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#### COUNCIL MEETINGS

##### May 2014

Hearing Appointment Subcommittee (if required)  
Thursday 8 May 2014 – 9.30am

Strategy and Policy Committee  
Thursday 8 May 2014 – 10.00am

Aka Aka Otatau Drainage Subcommittee  
Friday 9 May 2014 –

## Tips to reduce your winter crash risk



All road users are being urged to increase their visibility on Waikato's roads to help reduce the risk of crashes over the coming winter months.

The "headlights on" safety messages form one part of the '[reduce the risk](#)' winter campaign and will be seen on highway billboards being installed across the Waikato from this week.

Waikato Regional Council has also joined with Waikato Police to encourage other road users to do everything they can to be seen.

"It's not just about ensuring you can see the road in front and any hazards," said Waikato Regional Council's road safety manager, Jo Carling.

"With the onset of winter it's about doing all you can to help other motorists see you too, whether it's day or night," Ms Carling said.

"It's not just motorists we're appealing to. We're also urging pedestrians, cyclists, and any other person using the roads to make

9.00am

Upper Waikato Liaison  
Zone Subcommittee  
Friday 9 May 2014 –  
10.00am

2014/15 Annual Plan  
Hearings  
Monday 12 to Wednesday  
14 May 2014 – 10.00am

Finance Committee  
Thursday 15 May 2014 –  
10.00am

Waipa Liaison Zone  
Subcommittee  
Wednesday 21 May 2014  
– 10.00am

Lower Waikato Liaison  
Zone Subcommittee  
Thursday 22 May 2014 –  
10.00am

Central Waikato Liaison  
Zone Subcommittee  
Friday 23 May 2014 –  
10.00am

2014/15 Annual Plan  
Deliberations  
Tuesday 27 to  
Wednesday 28 May 2014  
– 9.00am

Council  
Thursday 29 May 2014 –  
10.30am

Visit our website for [full meeting details, including agendas](#).

sure they're seen this winter. That means turning on lights and wearing bright-coloured clothing or hi-vis gear to minimise the risk of collisions," she said.

Messaging on state highway billboards, will also encourage motorists to increase following distances and proactively manage the increased risk that colder, icier and wetter road conditions bring.

## Hunters urged to clean equipment between waterways



With the game season opening over the weekend, [Waikato Regional Council](#) and the Ministry for Primary Industries are reminding hunters and duck shooters of the importance of cleaning their equipment between waterways to avoid the spread of unwanted freshwater pests.

"Unwanted freshwater pests such as didymo, hornwort and lagarosiphon continue to pose a serious threat to our rivers, streams and lakes. Once in a waterway they can disperse rapidly causing large economic impacts and destroying the environmental, recreational and aesthetic values of our waterways," said council biosecurity group manager John Simmons.

"We still have a chance to stop the spread of these invasive pests. To date there have been no positive confirmations of didymo in the North Island, and the freshwater weed hornwort which is wide-spread throughout the North Island has recently been eradicated in the South Island.

"We are asking hunters moving between waterways to '[Check, Clean, Dry](#)' any equipment that has come into contact with river or lake water – particularly boots, decoys, boats and boat trailers.

"Some freshwater pests are microscopic and can be spread by a single drop of water. Even if you can't see the pest you could be spreading it."

**Check** items and leave any debris found at the waterway.

**Clean** all items for at least one minute with a 5 per cent solution of

biodegradable dishwashing solution – that's about one tablespoon of detergent per 250ml. Water absorbent materials such as boots require longer soaking times to allow thorough saturation.

**Dry** all items – even slightly moist items can harbour microscopic pests for months. To ensure cells are dead by drying, the item must be completely dry to the touch, inside and out, then left dry for at least another 48 hours before use.

## Making a ripple for a better environment

Meet Steve Gale from Hamilton. He stopped by our Ripple Effect stand at the recent Waikato Show and had a go at the 'Ripple Coin Drop'.

Steve was the lucky winner of the fabulous backyard ripple kit, comprising a compost tumbler, rain water barrel, tap timer and worm farm.

It's the first thing he's ever won and this keen lover of the environment says the kit fits perfectly into his backyard, alongside his chickens and honey bees.



With your help, \$125 was raised through the 'Ripple Coin Drop' which will be going to the environmental '**community ripple**' group which got the highest number of votes – the **Riverlea Environment Society**.

And just finally, a thank you to all the people who stopped at the Waikato Regional Council's stand in the Enviro Expo. It was great to meet and talk to people, young and not-so-young, about **The Ripple Effect**, **Hamilton Halo**, **Project Echo**, and how to **deal with weeds**.

## Water safety on show





Thousands of people with a love for the water are expected to attend New Zealand's largest **boat show** being held in Auckland over four days next week.

MarineMate – one of the country's top free sporting apps for iPhone and Android devices – will be on show at the event.

The app was a Waikato Regional Council initiative, funded by Maritime NZ, the ACC, Land Information NZ and regional councils, with support from Water Safety New Zealand.

MarineMate was released late last year and has up-to-date tide information, boat ramp locations, safe boating checklists, and local boating area information on such things as 5 knot zones, towing lanes and swimming areas.

Visit the 'MarineMate Shack' in hall four at the **ASB Showgrounds, from 15-18 May 2014**, and enter the draw to win an iPhone 5S.

Harbourmasters from Northland, Auckland and the Bay of Plenty will also be sharing a stand at the show, with plenty of advice and information to make our waterways safer for all water users.

## Regional council supports spatial plan development

The regional council has confirmed its support for the development of a draft spatial plan for the Waikato during a meeting last week.

In supporting this **Waikato Mayoral Forum** workstream, councillor Bob Simcock said: "Spatial planning is core business and it's essential that all decision-makers for the Waikato have a common voice and use the same base data."

A report to the meeting said the objective of a spatial plan would be to contribute to the region's social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing through a comprehensive and effective long-term strategy for Waikato's growth and development.

"It's pleasing to see the majority of the region's local councils working collaboratively to create a resource which will contribute to greater local government efficiency and coordination in Waikato," said chairperson Paula Southgate.

The council also agreed with progressing the draft spatial plan under the direction of a joint committee involving representatives from the region's councils. The draft structure and terms of reference will be brought back to the council for further discussion.

Cr Southgate noted the importance of involving iwi "at the front end of the conversation due to their recognised strength in the region".

The draft spatial plan is due to be completed by the end of 2014.

Click [here to read more](#).

## Storm damage clean up continues



The clean-up from ex-tropical Cyclone Ita just before Easter is expected to take up to a month, with at least another couple of weeks' work to be completed.

Waikato Regional Council staff and contractors have been helping landowners on the slopes of the Kaimai Ranges deal with the storm's aftermath.

One landowner told council staff he got 120 mm of rain in one hour during the storm, while most farmers recorded between 250 to 380 mm in 12 hours.

"A lot of the damage came from streams leaving their channels, so our immediate priority has been to put them back into their original channels. But it's not a process you can hurry if you want to do it right," says Hauraki area manager Jason Roxburgh.

"To get it to flow back in the original channels we have to dig out all that extra gravel and rock. In the areas where we've got diggers clearing out stream channels we're working in with the surrounding landowners to help them remove the silt, gravel and vegetation that ended up dumped on their paddocks," he said.

"When the clean-up work finishes, our catchment management officers will start working with landowners who have environmental protection agreements with us to assess what work needs to be done to help reinstate the protection on retired or erosion-prone land.

"These farmers can expect to hear from their catchment management officer over the next couple of weeks, but if anybody is keen to chat now they can contact us on 0800 800 401," Mr Roxburgh said.

Did you know Waikato Regional Council has automated recorder sites constantly checking on river levels and rainfall around the region? [Visit our website](#) for the latest data for your area.

## Ruben to visit Raglan next week



Ruben the Road Safety Bear will be in Raglan next week to teach children from the area tips on being safe around our roads.

The popular bear is the mascot for the Waikato Regional Council's young road user safety programme. With a presenter, Ruben teaches children up to about seven years old basic road safety rules.

Ruben will be making an appearance in the Raglan Town Hall Supper Room on Friday 16 May between 10.15am and 10.45am. The event has been arranged in conjunction with Waikato District Council's Raglan library.

"Ruben hopes to have lots of children join him for this fun and interactive lesson, which is free to attend," said the regional council's transport projects administrator, Jenny Davis.

"The children will also be invited to join Ruben's Kid's Club so they can receive exciting newsletters reminding them of his key road safety messages into the future."

Ms Davis also encouraged parents to actively support road safety messages by role modelling safe road behaviour. "What children see they do, so being a good role model is an important part of teaching children good road safety practices," she said.

The regional council's young road user safety programme saw Ruben deliver nearly 300 road safety lessons to 16,511 children throughout the Waikato last year.

[Ruben's website](#) features his key safety messages, activities for children, as well as helpful links and information for teachers, parents and caregivers.

[For farmers](#)
[We're hiring](#)

## Strong farmer response to field days



Two Waikato Regional Council field days this year have given more than 200 farmers and rural professionals the information they need to [improve their effluent systems](#) and protect the environment.

The most recent field day was held last week on two neighbouring farms in Tirau. They focused on minimising the risk of effluent pond failure, as well as on pond construction and soils.

A field day in January focused on low-rate irrigation options for farms with high-risk soils, in particular on hump-and-hollow land on the Hauraki Plains.

"These events were organised after monitoring in these two areas identified issues unique to them," said Ross Wightman, regional council's proactive monitoring manager.

"We had a great response from farmers and professionals, who were genuinely interested in wanting to make their farms compliant with rules aimed at protecting the environment," Mr Wightman said.

"We're working with partners, like DairyNZ, on developing further field days for later in the year."

People unable to attend the field days but interested in more information can contact the regional council's Proactive Monitoring Team on freephone 0800 800 401.

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