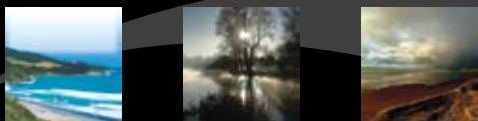


Jun-Jul 2010



THE LINK

Waikato District News

High time for tea

It was a camellia flowering, lush and green on Mr Chen's neighbour's lawn in the Waikato that was the catalyst for the 48 hectare Zealong tea estate in Gordonton. Mr Chen, a tea lover, was struck by the similarities between camellia leaves and Oolong tea leaves and saw the potential to create the world's purest Oolong tea in the clean environment and fertile soil of the Waikato District.

There have been lessons learnt and Zealong Directors, Mr Chen and his son Vincent credit hard work, patience and the support from partners including Waikato District Council in helping to pave the way.

Mayor Peter Harris sees projects like the Zealong tea estate as economically significant for the district. "When we are presented with a development of this potential, Council's attitude is how can we help make this happen and where can we add value?" he said. "Our aim is to support initiatives like this and build an ongoing relationship."

Zealong Director and General Manager, Vincent Chen loves his tea. It was Vincent who propagated the first seedlings in the backyard of the family home. After quarantine, the original 1500 seedlings imported were reduced to 130 sickly plants. He talked to them, loved them, watered them and fed them with milk powder. "Tea plants are part of my family" says Vincent. His task was not only to produce a premium single source tea, grown spray free without chemicals or



Hand harvesting tea in Gordonton: Zealong Director Vincent Chen at the tea estate. Photo Peter Drury.

additives in the Waikato, it also involved the complex process of negotiating New Zealand's regulatory framework.

"If you want to do business in New Zealand, you need a lot of patience," says Vincent. "Take the time to learn the culture, because the rules are different here."

It was no easy path. After 13 years of hard work and experimentation almost a million tea plants are thriving at the Zealong tea estate and Vincent hopes that one day people will think of Zealong in the same way we think of kiwifruit or sauvignon blanc wine.

The Gordonton tea plantation is home to a retail store and the aptly named Camellia Tea House. Future plans for the Gordonton estate include a tea processing factory and a visitors' centre where Vincent plans to display the original 130 tea plants.



Mayor Peter Harris and Vincent Chen at the Camellia Tea House.

Producing the perfect Oolong requires the right environment, a combination of rainfall, temperature, soil and sunlight. The taste is in the tea. Zealong tea is pure, fresh and wonderfully fragrant ■

The Camellia Tea House on the Zealong tea estate is open Thursday to Sunday 10am – 5pm. Zealong tea can be purchased at the retail shop 9am-5pm Monday to Sunday. For more information visit www.zealong.co.nz

Mayor's message

The Joint Management Agreement (JMA) signed in March between Waikato District Council and Waikato-Tainui is a bold step forward for our region. It has strengthened the partnership between Council and Waikato-Tainui, providing us with an opportunity for ongoing dialogue and paving the way for an exciting new era of co-management of the Waikato River.

The process of getting to this point has required a huge leap of faith on both sides and I am proud of the visionary stance taken by this Council and excited about the potential this has for the future.

The JMA signing was tinged with sadness at the passing of Lady Mahuta, co-negotiator of the Waikato River settlement. This is a lasting tribute to her huge contribution to the settlement. The completion of this JMA was one of her final wishes.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Waikato-Tainui co-negotiator Tukoroirangi Morgan. His dedication and enthusiasm has been integral in shaping this agreement.

Protecting our rural land resource is essential to the growth of the Waikato District. Currently Council is working through a review of the rural subdivision strategy. There are a number of changes proposed that will have an impact on future planning and decision-making for those affected.

This month a series of public consultation meetings will be held throughout the district and I would encourage all those affected to attend and give us your feedback. This is your chance to find out more and contribute some valuable input.



Peter Harris
Mayor



Our libraries are online

We have great news for all our library customers – the entire library catalogue is now online. This means every book, magazine, music CD, and DVD is listed on a simple to access, online catalogue.

"It's great to be online" says Customer Delivery Manager, Clive Morgan. "We launched a new library system two years ago and this is the next stage in giving our library customers a better library experience. It's fantastic."

The online catalogue includes all the titles available from the Ngaruawahia, Huntly, Te Kauwhata, Raglan and Meremere libraries.

The new catalogue system not only shows what is available to borrow, it will also list the titles of all new publications before they arrive so that they, along with any other title, can be reserved in advance. Library card users can now check the number of items they have out and see when they are due back.

There's a lot to read about in our libraries including some exciting new titles written by local authors. 'Footballers Don't Cry' written by Kawhia local, William Smith and 'The End of an Era', a history of Glen Massey written by Gwyneth Jones are two new titles available now ■

To view the library catalogue online
visit www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz

Public open days

Subdivision and development in rural areas

The population of the Waikato District is expected to double in the next 50 years to 88,000 people in 36,500 homes. As this growth will impact on a range of factors including the environment, the infrastructure and the patterns of settlement across the district, it needs to be well managed and sustainable for both current and future generations.

The Waikato District Growth Strategy outlines how the district will manage growth in the future and the growth strategy to be implemented over time through the District Plan. Much of the Waikato district is productive farmland, complemented by outstanding landscapes and coastlines. The Growth Strategy signals that the productive potential of rural land, and the district's unique landscapes, coastline and cultural assets, should be preserved and promoted.

Using infrastructure efficiently and safeguarding the productive potential of rural land means some tightening of the District Plan rules for subdivision and development in rural areas needs to be considered.

How will any changes affect me?
Council is currently reviewing the subdivision and residential development provisions in the Proposed Waikato District Plan for rural and coastal areas. Some changes are proposed to the existing rules for the Rural and Coastal zones, and to the policy framework.

A number of open days are scheduled for Council to discuss these changes with the community and to give the opportunity for feedback and suggestions on how our rural areas should be managed ■

Open Days

The dates and locations of the open days are:

Te Kowhai

Monday 24 May, 4.30-7.30pm
Te Kowhai Hall
612 Horotiu Road, Te Kowhai

Taupiri

Tuesday 25 May, 4.30 – 7.30pm
Taupiri War Memorial Hall
Greenlane Road, Taupiri

Te Uku

Wednesday 26 May, 5.00 – 8.00pm
Te Uku & District Memorial Hall
State Highway 23, Te Uku

Te Akau

Thursday 27 May, 5.00 – 8.00pm
Te Akau Waingaro Community Complex
612 Te Akau Road, Te Akau

Gordonton

Monday 31 May, 4.30 – 7.30pm
Gordonton Hall
1024 Gordonton Road, Gordonton

Ruawaro

Tuesday 1 June, 4.30 - 7.30pm
Central Districts Memorial Hall (Ruawaro Hall)
Corner Hetherington & Ruawaro Roads, Ruawaro

Ohinewai/Waiterimu

Wednesday 2 June, 3.30 – 6.30pm
Waiterimu Golf Club
Cnr Storey Road and Mangapiko Valley Road, Ohinewai

Maramarua

Thursday 3 June, 4.30 - 7.30pm
Maramarua Hall
2258 State Highway 2, Maramarua

Matangi/Tamahere

Friday 4 June, 4.30 - 7.30pm
Matangi Hall
478 Tauwhare Road, Matangi

Ngaruawahia

Wednesday 9 June, 4.00– 6.00pm
Ngaruawahia War Memorial Hall
Galileo Street, Ngaruawahia

It is important we revitalise and plan for the growth of our towns and villages to encourage population growth in these areas.

There is no need to advise you are coming to the open days
everyone is welcome!

More information is available on Council's website
www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz
and at Waikato District Libraries.

Alternatively you can contact the Policy Planning team
07 824 8633
if you have any queries.



smartwateruse[®] on dairy farms

Why bother?

Reasons to use water more efficiently and reduce water loss...

- Saves money
- Part of good farm management
- Helps protect the local environment
- Good for the industry and good for New Zealand.

Smart Water Use is a DairyNZ programme.
More info at www.dairynz.co.nz/smartwateruse

Speed limit reviews

Each year the Waikato District Council reviews speed limits on all roads within the district, as a requirement under the Speed Limits Amendment Act 2003.

As part of the review process, residents can submit requests for speed limit changes to Council to be considered in this review.

A review of the roads is carried out in September/October. Any recommendations for change are then submitted for consideration to Council's Roading Committee and the New

Zealand Transport Agency followed by public consultation on any proposed speed limit changes. As our speed limits are reviewed regularly, unless there has been a significant change in development on the road concerned, a review is unlikely.

Any request for possible changes to a speed limit must be submitted to Council by 31 July.

For more information visit www.waikatodc.govt.nz and go to Bylaws/Speed Limits.



Shaping Tamahere's future

Residents have the opportunity to get involved in the review of the Tamahere Country Living Zone provisions under the District Plan. This project is part of a review of the existing Tamahere Structure Plan.

The Tamahere Community Committee and Waikato District Council staff are working together to finalise a project brief for this work. The review will be notified as a variation to the District Plan in May 2011.

The project will include significant community consultation and anyone wanting input into this process is encouraged to contact Maggie Wilcock, Committee Secretary on 07 856 7633 ■



The exuberant Waikato District Council staff teams after walking a gruelling 100kms.

No pain no gain for our heroes

Blisters, aching muscles and a badly sprained ankle were all part of the journey for eight Waikato District Council staff who walked a gruelling 100 kilometres in the Oxfam Trailwalker event to raise more than \$6,500 for Oxfam New Zealand.

The two teams of four blitzed the recommended finishing time of 36 hours in the event that took place during the weekend of 10 - 11 April near Taupo. The Waikato Wanders breezed in at 28 hours and 48 minutes, with the Waikato Wonderfools not far behind on 29 hours and 55 minutes.

Teams walked through the night, stopping at each of the seven checkpoints for a 30 minute refresh. Motivation was strong, encouraged

by team camaraderie and the generous support received from sponsors including Strada Corporation, Schick Construction & Cartage, Opus, GHD, Grey Matter and Six Foot Four. We thank the generosity and support of our sponsors ■

.....
 Oxfam Trailwalker NZ is an annual fundraising event organised and promoted by Oxfam New Zealand. Funds raised from the event will support Oxfam New Zealand's humanitarian, development and advocacy work to improve the lives of the world's poorest people. For more information visit www.oxfam.org.nz



Have you enrolled to vote?

2010 is our year for Local Body Elections. This year the election will take place on 9 October for the Waikato District to include the new Awaroa ki Tuakau and Onewhero Wards and the Onewhero-Tuakau Community Board.

Local Body elections are held every three years to give the public an opportunity to vote for the Mayor and Councillors they think will best represent and improve the district.

This is also a chance to stand for a position on the Council or your local Community Board. Advertisements will be placed in local newspapers in late July asking for nominations for those who want to stand for election to a position in their Ward or Community Board.

To enrol, or to check and update your details, visit any PostShop, Registrar of Electors Office, library or courthouse. Alternatively go online to enrol or update your details on www.elections.org.nz



All you need to do now to be eligible to vote is to make sure your name and address are correctly recorded on the Parliamentary Electoral Roll.

If you know you are on the roll but have moved or changed your name since the last general election, your details need to be updated ■

Save money Register your dog on time

Do you have a dog? In the Waikato District, all dogs, from three months of age, must be registered with Waikato District Council. Dog registration lasts for one year (from 1 July to 30 June the following year). Waikato District Council sends renewal notices to owners of known dogs to remind them to register their dog. Expiry dates are marked on registration tags and dog registration reminders are advertised each year.



You can save 15 percent or more on registration fees by renewing your dog registration before 1 August 2010.

How much does it cost?
Registration costs vary. Waikato District Council encourages responsible dog ownership by reducing registration fees for dog owners who meet certain criteria. To find out your fee, please contact the Council on 07 834 8633.

What if I don't register my dog?
The Dog Control Act 1996 requires every dog owner to register their dog/s with their local Council. Failing to do so can result in:

- seizure of the dog/s from private property
- having to pay an infringement fee of \$300
- prosecution ■

Please contact Council for more information if:

- you have a new dog to register
- any of your details, such as your address, have changed
- any of your dog's details have changed (e.g. you no longer own the dog)

Use your meter and save

Did you know that your water meter can alert you to a costly leak? Reading your water meter on a regular basis can indicate a water leak on your property. It makes sense to monitor your water use to get the most out of your water supply. Your efforts will help the environment and reduce your water charges.

Remember, all the water that passes through the water meter is charged for.

As rural meters are read twice a year, an undetected leak in a water distribution system will impact on your water charges. Reading the meter on a regular basis, say once a week on the same day, can reveal changes to the regular pattern of water use. If you find you have a leak using this test, the leak will be within your water system.

Dripping taps in the home are an obvious culprit but often the leaks on rural properties can be harder to detect. Loose pipe fittings on water lines to troughs are typical and harder to identify as they are out of sight.

A minor leak, the size of a nail hole, can release 1 cubic metre of water a day. With current water charges at \$1.34 per cubic metre, a small leak can add \$489 a year in unnecessary charges.

Locate the leak

Taps and pipe fittings -

A dripping tap can waste more than 100 litres of water per day or 36,500 litres of water a year. A dripping tap may simply need a new washer. Make it a regular habit to check water pipe fittings around troughs and ballcocks for leaks.

Toilet cistern -

Check the overflow pipe on the outside of the house. If it drips water, the float valve in your cistern may need to be adjusted. Put some food colouring in the cistern. If it appears in the toilet bowl, the flush valve in the cistern may need adjusting.

Hot water cylinder -

Look under your cylinder, if the floor is wet, the cylinder may need to be replaced. This will also affect your power bill. Check the overflow pipe, this is the thin pipe protruding from the roof. A continuous trickle from the pipe indicates the cylinder valve is faulty. Water cylinder repairs are a specialist job. If your cylinder is leaking, we recommend you call a plumber ■

Getting a fair share of rural water



Council staff are constantly maintaining and checking rural meters to ensure that those in rural areas are on trickle feed. People in rural areas should get the standard 1,800 litres/day and have a storage tank and a pump system to get water at the correct pressure into their homes.

Flow restrictors needed

It is Council's role to improve the system and to provide everyone where possible with a fair share of the available water. All rural connections are being checked for flow restrictors and those that are not on restricted flow, will be informed that this needs to be corrected. Flow restrictors can be absent for a number of reasons and their absence isn't only specific to older connections. For example, rural residents can be unaware their newer connections may not have a flow restrictor installed when they have been left out by the developer or contractor who put the water pipe in.

Water allocation

High usage, particularly over summer, increases the load on our systems. To ensure everyone is able to receive an ongoing supply of water, the standard allocation has been set at 1,800litres/day.

Extra water allocation can be purchased from Council. Each additional cubic metre (1,000 litres) of water per day currently costs \$1,500 as a one-off payment, plus the water used ■

If you would like information on additional water allocation contact the Water & Facilities team on 07 824 8633.

What's happening

Briefly

The Waitakururu Arboretum and Sculpture Park Winter Collection

Take a winter walk through this formerly derelict quarry, now transformed into a 42-acre garden and arboretum. The arboretum has been awarded the prestigious 'Garden of Significance' status from the New Zealand Garden Trust. It is the location of New Zealand's most extensive sculpture gallery.

☐ 1 June – 19 November

🕒 Open daily, 10am until dusk

📍 207 Scotsman Valley Road, RD 4, Hamilton
Entry Fee \$10 per person. Children under 12 years old free, under adult supervision only.

Hampton Downs Market Day

With a huge variety of over 60 different stalls to browse there are always some amazing bargains and interesting produce to be found.

☐ 6 June

🕒 9am

📍 Only two minutes drive from State Highway 1 – follow the signs to Hampton Downs.

✉ Christine.lallufarms@xtra.co.nz

Raglan Creative market. Whaingaroa local kai and arts

A quality market showcasing unique handmade arts and designware, original fashion clothing and jewellery, delicious food and fresh produce in a vibrant environment. The Creative Market is on every second Sunday of each month.

☐ 13 June

🕒 10am – 2pm

📍 The Old School Arts Centre, Stewart Street, Raglan

www.raglanmarket.com

☎ Jacqueline

✉ info@raglanartscentre.co.nz

☎ 07 825 0023.

Rates rebate reminder

If you haven't yet applied for a rates rebate you still have time. Applications for the 2009/2010 year will close on 30 June 2010.

Ratepayers who qualify can either come into the Council office or call 07 824 8633 for more information on how to apply.

Flush a mug

Some plumbing fittings have the potential to harbor minute traces of metals that accumulate in water standing in the fittings for several hours.

Although the health risk is minimal, the Ministry of Health recommends that you flush a mugful of water from the tap you drink from each morning before use to remove any metals that may have dissolved from the plumbing fittings.

We are recommending this simple precaution for all households, including those on public and private water supplies.

New opening hours for Ngaruawahia office

The opening hours for Waikato District Council's Ngaruawahia office have changed.

New opening hours:

Monday – Thursday 8am-5pm

Friday 9am – 5pm

Think green for recycling

Have a thought for our recycling staff when putting out your empty bottles. Bottles in cardboard cartons pose a risk for our collectors, particularly if they still contain liquids.

Use your green bin for your recyclable glass, plastic and cans on your designated collection day. Glass, plastic or cans placed in cartons will not be collected.

Remember to empty all bottles and rinse food containers before putting them into the supplied green bin. Paper and cardboard can be bundled for collection and placed alongside.

What to recycle

In your green bin: Glass, metals, aluminium and steel cans, supermarket bags and plastics coded 1, 2 and 5 (look for the triangle symbol on the base)

Beside the bin: Paper and cardboard ■

If you'd like an event to be listed in the next issue of The Link or on Council's website, www.waikatodistrict.govt.nz, email louise.belay@waidc.govt.nz.



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ENQUIRY
LINE

freephone
0800 492 452

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publicenquiries@waidc.govt.nz

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T. 07 828 7551

Raglan Area Office
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NEW ZEALAND

Waikato

DISTRICT COUNCIL
your community partner

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