

# Waihi Ward Reflections



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Wednesday, 23 December 2015

## Season's greetings from the Mayor and Councillors



Another year is coming to an end – I believe a good one for the District. There have been economic and wellbeing improvements, and a growing positivity. The Hauraki Rail Trail and the Waihi Gold Discovery Centre have won national award recognition; and together with assets like the Goldfields Railway, Victoria Battery, Waihi Museum, and the Tunnellers Memorial taking shape at Gilmour Lake, they've made Waihi a "must visit" for New Zealanders and overseas tourists. Behind the scenes, I'm particularly pleased that our water upgrades are almost complete. The new raw water source for Waihi will relieve the pressure of summer shortages, and ensure a future supply of good quality drinking water. At the same time, I'm conscious that it's been a difficult year for farmers, who are a very significant sector of the community. This affects our towns and businesses, too.

Financially and emotionally, Christmas can be a time of extra stress, and we often need to remember that it's not about commercialism and expensive presents. In my family, our children still look forward to a gift they've received since they were young: a box of Roses chocolates. This was a real once-a-year treat!

Whatever your own traditions, make the most of the time you have to celebrate them with the people who are important to you. Relax and recharge your batteries together, and enjoy the beautiful place we live in.

Christmas is about people, and the spirit of that is demonstrated in the Open Door Christmas Dinner in Waihi. I thank the volunteers who give their time and effort to make it happen, as well as the many volunteers who work throughout the year for the benefit of their community.

I appreciate all the support from residents over the past 12 months, and on behalf of our councillors and staff, wish you a happy, refreshing and safe festive season.

**John Tregidga** - Mayor, Hauraki District

## New lakeside feature is a sizzler

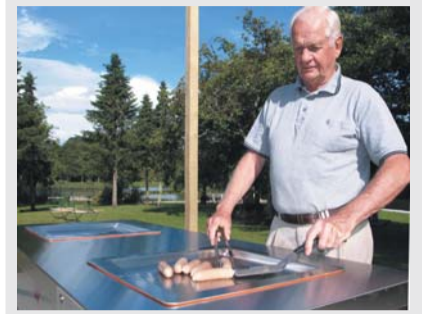
It's time to fire up the barbie – that's the new community barbecue at Gilmour Lake. We've installed it after a similar public barbecue was placed at Paeroa's Railway Reserve as a Lions Club project a year ago, and has proved very popular.

The cooker is a robust stainless steel model, with two individually controlled electric hotplates so it can be used by several people at once, or a large group. An automatic timer makes operation simple, and best of all, it's free.

Councillor Harry Shepherd says the facility will "add to the lake's attractions, and we hope it will encourage people to enjoy time there."

Its location is ideal: close to the main entrance car park, picnic tables, the children's playground, and toilets, and a short walk from the miners' reflective area where the Tunnelling Company memorial will soon take a prominent place.

Waihi ward funds have covered the cost of the barbecue, including concrete foundation pad, and we're working toward erecting a shelter over it in the New Year.



MASTER CHEF: Councillor Harry Shepherd tests out the new barbecue.

## At last, a memorial to our diggers

One hundred years ago, the men of the New Zealand Engineers Tunnelling Company spent Christmas – for some, their last – at sea. The enlistments, including a large number of miners from Waihi and Karangahake, had left home shores just a week earlier, headed for a month's training in England then into frontline underground warfare in the Arras area, northern France. Despite being the first New Zealand unit on the Western Front and the last off it, the Tunnellers have had no memorial in their own country. But that will change on Friday 22 January, with the dedication of a 7.5 metre high Tunnelling Company sculpture and an accompanying memorial wall at Gilmour Reserve. After blessing the foundation stone in April, "We're looking forward to a very special day when eight years of planning, fundraising and work by Waihi Heritage Vision members will come together," says project manager Sue Baker Wilson.

Representatives from France, Australia, the Cook Islands, and many New Zealand towns are coming to Waihi for the event; together with Tunnelling Company descendants and supporters from all parts of the country, Defence Force members including the Vice Chief of Defence, Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Short, and special guest Willie Apiata VC.

"Willie embodies the same Kiwi qualities we'll be recognising in the New Zealand Tunnellers. It will be a real privilege to have him with us," says Sue.

The celebration has been planned so members of the public can join in. It will start

with an 11am street parade through town, featuring military vehicles, and then move to the reserve for the 1pm dedication. Sue recommends bringing a picnic lunch and a sunhat.

Mayor John Tregidga encourages people to save the date and come along. "This is one of the most significant events in my time as Mayor, which is why the Council has been very involved in supporting the project. Waihi

is the town acknowledging the contributions of the Tunnellers from throughout New Zealand, thanks to Waihi Heritage Vision's efforts and especially to Sue's research and organisation."

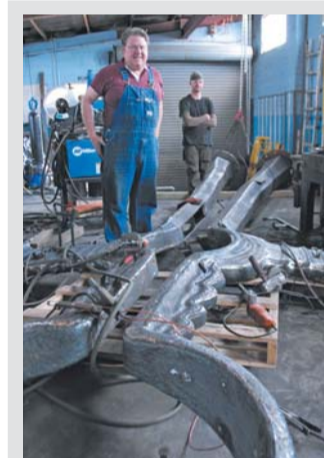
The T-shaped steel memorial has been crafted by blacksmith Nicholas Brumder of Waihi Metal Studio, assisted by his son Nickson.

It will be the central feature of a miners' reflective area incorporating a soldier sculpture, an already installed miners' bench seat likewise sculpted by Nicholas, and an avenue of kowhai trees planted in 2013 to remember the victims of the Pike River disaster.

Sue says the project wouldn't have been possible without significant and sustained Council interest and assistance – from the Mayor right down to staff "on the ground" in Waihi who have gone out of their way to help.

Vital community support has been given, too, from tangata whenua, local organisations, businesses and individuals; as well as many people from outside the area who have volunteered their time and expertise to assist with the dedication celebrations.

Activities will continue throughout the weekend, with a day of seminars on Saturday, 23 January and the screening of the film Beneath Hill 60 that evening. Registrations are required for these events – more information can be found at [www.nzetc.co.nz](http://www.nzetc.co.nz).



MONUMENTAL TRIBUTE: Nicholas Brumder and his son Nickson are putting the finishing touches on the Tunnelling Company memorial in their Waihi studio.

## Fire ban has started

The total open-air fire ban across the Hauraki and Thames Coromandel Districts started on Sunday, 20 December.

The following are prohibited during the ban period; braziers, Chinese lanterns and fireworks due to the fire risks they present. The ban also includes land clearing burn-offs, rubbish fires, beach fires, and the use of open-top incinerators of the non-approved type.

Traditional cooking fires such as hangi, umu or charcoal spit roasts are included in the ban, although for community or cultural events, permits will be considered by fire authorities. These can be applied for at Council service centres, with notice of at least 48 hours (two working days) required.

Pre-approved solid fuelled permanent barbecues and pizza ovens with a chimney and spark arrester will be permitted. An approval permit can be applied for at Council service centres, with notice of at least 48 hours (two working days) required. Gas fuelled barbecues are not covered by the ban.

If the fire weather conditions over the whole area allows, the fire ban may be lifted on 8 February and replaced with a restricted fire season. Any extension past that date will be reviewed daily, with signs and notices keeping residents and holidaymakers informed.



Questions about the ban or applying for a fire permit are welcome. Give the Council a call on 0800 734 834 (from within the district).

Anyone who sees smoke or is in doubt about a fire should "ring it in" by calling 111.

## Council's services in the Waihi Ward over the Christmas/ New Year period

	December 2015					January 2016								
	Thursday 24	Friday 25	Saturday 26	Sunday 27	Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 31	Friday 1	Saturday 2	Sunday 3	Monday 4	Tuesday 5	
<b>Waihi Council Office</b>	8.00am to 12 noon		Closed				8.00am to 4.30pm			Closed			8.00am to 4.30pm	
<b>Waihi Library</b>	9.30am to 12 noon		Closed				10.00am to 4.30pm			Closed			10.00am to 4.30pm	
<b>Waihi Swimming Pool</b>	6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)	Closed	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)				6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)			Closed	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)			6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)
<b>Waihi Transfer Station</b>	Closed		10.00am to 4.00pm		Closed		10.00am to 4.00pm	Closed		10.00am to 4.00pm		Closed		
<b>Kerbside Refuse and recycling collection</b>	<b>Refuse &amp; recycling</b> Waihi Waikino		<b>Refuse &amp; recycling</b> Whitiroa		<b>Bags &amp; glass only</b> Whitiroa		<b>Bags &amp; glass only</b> Whitiroa		<b>Refuse only</b> Waihi Waikino					