WHAT'S UP IN WAIPĀ

Waipā DISTRICT COUNCIL

Your Council News

Thursday, October 15, 2026





Waipā remembers its New Zealand Wars history

Rā Maumahara (A day of Remembrance observed annually on October 28), remembers those affected by the New Zealand Wars and recognises how their legacy continues to shape Aotearoa. This history is especially close to home for Waipā communities, where nationally significant events unfolded.

The significance of the New Zealand Wars lies in how they fundamentally reshaped the land ownership, political governance, and cultural relationship between Māori and Pākehā (European settlers).

Te Whare Taonga o Te Awamutu Museum's local programme brings together mana whenua perspectives, historical research, taonga, film and place-based learning. It creates opportunities to reflect and build a fuller understanding of this shared history. Community response has been strong, with all three guided bus trips to Rangiaowhia and Ōrākau and an evening talk by historian Dr Vincent O'Malley now sold out. Waiting lists are available in case places open up.

There are still plenty of free ways for the community to take part. A screening of Ka Whawhai Tonu will be held at the Regent Theatre at 6.30pm on Friday, October 23. Centred on Ōrākau in 1864, the drama is told largely in te reo Māori with English subtitles. Tickets can be booked through the Regent Theatre website from 1pm on Friday, October 16. The film is rated M and recommended for mature audiences aged 16 and over.

At Te Whare Taonga o Te Awamutu Museum, costumes and images from Ka Whawhai Tonu connect the screen story with events that took place nearby. Exhibitions and collections add depth through taonga, photographs, maps and archives relating to the Waikato War, Kīngitanga, Rangiaowhia, Ōrākau and raupatu. Highlights include the historic *Te Hokioi* printing press, an example of Māori political communication and self-determination. Entry is free.

Continue the experience with **Te Ara Wai Journeys**, a free, self-guided heritage experience sharing stories in English and te reo Māori through local voices, images, video and audio. Explore Rangiaowhia and Ōrākau at your own pace and encounter this history in the places where it happened. Book your film tickets, visit the Museum and start planning your Te Ara Wai journey today.

Throughout October, look out for New Zealand Wars flags flying across Waipā as a visible reminder to pause, reflect and learn more. Whether through the flags, film, Museum exhibitions and collections, or journeys across Waipā, Rā Maumahara invites everyone in our community to connect with this history.

Learn more on the Te Awamutu Museum website: **https://tamuseum.org.nz/**

Find out more about the events and join the waiting lists using the link below: **bit.ly/4AUVCIf**



Growth Strategy Refresh progressing

We're currently refreshing our Growth Strategy to set clear direction for how residential, commercial and industrial growth is managed over the next 30 years. On Thursday last week, Elected Members had a workshop with staff to discuss some key issues for future growth in our district.

Elected Members provided feedback on the timing of future growth areas and how to approach urban intensification and unanticipated growth. They also discussed housing affordability and the economic potential of the area around North Waipā and Southern Hamilton.

The growth strategy refresh will help guide important long-term decisions about growth, infrastructure and investment. It will also help prepare Waipā for upcoming changes to how growth is planned at a regional level. You'll have your chance to have your say on this strategy when consultation opens in early 2027.



Pirongia Playground is getting a fresh new look

There's plenty of fun on the way for Pirongia tamariki (children), with work now underway to give the playground next to Pirongia Sports Club on Franklin Street a refresh.

The existing equipment is getting tired, so the renewal will give local tamariki more opportunities to play, be active and have fun close to home.

Feedback from the 2021–31 Long Term Plan consultation told us that more play and recreation options were needed for young people in Pirongia. The community helped shape this playground renewal from the start, including where it should go, what it would look like and the kinds of play it would offer.

The playground will sit alongside the sports facilities and future skatepark, creating a more connected recreation space for Pirongia.

While construction takes place, the playground is expected to be closed until mid-December. In the meantime, families can head to Rangimarie Playground on Franklin Street for a play.

Your Elected Members

Get in touch: waipadc.govt.nz/our-council/our-team/mayor-and-councillors



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