

Thursday, 25 September 2014

Waihi Ward Reflections

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Town's new water scheme flowing well

More than a spring clean is in store for Waihi's Water Treatment Plant on Bulltown Road this season.

We've just started a major site upgrade, including the construction of a brand new building to house a new membrane filtration unit. Using a process called micro-filtration, this unit will take more viruses and bacteria out of the water than its predecessor, in compliance with changing NZ Drinking Water Standards.

The plant will be fully automated, requiring very little input from an operator and will be capable of processing up to 4,500,000 litres of water per day. This allows for some future growth in demand and also provides enough water to supply the Waikino community.



Above: The Waihi Water Treatment Plant

It's not just the Water Treatment Plant that will be upgraded though. For a while now, the town's two existing water intakes on Walmsley and Waitete Streams have struggled to keep up with summer demand. To ensure a more secure water supply for Waihi and Waikino we're building a new water intake facility on the upper Ohinemuri River, directly upstream from the Golden Valley Bridge. After construction of a new main pipeline from the Waihi Treatment Plant, this will allow Waikino's existing Mangakara Stream intake to be retired.

Due to go out for tender in a few weeks, the project includes a new water pipeline from the Golden Valley site to the Water Treatment Plant. This will skirt Waihi East, join existing Walmsley Stream intake pipeline at the intersection of Kent and Williams Street, then head up to the Plant via Lambert Street.

Waihi water works due to be completed by the end of this summer:

- Construction of a new water intake facility near the Golden Valley Bridge.
- Closing down the existing Waitete Stream intake facility.
- Upgrading the Waihi Water Treatment Plant on Bulltown Road.
- Installing new water mains from the Golden Valley site to the Waihi Water Treatment Plant and from the Waihi Water Treatment Plant to Waikino.

Old Waihi landfill not ready for new life yet

Ever wondered what happens to old landfills?

Once stabilised, they can be used as parks and golf courses – some have even gone on to lead a glamorous second life as airports. Waihi's landfill on Bulltown Road, closed in 2008, is a long way from being anything more than a sheep paddock though.

Recent rehabilitation work on the site has included levelling the ground and clearing overgrown weeds and vegetation. Council has also planted hundreds of native plants in the gully at the bottom of the site. 100 Kauri trees have been donated by Newmont Waihi Gold. These will be planted on site during next year's planting season.

"It will be years before we can do anything more than just maintain it," says Hauraki District Council Utilities Engineer Gordon Dabell.

Capped with a layer of clay to prevent rainwater trickling through and coming out as leachate (water contaminated with substances from the landfill), the waste will take decades to stabilise. In the meantime, trees can't be planted on the site because their roots might wriggle into the landfill, letting water through too. The hooves of heavy stock like cattle could also potentially pierce its waterproof surface. Light stock, like sheep, are okay but problems with stock theft in the area means it's more likely the site will be mown.

"Our long term plan for the area is just to maintain and monitor the site for gas (methane) emissions and leachate volumes in compliance with Waikato Regional Council resource consent regulations," says Dabell.

PUBLIC NOTICE

INTENDED AGRI-CHEMICAL APPLICATION

Weather permitting, herbicide applications will be made to property administered by Hauraki District Council. This will include parks and reserves, footpaths and walkways.

Both Roundup and Versatill will be used between the months of September 2014 to January 2015.

This work will be carried out by the Council's C&M Department, contractors or Waihi Walkways.

All applicators will be Grow safe accredited.

LD Cavers
Chief Executive
Hauraki District Council

Public meeting

Talisman Gold Mine Exploratory Underground Drilling and Blasting Resource Consent

How does this affect me?

How does this affect the environment?

Does this mean there will be mining in the Karangahake Gorge?

Last year Hauraki District Council granted resource consent to New Talisman Gold Mines Ltd to undertake exploratory underground drilling and blasting at the existing Talisman Gold Mine in Karangahake.

Over the last few weeks there has been some speculation and misinformation around what this actually means.

Hauraki District Mayor John Tregidga, Councillors, and Council staff invite all local residents and ratepayers to attend a public meeting to address any concerns and answer questions around this resource consent.

Where: Paeroa War Memorial Hall

When: 6pm, Tuesday September 30

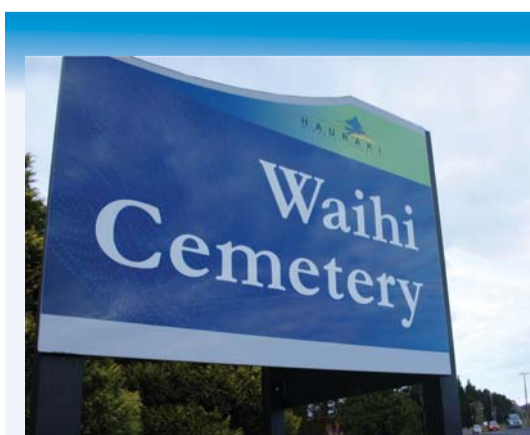
Waihi Ward projects in brief...

Barbie on the beach at Whiritoa

We've installed a new coin operated barbeque near the Whiritoa Surf Club, just in time for summer. Bring your snarlers, tomato sauce and tongs and get cooking.

Keeping our littlest residents happy

There's some new playground equipment at Morgan Park and Victoria (Rocket) Park in Waihi. Pack a picnic and try it out. You might want to take your kids along too!



Sign language

The Waihi Cemetery just south of town isn't hard to find. But from a distance, trees screen it from the state highway, and the speed of open-road traffic has meant drivers may not see the entrance until they need to turn into it.

That's until now – with the installation of a large new sign. The angled double-sided structure on the grass verge is clearly visible from both the northern and southern approaches, and we hope will be an aid to cemetery visitors and a safety improvement for motorists.