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IN OTHER NEWS

July 2015

[Aka Aka Otatau Drainage Subcommittee](#) (Waiuku)
Friday 10 July 2015 –
9.00am

[Chief Executive Employment and Remuneration Committee](#)
Tuesday 14 July 2015 –
9.00am

[Strategy and Policy Committee](#)
Tuesday 14 July 2015 –
10.30am

[Waikato Plan Joint Committee](#) (Te Awamutu)
Friday 24 July 2015 –
9.30am

Good weekend for bird spotting



We've checked the weather forecast for the weekend and it's looking pretty good for getting out into the the garden. And that's excellent news, since the annual [NZ Garden Bird Survey](#) kicks off this Saturday!

This is a citizen science project that documents garden bird populations throughout the country. Many of our rare and endangered birds are being closely monitored, but this helps us learn more about the population trends of the more common species populating our gardens.

The results are of particular interest to our biodiversity officers, and especially those involved with the [Hamilton Halo project](#). Find out more about the survey on the [Landcare Research website](#).

Do you use free geothermal bathing spots: survey



Council meeting
Thursday 30 June 2015 –
10.30am



From time to time we report on the value of geothermal uses to the regional economy. This includes a count of people who use free geothermal bathing sites such as those that are found at Hot Water Beach on the Coromandel, the Butchers Pool at Reporoa, and Kerosene Creek at Waiotapu.

If you've been to any sites like these in the region within the last few years, please help out by [completing this super short survey](#).

Waipā Rerenoa: Community planting day



People are being invited to grab their spades and gumboots for a community planting day to restore the Mohoanui Stream in the King Country.

The community planting day is being held on Saturday, 4 July and will begin with a karakia at 9am at the Te Keeti Marae.

The Waipā Rerenoa River Restoration Project focuses on the Waipā River. The confluence of the Mohoanui Stream and the Waipā River is directly next to Te Keeti Marae and is also part of this restoration project.

This project covers 6km of the Waipā River and will involve removing willow trees and other invasive weeds from the riparian margin, re-installing a fence with a minimum 5 metre buffer from the river bank and replanting the riparian margin with native plants.

Whānau from Te Keeti Marae are focused on restoring 800m of the Mohoanui Stream which meanders through Māori trust land and runs adjacent to the marae and Otorohanga Primary School. The Mohoanui Stream used to be a great habitat for watercress and whanau from the marae used this food source, but it has diminished over the years. This

project aims to re-establish watercress into the Mohoanui Stream.

The project is supported by Waikato Regional Council, the Waikato River Authority, Maniapoto Māori Trust Board, Ōtorohanga District Council, Mighty River Power, the Native Forest Restoration Trust and Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust.

Community planting day: Saturday, 4 July

What to bring: spade, gumboots, warm clothes and wet weather gear.

RSVP: A light lunch will be provided. Please RSVP for catering purposes: Tramaine@maniapoto.co.nz or 07 873 7904.

Buzz at Fieldays



Staff working on our site at Fieldays earlier this month were kept busy talking to farmers about a range of on farm issues, from riparian management and pest control to soil health and working within the rules.

We also took the opportunity to find out more about how Waikato farmers access news and information. More than 600 people completed the survey, and are in the draw to win an iPhone 6.

The lucky winner will be drawn next Wednesday, and will be [posted here](#).

For farmers



We're hiring



People best solution for rivers





The stakeholder group developing policy to protect fresh water in the Waikato and Waipa river catchments is encouraging people to be part of the solution.

Later in 2015, the **Collaborative Stakeholder Group** (CSG), a key part of the **Healthy Rivers: Plan for Change/Wai Ora: He Rautaki Whakapaipai** project, will ask people for their opinions on a range of possible options for a proposed change to the Waikato Regional Plan.

CGG chair Bill Wasley said: “To develop the best solution for the rivers, we’ll need people to have their say and help shape development of the plan change.

“All you need to do is go to waikatoregion.govt.nz/healthyrivers and provide your email address. We’ll be in touch with details on how you can give us feedback later in 2015.”

At their June workshop the CSG selected four possible future scenarios for the catchments they want to investigate. The CSG will be provided with the economic, environmental, cultural and social implications of these scenarios:

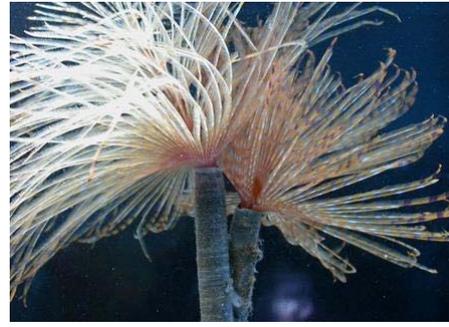
1. Substantial improvement in water quality for swimming, taking food and healthy biodiversity (improvement everywhere, even if already meeting minimum acceptable standards)
2. No further degradation and improving to at least minimum acceptable standard for all attributes
3. Some general improvement in water quality for swimming, taking food and healthy biodiversity (but may not reach minimum acceptable standard everywhere). (This scenario could be a ‘stepping stone’.)
4. No further degradation (in spite of projected extra contaminant loads from groundwater).

The CSG also agreed on freshwater management units for the catchments and policy selection criteria at their June workshop.

The proposed plan change will go to council for adoption in April 2016, with public notification shortly after.

Boaties urged to help stop spread of marine pest

Boaties and marine farmers around the Coromandel Peninsula are being urged to take extra care after recent new finds of the marine pest fan worm (Sabella) in Coromandel Harbour.



The council and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) have been working together to eliminate the fan worm since it was first discovered in the harbour in 2013. This first outbreak involved two infested barges from Auckland and was managed successfully in a joint operation.

Monitoring for fan worm undertaken since the 2013 operation in Coromandel Harbour has involved divers inspecting moorings, the seafloor, vessels, mussel farms and structures. Generally, only small, localised colonies of fan worms have been found and these have been removed immediately.

However, this autumn, monitoring has picked up increased signs of the pest. Six heavily fouled vessels in the harbour had Sabella on their hulls, while four fan worms were found at Hannafords Jetty. All were immediately removed.

And after being contacted about the possibility of fan worm being on two marine farms in the harbour, we've carried out closer checks of them, and have found a low presence of Sabella. We're looking to carry out further inspections of other farms in the Coromandel Harbour and Firth of Thames.

"The new finds made through this monitoring highlight how important it is for boaties and marine farmers to be extremely vigilant and keep their equipment clean to avoid spreading this pest. It can grow prolifically, forming dense colonies, crowding out other marine life in harbours and potentially impacting aquaculture in the area," said Waikato Regional Council pest animals team leader Brett Bailey.

What you can do to help stop the spread

- Have your moored boat hulls cleaned and fresh anti-fouling paint applied regularly.
- If you think you have seen this pest, or who spot any other unusual looking marine animal, report it to MPI's pest and diseases hotline 0800 809966 or call the council on 0800 800 401.

More information on fan worm, including photos, can be found at www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests/mediterranean-fanworm.

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