

Wednesday, 24 December 2014

# Waihi Ward Reflections

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## Season's greetings and a happy New Year

*As another year has rushed by, I hope you can take an opportunity to reflect on what it has meant to you. It's so easy to become engulfed by the busyness and sometimes stresses of Christmas – just when we should be taking a breather to recharge our batteries, enjoying the beautiful District we live in, and spending some quality time with family and friends.*

*Christmas is not about the presents and commercialism, but about people: acknowledging and respecting those close or important to us, celebrating and relaxing with them.*

*The spirit of that is demonstrated in festivities like the Open Door Christmas Dinner in Waihi, and 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 the people in our community.*

*I appreciate all the support from residents over the past 12 months, and on behalf of our councillors and staff, we wish you a happy, refreshing and safe Christmas and New Year.*

**John Tregidga, Mayor, MNZM JP**

## Summer dog restrictions now apply at the beach

- As beach owners and other holidaymakers join permanent residents at Whiritoa, the expanding population includes dogs, too.
- We remind dog owners to be considerate of other beach users, for everyone's enjoyment. From December 20 to March 1 and on public holiday weekends, dogs are prohibited from Whiritoa beach and lagoon area – including beach recreation reserve and the dotterel nesting area south of Tuna Place – between the hours of 9am and 7pm. Children's playgrounds are also off limits.
- However, before 9am and after 7pm during this period, dogs can walk or run on the main beach with or without a leash, provided they're under the effective control of their owners or minders.
- As anywhere in the District, when exercising your dog, please carry a supply of bags for picking up any droppings, and dispose of them in the doggie doo bin near the surf club or at home. While this applies at all times of year, odour and fly problems are exacerbated in summer, and there are more people sharing the outdoor space.

## Liftoff for refurbished facilities

- The public toilets at Victoria Park – popularly known as Rocket Park for its landmark children's slide – have reopened after six weeks of renovations.
- Repairs were needed to fix accumulated wear and tear and damage, and with growing numbers of playground users and Hauraki Rail Trail cyclists visiting the park, we also took the opportunity to do some upgrade work during the closure.
- There's fresh paint inside and out, and the floors have been leveled and resurfaced to stop water from ponding, and power is now connected to provide for hand dryers and internal lighting.
- As well as making the facilities more welcoming, we hope this last feature will help deter vandalism during night hours when the toilets are closed. We want to keep the toilets spick and span, comfortable and in excellent working order for residents and visitors – so anyone who sees or suspects intentional damage is asked report it to Waihi police straight away, or phone the Council on 0800 734 834 (from within the district). Our contact information is included on signage at the toilets.

## New office is the "best of both worlds"



**A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN:** Sharlene Kelly and Krista Harries outside the Waihi Events Centre, where Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki has rented office space for Project Energize staff.

When you live in the Waihi area, work in a total of about 40 schools and preschools in the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel Districts, and travel to regional meetings in Hamilton, where do you have your office?

For Project Energize staffers Sharlene Kelly and Krista Harries, their cars have been their offices – along with a bit of table space at home. But now Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki, the iwi-based health and wellness agency which delivers the Project Energize programme jointly with Sport Waikato, has the use of an actual office in our Waihi Events Centre.

"It's great to have this facility while also being mobile – we have the best of both worlds," says Sharlene. Most of her schools are in the Waihi cluster, and sharing the office with under-5s energizer Krista provides for the two to work together to dovetail their respective programmes for younger and older children.

It's a bonus that the adjoining office in the Events Centre is occupied by Sport 'n' Action Waihi, as the services definitely complement each other. Project Energize – linking in with Te Korowai's public health team – aims to improve children's nutrition and physical activity levels, reduce obesity rates and lower cardiovascular risk factors.

Sharlene was a phys-ed trained secondary school teacher prior to starting her hands-on Energizer role about two-and-a-half years ago. Krista's background in paediatric nursing is fitting, too, and she's a qualified swim instructor. Her work in early childhood centres is still in pilot phase, but 18 months in, improvements are already evident in under-5s' health checks. "Being mums ourselves helps a lot," she says.

The pair's work doesn't stop when school's out: there's plenty of planning and administration to be done in the office. They've also used the mezzanine lounge of the Events Centre to host workshops; and envisage holding some future children's activities in the main hall.

The Te Korowai team is excited that Project Energize and Under 5 Energise staff can share an office base in Waihi, says its general manager of services Debbie Petersen. "It's good for collaboration, and excellent for the local community."

As well as making the office space available, the Council is supporting the initiative by meeting the rental cost for the first six months.

Project Energize is one of Te Korowai's many free mobile services offered in the Waihi area. Others include Oranga Wairua palliative care, Te Taha Hinengaro mental health and additions assistance, home-based support, Aukati Kaipapa (smoking cessation), Whānau Ora chronic disease management, Outreach Immunisation, and Tamariki Ora/Well Child.



## Waihi Ward - HDC Service timetable for 24 December 2014 to 5 January 2015

	Wednesday 24 Dec	Thursday 25 Dec	Friday 26 Dec	Saturday 27 Dec	Sunday 28 Dec	Monday 29 Dec	Tuesday 30 Dec	Wednesday 31 Dec	Thursday 1 Jan	Friday 2 Jan	Saturday 3 Jan	Sunday 4 Jan	Monday 5 Jan
Waihi Council Office	8.00am to 12 noon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8.00am to 4.30pm	8.00am to 4.30pm	8.00am to 4.30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	8.00am to 4.30pm
Waihi Library	9.30am to 12 noon	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10.00am to 4.30pm	10.00am to 4.30pm	10.00am to 4.30pm	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	10.00am to 4.30pm
Waihi Swimming Pool	6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)	Closed	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)	6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)	6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)	6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)	Closed	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)	11.00am to 5.00pm (public swim)	6.00am to 9.00am (lane swimming) 9.00am to 5:30pm (public swim)
Waihi Transfer Station	10.00am to 4.00pm	Closed	Closed	10.00am to 4.00pm	10.00am to 4.00pm	10.00am to 4.00pm	Closed	10.00am to 4.00pm	Closed	Closed	10.00am to 4.00pm	10.00am to 4.00pm	10.00am to 4.00pm
Kerbside Refuse and Recycling Collection	Whiritoa extra collection Refuse bags & glass only		Waihi Waikino Refuse bags & recycling	Whiritoa extra collection Refuse bags & glass only		Whiritoa normal collection Refuse bags & recycling		Whiritoa extra collection Refuse bags & glass only	Waihi Waikino Refuse bags only		Whiritoa extra collection Refuse bags & glass only		Whiritoa normal collection Refuse bags & recycling