

On the Radar

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, an update on Cambridge Connections, the unveiling of the Te Awamutu War Memorial Park bridge panels, Waipā Tech meetups and more.



Mayors and CEs of the Waikato Water Done Well councils met Minister of Local Government Simon Watts in Parliament yesterday, February 27. (Above, left to right) Our CE Steph, Waitomo Mayor John Robertson, South Waikato Deputy Mayor Hamish Daine, Hauraki CE David Speirs, Hauraki Mayor Toby Adams, Taupō Deputy Mayor Kevin Taylor, Matamata Piako Mayor Adrienne Wilcock, Ōtorohanga CE Tanya Winter, Mayor Susan, Minister Simon Watts, Ōtorohanga Mayor Max Baxter, South Waikato CFO Wiki Cortesi and Taupō GM Community Infrastructure and Services Tony Hale.



Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates



Community Services

Reserves

We're working with mana whenua, Ngāti Apakura, and the RSA to plan the **unveiling of the Te Awamutu War Memorial Park bridge panels** on March 27 – we'll send you a calendar invitation when the time is confirmed. Following this, we look forward to you joining us and other invited guests for a small kai at the RSA. The ceremony will be open to the public.

The bridge panels (pictured below) were designed by Kotorangi Paki, artist and brother of Kuini Ngā wai hono i te pō and tell the stories of the confluence of the Mangaohoi and Mangapiko streams and the significance of Kaipaka Pā.

In parallel to the artwork, the RSA has worked with us on wayfinding signage panels for each Memorial Park bridge, which identify their associations with the Army, Airforce and Navy.



Parks Week

We're gearing up for Parks Week, which runs from this Monday until March 10. It's a national celebration of the great outdoors, encouraging people to get out and enjoy parks, reserves and open spaces. We have a **series of free events and activities planned**, including Novels in Nature, Zumba in the Park, Kids Storytime at Selwyn Park and self-guided activities.

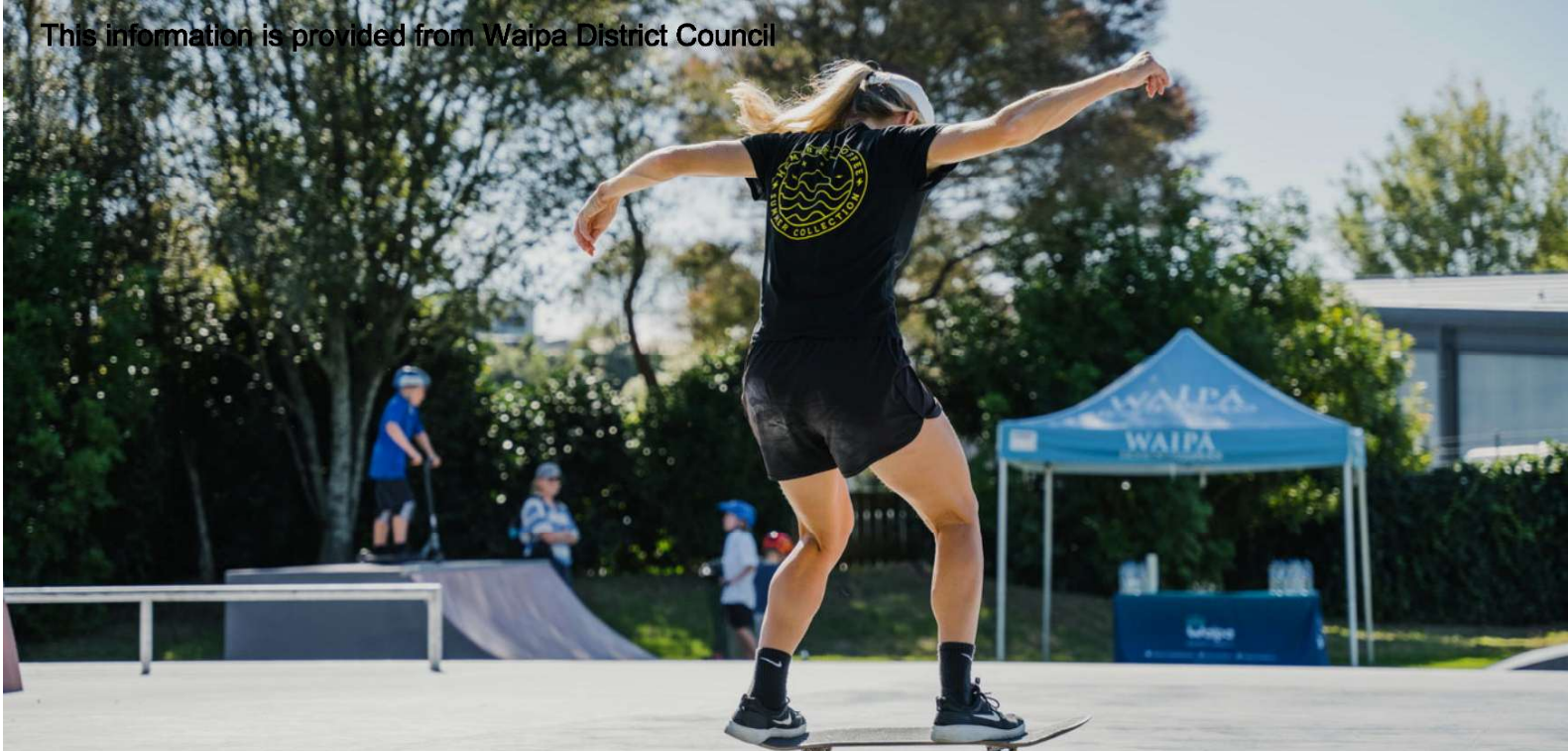
[You can read more about these here.](#)



Lake Rotopiko

We've **pruned and thinned the native trees** in the pest-fenced enclosure to allow more air flow and make them less desirable for birds as roosting spots - droppings from roosting birds (mostly sparrows, starlings and other exotic species) have been polluting the peat lake. We're also using strobe lights intermittently at dusk and dawn to discourage the birds.

This goes in hand with the work being done by the National Wetlands Trust, who estimate a drop in bird roosting of 50 percent compared to this time last year.



Virtual reality: Sport Waikato update

Councillors will soon have the chance to try **virtual reality technology first hand!** Following the February 19 Service Delivery Committee meeting discussion on the use of virtual reality technology in sport, Sport Waikato has offered to bring two headsets to the workshop planned for April 9, so members can experience them as part of the discussion of the Waipā Play, Active Recreation and Sport Plan.

Sport Waikato has also clarified the Sport NZ Tū Manawa funding mentioned in their presentation at the last meeting. Sport Waikato is the administrator of this fund for the Waikato region and seek applications from organisations, clubs, and schools from within Waipā. Additionally, councils are able to apply to this fund for play, active recreation and sport projects for children aged 5 to 18.

We are talking to them about play streets, stencils, swings and a potential collaboration with the Te Awamutu Library and museum to provide educational games to get tamariki active.

Museums, libraries and heritage

With more than 80 tamariki coming along each week, Cambridge Library's Tuesday morning 'Wriggle and Rhyme' is proving so popular that we're **planning a second session** each week! Library staff are talking to our customers to work out the best day and time for this. Wriggle and Rhyme is aimed at children from birth to age two.

The Heritage Sub-Committee has approved funding for the Alpha Hotel (Kihikihi) for re-wiring and fire alarm system, and repairs to the bell tower of the St Andrews Church in Cambridge.

Transportation

Shakespeare Street - Cook Street to Fergusson Bridge

Interim repair work is scheduled overnight for Wednesday and Thursday March 5-6. The road will remain open under stop/go management between 7pm and 6am. These repairs will keep the road in good shape until the full repair can be done later in the year. If the work has to be postponed due to the weather or other unforeseen circumstances, we'll let residents and businesses know using VMS boards and social media.

Speed limits

We have drafted a submission to NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi on **amending the speed limit on State Highway 3 north of Rukuhia Village.**

NZTA is currently consulting on a number of amendments to speed limits on the state highway network in the Waikato.

Only one of these is in the Waipā District, and Waipā stretch of the road concerned is very short; the majority of it is within the Hamilton City Council boundary.



Under the Coalition Government's new rule, NZTA is required to lift the speed limit back to 100km/h unless there is insufficient public support for the increase.

Staff support the current 80km/h being retained, due to safety concerns. Retaining the current limit ensures the safety of all road users, particularly vulnerable pedestrians and bus passengers, while addressing the area's high crash rate and unfunded infrastructure needs.

Based on the strong support Elected Members demonstrated in 2019 when a speed management review programme resulted in over 200 new speed limit changes across the district, along with confirmation from both Hamilton City Council and Waikato Regional Council that they will be submitting in support of retaining the 80km/h speed limit, staff have drafted a submission seeking retention of the current 80km/h speed limit.

The key reasons are:

1. **The high crash rate.** The area has a history of a high crash rate, and until a roundabout is funded and built at the Raynes Road intersection, the 80 km/h speed limit is necessary to mitigate risks.
2. **Safety for people walking and using the bus.** The Te Awamutu bus service operates in this area, and as there are no footpaths, passengers including school children must walk on the shoulder of the road. A lower speed limit enhances safety for these vulnerable road users.
3. **Traffic conditions and road alignment.** The current 80 km/h limit aligns with actual traffic behaviour and road conditions, compliance with the 60 km/h variable speed zone, and the negligible time savings offered by a higher limit.

This information is provided from Waipa District Council

Fort Street access for emergency services

Emergency services in Cambridge have raised the issue that exiting out of Fort Street is getting harder because of roadside parking on the street. In response, council is planning to consult with affected Fort Street residents and businesses on **changes to the layout of parking** to improve access for ambulance services to respond to callouts quickly.

The consultation period is planned to run during March 2025. Feedback on the proposed changes can be provided via: haveyoursay@waipadc.govt.nz

Hato Hone St John Ambulance are also hosting a drop-in session where emergency services and council staff will be available to discuss the proposal with affected residents and businesses:
Thursday 13 March, 5.30-6.30pm, Hato Hone St John Cambridge, 16 Fort Street Cambridge.

Road reseals

Roads set to be resealed around the district over the next two weeks:

- **Pukeatua:** Arapuni Road
- **Maungatautari:** Maungatautari Road and Luck at Last Road
- **Te Miro:** Maungakawa Road and Brunskill Road
- **Cambridge:** Bryce Street
- **Mystery Creek:** Mystery Creek Road
- **Te Awamutu:** Cambridge Road
- **Kihikihi:** Oliver Street and Rolleston Street.

Cambridge Connections

Chief Executive Steph O’Sullivan is looking forward to **announcing the new programme lead** in coming weeks. She says: “I am clear that the programme lead will be strongly focused on getting out meeting people, building relationships and engaging with the community of all demographics, and working with the team to retest project assumptions and explore new technology. This role is highly complex, and an extremely important appointment – I know you will appreciate this, and will be strongly supportive of both them and the team to ensure success.”

The following table outlines the current funding arrangements provided for Cambridge Connections:

	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029	2029/2030	2030/2031	2031/2032
	LTP Y1	LTP Y2	LTP Y3	LTP Y4	LTP Y5	LTP Y6	LTP Y7
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Cambridge Connections							
Operating Reserve Funds	300,000	201,338					
Capex (Draft LTP - Inflated)				109,400	279,450	1,356,264	1,418,364

This information is provided from Waipa District Council

The planned funding from the current Roding Operating Reserve is expected to be sufficient to complete an investment and infrastructure plan to inform the 2027 LTP (although the timing will be very tight, it should allow for getting an indicative level of investment). The plan will focus on responding to community aspirations, and expectations, arising from the engagement work.

The funding allocation was based on debt headroom limitations, and this will also need to be reconsidered as we better understand the organisation's debt capacity once we have a CCO for waters in place.

Waters

Local Water Done Well

Following Council's decision confirming Waikato Water Done Well as the preferred option, water services staff will be **engaging with neighbouring councils** on a peer to peer basis to build relationships and share business understanding.

We are working with the communications and engagement team to plan LTP and Waikato Water Done Well community engagements, which include an open day at the Parallel Road Water Treatment Plant.

