extremely popular Pioneer Fundays, being held this year during the school holidays on 16th, 17th and 18th April.



WOODLANDS ESTATE
Homestead, Gardens, Venue, Café
PRESENTS

PIONEER FUNDAYS

16th, 17th & 18th April 2019 | 10am - 2pm

- VINTAGE FARM MACHINES
- CORN SHUCKING & BUTTER CHURNING
- LORD & LADY BLACK'S VICTORIAN GAMES
- SAM & HIS FARMYARD FRIENDS
- FAMILY FUN OUTDOOR RACE GAMES
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

42 Whirikahu Road, Gordonton | www.woodlands.co.nz | events@woodlands.co.nz

If you travel regularly through Tamahere you may like to avoid SH1 during the periods 1 & 2 April, 14 – 17 April and 28th April – 2nd May because the **southbound lanes will be closed** while interchange crossover work is carried out.

Every month I receive a number of phone calls and emails re problems with **recycling pick up**. A common theme is that cardboard and paper and sometimes all recycling is being left by the Metro Waste crews. Due to our overseas markets having drastically reduced the level of allowable contamination, NZ is trying to keep recyclables clean at kerbside. Therefore, you cannot put paper and cardboard in with your plastic and glass recycling. Either tie your paper and cardboard together with string or place it in bags or a cardboard box and then place **SEPARATELY** from your recycling bin. If you include this material in the recycling crate your recycling won't be collected.

The Huntly Information Centre (i-site) north of Huntly township is due to close on 31st March 2019 in anticipation of the Expressway opening in 2020 that will bypass the township. This *i-site* was opened in 1996 by then Mayor Angus Macdonald and for the last 23 years has fielded 2.5 million enquiries (with 46,336 visitors in the 2018 calendar year) and has worked to support tourism groups and operators.



At Hampton Downs there is now an independent *i-site* (**Hampton-i**) in their visitor centre that can cater for visitor enquiries, book accommodation and take bookings for local tours etc. There is also an adjoining café.



Contact me anytime

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