

Thursday, 24 November 2016

# Waihi Ward Reflections

This advertisement is authorised by the Hauraki District Council



## Good taste water treatment systems on the way

Two of only four specialist UV peroxide water treatment systems in the country will be installed at the Waihi and Paeroa Water Treatment plants over the next few months.

It is hoped the systems, designed to remove unpleasant taste and odour, will be operating in time to head-off issues experienced with drinking water in both towns last summer.

Likened to teenage boys' socks and mud by some, the 'earthy' water taste is caused by compounds released into the water by dying algae over summer.

Waihi Ward Chair Max Mclean says while it's proven the compounds are harmless and won't cause illness, many people find the taste and smell off-putting.

"Waihi's drinking water definitely left a bad taste in many people's mouths last summer, so we're doing something about it," he said.

Last summer  
Waihi water tasted  
like teenage boy  
socks!



Cockroach that  
survived a nuclear  
disaster but died  
from teenage boy  
sock smell!

Once the new  
treatment  
system is  
installed Waihi  
water will taste  
MINT!



### Waihi water - Where it's at

- Waihi's water needs have been traditionally met by the Walmsley and Waitete Streams.
- These streams don't carry enough water to support the town's demands during the dry season without water restrictions, so last year we installed infrastructure to take water from the Ohinemuri River for the first time.
- Unfortunately, the Ohinemuri River is more conducive to algal growth than the other streams. This can be a cause of the taste and odour that was unpalatable to many.
- We will try to avoid using the Ohinemuri River supply until the UV system is installed, but trade-offs for residents could include lower than usual water pressure, and/or water restrictions, depending on rainfall and river levels over the coming months.



### What kind of dad do YOU wanna be?

Join our local leaders Mayor John Tregidga and Deputy Mayor Toby Adams and say **YES to respectful relationships**. The pair recently signed a pledge to "stand up, speak out and act to prevent men's violence towards women" in support of White Ribbon Day.

White Ribbon Day is an international campaign held every year on 25 November with events occurring throughout November. It aims to end men's violence towards women by encouraging men to lead by example and talk to other men.

*"My challenge to every male is to wear the white ribbon, say yes to respectful relationships, and be a good role model for your sons,"*

*John Tregidga, Mayor*

### Blasted tiles solve slippery problem

Earlier this week border tiles in the Waihi CBD, which can be slippery when wet, were blasted with a very high pressure water system designed to rough up the surface by removing all the fine sand and cement. A number of different solutions to this slippery problem have been trialled in the past with little success, but we're optimistic we've found the answer this time round.

## Good question!

# Why were no tsunami sirens activated in Whiritoa?

Following last week's quake, the Whiritoa Fire Force was monitoring the situation, which was evaluated at below the level of risk that would prompt an evacuation. Members of the Hauraki Civil Defence team also responded to the event and were in attendance at the Emergency Operation Centre in Thames.

### Sirens were not activated for two main reasons:

#### 1 Research shows Whiritoa Beach would only be mildly affected in a tsunami event.

- In partnership with Waikato Regional Council we've put a lot of effort into tsunami risk analysis throughout the district over the last few years.
- The threat to the Whiritoa community was assessed through tsunami modelling and it has been proven that in a significant tsunami event the area would be no more inundated than it would be in a serious flood event.
- The same modelling showed Whangamata and Whitianga are at much greater risk. For this reason, Whiritoa is not linked to the Thames Coromandel siren warning system.
- More information about the tsunami risk in Whiritoa can be found on the Waikato Regional Council website.

#### 2 It's recognised nationally that sirens are not the best means of warning for communities in the case of a potential tsunami.

- Sirens can cause people to become complacent and only leave the coast if they hear an alarm
- There is a lack of consistency nationally around the type of alarms sounded. For example the alarm used to alert people of a tsunami risk in Thames-Coromandel, means the 'all clear' in Auckland.
- If a tsunami is triggered from a nearby earthquake, by the time the alarm is activated people might already be treading water.

### How will I know when to evacuate?

Should the need for the Whiritoa community to evacuate have arisen the community would have been notified via other means (than a siren) i.e. fire engines and loud hailer. Given the location of the earthquake some distance from Whiritoa, there would have been time to do this. However, the current advice from the Ministry of Civil Defence is to be aware of the natural warning signs of tsunami and take responsibility for yourself and your family.

### Warning signs of tsunami

1. **Strong earthquake i.e. it is hard to stand up.**
2. **Long, rolling earthquake i.e shaking of unusually long duration that lasts for 60 seconds or more.**
3. **Out of ordinary sea behaviour i.e. unusual and sudden sea level fall and/or rise.**
4. **Coastal water making loud unusual noise – especially roaring like a jet engine.**

If you observe any of these signs go immediately inland or to higher ground. Don't wait for official instructions but **Do** take your emergency survival getaway kit.

Information and updates will be provided on the radio and through the Red Cross Hazards app.

## Have you heard about the Red Cross Hazards app?

Civil Defence teams across New Zealand are encouraging communities to download the app to get emergency alerts direct to your smart phone from official agencies like Civil Defence, Council, GNS Science, MetService and more.

- Get Emergency alerts
- Send I AM SAFE messages to friends and family.
- Monitor up to five locations (Such as home, bach and family.)
- Step-by-step guides to assembling emergency survival items, making a getaway kit and creating a household emergency plan
- Pre-load guides in case you lose mobile coverage
- The app even has a disaster toolkit including a torch, audible alarm and a strobe light.

To download the app search for Red Cross Hazards app in your Apple Store or on Google Play or use the QR code if you have the reader.



Waikato Civil Defence is now using the Red Cross Hazards app to push real-time emergency notifications

AVAILABLE FREE

