

# Council in Focus

## Happy New Year

Hello everyone

I hope you all had a good break over the Christmas and New Year period and are feeling relaxed and ready to take on 2012.

It wasn't quite the dry Kiwi summer that we are used to but at least the rain resulted in happy retailers and of course, happy farmers.



2012 is an important year for Council as we will be asking you to have your say on the 'Our Community Our Future Plan' (also known as the Long Term Plan). This outlines what we have planned for the next 10 years and it's important that you give us your opinion as the decisions we make for the future affect everyone living in our district. Look out for the plan summary in your local newspaper mid-April.

I look forward to another year as Mayor and working with your elected Councillors to make the right decisions which help our community prosper.

Kind Regards,  
Mayor Hugh Vercoe

## Building Act changes

From 1 March, there will be some changes to the Building Act that all trades people working in the building sector need to know.

The changes are designed to provide a skilled and productive building and housing workforce to ensure our country has good quality, affordable homes and buildings.

We will be holding meetings explaining the new rules to any trades people who would like to attend. Meeting dates:

2 February 5:30pm - Tainui Room, Matamata Memorial Centre, Tainui Street, Matamata  
9 February 5:30pm - Morrinsville Event Centre, Ron Ladd Place, Morrinsville.

If the changes affect you, there will be an invitation in the mail this week. RSVP to Council on 0800 746 467.

## Stock crossings

Farmers need to use rural roads to move stock from time to time or on a regular basis. If you need to move stock along or across rural roads, you need to apply for a stock permit.

Regardless of how far or how often you need to move stock along the road, you need a stock permit. If you already have a permit, it's important that you adhere to the conditions stated on it to help keep our roads safe.

If you have any questions, want to apply for a permit or require any more information, please phone 0800 746 467 to speak to our roading team. Alternatively, you can visit [www.mpd.govt.nz](http://www.mpd.govt.nz) to download a stock permit application form.

## Are your roadside trees a safety hazard?

While trees are an important part of our environment, if they are too close to our road edges they can become a safety hazard for drivers.

Many roads have trees planted by land owners and occasionally they cause a problem.

For existing trees on rural roads:

- trees need to be maintained by the adjacent landowner
- growth is to be 2 metres clear of the carriage way on straight roads
- growth shall be maintained to give a sight distance of 300m minimum from driveways, intersections and bends

Any new plantings should be discussed with Council.

For further information, please contact Council on 0800 746 467 to speak to our roading team.



## My tag my town

'My tag my town' is a joint venture between Council and Alphamedia which is funded by the Ministry of Justice. The aim of the project is to reduce graffiti crime by educating youth about graffiti vandalism and encouraging them to take pride in their community.



As part of the project, Council decided to create graffiti artwork murals with the funds provided.

We have selected three locations in our towns and the painting will take place over the next month. You can see the progress of the murals at the following locations:

Matamata: the side of the Matamata Hire Centre on Tainui Street.

Morrinsville: the brick wall around the edge of the Pools at the Rec Ground.

Te Aroha: the retaining wall at the Te Aroha Boat Ramp Reserve/Skatepark.

## Sport Waikato Funding Workshop

Sport Waikato will be holding a workshop for anyone interested in gaining funding for their sport club or community group. The workshop will provide tips for filling out application forms, budgeting for your project and much more.

The workshop will be held at the Matamata Council office (cnr Tui and Tainui Streets) on Monday 20 February at 6pm.

RSVP today to Ruth Stanley, phone 07 880 9088 or 027 478 3077.

## Community Arts Events

Sunday 29 January – Te Aroha Country Music Club Inc. Charity Concert, Te Aroha Catholic Hall

Saturday 4 February – Morrinsville Country Market, Canada Street

Sunday 5 February – Model Railway Display, Te Aroha Model Railway

Tuesday 7 February – Senior Citizens Dance and Social, Matamata

## Notice of Meetings

The following meetings have been scheduled for the month of February 2012.

Morrinsville Community Board – Events Centre, Ron Ladd Place, Morrinsville on Tuesday 7 February 2012 at 6pm.

Matamata Community Board – Matamata Area Office, Tainui Street, Matamata on Monday 13 February 2012 at 5.30pm.

Te Aroha Community Board – Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha on Monday 20 February 2012 at 6pm.

Public Forum: A public forum is held at the beginning of the Community Board meetings. If you would like to discuss an issue or topic relating to your ward please contact Caroline Hubbard on 0800 746 467.

Matamata-Piako District Council – Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha on Wednesday 08 February 2012 at 9.15am.

Corporate and Operations Committee – Council Chambers, 35 Kenrick Street, Te Aroha on Wednesday 22 February 2012 at 9.15am.

This notice is made in accordance with Section 46 of the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987.

## Hetana Street Upgrade

J Swap Contractors Ltd have been awarded the contract to upgrade Hetana Street between Broadway and Arawa Street.

The works will begin mid February and are scheduled to be complete around mid April 2012.

With the advent of the Lord of the Rings trilogy and more recently the Hobbit movie, Hetana Street has become somewhat of a gateway to Matamata with an increase in vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

The upgrade includes reducing the width of the footpath on the eastern side to allow for new angle parking (creating additional car parking), installation of new street lighting, paving on both sides and upgrading the existing access route between Arawa and Hetana Street.

Access to all facilities and businesses within the area will be maintained at all times.

For further information, feel free to contact Council on 0800 746 467 to speak to our roading team.