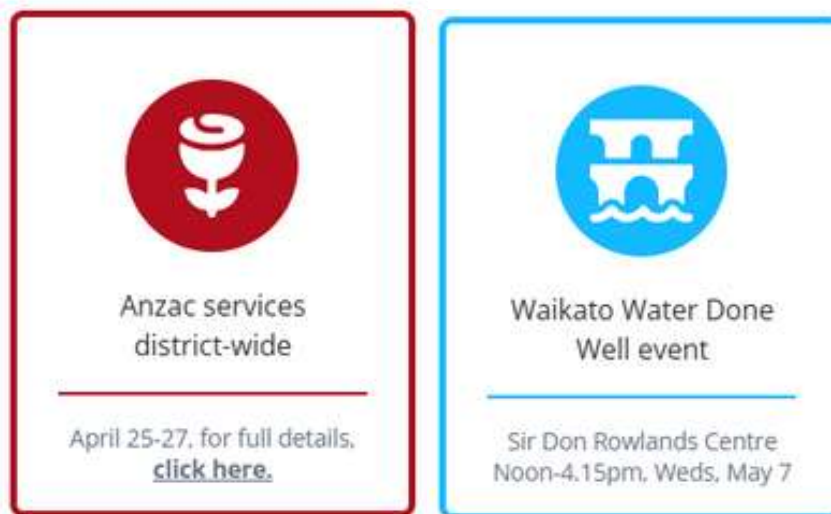


On the Radar

On the Radar is your fortnightly hub for essential information, updates and reminders. In this edition, getting ready for Anzac Day, illegal rubbish dumping and progress on the Resource Management Act reforms.

Save the date! Upcoming events and notable dates



Community Services

Anzac Day preparation

Preparing for Anzac Day is a key time of year for the Park Operations team. Over the next two weeks, we will give the **War Memorial sites some extra attention**, including garden maintenance, mowing and leaf collection, to make sure they are looking their best.

These include:

- RSA sections in the Te Awamutu and Hautapu Cemeteries
- Cambridge Cenotaph
- Te Awamutu War Memorial Park
- Kihikihi War Memorial
- Anzac Green Reserve

We work closely to support the RSA with site setup in the lead up to April 25.



Local cricketing legend John Hastie (below) was honoured late last year with inclusion in the Te Awamutu Walk of Fame in recognition of his achievements as an international cricket umpire. The unveiling of his pou will take place on Monday, April 14.

Mr Hastie was born and raised in Te Awamutu and has been associated with the Waipā District his whole life. He officiated in New Zealand test matches against all of the major cricketing nations, as well as four one-day internationals, between 1974 and 1982.



Libraries

Waipā’s love affair with books goes on! Now that the District Libraries have had the online Hoopla platform in operation for six months, we’ve had a look to see what impact it’s had on services. There were initial concerns that a digital service could lead to a decrease in the number of physical issues – but data from January through to March this year shows that Hoopla’s impact has been very positive. Not only have the physical issues, visitor numbers and card usage figures continued to increase, we’ve had a big uptick in the issue of digital entertainment (eBooks, online movies, television shows, music, eBooks and digital audiobooks). We’ve also had lots of positive feedback on the selection Hoopla offers. With winter on its way, staff expect the pattern to continue, and Hoopla will be an important part of the ‘stay at home if you are sick’ campaign that is being planned.

Library data comparison between 2023-24 and 2024-25 as of March 31, 2025:

Year	Cambridge Book Issues	Te Awamutu Book Issues	Online Issues	Cambridge visitor count	Te Awamutu visitor count	Cambridge card usage	Te Awamutu card usage
2023-24	230,141	123,320	7,246	58,410	59,282	63,029	42,012
2024-25	245,886	129,274	10,304	62,376	64,639	65,974	44,684
Increase from previous year	15,745 (7%)	5,954 (5%)	3,055 (42%)	3,966 (7%)	5,357 (9%)	2,945 (5%)	2,672 (6%)
Totals	24,754			9,323		5,617	

Park operations



Illegal rubbish dumping a.k.a **fly tipping** seems to be on the rise in Waipā, and is costing ratepayers. McCanns Mowing, who maintain our rural open spaces, have had 13 callouts for illegal dumping since last July.

The bill from McCanns to Council for dealing with this extra rubbish is nearly [REDACTED]. Unfortunately, it appears the problem is increasing, as McCanns had five callouts between July and December last year, and a noticeable increase to eight callouts from January to early April.

Contractors Evolve Ventures (who maintain our public toilets) have reported 40 incidents of excessive rubbish left around toilets over the same time period. They have contractual responsibility for removing rubbish within the 10m² surrounding any facility.

Staff use enforcement (fines) when it is possible to identify people who have dumped the rubbish, and the latest incident was highlighted on our social media channels last week to make the public more aware of the issue.

Memory Meadow

We've confirmed two locations for the **Memory Meadow initiative**, a Cancer Society project that offers a place of reflection and remembrance for those affected by cancer.

- **Pirongia (Franklin Street opposite Belcher Street)**
- **Cambridge (within the Oak Arboretum on the corner of Bowen and Taylor Streets)**

Both sites will be part of a community planting event scheduled for Mother's Day – Sunday, May 11. This day was chosen for its significance and offers a meaningful opportunity for people and whānau to come together.

Further details about timing, coordination, and volunteer opportunities will be shared in the coming weeks.

These are the indicative locations for the two plantings:



Transport



Raised safety platforms

Council has heard residents' concerns about the **gradient of some of our raised safety platforms** in Cambridge and we have engaged Base Civil to grind down five on Bryce, Alpha and Grey Streets, as well as a raised pedestrian crossing on Queen Street, to ensure a smoother drive for vehicles.

These works will be completed in the coming weeks. Letters will go out to affected residents, and additional communications will be shared in the coming weeks, to highlight the importance of raised safety platforms and explain why we've installed them in our towns.

Raised pedestrian crossings and safety platforms are designed to reduce vehicle speeds and the risk of fatal and serious injury incidents, and are installed in high traffic, high pedestrian areas.

They are engineered to reduce traffic speed from 50km/h to 30km/h. Survival rates following a crash at 30km/h are 90 percent but only 20 percent at 50 km/h

Resealing work

Parts of **Whitmore Street** in Kihikihi, and **Duke and Bryce Streets** in Cambridge (beside the new cycle paths) are to be resealed in the upcoming school holidays. This work waterproofs the joints between old and new pavement and covers the old road markings, which are still visible in places.

Road rehabilitation work that is underway presently or to be done soon includes:

Ngaroto Road near the SH3 end: All earthworks and pavement laying have been completed and the new road surface will be sealed over the weekend.

Cambridge Road: Several small areas of deformation from peat shrinkage will be smoothed after Easter. These sites are currently signposted to warn drivers of the uneven surface.

New bus timetables



New bus timetables for the number 20 Cambridge and 24 Te Awamutu buses are starting Monday, April 14, to better meet the community's needs.

This includes a **new weekday service between Leamington and Cambridge High School**. The 8.05am from Leamington will now stop in Taylor Street, with the afternoon bus from Hamilton providing a return trip for students.

Other changes are:

- The weekday late night trips between both Cambridge and Hamilton, and Kihikihi/Te Awamutu and Hamilton, which had very low use, will now only run on Friday evenings.
- Timetables have been adjusted to more accurately reflect travel times between stops.
- The 24 bus will no longer stop via Rukuhia school in the afternoons.

The changes have come about after Waikato Regional Council and BUSIT reviewed passenger habits over the last 12 months, streamlining the timetable to best meet the community's needs.

A year after the new daily services and electric buses were introduced, patronage has had a notable increase, with passenger numbers up 33 percent in Cambridge and 28 percent in Te Awamutu-Kihikihi.

Stopping the Monday to Thursday last night bus service, which is typically empty, and adding a regular trip from Leamington to Cambridge High School and back has worked out to be cost neutral.

[View the changes and new timetables here.](#)